

M I N U T E S
CAPITOL SPACE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 30, 1986

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The second meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by the Co-Chairperson, Speaker Donald D. Avenson, on Wednesday, July 30, 1986, in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Co-Chairperson Avenson were:

Senator Bill Hutchins, Co-Chairperson
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator David M. Readinger
Representative Bob Arnould
Representative John H. Connors
Representative Dorothy Carpenter
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present were:

The Honorable Mary Jane Odell, Secretary of State
Mr. Jack Walters, Director, Department of General Services
Mr. Glenn Brockett, Member, Capitol Planning Commission
Mr. John Fitzgibbon, Member, Capitol Planning Commission
Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Mr. Donovan Peeters, Director, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Burnette E. Koebernick, Deputy Director,
Legislative Service Bureau

Also present were other legislative staff persons, representatives of the news media and other interested persons.

Co-Chairperson Avenson noted that the minutes of the July 16, 1986 meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee have been distributed and asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. Senator Hultman moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. The motion was adopted on a unanimous voice vote.

Co-Chairperson Avenson stated that the purpose of the meeting is to review alternative space plans of the Department of General Services and the position of the Executive Council. Co-Chairperson Avenson recognized the Honorable Mary Jane Odell, Secretary of State.

TESTIMONY - SECRETARY OF STATE

Ms. Odell stated that she has some general comments to make but opined that she would like to understand the ground rules first. She inquired as to whether the Committee has already decided what it plans to do with regard to space. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded in the negative. Ms. Odell asked whether the legislative staff has developed a plan. Co-Chairperson Avenson indicated that the staff has been developing a preliminary plan. Ms. Odell noted that Co-Chairperson Avenson has been quoted by the media as indicating that the General Assembly has been waiting patiently to acquire additional space. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded that this is correct and that the General Assembly has been waiting since 1976. Ms. Odell asked how the plan was developed to remove the Auditor of State, Secretary of State and Treasurer of State from the State House since the reorganization statute did not specifically address this issue. Co-Chairperson Avenson stated that the Committee has discussed the space occupied by these three officials but no definite plans have been developed. Ms. Odell asked if the Committee has consulted with the Capitol Planning Commission. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded in the affirmative noting that members of the General Assembly serve as members of the Commission.

Ms. Odell stated that she believes that the proposed moves are ill-advised. She emphasized that she has no axe to grind since she will be out of office soon because she is not running for re-election. Ms. Odell argued that the Committee has not received citizen input regarding the use of the State House or the moving costs which must be incurred. She also pointed out that the citizenry has not been consulted as to whether the legislative branch of government should be expanded. She also emphasized the breaking of the tradition relating to the presence of state elected officials in the State House.

Ms. Odell stated that the Legislative Council and the Committee must determine whether more space is needed. If it is for additional meeting rooms, is it possible to reduce the number of meetings. She inquired as to whether the number of bills drafted could be reduced. She also asked whether the moving costs reflect fiscal responsibility. Ms. Odell opined that legislative staff has increased while the number of executive agency employees continues to decline. She suggested that the costs cannot be justified because the General Assembly only meets four months annually. This means that the additional space will lie idle for

the remainder of the year. Ms. Odell pointed out that the General Assembly should consider reducing the size of the General Assembly or limiting the number of lobbyists. She also suggested that the Committee should review the recommendations provided in the 1983 Capitol Space Study. Ms. Odell also distributed a photo layout of present legislative space and the rooms were empty.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins inquired as to when the pictures were taken. Ms. Odell responded that the pictures were taken during regular working hours by her administrative aide. Senator Hultman stated that the problem is the nature of the legislative process and pointed out that Committee Room 22 was vacant at 9:00 a.m. this morning. Ms. Odell noted her agreement. Senator Hultman noted that the Committee had toured the vault in the Secretary of State's office and inquired as to its need. Ms. Odell indicated that the vault is not needed by the office and suggested that the General Assembly has no need for it either. Ms. Odell pointed out that the vault is currently used for the storage of many valuable documents, some of which would be very costly to replace if destroyed.

Co-Chairperson Avenson inquired as to the number of persons who tour the Auditor of State's office annually. Ms. Odell answered that she does not know the number. Co-Chairperson Avenson indicated that he is sure that people do tour those offices but that many more citizens would see the area if it was used as committee rooms for the General Assembly. Co-Chairperson Avenson also noted that he supported including the movement of the constitutional officers in the reorganization law but the Governor did not so it was not included.

Representative Carpenter stated that she is contacted regularly by constituent groups who are interested in using the committee meeting rooms. These rooms would be used for meetings during regular working hours and after hours. She also pointed out that the general assembly needs additional space for its committees and additional space is not available when the General Assembly is in session. Ms. Odell suggested that space in other buildings in the complex has been offered to the General Assembly. Co-Chairperson Hutchins pointed out that with the schedule of committee meetings and the need for easy access to the Senate and House floors for session, the availability of space in another building is an unacceptable solution.

Senator Hultman stated that the General Assembly has an immediate need of committee rooms. Most of the rooms which the House and Senate currently use are not accessible to the handicapped. Most cannot seat interested constituents in great numbers. He pointed out that the Auditor of State may not need to be easily accessible to the general public because this office generally does not conduct business with the public. He also suggested that the offices of the Secretary of State and Treasurer of State may have need for easy general public access.

Senator Readinger pointed out to Ms. Odell that she has listed many reasons for not moving the constitutional officers and asked her to identify her primary objections. Ms. Odell stated that her primary objections relate to the cost and the breaking of a long-standing tradition. She indicated that those offices have been identified by the stained glass windows for nearly a century and it would be unfortunate to remove these officers from the State House. Ms. Odell also pointed out that this move could cost from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 and the state does not have these financial resources. Senator Readinger asked how the Secretary of State's office would be impacted if it were moved to the Lucas State Office Building. Ms. Odell responded that, in her opinion, the office would be less accessible. Senator Readinger inquired as to whether Ms. Odell's strongest objection relates to the breaking of a long-standing tradition. Ms. Odell answered that this is one of her objections but the primary objection relates to the moving costs which will be incurred when the general fund of the state is lacking adequate funds.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins asked whether the Department of Agriculture and the Attorney General's Office has served the people less since their operations were moved from the State House. Ms. Odell responded in the negative. Co-Chairperson Hutchins pointed out that Committee Room 22 is among the largest legislative committee rooms and that during the session it is unable to accommodate the number of people interested in attending a meeting. Co-Chairperson Hutchins also noted that the state did not need to build a new Historical Building but it was necessary to preserve the state's heritage. He suggested that many of the documents stored in the office of the Secretary of State should be kept in the new Historical Building.

Co-Chairperson Avenson indicated that Ms. Odell has suggested limiting the number of lobbyists and limiting the number of bills which can be introduced. He emphasized the constitutional issues existing in these areas. He also pointed out that the people have already spoken on the issue of annual sessions when the constitutional amendment was adopted in 1968. Co-Chairperson Avenson also stated that the work of the General Assembly has doubled and the amount of meeting time has been reduced.

Senator Coleman reviewed the period of time during which he has served in the General Assembly and the many improvements which have been made. These include changes in media coverage, reduction in the number of standing committees, shortening of the session, and moving from closed committee meetings to open committee meetings.

TESTIMONY - DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

Co-Chairperson Avenson recognized Mr. Jack Walters, Director of the Department of General Services. Mr. Walters thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting and stressed that the Department and he are appreciative of being invited to participate in the process of providing space for the General Assembly. Mr. Walters emphasized that the Department of General Services began the process of finding space for agencies in January of this year when it became clear that governmental reorganization was a priority of the Governor and the General Assembly. Department representatives met with agency personnel to determine space needs and developed standards for providing the necessary space. Mr. Walters pointed out that it is his belief that whatever is done in the State House should not detract from its historical perspective and that it is necessary to restore the State House to its original condition and that it be retained in that condition.

Co-chairperson Avenson stated that the cost of moving the three executive officials has been cited as \$1,175,000 and asked that Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, work with Mr. Jack Walters in determining the costs of moving the offices of the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State from the State House. Senator Hultman commented that those costs included extensive remodeling costs. Representative Stromer inquired as to whether these cost figures are taken from the Capitol Space Study prepared by Hansen Lind Meyer in 1983. Mr. Walters responded in the affirmative.

Senator Hultman suggested that the Committee should direct Mr. Walters to visit with the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State to appropriately determine their space needs and possible costs of moving the offices and staff. He also indicated that there should be some work done to identify possible space in the complex for these offices. Co-Chairperson Avenson stated that it is necessary for the executive branch of government and the public to recognize that the General Assembly needs more meeting rooms and that some of the staff must be removed from behind the chambers.

Senator Hultman asked for a progress report on the remodeling of the Lucas State Office Building. Mr. Walters stated that the remodeling has been completed on the third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors. Remodeling is still planned for the ground floor and the first and second floors. Mr. Walters also pointed out that funds were not appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1986 and ending June 30, 1987 for any additional remodeling work on the Lucas State Office Building.

Mr. Walters stated that the Space Committee must also consider the impact of continuing the Capitol restoration project. Phase 4

of the project is currently in progress. Phase 5 will be next and this is the east side of the State House. This phase will impact the General Assembly as part of the project includes the elimination of the double-decking which will mean a loss of 4,000 square feet of office space. Co-Chairperson Avenson suggested to Mr. Walters that the plans for removing the double-decking be eliminated from Phase 5 of the Capitol restoration project.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins asked Mr. Walters about the plans for the old Historical Building. Mr. Walters pointed out that the building is not suitable for office space right now. He suggested that renovation will cost from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. He noted that he has not discussed the matter with anyone else but indicated that he would propose turning the building into an education building which would consolidate the entire department of education into one area of the complex. He also indicated that the building would certainly be usable for other purposes.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins stated that the General Assembly cannot have meeting rooms in another building. He noted that meetings are scheduled too close together and because the Senate and House of Representatives cannot go into session while a committee is meeting, it is essential that all meeting rooms be located in the State House. Co-Chairperson Avenson emphasized that if the Department of General Services or the Capitol Planning Commission have any thoughts of having committee meeting rooms in another building, those ideas best be disposed of immediately.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins inquired as to the amount spent to date for Capitol restoration. Mr. Walters stated that the figure approaches \$5,000,000 for the work completed and the work in progress. He indicated that the estimate for the total project is \$25,000,000. Mr. Walters also pointed out that in determining the costs of moving the offices of the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State, it must be recognized that vaults will be needed and that certain renovation costs will be necessary to maintain the dignity of those respective officers. He emphasized that the Hoover Building would be a good location and that the Lucas State Office Building would be ideal but renovations have not been completed.

Mr. Walters stated that the costs of completing the renovation of the Lucas State Office Building will be quite high. Senator Readinger asked what the anticipated costs are and Mr. Walters responded that it would cost about \$3,000,000 to complete the renovation of the Lucas State Office Building. He pointed out that the costs of removing asbestos is expected to equal all other renovation costs.

TESTIMONY - CHAIR OF CAPITOL PLANNING COMMISSION

Co-Chairperson Avenson recognized Mr. Glenn Brockett, Chairperson of the Capitol Planning Commission. Mr. Brockett offered the services of the Capitol Planning Commission to the Space Allocation Committee and the Legislative Council. He pointed out that by moving the offices of the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State from the State House, the General Assembly will acquire about 8,000 square feet. The space study completed several years ago indicates that the General Assembly has need for an additional 34,000 square feet. Mr. Brockett noted that the removal of the executive officers from the State House is only a temporary solution and that the General Assembly needs to place its emphasis on a permanent solution to the space problems.

Mr. Brockett stated that the Capitol Planning Commission needs \$25,000 to begin planning for the use of the old Historical Building. Co-Chairperson Avenson pointed out to Mr. Brockett that the General Assembly cannot consider a long-term solution to its space needs in light of the state's current economic situation. He invited Mr. Brockett to attend the next meeting of the Legislative Council to discuss its funding needs for planning for the use of the old Historical Building. Co-Chairperson Avenson recommended that the Commission work with the Department of General Services in moving the three executive officers from the State House.

The Capitol Space Allocation Committee recessed for lunch at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Co-Chairperson Avenson asked for comments to the testimony received during the morning session. Senator Hultman noted a little surprise regarding the breadth of Phase 5. The loss of an additional 4,000 square feet by the General Assembly is unacceptable. Senator Hultman requested that Mr. Walters be asked why it is necessary that the east side of the State House be done first. Mr. Prouty noted that Department of General Services personnel have been in his office for the past month. The restoration work can be done without removal of the double-decking but because they are doing the work on that side, they would like to do it at the same time.

Senator Hultman moved that Mr. Donovan Peeters, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, request Mr. Jack Walters, Director of the Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Capitol Planning Commission, develop for the Capitol Space Allocation Committee by August 28, 1986, three contingent plans,

including costs, for moving the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State and the Treasurer of State from the State House to another building in the Capitol Complex. The proposal shall be based upon current staff levels of those three offices. The Capitol Space Allocation Committee is also interested in the reasons that Phase 5 in the Capitol Restoration Project must be done prior to beginning any of the other phases of the project.

Co-Chairperson Avenson asked whether any members of the Committee believes the General Assembly has adequate meeting rooms. Representative Carpenter responded that no one believes that there are adequate meeting rooms. She expressed her disappointment that Mr. Walters has taken another position. Senator Hultman pointed out that the Auditor of State currently has staff located in the Hoover Building, the Lucas Building and the Grimes Building, as well as the State House. Representative Stromer suggested that there may be merit to having the three executive officials moving out on a gradual basis. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded that there is a need to move them all at once so it will not be necessary to constantly fight the battle for space. The Hultman motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Representative Carpenter suggested that Elaine Estes and other persons be invited to a future meeting.

Senator Hultman moved that the Capitol Space Allocation Committee go on record to indicate that the rooms on the first floor of the State House are intended to be used for committee rooms and to retain the architectural integrity of the State House, unless some of the smaller rooms are too small to accommodate committees. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee of the Legislative Council was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNETTE E. KOEBERNICK
Deputy Director