

M I N U T E S
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMITTEE
of the
IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 1975

The Service Committee of the 1975-1976 Iowa Legislative Council was called to order at 2:35 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, 1975 in Senate Committee Room 22 of the State House. Committee members present were:

Senator Minnette F. Doderer, Chairperson
Senator James E. Briles
Senator Steve Sovern
Representative Jerry Fitzgerald
Representative James I. Middleswart
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present were Citizens' Aide Tom Mayer and Senior Research Analyst Phil Burks of the Legislative Service Bureau.

There was an informal discussion of the format of the annual report of the Citizens' Aide office, Chairperson Doderer suggesting that sample cases not be included as has been done in the past. She also suggested that legislative recommendations be communicated directly to the legislators most likely to be concerned rather than set forth in the report.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Committee members expressed a consensus that the changes suggested by Senator Doderer be adopted.

The Committee resumed consideration of the appointment of a person to the previously authorized position of Specialist for Indian Affairs on the staff of the Citizens' Aide office, which had been considered at the Committee's previous meeting. Senator Sovern moved that the Committee recommend to the Legislative Council that the employment of Mr. Andrew Roberts for this position be approved. The motion was seconded by Representative Fitzgerald.

There was a discussion of Mr. Roberts' qualifications, and those of other persons who have submitted applications for the position to Mr. Mayer. At the conclusion of the discussion, Senator Sovern's motion was unanimously adopted.

In response to a question from Representative Stromer, Mr. Mayer stated that he proposed to pay Mr. Roberts a starting salary of \$11,518 per year. Senator Doderer commented it had been her understanding that the starting salary would be approximately \$12,000 per year, to which Mr. Mayer responded that that figure is

the proposed starting salary for the new position of Youth Ombudsman. In the course of the ensuing discussion, Senator Doderer asked whether the two jobs are not approximately equivalent in terms of skill and experience required and nature of the duties involved. Mr. Mayer agreed that this is probably true in a broad sense, but noted that the federal grant which will finance the position of Youth Ombudsman makes slightly more money available than had been contemplated for the position of Specialist for Indian Affairs in the current Citizens' Aide office budget.

After further discussion, Senator Doderer expressed the opinion that with minor adjustments in other contemplated office expenditures, enough additional money could be available to make it possible to start the new individual being hired as Specialist for Indian Affairs at a salary of \$12,012 per year. (Mr. Mayer indicated this figure was chosen to permit even division into 26 pay periods.) She added that she definitely believes this individual and the person to be employed as Youth Ombudsman should start at the same salary, and Representative Fitzgerald expressed agreement.

Mr. Mayer recommended employment of Mr. John K. Holveck, Jr. for the new position of Youth Ombudsman in the Citizens' Aide office. Representative Middleswart moved that the Committee so recommend to the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded by Representative Stromer, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mayer noted that it is his intent to employ Mr. Roberts immediately, and Mr. Holveck as of December 1, 1975. Mr. Mayer also stated that he would like to attend a conference of ombudsmen in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in September, 1976, and hopes it will be possible for one other member of his staff to also attend that conference. Committee members expressed no objection, but indicated that they believe it would be premature to formally recommend approval of the necessary travel at the present time.

Mr. Mayer then left the meeting. The Committee discussed staffing of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau for the coming session, and various related matters, for several minutes. The Committee recessed briefly. Upon reconvening, the Committee was joined by Legislative Fiscal Director Gerry D. Rankin, who presented recommendations for the employment of four new staff members of the Fiscal Bureau. The persons recommended were Brenda J. Mack, Marilyn H. Farr, William M. Babcock, Jr. and Dennis Lee Jacobs.

Mr. Rankin proposed that Ms. Mack assist staff member Tim Faller, during the 1976 session, and thereafter that consideration be given to dividing the present responsibilities of the standing Appropriations Committees' Subcommittees on State Government, which he explained have the heaviest loads of any of the appropriations subcommittees. Mr. Rankin reviewed Ms. Mack's qualifications.

Mr. Rankin proposed that Ms. Farr be given responsibility primarily in the area of fiscal note preparation, but also

suggested that her expertise in data processing will be valuable in computerizing the appropriations process. He noted that she is presently employed by the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Rankin proposed that Mr. Babcock be assigned to the Transportation Subcommittees of the standing Committees on Appropriations, which are presently staffed by Mr. Faller. Mr. Faller would no longer have direct Appropriations subcommittee responsibility, and would therefore be more free to provide assistance to the Appropriations chairpersons. Mr. Rankin noted that Mr. Babcock also has an excellent background in data processing, but is desirous of leaving his present employment with a private accounting firm because the firm is increasingly using him as a computer programmer and this type of work is not Mr. Babcock's preference.

Mr. Rankin proposed that Mr. Jacobs staff the Human Resources Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees, allowing staff member David Bolender to work more closely with the Appropriations chairpersons on the overall human resources budget.

In response to a question by Representative Stromer, Mr. Rankin confirmed that there is money in the current Fiscal Bureau budget to cover auditing and analysis of the budgets of the new area education agencies. He added that staff member Ethan Towne had looked into this matter, and had concluded that these budgets are not present well enough formulated to allow meaningful analysis. This led to a discussion of the desirability of future efforts on the part of the Fiscal Bureau to encourage program budgeting, and to engage in performance analysis.

Senator Briles noted that prior to the present meeting, it had been his impression that Mr. Rankin would request approval of one new employee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Charlotte Munson and another additional new employee, but instead a proposal to employ four persons has been placed before the Service Committee. He asked why the additional staff people are needed. Mr. Rankin replied that he hopes to expand and improve the Fiscal Bureau's services to the General Assembly to meet current needs. In response to a further question from Senator Briles, Mr. Rankin stated that on completion of the remodeling project which is currently in progress in the area behind the House of Representatives chamber, the House will release some office space which it currently occupies in the East second floor area of the State House for use by Mr. Rankin's staff.

Representative Stromer inquired about salary levels for the proposed new employees. Mr. Rankin responded that he proposes to employ Ms. Mack and Mr. Jacobs in the category Budget Analyst I at annual salaries of \$12,000 respectively, Mr. Babcock as Budget Analyst I at an annual salary of \$13,000 and Ms. Farr as Budget Analyst II at \$16,000 annually. He noted that Ms. Mack and Mr. Babcock are available immediately, that Ms. Farr is probably available as of December 1, and that Mr. Jacobs would probably have to give some additional notice before leaving his present position.

Senator Briles suggested the possibility that the Service Committee might agree to recommend to the Legislative Council the employment of two new staff members for the Fiscal Bureau, but not four. He asked Mr. Rankin, in that case, which two of the four persons he had recommended he would choose to employ. Mr. Rankin replied that the choice would be a very difficult one and one he would be reluctant to have to make, but that in such circumstances he would probably choose to employ Ms. Mack and Ms. Farr.

After further discussion, Mr. Rankin stated that there is one additional matter which he wishes to place before the Service Committee. He noted that Mr. Faller had originally been hired at an annual salary of \$10,000 which is somewhat below the ordinary starting salary for his position, and is now receiving an annual salary of \$11,986. Mr. Rankin stated that if Ms. Mack is hired, Mr. Faller will have to orient her in the duties of her new position, and therefore proposed that he be given an immediate raise of \$400 per year.

In response to questions by Senator Doderer, Mr. Rankin stated that Mr. Faller had originally been hired at a somewhat lower than usual starting salary because he had not completed requirements for his bachelor's degree, and that he still has not done so. Ms. Mack has a bachelor's degree and 20 hours credit toward a master's degree. Senator Doderer emphasized that she is well impressed with Mr. Faller, but asserted that Ms. Munson oriented him when he joined the staff, and that her salary was always lower than his. In reply to a question from Representative Fitzgerald, Mr. Rankin said he anticipated that Mr. Faller would receive his bachelor's degree in a year or less.

Representative Middleswart inquired why the additional service to the chairpersons of the Senate and House standing Committees on Appropriations, if desirable, could not be provided by staff persons hired by the Senate and House. Mr. Rankin responded that in his judgment personnel hired by the Senate and House would probably be less effective and less efficient than individuals employed on a non-partisan basis by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and assigned part-time to the respective Appropriations chairpersons. He explained that individuals hired by the Senate and House would be likely to be much less familiar with his operation than persons working directly for him, that the staff people assigned to assist the Appropriations chairpersons would in any case be contacting members of his staff frequently, and that the net effect is likely to be that he and members of his staff would be communicating with the Appropriations chairpersons thru a third party with all the attendant possibility for confusion and misunderstanding that such a situation implies. Mr. Rankin noted that he had presented this proposal in response to repeated requests over a considerable period of time from both the Senate and House of Representatives for more direct assistance to the Appropriations chairpersons.

Representative Fitzgerald moved that action on the proposals of the Legislative Fiscal Director for employment of new personnel in his office be deferred for the time being. The motion was adopted and the Committee recessed to the call of the Chairperson.

Thursday, November 20, 1975

The Committee reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20, with all Committee members present except Senator Briles. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the Legislative Council that the employment of Ms. Farr and Ms. Mack by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau be approved, and to defer further action on other staffing proposals relative to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau until a later date.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

PHIL E. BURKS
Senior Research Analyst