

M I N U T E S

SERVICE COMMITTEE
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 9, 1983

The meeting of the Service Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 1983 by the Chairperson, Senator C. W. Hutchins, in Committee Room 22 of the State House. Members present were:

Senator C. W. (Bill) Hutchins
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Merlin Hulse
Representative Jean Lloyd-Jones

Also present were:

Mr. Serge Garrison, Director, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Bill Angrick, Citizens' Aide
Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Ms. Diane Bolender, Legislative Service Bureau

Senator Coleman moved that the minutes of the October 12, 1983 Committee meeting be approved as distributed to Committee members, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. Prouty asked for approval from the Legislative Council to employ Mr. Reginald Harrington to staff the Education Standing Committee for school aid purposes and the Ways and Means Committees for property tax issues. He asked that Mr. Harrington be employed at Pay Grade 24 and an entry salary of \$18,309. Mr. Prouty stated that he received 28 resumes and interviewed 6 persons. Senator Coleman asked why Mr. Prouty was not employing Mr. Harrington at the entry level salary. Mr. Prouty answered that Mr. Harrington has been highly recommended by the staff at the University of Iowa from which he is obtaining a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and he believes that Mr. Harrington should be employed at a salary that is slightly more money than the entry level because he will be obtaining his Master's Degree at the end of December. Senator Coleman moved that Mr. Harrington be employed at the entry level salary of \$17,900 until he has received his Master's Degree. Chairperson Hutchins expressed opposition to Senator Coleman's motion, noting that Mr. Harrington will be employed about two weeks in advance of receiving his Master's Degree. Senator Coleman's motion lost. Representative Lloyd-Jones moved that the Service Committee recommend to the Legislative Council that Mr. Reginald Harrington be employed under the conditions specified by Mr. Prouty. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Garrison asked for approval to employ Ms. Janet L. Wilson who would be hired as a Legal Counsel in the Legislative Service Bureau and would assist in Code and Session Law publication in the

Code Editor's office. He commented that he intends that Ms. Wilson commence employment in the Legislative Service Bureau until the drafting workload lessens. He commented that Ms. Wilson has agreed to work in Iowa at a great reduction in pay. Mr. Garrison expressed hope that with the employment of Ms. Wilson, it will be possible to meld the Code Editor's office more closely with the Legislative Service Bureau.

Mr. Garrison added that he has recently accepted a resignation from Mr. Roger Nowadzky who had seven years employment with the Legislative Service Bureau and was earning \$28,000 per year. He stated that Mr. Nowadzky has been a valuable employee and has been staffing the Senate Judiciary and the House Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committees. Mr. Garrison explained that he had inquired of a former Legislative Service Bureau Legal Counsel, Ms. Carol Ann Nix, about working through the upcoming legislative session, but Ms. Nix responded that she desired a higher starting salary than many current Bureau attorneys. Mr. Garrison stated that he asked the five attorneys who have worked for the Legislative Service Bureau for a number of years for their comments and they responded that they would prefer that the workload be readjusted rather than employing an additional person at a higher salary, and suggested that Ms. Wilson could remain an employee of the Legislative Service Bureau through most of the legislative session. He indicated that the attorneys expressed hope that the Service Committee will review salaries next summer and will take into consideration the additional workload they have assumed.

Mr. Garrison announced that Mr. Scot Beckenbaugh has resigned from the Legislative Service Bureau to accept employment at a higher salary with the Public Employment Relations Board. Mr. Garrison expressed the belief that the salary structure of his office needs realigning and he will be making proposals next summer for position reclassifications. Senator Hulse asked whether it will be necessary to fill the vacant legal counsel position at a later time. Mr. Garrison responded that during the even-year session, it should be possible to operate the office with a vacant position, but not during the first session, and the vacant position will eventually have to be filled.

Representative Lloyd-Jones moved that the Service Committee recommend to the Legislative Council that Ms. Janet Wilson be employed as a Legal Counsel I in the Legislative Service Bureau with a starting salary of \$23,878.40, that is within the range of Pay Grade 29, and the motion was adopted.

With regard to the vacant Research Analyst position, Mr. Garrison stated that Mr. Beckenbaugh was one of the best first year staffers he had ever encountered and that he would like his replacement to begin immediately in order to have two months employment prior to the commencement of the legislative session. He asked that Mr. Elliott Smith be employed at the entry level salary in pay grade 24. Senator Coleman asked how many potential employees Mr. Garrison had interviewed. Mr. Garrison stated that

he had six prospects that he had deemed outstanding from previous interviews in a hold file. Senator Coleman questioned Mr. Smith's previous work experience. Representative Lloyd-Jones asked where Mr. Beckenbaugh will be employed. Mr. Garrison responded that Mr. Beckenbaugh will be employed by the Public Employment Relations Board, but he also had received a job offer from the Maytag Corporation. Representative Lloyd-Jones stated that she has confidence in Mr. Garrison's selections for employment, and she moved that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve the employment of Mr. Smith under the conditions specified by Mr. Garrison. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Garrison stated that the Education Task Force has divided into six subcommittees that meet frequently and the subcommittees desire to continue meeting during the legislative session. He commented that the Education Task Force has asked for authorization to employ a person to allow them to continue to meet during the legislative session. Mr. Garrison commented that Legislative Service Bureau does not have funds budgeted for an additional education staff person and his current staff would still be required to review minutes and would attend meetings of the subcommittees. Chairperson Hutchins asked that action be deferred until the December meeting.

Chairperson Hutchins noted that recently a letter from Mr. Gerry Bogan had appeared in the Des Moines Register and Mr. Bogan had compared the cost of operating the General Assembly historically. Chairperson Hutchins noted that Mr. Bogan failed to list additional functions that have been assigned to the General Assembly over the past few years, such as the Tour Guides and the Public Information Office. He asked Mr. Garrison and Mr. Prouty to develop more valid cost comparisons. Mr. Garrison pointed out that the Code Editor's budget is listed as \$1 million, and Mr. Bogan failed to subtract out \$400,000 that is received from the sale of publications.

The Committee adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANE BOLENDER
Senior Research Analyst