

M I N U T E S

SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

March 21, 1985

The meeting of the Service Committee was called to order at 12:00 Noon by the Chairman, Representative John Connors, on Thursday, March 21, 1985 in the Speaker's Conference Room of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to the Chairman were:

Senator Lee Holt
Senator C. W. (Bill) Hutchins
Senator Joe Welsh
Representative Tom Jochum
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present were:

Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau
Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Mr. Burnette Koebernick, Acting Director,
Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Joe O'Hern, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Marie Thayer, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Diane Bolender, Senior Research Analyst,
Legislative Service Bureau

Chairman Connors commented that the Service Committee must make a recommendation to the Legislative Council whether to continue its lease of a computer and equipment from Sperry Corporation or to exercise its option to purchase the computer and other related equipment. He commented that no payments were due during the first six months of the computer's operation, but during the second six months, ninety percent of the lease amount will be applied toward the purchase price, and during the next six months seventy-five percent of the lease payment will be applied toward the purchase price. Senator Holt asked whether the computer is presently working as prescribed. Mr. Scharf responded in the affirmative.

Senator Hutchins moved that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council purchase the legislative computer and additional approved purchases at a total cost of \$921,100. A listing of purchases is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Representative Jochum seconded the motion. Representative Stromer asked about technological problems relating to state-of-the-art equipment. He asked if the Legislative Council

continues to lease the computer, whether Sperry Corporation would lease automatically a newer model machine if the present one became obsolete. Mr. O'Hern responded that the Legislative Council has a seven-year lease with title to transfer at the end of that period, but if the Legislative Council votes to begin purchase of the computer, the computer will be fully-owned by the state of Iowa after 3.1 years.

Mr. O'Hern added that technology does move rapidly, but at this point the 1170 computer is performing the job well and is a new computer. He commented that software continues to change and lease payments on the software would provide that the General Assembly would receive software improvements. He indicated that smaller and faster machines may be invented, but the General Assembly may not require these enhancements. He also noted that Central Data Processing has various age equipment. He concluded by stating that the 1170 is a new computer that was not in existence when negotiations for purchase of a computer were commenced.

Representative Stromer asked Representative Jochum, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, whether the budget can afford the computer. Representative Jochum responded that although funding is limited, it is important to make a decision on the computer now, and he supports the purchase. Senator Holt asked about the service for the computer. Mr. O'Hern commented that there is a separate maintenance contract.

On a roll call vote, there was unanimous approval for Senator Hutchins's motion to purchase the computer.

Mr. Scharf distributed copies of a proposed budget allocation for the Computer Support Bureau. A copy of the proposed allocation is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Mr. Scharf explained that the \$159,264 budgeted for salaries includes salaries for five full-time employees. He explained that he currently has two full-time employees and one session only employee, but anticipates three full-time employees and two session only employees. Senator Welsh moved that the Computer Support Bureau's proposed budget allocation be approved as submitted. Representative Jochum seconded the motion.

Representative Stromer moved that the motion be amended to state that the money for salaries in the budget allocation be used for salaries only. Representative Stromer's amendment was adopted, and Senator Welsh's motion, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Scharf asked that the Legislative Council approve the employment of Mr. Bruce Koeppl as a session only computer operator at \$6.50 per hour. Representative Jochum moved that the Service Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve the employment. Senator Holt seconded the motion, and it carried.

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Chairman Connors noted that a grievance has been filed and will be processed.

The Service Committee adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANE BOLENDER
Senior Research Analyst