

R E P O R T

IOWA COMMISSION ON INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Submitted to the Iowa General Assembly meeting
in the year 1979

PURPOSE

Section 28B.2, 1979 Code of Iowa, states that the functions of the Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation are:

"1. To carry forward the participation of this state as a member of the council of state governments.

2. To encourage and assist the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial officials and employees of this state to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by conference, and otherwise, with officials and employees of other states, of the federal government, and of local units of government.

3. To encourage cooperation between this state and other units of government in the adoption of compacts and uniform laws and in working relationships with officials of other states."

MEMBERSHIP

Section 28B.1, 1979 Code of Iowa, establishes the Commission's membership at thirteen:

"1. Five members of the senate to be appointed by the president thereof;

2. Five members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house;

3. Three administrative officers to be appointed by the governor.

The governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall be ex officio honorary nonvoting members of the commission.

The director of the legislative service bureau shall serve as secretary of the commission."

Members of the Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation during the 1977-1979 biennium were:

Governor Robert D. Ray, ex officio
Lieutenant Governor Arthur A. Neu, ex officio

Speaker Dale M. Cochran, ex officio
Representative Lyle Scheelhaase, Chairman
Senator Lowell Junkins, Vice Chairman
Senator Richard F. Drake
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator William D. Palmer
Senator Norman D. Rodgers
Representative Frank Crabb
Representative Gregory D. Cusack
Representative William B. Griffiee
Representative Robert Krause
Treasurer of State Maurice E. Baringer
Ms. Colleen P. Shearer, Director, Department of Job Service
Mr. Clayton Ringgenberg, Institute of Public Affairs

COMMITTEES

Section 28B.3, 1979 Code of Iowa, provides for the utilization of committees:

"The commission shall establish such committees as it deems advisable, in order that they may confer and formulate proposals concerning respective means to secure intergovernmental harmony, and may perform such other functions for the commission in obedience to its decision."

The following is a list of public officials appointed by the Commission to serve on the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments committees:

Executive Committee

Senator William D. Palmer
Representative Lyle Scheelhaase

Agriculture Committee

Speaker Dale M. Cochran
Treasurer of State Maurice Baringer
Senator Richard F. Drake
Representative Frank Crabb

Education Committee

Senator Norman G. Rodgers
Representative William B. Griffiee
Mr. Clayton Ringgenberg

Fiscal Affairs Committee

Senator Norman D. Rodgers

Human Resources Committee

Senator William D. Palmer
Senator Lowell L. Junkins
Representative Gregory Cusack
Ms. Colleen P. Shearer

Justice and Law Enforcement Committee

Ms. Colleen P. Shearer

Labor and Commerce Committee

Senator William D. Palmer
Senator Lowell L. Junkins
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Treasurer of State Maurice Baringer

Transportation

Senator Richard F. Drake
Representative Robert A. Krause
Mr. Clayton Ringgenberg

Suggested State Legislation Committee

Mr. Serge H. Garrison

The above listed persons served on the committees with representatives of the other eleven states of the Midwestern Conference of the Council of State Governments.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

During the 1977-1979 biennium, the Iowa Interstate Cooperation Commission participated in two annual Midwestern Conferences and in standing committee meetings which are held two or three times during each year.

The 1977 Midwestern Conference was held July 17-20 in Columbus, Ohio. The general theme of the Conference was the economy of the Midwestern states and the program included presentations and panel discussions directed toward economic matters. Dr. Ralph Widner, President of the Academy for Contemporary Problems, spoke on the "Future of the Midwest's Economy" and Ms. Meg Armstrong, Associate Fellow for Urban and Regional Development at the Academy for Contemporary Problems spoke on "Productivity". Mr. John Moriarity, Staff Director, Northeast-Midwest Economic Advancement Coalition discussed the topic of "Regional Economic Coalitions" and State Senator Ross O. Doyen, Kansas, discussed "Agricultural Aspects of the Midwest's Economy". Additional panel discussions were conducted on health cost containment, legislative improvements, product liability and energy in the Midwest.

Resolutions adopted by the 1977 Conference urged:

1. The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to place a moratorium on issuing new rules or changes to rules relating to the Medicaid program to allow states to monitor and evaluate the administration of the current Medicaid program.
2. Cooperation among organized governmental groups and agencies having an interest in Midwestern economic and fiscal concerns.
3. The federal government to share revenues which may be generated by new federal energy saving initiatives with the states to assist in meeting transportation needs.
4. The member states to consider joining the Interstate Nonresident Violators Compact as an effort to improve the enforcement of minor moving-traffic violations.
5. The member states to adopt uniform methods of collecting, recording and disseminating statistics regarding motorcycle registrations and accidents.
6. The development of a natural gas pipeline system for the transport of natural gas from Alaska to the Midwestern states via Canada.
7. The federal funding of costs of implementing federal rules and regulations by state and local governments.
8. The U.S. Congress and the Farm Home Administration to increase loan limits and broaden the definition of eligible loan recipients to include family farm corporations and family farm partnerships.

The 1978 Midwestern Conference was held in Chicago, Illinois during August 17-20. The Conference theme was "The Heartland States in the Year 2000" with special emphasis on the use of modern technology in service of the states. Speaking on the topic of "Urban Policies and the Quality of Life", Professor Norton E. Long, University of Missouri, warned that the fiscal problems of New York City are spreading toward the Midwest and that state legislators should not make the mistake of using money alone to resolve urban problems. Professor Long also emphasized that the development and maintenance of a viable manpower system is a necessary component of a successful urban policy.

The program also included Dr. Earl L. Butz, former Secretary of Agriculture speaking on the importance of agricultural exports to the nation's economy. He emphasized the need to allow agricultural producers the full use of private incentives and to reduce regulatory interference. Philip S. Hughes, Department of Energy

and W. LeRoy Culbertson, Phillips Petroleum Company, spoke on the topic of a Midwest energy policy.

Other guest speakers at the 1978 Conference included Alan Rosenthal, Eagleton Institute of Politics, who spoke on the "Future of the State Legislature" and David Brinkley, NBC News Correspondent, discussing the "Place of the Midwest in the Nation's Future". Dr. Daniel C. Drucker, University of Illinois, and David G. Thomas, Bell Laboratories, discussed and demonstrated new computer technologies which will impact the educational systems in the future and offer greater assistance in public policy development. Other presentations by Dr. Donald L. Bitzer, University of Illinois, and Dr. John D. Liesling, General Electric, included discussion of the social, legal and political implications of computer and communication technologies which will require action on the part of state legislatures.

The 1978 Midwestern Conference also adopted the following policy statements and resolutions urging:

1. The member states to adopt a uniform reporting law on foreign investments in agricultural land to provide a basis for developing a public policy on those foreign investments.

2. The United States Congress to amend 26 U.S.C. 103, to allow states to issue tax free bonds for railroad purposes.

3. The member states to consider participation in the International Registration Information system for motor vehicles.

4. The member states to join the International Registration Plan for the administration of state truck laws.

5. The United States Congress to provide broad categorical block grants to the states with three-year federal funding guarantees.

6. The President of the United States to appoint an interagency task force to implement the creation of federal economic disaster teams to act on behalf of the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury in directing federal aid and staff to communities who suffer major economic losses.

7. Continued research and development in gasohol technology and its feasibility as a fuel additive and the potential use of excess heat from power plants in the production of gasohol.

8. The federal government to provide incentives to small communities to build small-scale power plants which utilize wood scraps and other agricultural wastes as a fuel source.

9. The United States Department of Agriculture to maintain a stable federal agricultural policy.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

As noted earlier in this report, the Midwestern Conference has six standing committees plus a study task force. During 1977 and 1978, the standing committees addressed topics and problem areas assigned to them by the Executive Committee of the Conference.

Agricultural Committee

The Agriculture Committee was chaired by Representative Arden Dierdorff, Kansas until August, 1978 and Representative Joseph Tregoning, Wisconsin since August, 1978. The Committee met with the Regional Director of Occupational Safety and Health Administration relating to OSHA regulations affecting the farm community and discussed alternatives which could be followed to reduce the economic consequences of the 1976-1977 drought. At its April, 1978 meeting, the Committee discussed the marketing, promotion and development services offered by the Mid-American International Agri-Trade Council and the investigation being conducted concerning the domination of the grain marketing system by multinational corporations. The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing an interstate compact or multistate grain marketing organization as an alternative to the present marketing system. At the 1978 Conference, the Executive Committee assigned the Committee the topics of foreign or alien land ownership and continued study of the grain marketing compact proposal.

Education Committee

The Education Committee is chaired by Senator Harold D. Schrier, South Dakota and former Representative William B. Griffiee, Iowa, served as vice-chairperson. During 1977 and 1978, the Committee was primarily concerned with the issues of a Midwestern Education Compact and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 which was jointly studied with the Human Resources Committee. The Committee in cooperation with the Midwestern Governors' Conference, developed the Compact between 1976 and 1978 to provide coordination and cooperation among compact states in the areas of vocational and post-secondary education. The Compact will be operative when adopted by six of the Midwestern states. Legislation, Senate File 90, has been introduced to make Iowa a compact member. Topics assigned to the Committee in 1978 are the effects of tax limitation on education which is being studied jointly with the Fiscal Affairs Committee, the effects of decreasing enrollments, and continued efforts to encourage membership to the Midwestern Education Compact.

Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee is chaired by Representative B. Patrick Bauer of Indiana. The Committee met twice in 1977 to receive presentations on the problems of chemical contamination of water supplies and to discuss Minnesota's legislation on nursing homes, health care cost containment and the definition of death. The Committee also conducted a study and seminar in cooperation with the Education Committee on the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. The Executive Committee assigned the Committee the topics of catastrophic health insurance, minimal health insurance, and health care cost containment for study during the current year.

Labor and Commerce Committee

The Labor and Commerce Committee is chaired by Senator Lowell Junkins of Iowa. The focus of the Committee has been on problems related to products liability and, since the enactment of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, reviewing and encouraging energy conservation programs in the Midwestern states. At a two-day meeting in January, 1978, the Committee reviewed energy legislation being considered or enacted in the Midwestern states, the administration of energy programs in selected states and the highlights of Midwestern states' energy conservation plans. The topics assigned by the Executive Committee in 1978 relate to alternative energy sources and related problems.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee is chaired by Senator Richard Shank of Indiana. The Transportation Committee has been particularly active in reviewing issues relating to motor cycle helmet legislation, the consumer problem of odometer roll-backs, ad valorem taxes on gasoline, the collection of uniform motorcycle accident statistics, and the Interstate Nonresident Violators Compact. As noted earlier in this report, several resolutions have been adopted by the Midwestern Conference urging legislative and administrative action by the member states to resolve the problems identified by the Committee. The Executive Committee at the 1978 Conference assigned the Committee the topic of Midwest rail problems. The Committee in cooperation with the Midwestern Governors' Conference held a seminar on Rail Transportation Issues in November, 1978. Senator Richard F. Drake of Iowa chaired a workshop on State Rail Planning and Assistance Programs and former Representative Robert A. Krause moderated a luncheon program during the seminar. The seminar resulted in many recommendations from each of the four workshops which can not be adequately discussed in this report, but in general the recommendations emphasize the need for a coordinated state, federal and industry effort to improve and maintain essential rail service through revision of outdated statutes, financial aid, rate structures, safety and work rules, and taxation.

Fiscal Affairs Committee

At the conclusion of the 1978 Midwestern Conference, the Executive Committee created the Fiscal Affairs Committee to address taxation and appropriation matters. Its first assignment is to evaluate legislation and proposals relating to government spending limitations such as California's Proposition 13. It was also directed to establish liaison with the National Governors' Conference and the National Conference of State Legislatures on a joint project on public pension systems. Senator Harry Meshel, Ohio, was named chairperson and Senator Norman G. Rodgers, Iowa, was named vice chairperson.

Justice and Law Enforcement

At the 1978 Conference, the Executive Committee terminated the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee because the Committee was inactive during the preceding year.

Economic Affairs Task Force

The Economic Affairs Task Force was first created as the Fiscal Task Force in the fall of 1976 to focus on economic problems in the Midwest including issues relating to energy, worker productivity, regional business conditions, and the imbalance of federal payments and policies affecting the Midwest. The Task Force was continued by the Executive Committee to study the industrial and agricultural economic problems of the Midwest including federal programs which affect the Midwest. The Task Force is chaired by Senator Ralph Kelly of Nebraska.

SUMMARY

The increasing complexities of interstate relations and relations between state governments and the federal government require that states exchange ideas and information as a minimum effort toward solving interstate problems and, as a maximum effort, cooperate and coordinate state compacts and consolidate efforts in dealing with the federal government. Increasing overlap in relation to transportation, taxation, pollution control, federal grant-in-aid, and various forms of reciprocity emphasize the states' difficulties. The Iowa Commission on Interstate Cooperation, through its direct contacts with Iowa's congressional delegation and participation in the Midwestern Council of State Governments, appears to be meeting the objectives of Chapter 29B relating to federal-state and interstate cooperation.