

Report of the  
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
to the  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
July 12, 1972

The seventh meeting of the Legislative Procedures and Facilities Committee of the 1971-72 Legislative Council was called to order by the Committee Chairman, Speaker of the House William H. Harbor, at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, 1972, with the following Committee members present in addition to Speaker Harbor:

Senator James E. Briles  
Senator Eugene M. Hill  
Senator John C. Rhodes  
Representative Dale M. Cochran  
Representative Nathan F. Sorg  
Representative Andrew P. Varley

Also present were Treasurer of State Maurice Baringer, Secretary of the Senate Carroll A. Lane, Chief Clerk of the House William H. Kendrick, and Director Serge Garrison and Phil Burks of the Legislative Service Bureau.

The minutes of the Committee's June 13 meeting were approved as submitted, attached to the June 14 Legislative Council minutes.

Treasurer Baringer, in his capacity as a member of the Executive Council's space committee, presented a rather detailed summary of present and prospective state office and building space needs. He identified various alternative possibilities for meeting these needs, by rental of space, purchase and remodeling of existing buildings, or construction of new buildings. He also reported on the disposition of the \$900,000 appropriation made in 1971 to the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for various major repairs and improvements at the seat of government, noting that the Executive Council had on the previous day approved the contract for the second phase of the State House rewiring project.

Pursuant to the Committee's request at its previous meeting, Mr. Lane and Mr. Kendrick were present to discuss possible revisions in some of the joint rules of the General Assembly. Mr. Lane presented proposals for revision of Joint Rule 11, but as discussion indicated that agreement has not been reached by Mr. Lane and Mr. Kendrick, in all respects, on the substance or language of the proposed revised rule, it was requested that they give further consideration to the revision of Joint Rule 11 and again report to the Committee at a later date.

On the subject of committee procedures, Senator Briles expressed the view that a key factor in bringing the first session of a General Assembly to a timely adjournment is expediting the appropriations process, and he suggested that priority be given to the Appropriations Committees in assignment of committee rooms and meeting times early in the session. This suggestion led to a rather broad discussion of the appropriations process in general. Other suggestions discussed included immediate informal organization of the new General Assembly after the November elections so that the chairmen and key members of the Appropriations Committees will be known and can participate in the Governor's budget hearings, and establishing a policy of bringing the smaller appropriation bills which must be handled each biennium to the floor as soon as they have been processed by the committees, rather than holding all or most appropriations bills until late in the session.

Senator Hill renewed the suggestion he has made in the past that the standing Committees on Appropriations be abolished, and their functions discharged by subcommittees of the respective standing committees, with the responsibility for making proposed appropriations conform to an overall budget resting with the Legislative Council. The Legislative Service Bureau was instructed to determine how many other states presently use this or a similar procedure in handling appropriations measures.

There was also discussion of the suggestion that during future sessions, meetings of standing committees be scheduled for the forenoon, with sessions of the full Senate and House of Representatives held in the afternoon. The reaction to this suggestion by Committee members appeared generally favorable.

The scheduling and content of an orientation conference for new legislators was considered by the Committee. Mr. Garrison was requested to prepare a proposed outline for a two-day orientation conference for submission to the Committee at its next meeting.

Mr. Garrison reported that he has been successful in negotiating with Aspen Systems Corporation a contract for updating the computer tape Code of Iowa to bring it into complete conformity with the forthcoming 1973 Code, at a price of \$15,000, in accordance with the Legislative Council's action at its June meeting. The contract will be submitted to the full Council for approval at its July 12 meeting.

Mr. Garrison also reported that the present Iowa Bill Drafting Guide will be revised and considerably shortened by deleting the various references to the bill drafting style and procedure used

by the General Assembly prior to 1971. The only substantive change in the drafting procedure proposed at this time is the addition of a heading "NEW SECTION" to proceed new material which contains neither strike throughs or underscoring.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM H. HARBOR  
Committee Chairman