

REPORT OF THE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL COMMITTEE
TO THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OCTOBER 13, 1976

The Legislative Fiscal Committee met on October 12, 1976 in Room 22. All members were present.

Senator Palmer, Chairman, stated the Legislative Procedures Study Committee has accepted, in general, some reorganization of the appropriations process. He presented two proposals to the Committee which would change the existing appropriations process. After perusal and discussion, the Committee recommended both proposals to the Procedure Committee with their approval of the general thrust of these proposals. Regardless of the particular plan adopted by the Procedures Study Committee, the Fiscal Committee felt that the idea of including all members of the General Assembly in appropriations and increasing the number of subcommittees to seven, along with proposed committee schedules already under consideration by the Procedures Study Committee, would be a definite step in the right direction.

Marilyn Farr, Fiscal Bureau, presented six output formats which could be used in a basic computerization of the appropriations process. During this presentation, questions were raised concerning the number of employees carried on departmental T.O.'s who are paid by federal funds. In an attempt to clarify where the subcommittees might find this information, the Committee requested a representative of the Comptroller's office to appear before the group. Jim Dysart and Bill Krah1 responded.

Mr. Krah1 explained that the Fiscal Bureau would be furnished with copies of the budget manual as prepared by each of the departments. Included in that manual will be details of federal grants administered by that department. The presentation of the federal grant information will be summarized in the printing of the Governor's Budget Book. However, for details, reference can be made to the manual which will be received by the Fiscal Bureau.

Following further discussion, the Chairman called for the reports of the visitation committees.

Representative Middleswart reported that on September 13 the Natural Resources Visitation Committee met in Ames for a visitation on the Iowa State Coal Project. On the 14th, they visited the Iowa Geological Survey drilling site and coal mine. On September 21 and 22 they were in Sioux City for a public hearing and visitation on the Missouri River.

Senator Willits reported that the State Departments Visitation Committee met on September 9 with the Transportation and Law Enforcement Visitation Committee regarding the transferring of the Motor Vehicle Fuel Fund from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Transportation. A feasibility study is being done to determine if there would be a savings in this transfer. On the

29th the committee had a meeting on the allocation of space in the Capitol.

Senator Nystrom presented the report of the Transportation and Law Enforcement Visitation Committee. Their meeting on September 8 was on Rural Crime. On September 23 they met with the D.O.T., Aeronautics Division, and visited three airports. On the 24th they made a visitation to Lock and Dam 26 at Alton, Illinois.

Representative Den Herder reported that the Human Resources Visitation Committee had met with the Governor's Study Commission on Prisons and visited the Men's Reformatory at Anamosa on September 22.

Senator Van Gilst reported that the Education Visitation Committee had made the following visitations:

September 9, Waldorf Jr. College, Forest City

AEA 2, Clear Lake

September 10, Area II Community College, Mason City

Hamilton Business School, Mason City

September 17, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Science

September 23, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant

September 24, AEA 15, Ottumwa

Area XV Community College, Ottumwa

Ethan A. Towne, Fiscal Bureau, presented the Committee with a copy of an audit of the Illinois College of Optometry, Chicago, Illinois, as mandated by Senate File 1261.

BLAZER IRRIGATION

New Hampton, Iowa

SEP 28 1976

September 27, 1976

Senator Bill Hansen
Waterloo Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Dear Bill,

Many Iowa farmers are faced with the possibility of losing their second and third crop this year. At today's cost of operation another crop failure may bankrupt many of them. For this reason hundreds of them are making plans to irrigate next year, but are being stifled by the time involved in getting permits from Natural Resources.

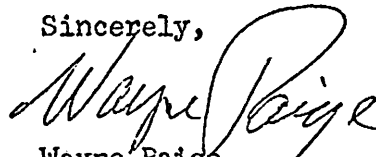
Since the law does allow a farmer to irrigate upon approval of Natural Resources it would seem to me that the state has a responsibility to handle these applications in an expediate manner. This is impossible with the present man-power situation in Natural Resources. As an example, I have been informed that Florida has ten men per county as compared to our three men for the entire state.

In talking with Mr. VerMeer on the telephone recently, I got the impression that the state feels it should move slowly on these applications pending further research into possible problems of water depletion from the soil. I question whether the state has the right to take this attitude toward "possible" problems when the farmer is facing a "real" problem right now. Some of our western states have already been down this road and have proven that wise irrigating has little serious side effects.

If many farmers are to irrigate next year it is important that steps are taken immediately as it takes time to drill wells, order pumps and power units and set-up the systems.

I will look forward to hearing from you soon, as I have several customers that are greatly concerned about their permits. If it would be beneficial we would be glad to come in a group to Des Moines to discuss this issue with you.

Sincerely,


Wayne Paige
Blazer Irrigation

WP:bu