

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 974-1491

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

October 4, 1978

Dr. Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson

George E. Bodle
Dr. Catherine G. Burke
John D. Byork
Margaret Paterson Carr
Anne S. Collins
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Hugh L. Henshaw
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Lauro J. Neri
Robert Ruchti, II
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teastey
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary
John Campbell
Staff Specialist
Maxlynn Larsen
Commission Secretary

Members Present:

Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson
George E. Bodle
Catherine Burke
Margaret Carr
Dorothy Courtney
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Leo Majich
Lauro Neri
Luis Ruiz
George Shellenberger
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson
John Byork
Anne Collins
Milton Gordon
Richard Gunther
Mary Jane Kidd
Robert Ruchti

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Gloria Starr. She informed the members that Warren Schmidt was ill and expressed her hope that he would be well soon.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the September 6 meeting were adopted on motion by Bryan Walker and second by George Shellenberger.

Introduction of New Member - Dorothy Courtney, retiring Foreman of the Grand Jury who was appointed to serve for one year on the EEC, was introduced and welcomed as a member of the commission. Mrs. Courtney said that she had been aware of the commission's existence for many years and had been impressed by its documents, reports, and activities. She expressed her hope that the past year's experience on the Grand Jury would be helpful to the commission. She announced that she was changing her name from Dorothy V. Courtney to Dorothy Avila Courtney and requested that the records be changed accordingly.

Proposition A - Contracting With Private Firms - Gloria Starr said that the draft of the position paper on Proposition A had been mailed to all members, and their input had been requested. Some members called in with suggestions, and the draft has been revised. Burke Roche pointed out the changes, and the members discussed the proposition.

The motion was made by Leo Majich, seconded by Margaret Carr and passed unanimously, that the EEC statement on Proposition A be adopted.

Proposition C - Elected County Executive - Jerry Epstein, EEC campaign representative, reported that the proponents of the proposition have formed a campaign committee called Taxpayers' Coalition, and he has been elected Treasurer. He distributed material prepared by the Coalition and some prepared by the EEC. He said that members would be receiving additional material in the mail with an envelope enclosed for donations. He stressed how important it was for each member to get involved.

Dorothy Courtney, County-wide coordinator for the speakers' bureau for Proposition C, distributed cards and asked members to volunteer for speaking engagements. She also intends to have small meetings in her home to acquaint people with the proposition. She urged members to work in their own communities to influence the vote for the elected County executive.

Gloria Starr read the commission policy as agreed to at the September meeting.

"First, as a commission, the proposal is wholeheartedly endorsed. Second, Jerry Epstein is authorized to be the spokesman in the campaign, and the commission endorses the statements which are consistent with past commission policy. Third, Jerry Epstein is asked to keep the campaign organization separate from the commission, since the commission is not a campaign organization. Individual members are free to work on the campaign as long as it isn't the commission as a whole."

Proposition B - Civil Service Proposal - Catherine Burke, Chairperson, Task Force on Civil Service and Personnel Administration, reported that the task force had concluded it did not have enough information to endorse or oppose this proposal. It is therefore recommending that the commission not take a stand.

George Bodle moved that the commission accept the task force recommendation not to take a stand on Proposition B. Carolyn Ellner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Other County Propositions - Burke Roche reviewed the remainder of the County propositions D through L. The commission took action on Proposition F only.

Catherine Burke moved that the EEC support Proposition F, which would remove the Supervisors' deputies from Civil Service. The motion was seconded by Leo Majich and passed unanimously.

Task Force on Government Structure - John Campbell was asked to report. He reported that the staff is working intensively preparing a draft report for the task force. They hope to be able to have a task force meeting in two or three weeks. The report will contain a complete discussion of government structure and will analyze various proposals for reform. It will also identify some steps which can be taken immediately to make some progress in that area. The work on the ballot proposals is concluded, so the staff can now concentrate on getting a draft of this report to the task force.

Board Action on EEC Report on Cost Reduction - Burke Roche reported that the Board had taken action on two recommendations in the last commission report to reduce costs. It took action to increase the filing fees for the Superior Court and initiated legislation to increase the fees in the Municipal Courts. At the September 19 Board meeting the Board adopted the recommendation to conduct a study to reduce supervision in the County. It instructed the CAO to conduct a study to reduce management positions by 10% during the 1979-80 fiscal year. Supervisor Hahn introduced the motion and stated that the 10% reduction could save the County \$23 million.

Review of Attendance Records - Gloria Starr reminded the members that the Administrative Code provides that if any member fails to attend three consecutive meetings, unless excused by the members, that member's office becomes vacant. She reported that five members had missed three consecutive meetings during the past year and asked what action the membership wished to take.

After discussing alternative ways to deal with the problem, it was agreed that all members would be made aware of this section of the administrative code. In the future, any member who is going to be absent from the regular monthly meeting should contact the chairperson or the executive secretary. The minutes can then reflect the members who had been excused. The members who are absent from this meeting will be notified of the procedure.

Foundation for Effective Government - Carolyn Ellner reported that the application for tax exempt status had been delayed but would go in the mail this week.

The folders which Lauro Neri's firm designed, printed, and donated to the commission were shown to the members. They will be used to display the commission material used for fund-raising.

Carolyn Ellner moved that the commission give a formal vote of thanks to Mr. Neri and his firm for the contribution to the commission. The motion was seconded by George Shellenberger and adopted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.