

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
CITIZENS ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE**

ROOM 139, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION/500 WEST TEMPLE/LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012/625-3611, Ext. 64605

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Monday, February 14, 1972  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 379

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman  
Davis Brabant  
John Byork  
Maurice Chez  
Jerry Epstein  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Joseph Lederman  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
Robert Olin  
George Shellenberger  
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

Dr. John Bollens  
James Cunningham  
Roc Cutri  
Leo Epstein  
Milton Gordon  
Dixon Harwin  
Harlan Loud  
Irvin Mazzei  
R. J. Munzer  
William Torrence

Robert Mitchell,  
Chairman  
  
Dr. John C. Bollens  
Davis Brabant  
John D. Byork  
Maurice Rene Chez  
James J. Cunningham  
Roc Cutri  
Jerry Epstein  
Leo D. Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Dixon R. Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Joseph A. Lederman  
Harlan G. Loud  
Irvin Mazzei  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
R. J. Munzer  
Robert A. Olin  
George Shellenberger  
William Torrence  
Gus A. Walker  
  
Burke Roche,  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He introduced new committee member, Joseph Lederman, who was appointed by Supervisor Debs. He said Mr. Lederman was with Burlington Mills for 35 years before his retirement. He was Foreman Pro-Tem of the 1969 Grand Jury, and at the present time he is Chairman of the Beverly Hills Traffic and Parking Commission.

Mr. Mitchell said this had been a hurriedly called meeting because it was necessary to review the subcommittee's report on the Department of Public Administrator-Public Guardian and present it to the Board of Supervisors at tomorrow's meeting. He said that last December the Board of Supervisors had referred the County task force's report on the Public Administrator-Public Guardian to the E & E Committee for review. He had appointed a task force consisting of Dr. John Bollens, Chairman; Dixon Harwin and Gus Walker. The task force had completed its report and was presenting it to the full committee for their consideration.

Mr. Roche distributed copies of the report to the committee members and the press. He then read the report aloud.

Mr. Chez said he had another appointment and would have to leave in 10 minutes, but he would like to bring up a point for discussion. He said if the Public Administrator were the fifth member on the commission, he would have the deciding vote. His suggestion would be to increase the public members to five, and the Public Administrator would be an ex officio member without a vote.

Mr. Walker said the subcommittee's thinking on this was that the commission must have the cooperation and coordination of the Public Administrator. That is why it felt the Public Administrator should be a voting member of the commission.

Mr. Roche added that the sole purpose of the commission would be to assist the Public Administrator in managing the department. The Public Administrator should be held accountable for the operation of the department. If a commission is set up which directs the Public Administrator, the commission becomes the department head. He said that most authorities on local government are thoroughly opposed to this type of operation.

Mr. Brabant said he thought expanding the commission to five members was a good idea, and he was suggesting that someone in the real estate field should be the fifth member.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Roche said the E & E Committee could consider this suggestion in making its appointment.

Mr. Chez left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Shellenberger asked if the purpose of the commission wasn't essentially to set up procedures. After that is accomplished, he doubted that there would be much to vote on. Mr. Roche agreed, and said perhaps after a while that the commission may decide the department is in fine shape and would retire.

At this point a man in the audience stood up and said that Supervisor Dorn had asked him to come before the committee, and he would like to speak.

Mr. Mitchell said he would assume that Supervisor Dorn would make his suggestions through channels, which would be through him, Mr. Roche, or a committee member. He asked that the speaker identify himself.

The speaker identified himself as Richard Carmen, President of the San Gabriel Valley Taxpayers Association and California Taxpayers and Renters Association. He said he had tried to speak to the supervisors about Mr. Mize's report. He wanted to know why the Grand Jury reports weren't part of the Mize report.

Mr. Mitchell said the committee was considering its own report at this time. He asked if the committee wished to hear this man talk.

Mrs. Kidd said the committee should rely on its rules of procedure. The meetings are open to the public, but they are not conducted as public hearings.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any more suggestions for changes in the report.

Mr. Brabant made the motion to accept the report with one modification, the number of members be increased to include one person actively engaged in the real estate brokerage business and this person to be selected by the California Real Estate Association. The motion was seconded by Robert Olin. The vote was "Yes" 3, "No" 7. Motion lost.

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Mr. Roche said that Mr. Harwin was unable to attend the meeting today, but he asked that the committee consider one change. On the top of page 4, the words ". . . no changes in the systems, procedures, and controls should be made. . ." should be changed to read: ". . . changes in the systems, procedures, and controls must not be made without the consent. . ."

Motion by Robert Olin, seconded by George Shellengerger that the wording should remain as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Shellenberger suggested that the bottom of page 4, Item 6, be changed from "Thorough knowledge of federal and state tax inheritance law" to "Thorough knowledge of federal and state inheritance tax law." Mr. Roche agreed the wording would be better.

Mr. Mendenhall made the motion that the report, with the one change suggested by Mr. Shellenberger, be approved; seconded by Mr. Shellenberger; passed unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Roche to report on the progress of the other committee studies.

Mr. Roche reported that the study on charter reform would be a long-term project. Mr. Chez, Chairman of the subcommittee, and Mr. Mitchell had met with the Supervisors. They reported that the Supervisors had been positive in recommending that the committee pursue this study. The study will center around the committee's previous proposal to amend the charter.

The next major report will be a very detailed and comprehensive study of fire services. Harlan Loud is the Chairman of this subcommittee. When the report is sent to the committee members for their comments, Mr. Roche said he is sure they will find it extremely interesting. The cities in the County have been very cooperative and have shown great interest in the report.

The third study was referred to the committee by the Board of Supervisors. It had requested that the committee study the administration of the County construction projects, and in particular determine the cause for the delays in the various projects. He reported that a staff group had been set up to work with the committee on this study. This staff will develop a description of the system, details and definition of the key problem areas, and the scope of the study. It will be up to the subcommittee to direct them in the continuation of the study. The staff group consists of: Harvey Brandt, County Engineer, and Robert Reich, his Assistant Chief Deputy; William Leone, Chief, Capital Projects, Chief Administrative Office, and Robert Gregg, his Chief Analyst; Bill Larrabee, Systems Analyst, Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation; and Mr. Roche.

He said the committee has the assistance of the Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation, a non-profit organization, on this study. This organization

donated its services to the committee on the fire services study. The County Counsel is now drawing up a contract so the committee will be able to use this firm on a per diem basis.

The members of the construction projects subcommittee are: Rudy Munzer, Chairman; Roc Cutri, Jerry Epstein, Milton Gordon, Joe Lederman, Robert Olin.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the subcommittee for the time they had spent on the Public Administrator-Public Guardian report which the committee had approved at this meeting.

Mr. Roche said, for the benefit of the committee members and the press, he would like to report that the County must appoint a Public Administrator-Public Guardian by February 29. This morning the County is in the process of examining nine candidates for the position. The committee's report will be presented to the Board tomorrow. It will then be up to the Board to select the Public Administrator-Public Guardian from the list submitted to them as a result of today's examination.

Mr. Byork said he would like to report that the Board of Supervisors granted a hearing to the League of California Cities regarding the salary increases which the County gave last year. He said they had been well received by the Board, and possibly some changes will be made this year.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.