

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

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

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
Dorothy Avila Courtney
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunthar
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Lauro J. Neri
Robert Ruchti, II
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU
George Shellenberger
Bryan Walker

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

MINUTES

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 1979

Members Present:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Berk
George Bodle
Catherine Burke
John D. Byork
Margaret Patterson Carr
Mario Di Giovanni
Milton G. Gordon
Mary Jane Kidd
Thomas F. Kranz
Richard G. Lillard
Abraham Lurie
Lauro J. Neri
Robert Ruchti, II
Bryan Walker

Members Excused:

Anne Collins
Carolyn L. Ellner
George Shellenberger

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements:

Warren Schmidt introduced our new commission member, Abraham Lurie and asked him to share a little of his background with the other commissioners. The Chairman also mentioned that Mr. Lurie has some exciting new approaches to government and government financing which he will share with the group in the future.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as presented. Motion was made to excuse the following absences: Anne Collins, Carolyn Ellner and George Shellenberger.

Executive Committee Report:

The Executive Committee has reviewed the current status of the commission and the following actions were proposed to the members:

1. Change the January 1980 meeting date from the 2nd of the month to the 9th of January.
2. Authorize the Executive Committee to function as the body of the commission that:
 - a. plans how the commission would spend funding provided by the Foundation for Effective Government;
 - b. requests funding from the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Effective Government; and
 - c. reports regularly to the commission on how the funds are being spent.

On motion by George Bodle, seconded by Mary Jane Kidd, the commission adopted the proposals submitted by the Executive Committee.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Incentives/Disincentives

Susan Berk reported that this task force is working on the first step of gathering basic information to determine whether there really are problems in the County. Are managers really leaving? Are they leaving from particular departments? Is there a pattern post-Prop 13? In addition, the following areas will be explored:

- the suitability of the classification system to the work actually performed
- recruitment problems and the time to recruit
- testing validity
- classification validity
- promotional opportunities
- evaluation of personnel and the use of the probation period
- the cost factors of classification and testing.

Catie Burke will contact the Commission on Quality of Life (Federal) for the purpose of applying for a grant through the Foundation for Effective Government. The grant would be used to invite Elliot Jaques, who is an expert in the field of organization behavior, to study the County. When Mr. Jaques is in this area in the Spring of 1980, we will invite him to speak to our commission.

Government Structure

Catie Burke reported that the task force has submitted a grant proposal to the Haynes Foundation to support workshops on government structure. With the possibility of an income tax limitation measure passing next June, it will become even more important to restructure the system of governments. Catie will be meeting with various interested groups to discuss the subject of reorganizing unincorporated territories with needy populations and low tax bases.

Susan Berk asked if there is any way to increase the public's awareness of what is really happening in local government and what the ramifications will be. The commission discussed three methods of improving public awareness:

- report on Proposition 13 due shortly
- workshops on government restructure
- responses to stories in the press and media which inventory the problems of government but seldom cite proposed solutions.

The Task Force on Community Relations has adopted a policy of replying in such cases.

Warren Schmidt announced to the commissioners that we will be losing Catie Burke as a commissioner. This week she received a letter from Supervisor Ward thanking her for her services and indicating that he would be appointing someone else. Catie has volunteered to donate her services to the Government Structure Task Force and the Incentives/Disincentives Task Force. A number of commissioners expressed the sense of loss they are feeling because of Catie's departure.

Proposition 13

Margaret Carr expressed her thanks to the commissioners for their input to the Proposition 13 draft presented at the last meeting. The projected completion date for the final report is still January with the understanding that it may be delayed until February. John Campbell mentioned that the County people have been checking the factual information and so far have identified no gross errors.

Warren Schmidt again reminded the commissioners that the January meeting will be on the 9th rather than the 2nd and that it will be a very important meeting not only because of the Proposition 13 report, but also because there will be nominations for officers for the coming year.

Contracting with Private Firms

Larry Neri mentioned that he has been appointed to the Contract Services Advisory Committee. At their last meeting he learned that an unfair labor practices suit has been filed by one of the unions on ground maintenance contracting. One subcommittee is investigating the feasibility of contracting for dog licensing, civil process serving and legal advice to school districts. The subcommittee plans to meet with County department heads to discuss these areas. John Campbell reported that one of the Graudaute School of Management teams from UCLA had inquired about the possibility of working with us on this project.

County Executive Organization

Mario Di Giovanni reported that we have had no activity on this project, since staff has allocated the bulk of available time.

Recognition of Commissioner Contributions

The commission has requested that the Board of Supervisors recognize Jerry Epstein's contributions during his eight years of service on the commission. Supervisor Hahn's office has a scroll in preparation and will notify us when it is to be presented.

By common consent, the commission expressed great appreciation for Catherine Burke's contributions above and beyond the call of duty. The commission feels strongly that the Board of Supervisors should recognize her efforts and instructed the staff to request that Supervisor Ward's office initiate the appropriate form of such recognition.

In addition, the commission determined that it would, as a group, have a luncheon to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Jerry Epstein, Catherine Burke and other commissioners who have left. On motion by Robert Ruchti, seconded by Mario Di Giovanni, the commission unanimously adopted the following:

That each retiring Economy & Efficiency Commissioner who has served at least one year be presented with a placque by the commission. Each commissioner will be assessed for the cost. If a commissioner has exemplified unusual contribution, the Board of Supervisors will be asked to recognize the commissioner with a scroll.

At 10:40 a.m., Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke addressed the commission on its current work program and goals.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.