

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

June 2, 1976

Members Present:

George Bodle
John Byork
Anne Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Milton Gordon
Jesse Robinson
Robert Ruchti
Warren Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Gloria Starr
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Robert Downey
Catherine Burke
Jerry Epstein
Douglas Ferguson
Richard Gunther
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo Majich

Dr. Robert J. Downey
Chairman

Gustave R. Anaya
George E. Bodle
Catherine Graeffe Burke
John D. Byork
Anne S. Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Mrs. Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Jesse L. Robinson
Robert Ruchti, II
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Gloria Starr
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

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

Anne Collins called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. She announced that Robert Downey was ill and had requested that she chair the meeting.

County Proposition B - Copies of the statement to the Board of Supervisors on Proposition B were distributed. Burke Roche reported that the statement was essentially the same as the one mailed to members for their review. It said the same thing, but some words had been added and some had been changed to clarify some statements and to place more emphasis on others.

Milton Gordon stated that the amendment was being opposed for all the wrong reasons. He said that he was opposed to the proposition only because the process would not work as long as the County had five supervisors acting as the chief executive. He does not feel that the executives should be removed from civil service until the County has an elected mayor. He also objected to the use of the word "spoils." He said it was inflammatory and didn't reflect well on the caliber of people this commission represents.

Mr. Roche explained that since the charter amendment had been passed in 1972, which allowed the County to hold open competitive examinations for department heads, the Board had appointed 21 department heads - 11 from outside the County. In this process the Board had been able to appoint the person most qualified for the position. In contrast, Proposition B has no provision to insure merit system selection and no safeguards against arbitrary dismissal. He compared the procedure to the one used now for appointing the members of the Civil Service Commission, Regional Planning Commission, and the Business License Commission,

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where there are no restrictions, and no requirements. If you define spoils as a system which ignores merit, then the statement in the report is correct.

Members discussed the language used in the statement and whether or not it would have any impact because the time before the election was so short.

Milton Gordon announced that he had another meeting in the building and would have to leave. He suggested that, because of the pressure of time, the inability to agree on the language, and the questions raised regarding the effectiveness and the need of the statement, the commission should forget it.

After further discussion, the members agreed to take a position on Proposition B. Dr. Schmidt listed three points to be considered in revising the statement.

(1) The commission regrets that no statement of opposition was included in the ballot booklet. (2) The commission feels this proposition is premature until the voters have decided whether there will be an elected chief executive.

(3) The commission opposes the proposition and does not feel that it will work under the present system. If a chief executive is elected, the commission may want to review its positions. The members also agreed that the word "spoils" should be deleted.

Anne Collins said that the Task Force on Community Relations would be meeting right after adjournment, and it could incorporate the suggestions in the letter.

Management and Finances Task Force - Larkin Teasley, member of the task force, announced that he had to attend another meeting, and he wanted to announce that the subject of the next report of the Management and Finances Task Force would be on compensation practices in the County.

Public Administrator-Public Guardian Advisory Commission (PA-PG) - Anne Collins, the E & E Commission's nominee, reported.

In April, Supervisor Hahn submitted a list of commissions and committees which must justify their existence by June 30 or be disbanded. The PA-PG Commission is on the list. The commission was established as a result of a recommendation by the E & E Commission after the indictment of Baldo Kristovich. The commission has no staff, receives no stipend, and the five members are nominated by community and business organizations and the E & E Commission. It meets once a month and discusses policy and problems involving the department. Mr. Altman, the Public Administrator-Guardian, feels the commission has a very important function. She asked the E & E Commission to support the continuance of the commission.

Warren Schmidt moved that a letter be written supporting the continuance of the commission. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Ellner and passed unanimously.

Community Relations Task Force - Carolyn Ellner, Chairman, reported.

The task force has had a number of meetings. The first one was with Frank Church's press secretary. They discussed community relations and various procedures for informing the public. Mr. Roche has followed some of the suggestion with good results. The next meeting was a luncheon meeting with the County Press

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Corps. They discussed the commission's mission and how it could more effectively work with the press. Leo Majich, Burke Roche and she met with the editorial board of The Los Angeles Times and discussed the commission's latest report. She attended the County Management Conference and was very impressed with the caliber of managers the County has. She found them knowledgeable, dedicated, and intelligent. The task force plans to meet with more editorial boards and also plans to set up a speakers bureau. Jerry Epstein sent between 20 and 30 personal letters to community leaders, enclosing copies of the task force report and explaining the purpose of the E & E Commission.

Carolyn Ellner requested that all commission members coordinate any public appearance regarding the E & E Commission with the Community Relations Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.