

**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

COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 1970
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 864

Robert Mitchell,
Chairman

Raymond Arbuthnot
Dr. John C. Bollens
Davis Brabant
John D. Byork
Maurice Rene Chez
Roc Cutri
Dixon R. Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan G. Loud
P. S. Magruder
Kiyoshi Maruyama
Irvin Mazzei
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
Louis Rogers
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Donelle Smith
William Torrence
Gus A. Walker

Burke Roche,
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Ray Arbuthnot
Dr. John Bollens
Davis Brabant
Maurice Rene Chez
Dixon Harwin
Harlan Loud
P. S. Magruder
R. J. Munzer
George Shellenberger
Donelle Smith
William Torrence
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

John Byork
Roc Cutri
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Kiyoshi Maruyama
Irvin Mazzei
Ferdinand Mendenhall
Louis Rogers

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. He said that Mr. Mazzei was in Houston, Texas for a very serious operation. Mr. Roche, Mr. Chez and he had talked to Mr. Mazzei by phone just before he left for Texas. Mr. Mazzei had expressed his regret that the AFL-CIO had opposed Proposition B.

Mr. Mitchell announced that on October 6, 1970, the Board of Supervisors had presented a plaque to Ferdinand Mendenhall. It read: "In recognition of his distinguished military career, his outstanding contribution to the civic, economic, cultural and educational life in his community; and for his leadership as editor and co-publisher of one of the nation's leading newspapers, and his recent election as President of the California Newspaper Publishers Association."

The committee next discussed the campaign for Proposition B, the County charter amendment. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Roche to report. Mr. Roche said that the news media had been very receptive. The Times had printed a very strong editorial in support, and he expected more editorial support from the other papers. It was now a matter of getting the information to the voters.

Mr. Mitchell said the big question before the committee now is whether they will campaign as a committee or as individual, interested citizens. He said that he had never spoken as Chairman of the committee without getting its consent. He explained that he would like to send out about 100 form letters to personal and business friends asking them for their support for Proposition B. He was stating in the letter that there would be no soliciting of funds. He was enclosing a card for them to fill out and return, and if they indicated they would like to donate, he would tell them where to send the check.

E & E COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 14, 1970

Page 2

Copies of the form letter were distributed to the members. Mr. Mitchell said that it was not printed at County expense. He asked if the committee approved of the letter. After considerable discussion, the letter was approved, but the decision was left to each individual whether to use the form letter or send one on his own stationary.

Mr. Mitchell said that some of the members and he were donating towards the expense of printing and mailing. He said that he did not want any member to feel that he had to donate. He said that he felt the members were donating their time to the committee without receiving compensation of any kind, and he did not want them to feel that they had to donate any money. He wanted them to understand that it would be purely voluntary.

Mr. Roche said that the County Management Council had taken a poll of the department heads asking if they supported or opposed Proposition B. Their replies were anonymous, so it was surprising that there was only a 39% return. He said he had talked to some of the department heads, and it was his feeling that some of them felt that because they would be affected by the Proposition, they should not take a stand. Of the 39% who returned the questionnaire, 64% were in support, the balance was opposed. He said that in addition to the two taxpayer groups, the Chamber of Commerce, and the 1970 Grand Jury, the Grand Jurors Association had endorsed the Proposition. Mr. Chez and Mrs. Kidd had made the presentation to the Association.

Mr. Mitchell said he would like to interrupt here and announce that Mr. Chez had been elected President of the Grand Jurors Association. He said he felt this was a great honor.

Mr. Roche read the news release which had been prepared for the committee's approval. Several minor changes were suggested. Mr. Loud made the motion that the news release with the suggested revisions be approved. Motion was seconded by Mr. Torrence and carried unanimously.

After all members had expressed their opinions it was decided that each person would campaign in whichever way he thought was best. Mr. Mitchell summarized the alternatives they had which were, send out form letters on the committee letterhead or write personal letters on their own stationery; make speeches before clubs and organizations; telephone friends and ask them to vote for Proposition B; donate money for newspaper advertising.

Mr. Magruder stated that in the early days of the committee none of them hesitated to call on their business friends for help. He said the committee has spent a lot of time, and if money value were placed on the time spent, it would amount to a tremendous amount of money spent in developing the recommendations for the charter amendment. He thought the committee should not hesitate now in acquainting the people of the County with what the committee was doing and why. It was his opinion that enough money should be raised to place

E & E COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 14, 1970

Page 3

some ads in the newspapers. He suggested that Mr. Roche use the same means he had used before to solicit funds for advertising. Any of the committee members who cared to contribute could do so. He intends to contribute.

The committee agreed, and Mr. Mitchell said a bank account would be set up for Citizens for Proposition B. The Chairman and Treasurer of the citizens committee would not be members of the Economy and Efficiency Committee.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.