

**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

DATE: Wednesday, November 7, 1975

Members Present:

Robert Downey, Chairman  
George E. Bodle  
John Byork  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton Gordon  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
Jesse Robinson  
Robert Ruchti  
George Shellenberger  
Gloria Starr  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Gus Anaya  
Catherine Burke  
Carolyn Ellner  
Warren Schmidt

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

Dr. Downey called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. He said the report on "Filling Vacant Elective Offices in Los Angeles County" had been mailed to all members for their review. He asked Robert Ruchti, task force chairman, to present the study to the full commission.

Robert Ruchti thanked the members of the task force for their work and cooperation in the preparation of the study - Anne Collins, Vice Chairman; Gus Anaya, John Byork, Carolyn Ellner, Jesse Robinson, and Gloria Starr. He said that Anne Collins and Gloria Starr had also accompanied the staff on some of the interviews.

He reported that the Board of Supervisors had adopted the motion of Supervisor Edelman to refer this study to the E & E Commission. The task force studied all the material gathered by the staff and reached the conclusion that special elections were unrealistic. Three factors influenced the task force recommendations, (1) voter turnout (general election 67%, special election 33%), (2) length of time the office would be vacant, and (3) cost of special elections.

The task force is recommending that the County Charter be amended to provide that:

- (1) A vacancy on the Board of Supervisors would be filled by appointment by the Board. The appointee would hold the office until the election and qualification of the successor. If the

Board fails to make an appointment within 60 days of the occurrence of the vacancy, then the Governor shall fill the vacancy. If fewer than three supervisors are available to act during the 60 day period, the Governor shall make the appointment without regard for the 60 day appointment period.

(2) A vacancy in a County-wide office, other than a supervisor, would be filled by appointment of the Board of Supervisors, and the appointee would hold the office until the next election and qualification of the successor. If the Board fails to make an appointment within 60 days of the occurrence of the vacancy, then the person holding the next highest executive position in the department will automatically fill the vacancy.

(3) The Board of Supervisors shall establish standardized selection procedures for filling a vacancy such as advertising the vacancy, uniform application forms and requirements, initial screening criteria, interview protocol, candidate evaluation criteria and selection guidelines.

A short discussion followed Mr. Ruchti's presentation, and the members' questions were answered by the task force members.

George Shellenberger moved that the report be adopted by the commission for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by John Byork and passed unanimously.

Dr. Downey reported that the Board of Supervisors adopted Supervisor Hahn's motion to request the Auditor-Controller and the E & E Commission to conduct a study to determine the cause of the financial situation in New York City and make recommendations on how Los Angeles can avoid the same situation.

The members discussed the study, and it was the opinion of the full commission that this study should receive high priority. Dr. Downey said that he would convey this to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Roche reported that the staff was completing a report for the Executive Committee which analyzes all the requests for studies which have not been acted on. The various requests will be evaluated, and the Executive Committee can make its decision regarding priorities when it meets November 19.

Jerry Epstein raised the question of whether the commission has adequate staff to conduct these studies requested by the Board. Larkin Teasley agreed with Mr. Epstein that it was time to take a look at the staff. Dr. Downey said that the Executive Committee would discuss this at its meeting.

Construction Projects Task Force - Jerry Epstein, Chairman, reported that the task force was not yet ready to make a report to the full commission. Mr. Roche and he will be meeting with the Architectural Evaluation Board next week, and the staff is still gathering information. Dr. Downey asked if the task force

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could meet next week. Mr. Epstein said that they would meet next Wednesday, November 12.

Separate Auditor Department Task Force - Catherine Burke, Chairperson. In the absence of Mrs. Burke, Mr. Roche reported as follows:

The report was presented to the Board of Supervisors in April. The Board received it and continued it for six months. It will be on the Board agenda November 18. The report made two recommendations: (1) the functions of the Auditor-Controller should not be separated but should continue to operate as a single department; and (2) if the Board wants an independent audit of the Chief Administrative Office, the Auditor-Controller, and the Board offices, the contract auditor for the Grand Jury would be an appropriate agency. It suggested that the Board give consideration to including sufficient funds in the Grand Jury budget so that this could be accomplished. This was supposed to have been considered at this year's budget deliberations, but it was not. The 1974-75 Grand Jury supports the recommendations. The Chief Administrative Officer supports the first recommendation but took no position on the second.

Paramedic Committee Task Force - Dr. Downey, Chairman, reported that he and Mr. Roche appeared before the Board of Supervisors at the October 28 meeting regarding the two amendments to the Paramedic Committee report.

The Hospital Council of Southern California requested that the report be amended to replace one of the public members on the new Commission with an administrator of a paramedic base station hospital. The second amendment was requested by the Director of Health Services. He requested that the responsibility of making recommendations on paramedic certification to the Director of Health Services should remain with the Paramedic Commission.

The E & E Commission advised the Board of Supervisors that it has not changed its opinion regarding the original recommendations but believes that controversy over these issues should not delay the establishment of the new Paramedic Commission. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors was advised that the E & E Commission would not object to the two amendments.

Dr. Downey said that a great deal of support came from the affected organizations: the Heart Association, Los Angeles County Medical Association, Los Angeles County Ambulance Association, and the County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. Supervisor Hahn made the motion to accept the report as amended, and it was adopted by the Board.

Milton Gordon said that he had been asked by Mayor Bradley to co-chair a special ad hoc committee to study City and County duplication of services. He recommended to the Mayor that it be a joint commission with City and County members. This recommendation was not followed. Hopefully, somewhere along the line he hopes there will be a recommendation for liaison.

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Mr. Roche announced that the Chamber of Commerce had requested that the E & E Commission delay presentation of the report on filling vacant elective offices to the Board until November 25, to give them a chance to study it and make recommendations. The report will be presented to the Board on November 25, 10 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.