

**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: Wednesday, December 13, 1972
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: 864 Hall of Administration

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
George E. Bodle
John Byork
Maurice Chez
Roc Cutri
Jerry Epstein
Leo Epstein
Milton Gordon
Dixon Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Joseph Lederman
Harlan Loud
Leo Majich
George Shellenberger
William Torrence

Members Absent

Dr. John Bollens
James Cunningham
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
Robert Olin
Gus Walker

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 9:30 a.m. He introduced Mr. George Bodle who was appointed by Supervisor Debs to replace Irvin Mazzei. For the benefit of the members who were not at the last meeting, he introduced Mr. Leo Majich, appointed by Supervisor Schabarum to replace Davis Brabant.

Mr. Mitchell said the next item on the agenda was the one Channel 28, KCET, was interested in, and that was the reason for their presence at the meeting. He said the Board of Supervisors had requested the E & E Commission to investigate the design and construction of the Criminal Courts building and to report back in 30 days. The Construction Projects Task Force will conduct this study. Mr. Munzer resigned from this Task Force, and Jerry Epstein has been appointed to replace him as chairman. The other members are: Roc Cutri, Milton Gordon, Joe Lederman, Robert Olin, and Bill Torrence. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Majich to serve on this task force to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Munzer. Mr. Mitchell asked Jerry Epstein to report on the study.

Mr. Epstein said that he and Mr. Roche had been interviewing people, but they still had a long way to go. He said they will try to do it as quickly as possible. The CAO and all County departments are very cooperative, so he feels they will be able to get all the facts and report back to this commission.

Mr. Epstein was asked several questions by commission members, but he stated that the study was just getting started, and he would like to wait until he has all the facts. He assured the commission they would receive a very comprehensive report at the next meeting.

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The last item on the agenda would be considered next, Mr. Mitchell announced, because some of the members had to leave for another meeting. He said he had served as chairman for quite a few years and felt it was time to step down. He first wanted to say that he feels the commission has done a real service to the County. In serving as chairman, he said he had the opportunity to become acquainted with all members of the commission, and he had made many friends. He paid tribute to Burke Roche, executive secretary; and to Lynn Larsen, secretary. He said he knows of their dedication to the job, and before retiring he wants to pay his personal thanks to both of them.

Mr. Roche said that the commission had conducted 17 major studies, mostly under the chairmanship of Mr. Mitchell. These studies resulted in 105 separate recommendations. Of these, the Board of Supervisors approved 101, and 75 have been fully implemented. He said he believes the record of this commission and the dedication of the members is certainly outstanding. He knows how much time Robert Mitchell has devoted to this commission, and he said it has been a tremendous experience working under him. He said he would also like to second Mr. Mitchell's commendation to Miss Larsen.

Mr. Mitchell called for nominations for chairman.

Mr. Shellenberger nominated Maurice Chez as chairman. Mr. Lederman and Mary Jane Kidd seconded the nomination.

Mr. Torrence said he would like to make the motion that the chairman and vice chairman work as a team, and he nominated Harlan Loud as vice chairman. The nomination was seconded by Roc Cutri.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that nominations be closed and the secretary be ordered to cast a unanimous ballot for Maurice Chez, chairman, and Harlan Loud, vice chairman.

Mr. Mitchell congratulated the members for their selection and expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mr. Chez for all of the time he had devoted to commission business in the last year.

Mrs. Kidd said that before going into the new regime she thinks the commission members would like to be included in an accolade to Mr. Mitchell and Miss Larsen.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the members and asked Mr. Roche to report on the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Roche read the board order of December 5 requesting the commission to study the civil service and the collective bargaining systems. At that meeting Supervisor Schabarum had pointed out that this study was closely associated with the commission's study of the County charter so was a very pertinent study. Mr. Roche said he had conferred with Robert Mitchell and Maurice Chez and they were recommending that this study be assigned to the Charter Study Task Force. Maurice Chez is chairman of this task force, and the other members are:

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John Bollens, John Byork, Milton Gordon, Dixon Harwin, Mary Jane Kidd, Leo Epstein, Ferd Mendenhall, and George Shellenberger. George Bodle was asked to serve on this task force also. Mr. Roche explained that this was Leo Epstein's last meeting, and the 1972 Grand Jury Foreman, Laurence Greiner, would be appointed to this task force when his term started after the first of the year.

Mr. Mitchell said that in accordance with the E & E Commission's recommendation, the Board of Supervisors had created a five-man commission to act in an advisory capacity to the Public Administrator-Public Guardian (PA-PG). Mr. Arthur Wofsy was the E & E Commission's nominee on this commission, and Mr. Wofsy was present to report on the operation of that commission. (Mr. Wofsy's report is attached.)

In commenting on Mr. Wofsy's report, Dixon Harwin said he was basically opposed to the commission form of government, but he feels there are many County departments that could follow Mr. Wofsy's suggestion and have a watchdog committee over it. He said he would like to make that proposal.

Mr. Torrence asked if the department had set up a policy manual. Mr. Wofsy answered that it had been brought up in one of their meetings, but the Public Administrator thought the actions of Mr. Kristovich were in violation of general County policy. There was never any separate departmental policy manual, but he would bring it up at the next meeting.

Mr. Loud referred to Mr. Harwin's proposal of having commissions for other County departments and said that the law requires the Audit Committee of the Grand Jury to audit the County departments. He said he thought it would be out of order to have overlaying committees and suggested instead that the Grand Jury be notified that there might be questions in certain other departments that call for more specific action.

Mr. Harwin said that he never sees any of the Grand Jury recommendations implemented. He suggested that the Charter Study Task Force consider this proposal when drafting Charter revisions.

Leo Epstein spoke of his experience as Foreman of the Grand Jury that heard Mr. Kristovich's testimony. He criticized the fact that the former PA-PG was allowed to practice law on the side and to recommend cases to favored layers. He said if he could make one recommendation it would be that the PA-PG not be allowed to practice law. Mr. Epstein thanked Mr. Mitchell and the members for the privilege of serving on the commission. He said he had learned a great deal on this commission and would very much like to come back as a regular member.

Mr. Wofsy said that he doesn't view the commission as a negative commission. They were not skilled investigators. He would rather think of it as a deterrent, as a policy setting commission, and as a tool of the department head. He said that his suggestion for appointment of advisory commissions was not for all departments, only for certain ones.

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Mr. Wofsy said he would like to make another point about the conservatorship. The commission hasn't gotten into that much yet. From the article that appeared in the Los Angeles Times, this department should be separated from the Public Administrator department as there is really no connection between the two. The man who runs it should be technically qualified in public guardianship and conservatorship. He should be a man who knows the details from beginning to end, otherwise he will have to depend on subordinates. Mr. Mize is a very good man, a very good administrator, very sincere and good at handling people, and he has obtained the complete cooperation of the legal department.

Mr. Chez recommended that no motion be made at this time regarding the proposal to have commissions appointed for certain County departments. He suggested instead that this proposal be studied by the Charter Study Task Force when it considers charter reform.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Wofsy for his excellent report and asked that the minutes show the general satisfaction of the members of this commission with the report.

Mr. Chez paid tribute to Robert Mitchell and asked for the cooperation and loyalty of the members and the staff.

Mr. Cutri and Mr. Shellenberger were excused at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Gordon said he didn't want to embarrass the chairman, but he would suggest that Mr. Chez make the honoring of Mr. Mitchell one of the first items on the agenda of the new administration. Mr. Chez agreed.

Mr. Roche reported on the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the consolidation of the Sheriff's and Marshal's departments. He said the three Grand Juries of Orange County, San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County issued a joint resolution recommending very strongly the consolidation of the Marshal's department under the Sheriff. As a result, the Senate Judiciary Committee instituted a public hearing by a sub-committee chaired by Senator Al Song of Monterey Park. He said he felt that Senator Song conducted an extremely fair meeting. Murray Strasburg of the Grand Jury, Al LeBas, Chief of the Sheriff's Civil Division and he spoke for consolidation under the Sheriff. A number of Municipal Court Judges and Marshal Timothy Sperl gave testimony opposing the merger. Mr. Roche said that perhaps the most pertinent part of his testimony was to point out that two years ago an Assembly Committee had asked for a report from H. Allen Post, Legislative Analyst, after hearing testimony. The committee asked Mr. Post to compare the E & E Commission's report against the Marshal's report. Mr. Post's report supported the E & E Commission's conclusions and rejected the criticisms of the Marshal's report. It concluded that if there was to be any consolidation, it should be under the Sheriff. That report has not been well known. What conclusions will come out of this last hearing, no one can say.

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Mr. Roche said that the 1972 Grand Jury report was released yesterday. It reported that the County's organization is in serious trouble with all the departments reporting to the Board of Supervisors. The report recommended that a strong chief executive position be established. Later in the report it referred to him as a County mayor, so Mr. Roche said he was not clear whether it was recommending that he be appointed or elected. It also recommended that the Board of Supervisors be increased to seven members in association with a strong chief executive. It recommended the consolidation of the Sheriff and the Marshal and very strongly recommended that the Board of Supervisors sponsor and pursue the enabling legislation in this next Legislature. The report also points out that James Mize, the Public Administrator-Public Guardian is doing double duty, which is not in line with good management. It refers to the E & E Commission's report in which the specifications for the PA-PG were spelled out, and it recommends that the Board take action to appoint a full-time head of this department, following the specifications recommended by the E & E Commission.

There being no further business, Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.