

**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, November 17, 1971  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 739

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman  
Davis Brabant  
John D. Byork  
Maurice Rene Chez  
James J. Cunningham  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Dixon R. Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Harlan G. Loud  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
Robert A. Olin  
George Shellenberger  
Sam M. Soghomonian

Members Absent:

Dr. John Bollens  
Roc Cutri  
Irvin Mazzei  
R. J. Munzer  
William Torrence  
Gus Walker

Robert Mitchell,  
Chairman

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  
Ivin Mazzei  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
R.J. Munzer  
Robert A. Olin  
Louis Rogers  
George Shellenberger  
Mrs. Donelle Smith  
Sam M. Soghomonian  
William Torrence  
Gus A. Walker

Burke Roche,  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. He introduced new members Mr. James Cunningham, former executive of Canada Dry and currently Chief Rabban and new President of the Western Shrine Association; Mr. Jerry Epstein, President of the Marina del Rey Lessees' Association and also in the construction business; Mr. Milton Gordon who has held many offices in State government and is currently a member of the Board of Directors, Regional Plan Association of California. The new members were welcomed to the committee.

Mr. Mitchell said the committee had been without a Vice Chairman since the death of Phil Magruder, and he thought it was time to elect a Vice Chairman and to also take a look at the chairmanship.

Mr. Loud made the motion that no change be made in the chairmanship and that Maurice Chez be nominated as Vice Chairman. Mr. Olin seconded the motion. Mr. Mitchell said he would like to second the nomination for Maurice Chez. Motion carried.

Mr. Olin moved that nomination be closed; seconded by Mrs. Kidd and carried. Mr. Chez thanked the committee and said he would do his best to do a good job.

Mr. Mitchell said that Dr. Bollens was unable to attend the meeting today, and he asked Mr. Roche to report on the County Management Conference.

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Mr. Roche reported that each year the County managers hold a conference which is directed towards some problem in County government. Members of the E & E Committee have always attended. This year Dr. Bollens, Mr. Mitchell and he were to have attended. However, he developed a very bad case of laryngitis, and Mr. Mitchell had a late conflict in appointments, so Dr. Bollens represented the committee.

The conference was held at Newport Beach, October 28 and 29. Dr. Bollens reported to him that the conference was especially interesting this year because the subject was on the organization of County government meeting the challenge of the future and in particular on the agency concept. Mr. Roche explained that this committee developed the agency concept in its proposal on the reorganization of County government and in the County Charter Amendment, which was defeated by the voters.

Mr. Roche said that San Diego County is moving ahead and is leading the State in the agency concept. Frank Panarisi, who used to be second in command in the Los Angeles County Probation Department, was hired by San Diego County to head up one of its first agencies - the Welfare and Public Health Services Agency. Dr. Bollens had reported that Frank Panarisi and the City Manager of San Diego completely substantiated the committee's concept of the agency plan in the reports they made at the conference. He said the County managers were naturally interested as this County is now moving toward this concept.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Roche for his report. He asked Harlan Loud, Chairman of the Fire Services Study Task Force, to report on the progress of the study.

Mr. Loud said he had assumed chairmanship of the task force after Ray Arbutnot had resigned. He said that Buell Merrill had been loaned to the committee a year and a half ago and had been gathering facts and figures that he and Mr. Roche were now putting into report form. Mr. Roche and Mr. Merrill had called upon city officials in 35 cities gathering information. Of the 77 cities in Los Angeles County, 42 of them operate their own fire departments. He said the report was about half done, and the final draft should be in the hands of the task force by the first part of December. After the draft has been reviewed and the suggestions for change incorporated, it should be ready to present to the full committee the first of the year. He explained that it was not a critical report but rather emphasized the facts and figures and information obtained from district and independent cities. The report will be a manual for the cities not now in the district. They will be able to review it and make their own comparisons. It is a long-range plan, he said, and naturally many political problems are involved.

Mr. Mitchell asked Jerry Epstein if he would accept an appointment to serve on the fire services task force. Mr. Epstein said he would be happy to.

Mr. Mitchell said he would like to know the committee's feeling on the two studies which had been defeated - the Sheriff-Marshal merger which had been defeated in the legislature, and the charter amendment which had been turned down by the voters.

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Mr. Harwin said that when the charter amendment had been placed on the ballot he had insisted that the committee take a firm stand in getting it passed, but it was pointed out to him that the committee was an advisory committee only. Mr. Harwin said he had served on many commissions, Federally and in New York State, and the knowledge, backgrounds, connections and competence of the members of this committee were excellent. Burke Roche was probably the best executive administrator he had ever met in any commission in government at any level, but he was overworked, and the committee members were underworked. He said his proposal, without formalizing it, was that the committee go to the Board of Supervisors and specifically request that Burke Roche's executive arm be reinforced. He would like to see the committee come out with some kind of statement to the press setting forth a new image.

Mrs. Kidd said she feels the committee could be more active and she certainly agrees that the charter amendment should be reconsidered. She said she also agrees with Mr. Harwin that the executive office should have more help.

Mr. Gordon said perhaps the charter amendment was too ambitious a task for the first time around and thought perhaps charter revision should be done in stages. He said he hoped the task force would consider meeting with the opposition and establishing a liaison with them to either achieve their support or tone down the things that were unpalatable to them in order to neutralize this opposing body.

Mr. Mitchell said it seemed to be the opinion of the committee that the task force for the charter amendment should be reactivated. He said he hoped Mr. Harwin would serve on it. Mr. Harwin said he thought it urgent that this committee come out with a statement to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Mitchell asked if he were ready to put his suggestion in the form of a motion. Mr. Harwin said he would like to formalize it for the next meeting. Mr. Mitchell said it would be on the next agenda.

Mr. Harwin was asked what his top priority was. He said he could name many, but his top priority is to organize the thrust of this committee and his second priority is to get some help for Mr. Roche. He feels there has to be a change in the committee's thinking.

Mr. Mitchell appointed Maurice Chez as Chairman of the charter study task force. Mr. Chez requested that Milton Gordon, Ferdinand Mendenhall, John Byork and Bob Olin be appointed along with Dixon Harwin. Mr. Loud made the motion that these members be appointed. Motion seconded and carried.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.