

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

May 3, 1978

Dr. Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson  
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson

George E. Bodle  
Dr. Catherine G. Burke  
John D. Byork  
Margaret Paterson Carr  
Anne S. Collins  
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni  
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Richard S. Gunther  
Hugh L. Henshaw  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo A. Majich  
Lauro J. Neri  
Robert Ruchti, II  
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU  
George Shellenberger  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker  
Burke Roche  
Executive Secretary  
John Campbell  
Staff Specialist  
Maxlynn Larsen  
Commission Secretary

Members Present:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson  
George E. Bodle  
Catherine Burke  
John Byork  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Carolyn Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton Gordon  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
Lauro Neri  
Luis Ruiz  
George Shellenberger

Members Absent:

Gloria Starr, Vice-Chairperson  
Margaret Carr  
Hugh Henshaw  
Robert Ruchti  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker

Dr. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Task Force on Government Structure - Mary Jane Kidd, Chairperson, reported that copies of the draft of the report IMPACT OF NEW COUNTY FORMATION had been mailed to commission members for review and comment before today's meeting. She thanked the task force, the staff, and the opponents and proponents of secession for the time they gave in the preparation of the report. She gave special thanks to Dick Gunther, Vice Chairperson of the task force, and to Catie Burke, who spent additional time with the staff and also for the research material provided by her students in her public administration class.

Mrs. Kidd reviewed the basic reasons for the secession movements, the County problems, and the task force recommendation to vote no on Propositions C and D on the June ballot.

This is the first of two reports dealing with government structure. She explained that the task force had decided to concentrate on the secession movements and issue a report before the June election. This report evaluates the current proposals to secede from Los Angeles County. The conclusions are detailed and documented and support the task force recommendation to vote no on Propositions C and D.

E & E COMMISSION MINUTES

Page 2

May 3, 1978

The second report, to be released this fall, will evaluate alternative solutions to secession, including legislative division of the County and consolidation proposals. It will recommend specific actions to the Legislature, the Board of Supervisors, and other public officials.

Creating new counties to feed off of Los Angeles County is not what is needed in local government. Rather, Mrs. Kidd concluded, what is needed is a restructuring of governmental responsibilities and the associated tax base to insure that all those who share in the social and economic benefits of the region also pay their share of its social and economic costs.

Following a brief discussion, Mario Di Giovanni moved that the report be adopted. George Bodle seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kidd pointed out that there had been one minor change. She read the sentence which had been added on page 45 and asked if it were acceptable. The members agreed unanimously.

Task Force on Community Relations - Carolyn Ellner, Chairperson, reported that the task force had met and reviewed the Behr Bill and Proposition 8. The decision was made to draft a statement, mail it to the full commission when completed, then call a special meeting on May 17 to accept or reject it.

Richard Gunther moved that the suggestion be adopted. The motion was seconded by Luis Ruiz and passed unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 10:20 a.m. to allow questions from the media. It was reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

Proposed Letter to the State Legislature - At the March meeting, a motion was passed to send a strong letter to the Legislature conveying the frustration of the E & E Commission members and urging the Legislature to work towards a rational plan for tax relief and reform. The letter was drafted according to the motion and mailed to all members. Warren Schmidt read the letter.

Carolyn Ellner said that the Community Relations Task Force would probably end up recommending that the commission support the Behr Bill and Proposition 8. This action would not agree with the statements in the letter.

Warren Schmidt suggested that the letter be held up until the commission takes a position on the Behr Bill and Proposition 8. After that, the task force can redraft the letter. The members agreed to this suggestion.

Chairperson Report - Warren Schmidt reported that he had been interviewed on Channel 4 on County Charter Amendment A, deletion of the prevailing wage clause. He had tried to convey the commission's views on the issue. This Friday his reply to a KNX Radio editorial on Proposition 13 will be aired.

E & E COMMISSION MINUTES

Page 3

May 3, 1978

Executive Secretary Report - Burke Roche reported that when Gordon Nesvig resigned, the CAO requested that he be appointed acting Director of Personnel, since collective bargaining affects the budget, and he is responsible for the budget. Supervisor Hahn believes that the CAO is the chief of staff to the Board and should be independent of the collective bargaining process. Last Tuesday Supervisor Hahn brought in a motion to begin a search for a separate Director of Personnel. The motion passed, with Supervisors Ward and Edelman supporting it.

Also initiated by Supervisor Hahn, the Board voted 3-2 to separate Mental Health from the Department of Health Services. The retiring Director of the Department of Health Services was very opposed to the separation. Five years ago, four related health departments were consolidated into the Health Services Department. Mental Health campaigned against the consolidation. Mary Jane Kidd served on the Bauer Commission which developed the program to consolidate the departments.

Mrs. Kidd said the commission had hoped the consolidated department would be a pilot for the rest of the country, and it is a disappointment to see it fail to this extent.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.