

# 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

October 13, 1976

#### Members Present:

Robert Downey  
John Byork  
Margaret Carr  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Carolyn Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Douglas Ferguson  
Milton Gordon  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Robert Ruchti  
Luis Ruiz  
Warren Schmidt  
George Shellenberger  
Gloria Starr

#### Members Absent:

George Bodle  
Catherine Burke  
Leo Majich  
Larkin Teasley  
Brayn Walker

Dr. Robert J. Downey  
Chairman

George E. Bodle  
Catherine Graeffe Burke  
John D. Byork  
Margaret Paterson Carr  
Anne S. Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Douglas W. Ferguson  
Milton G. Gordon  
Richard S. Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo A. Majich  
Robert Ruchti, II  
Luis A. Ruiz  
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt  
George Shellenberger  
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 9:40 a.m. He announced that the first four items on the agenda would be covered then the meeting would be adjourned for an executive session covering personnel matters.

Task Force on Charter Amendments - Dr. Di Giovanni, Chairman, presented the task force report "County Propositions A and B, Elected Mayor and Size of the Board of Supervisors." He said that first he wanted to express his gratitude to the task force members who worked on this report through the summer months, to Burke and John who did all the research and editing, and last but not least, to our professional secretary Lynn, who does such a thorough job over and over that we tend to forget about it.

He named the other task force members, Margaret Carr, Anne Collins, Douglas Ferguson, Gloria Starr, and Larkin Teasley. He said that they agreed unanimously that we needed governmental reform, which we could get with the passage of Proposition A. Since there was no unanimity on Proposition B they felt that it would be a good idea to list the pros and cons and then give the task force opinions and comments. All members were mailed drafts of the report so that it could be studied before today's meeting. The task force will be happy to answer any questions.

Mary Jane Kidd moved that the report be adopted; Douglas Ferguson seconded the motion. Bob Downey called for discussion.

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Dick Gunther and Milton Gordon spoke very strongly against including arguments against Proposition A. They felt that by putting in the negative arguments the opponents could quote them out of context, and since this was in their opinions the most important issue to come before this commission, the role of the commission should be that of a strong advocate. They suggested that the report be re-written or that Chapter II be deleted.

Mario Di Giovanni answered that the task force agonized over that at length. The decision was that since the negative issues were so well known, it would be a good idea to list them and then rebut them.

Margaret Carr added that on any issue if you give notice that you have examined all sides of the issue thoroughly and then have reached your conclusion, it carries more weight than to ignore the negative side.

Burke Roche said that he read the report again this morning, and it was his impression that Chapter II was almost stronger than Chapter I as an argument for Proposition A. The task force is actually presenting a rebuttal of the arguments against. To delete Chapter II would weaken the report.

After a long discussion on whether to delete Chapter II or re-write the report, Carolyn Ellner offered an amendment to the motion to adopt the report. She moved that the word analysis be changed to rebuttal in the title of Chapter II and in the Table of Contents, making it read "Rebuttal of Arguments Against Proposition A." The motion was seconded by Warren Schmidt and passed 13-2 with one abstention. Milton Gordon and Richard Gunther voted no; Louis Ruiz abstained.

Bob Downey called for the vote on the motion to adopt the report with the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission recessed 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

Mary Jane Kidd reported that the Board of Directors of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce unanimously endorsed Propositions A and B.

Task Force on Community Relations - Carolyn Ellner, Chairman, reported.

The task force adopted the policy statement which had been mailed to the members for their consideration. It felt that the commission needed some guidelines on how it should act on issues coming before it. With a statement of policy added to the By-Laws, it could act more quickly, more rationally, and more effectively.

Moved by Dick Gunther that the statement be approved; seconded by Mary Jane Kidd.

Dick Gunther had two questions. The first one was on the number of members described as a broad consensus. If the number was left at 16, wouldn't that cause a problem when the attendance was small? Also would Section (c) limit an individual member from taking an active advocacy role when the commission was divided on an issue and there was no broad consensus of support?

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The members discussed the number of members to be considered a broad consensus of the commission. Warren Schmidt moved that the number 16 be changed to 14 - making it 2/3 of the total membership. The motion was seconded by Mary Jane Kidd and passed unanimously.

On Mr. Gunther's second question, he was advised that there was no problem on a member taking an active advocacy role on an issue as long as that member acted as an individual and did not identify himself with the E & E Commission.

The motion to adopt the policy statement with the amendment passed unanimously.

Task Force on DPSS Commissions - Anne Collins, Chairman, reported.

At yesterday's meeting the Board of Supervisors adopted the task force report on the commission structure in the Department of Public Social Services with two changes. (1) The new commission will consist of 15 members instead of the recommended 11. (2) The stipend was changed to \$25 a month instead of the recommended \$50.

Bob Downey commended Anne Collins for giving up so much of her time in attending the Board meetings every time the item appeared on the agenda.

Canyon County - Burke Roche reported as follows.

John and he have been working intensively gathering information. He believes the commission should release a report on the issue if it can possibly meet the schedule. It is too premature to say what position should be taken, if any. A great deal of misinformation is being put out that should be corrected. Since there wouldn't be time to work through a task force, he had conferred with Bob Downey, and it was agreed that the staff would write a report and send it to the members for comment. Time is short and the issue is extremely significant. This could set a precedent that could mean a breakup of Los Angeles County.

Bob Downey said if there were no disagreements with the previous statements, the staff would proceed in that manner. There were no disagreements.

Milton Gordon thought there should be some system worked out to get the reports into the hands of the full commission and allow time for more input before the final printing of the reports. Dr. Downey said that he would work on that with Burke Roche and John Campbell.

Burke Roche explained that when the full commission met to consider a report, that report became a public document at that time, regardless of what action the commission took. There were always requests for the report as soon as it became public, so it was necessary to have printed copies on hand.

Bob Downey adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened in executive session. (Anne Collins was appointed Vice Chairman of the E & E Commission at the executive session.)