

**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

APRIL 7, 1976

Members Present:

Robert Downey, Chairman  
George E. Bodle  
John Byork  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Carolyn Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Douglas Ferguson  
Milton Gordon  
Jesse Robinson  
Robert Ruchti  
George Shellenberger  
Gloria Starr  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Gus Anaya  
Catherine Burke  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
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 9:36 a.m.

Proposal to Disband County Commissions and Committees - Burke Roche reported. Supervisor Hahn has submitted a proposal to the Board to disband approximately 38 of the County's commissions and committees unless they are able to justify their existence by June 30, 1976. Some of the work the E & E Commission (EEC) is doing involves some of the commissions on the list - the Emergency Medical Care Committee, the Commission to Review Public Social Services, and the Public Administrator-Public Guardian Advisory Commission.

When the Board of Supervisors removed Baldo Kristovich as head of the department of Public Administrator-Guardian, the EEC was requested to submit a report on that department. The EEC report recommended that an advisory commission be established to oversee and work with the department. Anne Collins is the EEC nominee on the commission. Mr. Roche asked Mrs. Collins if she wished to comment. He also asked John Campbell to comment.

Mrs. Collins said that she did wonder if there was a need for the commission when she was first appointed. However, the longer she is a member the more she feels that it serves a purpose. It is there to be consulted when problems arise. The commission is meeting next Tuesday, and she will get the views of the other members.

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John Campbell reported that the Emergency Medical Care Committee was required by the State and could not be disbanded. The CAO and the Department of Health Services have contracted with the firm of Touche Ross & Company to evaluate the entire management system for emergency medical services in the County, particularly the paramedic services. Their work should be concluded in about a month. Their work ties in closely with what the Emergency Medical Care Committee was designed to do - evaluate the system of emergency medical care. It also ties in with what the Paramedic Commission will be doing in regard to resolving controversies. Touche Ross used the EEC reports on the Emergency Medical Care Committee and the Paramedic Commission in the organization of their study. Since the Fire Department is the predominant provider of emergency services in the field, the EEC report on the Consolidation of Fire Services was also used. Mr. Campbell said that he doesn't yet know what the results of the study will be.

Milton Gordon said that he wished to comment at this point, and he reported the following. The Mayor's task force to study the consolidation of City/County services is involved with the paramedic problems. The task force has uncovered a lot of problems, such as the difference in the pension plans if there should be a consolidation, the issue of whether the private or the public sector should provide the services, and the overlapping of jurisdictions. Some of the differences between the City and the County operations are: the City transports to the nearest medical facility; the County calls in a private ambulance. The County paramedics are firemen; the City paramedics are not. He understands that the City is delivering paramedic services at considerable less cost than the County.

Burke Roche stated that Mary Jane Kidd was unable to be present today. She is the Chairman of the Task Force on Commissions and Committees. The Paramedic Commission was established per the recommendation of the EEC. The basic purpose was to establish an arbitration board as independent and objective as possible to arbitrate differences and complaints between the County - in particular, the Health Services Department - and other agencies.

At the first meeting of the new commission, the Health Services Department offered to provide the commission staff. The EEC protested in a letter to the department taking the position that an arbitration board could not operate if it is staffed by the agency which is party to the dispute it is trying to arbitrate. The Paramedic Commission reversed their decision to accept the staff after their chairman and secretary met with the staff of the EEC. They have arranged with the CAO for interim staff assistance until they determine who they want to hire.

Mr. Roche said he would like to make one other point before leaving the subject of the commissions and committees justification of their existence. In the 11 years of the EEC existence, it has completed 34 major studies and made 170 separate recommendations. The Board approved 153 recommendations; 126 have been implemented - including 5 charter amendments. Last year the EEC submitted 9 major reports containing 26 recommendations; 21 were approved.

Charter Amendment to Remove Department Heads from Civil Service - Dr. Downey reported. This proposal will be on the June ballot, and Supervisor Hahn is writing the supportive argument. So far, there doesn't seem to be anyone in opposition. He reminded the commission that the EEC had written a letter to the Board stating that it was in favor of the concept but could not support it unless some safeguards to prevent arbitrary dismissal were included in the proposal. The letter fell on deaf ears. The amendment going on the ballot does not provide for any of the processes recommended by the EEC.

Milton Gordon said that it did not make sense to remove the department heads before County government is reorganized and has a chief executive. He made a strong plea to the members to actively support getting the proposals for an elected chief executive and enlargement of the Board of Supervisors on the ballot.

There was considerable discussion regarding the timing of this amendment and the need for the commission to actively participate in moving the County toward a change in organization.

Jerry Epstein moved that a committee be formed that would have the primary function of advising the electorate and the news media, by whatever means, of the commission's position on the County Mayor and on any other items which might be appropriate. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Ellner. After considerable discussion regarding the function and the name of the committee, the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Downey appointed the members of the new committee - Carolyn Ellner, Chairman; Douglas Ferguson, Warren Schmidt, Milton Gordon, and Bryan Walker. Mr. Walker said that he was in the midst of a company reorganization and would have to decline. George Bodle was appointed in his place.

Possible Charter Proposals for November Ballot - Dr. Downey reported that the Board had decided not to place the charter amendments for an elected County Mayor and enlargement of the Board of Supervisors on the June ballot. It continued consideration and debate on the issues without making any commitment for the November ballot.

Task Force on Management and Finances - Leo Majich, Chairman, was unable to attend today's meeting. Mario Di Giovanni was asked to report. Mr. Di Giovanni reported that the task force reviewed the draft of the report on compensation at its last meeting. A few minor changes were made, and the final draft will be reviewed at the next meeting. It is a very comprehensive report and will be submitted to the full commission soon. Other reports will follow which will deal with the various aspects of the financial crisis.

Task Force on DPSS Commissions - Dr. Downey reported that last Fall the Board has asked the EEC to look at the Commission to Review Public Social Services to see if there was any need to continue its operation. This commission is also on Supervisor Hahn's list. Burke Roche was asked to comment.

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Mr. Roche reported that the task force had submitted a progress report recommending that the Commission to Review Public Social Services be continued for one more year to allow time for the CAO and the EEC to look at the entire commission and committee structure in the Department. Now that the Management and Finances study was well underway, there should be time for the task force to complete this study. The members of the task force are: Anne Collins, Chairman; George Bodle, Jerry Epstein, Jesse Robinson, Warren Schmidt, and Bryan Walker.

George Shellenberger was concerned that the proposal to remove department heads from civil service was going on the ballot before the County had a chief executive. He suggested that all members write to their appointing supervisors and tell them that unless and until they get on with the County executive proposal, everything else is futile.

Dr. Downey announced that the Task Force on Management and Finances would reconvene in Room 163 right after this meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.