

**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: Thursday, August 10, 1972
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 739

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Davis Brabant
Maurice Chez
James Cunningham
Jerry Epstein
Leo Epstein
Milton Gordon
Dixon Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan Loud
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
Robert Olin
George Shellenberger

Members Absent:

Dr. John Bollens
John Byork
Roc Cutri
Joseph Lederman
William Torrence
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

Before the meeting was called to order Supervisor Schabarum visited the meeting room and was introduced to the committee members present.

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He asked the committee members to stand for a few moments of silence in honor of Irvin Mazzei. Mr. Mazzei died on July 24th of complications resulting from open heart surgery. The Board of Supervisors ordered flags lowered on all County buildings until after the funeral.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Munzer, Chairman of the Construction Projects Task Force, to give a progress report on that study.

Mr. Munzer reported that the Board of Supervisors had referred this study to the committee in January. He said the committee recognized the complexity and the time which would be involved in this study and determined the only way it could possibly approach this subject would be to hire Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation. The contract with this corporation was slow in moving through the legal department of the County, so the actual work on the study did not begin until May. The initial report is now being drafted. Mr. Munzer said he believes there will be about 40 recommendations for immediate implementation, some on a longer term basis, and some for very careful consideration by the Board of Supervisors. There will be about 50 pages backed up by some 300 pages of supportive evidence. They hope to have it ready by the end of September. Mr. Munzer said he would like to acknowledge the other members of the sub-committee who are: Roc Cutri, Jerry Epstein, Milton Gordon, Joe Lederman, Robert Olin, and William Torrence. He asked if they would like to add any comments.

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Jerry Epstein said that while attending a Board of Supervisors meeting earlier in the week he had heard about some more construction being prepared for the County. It involves a hospital in Long Beach and a new engineer's building. He said he felt it would be apropos for the committee to ask the Board to cease all approval of construction projects until the committee's report had been made public. He said that he thinks the proposals in the report will save the taxpayers a lot of money, and he is now making this proposal.

The members discussed this proposal but decided that, without knowing all the facts, it would be a little strong and perhaps could result in some costly delays.

Mr. Munzer and Mr. Chez suggested that Mr. Roche or Mr. Mitchell contact the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and tell him that the Board can expect a complete report on this subject within the next six weeks. Also tell him that the committee respectfully suggests that the Board hold up any further commitments until they have seen the report.

Jerry Epstein said he would so move; seconded by Harlan Loud and passed unanimously.

Mr. Munzer said the sub-committee had indicated to the Board that they would report back on their evaluation of the services of Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation. The Corporation has spent about 25 man months preparing this report. After the recommendations are made, the sub-committee intends to monitor the implementation of them to see that they are not put on the shelf and forgotten and also to see how practical they have been.

Mr. Roche reported that the League of California Cities presented their comments and recommendations on the committee's fire report to the Board of Supervisors on August 8. Members of E & E sub-committee on fire services who attended the meeting were Harlan Loud, Chairman; John Byork, and Jerry Epstein. The League complimented the committee's report very highly. It took issue on a number of points and made recommendations that the County study further contract services and mutual aid. The League report agreed with the committee's report that they should study the forms of consolidation. The Board of Supervisors approved the recommendations in their report.

Mr. Mitchell said the main purpose of this meeting was the presentation of the sub-committee's report on the Proposed Charter Amendments to the full committee. Mr. Chez is Chairman of the Charter Study Task Force and the other members are: Dr. Bollens, John Byork, Leo Epstein, Milton Gordon, Dixon Harwin, Mrs. Ray Kidd, Ferdinand Mendenhall and George Shellenberger. Copies of the report were distributed to those present.

Mr. Chez reported that members of the Board of Supervisors and the CAO had submitted ten charter proposals to be considered for the ballot this November. At its meeting on July 27, the Board referred these charter proposals to the E & E Committee for recommendations and report back by August 15, 1972.

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The Charter Study Task Force had drafted the report which they were submitting to the full committee for approval for presentation to the Board. Mr. Chez said he would read the report and then each issue could be discussed separately.

Mr. Chez explained that the task force had proposed an additional amendment for placement on the November ballot. The proposal was to hold open, competitive examinations for all top level positions in the County. Mr. Shellenberger moved the proposal be adopted seconded by Mr. Harwin and adopted unanimously.

The task force recommendations on the ten proposals in the CAO's report were considered, and the following action was taken.

Recommendations on Proposals 1 and 2 were adopted unanimously.

Recommendation on Proposal 3 was questioned by Jerry Epstein. He asked why the task force had not completed its study of the relative merits of an appointed versus an elected chief executive and how much more time was needed.

Mr. Chez answered that most of the proposals affected other parts of the charter, so each change would have to be studied for its affect on other sections. Mr. Shellenberger moved that the recommendation be adopted; seconded by Mr. Loud and passed unanimously.

Recommendation on Proposal 4 was adopted unanimously.

Recommendation on Proposal 5, prevailing wage clause, was discussed by committee members. They agreed there would have to be more study and debate on this subject. Mrs Kidd moved that the recommendation be approved; seconded by Mr. Gordon and passed unanimously.

Recommendations on Proposals 7 through 10 were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Loud made the motion that the report be approved for presentation to the Board of Supervisors; seconded by Mr. Mendenhall and carried unanimously.

Mr. Brabant made the motion that Mr. Chez and the task force be commended for a fine report and presentation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham and carried unanimously.

Mr. Chez announced tha the Board would hold a public hearing on the proposals on August 14, and the committee's report would be presented on August 15. Mr. Chez asked all committee members who could attend to be present for the presentation to the Board.

Jerry Epstein brought up the subject of enlarging the committee staff. Several committee members commented on this and also on the fact that the Executive Secretary was underpaid.

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Mr. Mitchell said that recognition had been given to the fact that Mr. Roche was underpaid, and efforts were being made to correct this.

Mr. Chez said that he knows certain supervisors are going to suggest certain studies for the committee to undertake. He said he knows of one or two and perhaps more assignments. He suggested that the members be thinking of the various possibilities between now and the next meeting.

Mr. Mitchell said the subject would be discussed again. He adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.