



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CITIZENS ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

- Raymond Arbuthnot
- John C. Bollens
- Myron J. Carr, Jr.
- Lathrop Leishman
- Kiyoshi Maruyama
- Irvin Mazzei
- Maurice McAlister
- Harold C. McClellan
- Lee McNitt
- Ferdinand Mondenhall
- Robert Mitchell
- A. C. Rubel
- Ross A. Sciarrotta, Sr.
- Mrs. Benjamin Erick Smith
- Francis R. Wilcox

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING
OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

On March 17, 1965 the Los Angeles County Citizens' Economy and Efficiency Committee held its regular business meeting in Room 739 of the Hall of Administration.

Mr. F. R. Wilcox opened the meeting by briefly introducing himself and commenting on his role as the new Chairman of the group. He then reported that the Board of Supervisors had just approved the employment of a permanent executive secretary for the Committee. Mr. Wilcox stated that, when he took over as Chairman of the Committee, he had received from Maurice Stans a file of applicants for this position. After narrowing the file down to three candidates, Mr. Wilcox stated that an individual had been chosen for this position by a special interview committee. The man chosen is Mr. Joseph Roche, a 47-year-old resident of Los Angeles. Mr. Roche has had many years of experience in management systems and organization and is presently a Management Systems Specialist with Rocketdyne Division, North American Aviation. It had originally been thought that the position of executive secretary to the Committee would be included within the Civil Service. However, by action of the Board of Supervisors the position will now be a special contract consultant, independent of the Civil Service and responsible only to the Committee. Mr. Wilcox stated that, if there were no objections, he will proceed with the hiring of Mr. Roche and indicated that he should be on the job not later than April 1. The Committee had no objections.

Each chairman of the five task forces was then asked to report on the activities of his respective task force for the Committee's review and evaluation.

Myron J. Carr, Chairman of the Task Force on Other Governmental Activities, reported that his group had met six times since the last meeting of the full Committee. The Task Force met with the Chief Deputy of the APCD, the

District Attorney, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Assessor and twice with the Los Angeles County Marshal. Mr. Carr reported that during these meetings each department head was asked to prepare a formalized statement indicating problem areas confronting his department and suggested avenues wherein the Committee might be of assistance in improving the efficiency and economy of operations.

Professor John C. Bollens reported on the activities of the Task Force on Hospitals and Welfare in the absence of Chairman Ross Sciarotta. He stated that the Task Force has participated in orientation meetings with such persons as the Superintendent of Charities, the Administrator of Los Angeles County General Hospital and the Director of the Bureau of Public Assistance. As a result of those meetings, the Task Force has developed eight areas of study which it intends to explore. The two areas in which the Task Force intends to direct its immediate attention include:

- a. Evaluation of the responsibility which the County hospital system has in health care or medical care of the community; e.g. relationship to private and community hospitals, to medical and para-medical educational programs, in medical research, etc.
- b. To determine if it is feasible to transfer the administrative responsibility for the Outside Medical Relief program from the Department of Charities to the County Health Department--to be utilizing existing facilities and the present County employees in lieu of the present system of contractual payment to private physicians.

Dr. Bollens discussed these two areas of study at some length and stated that a detailed discussion of these and the other six areas of study will be included in the next report of the Hospitals and Welfare Task Force, which will be filed with the Committee shortly.

Mr. A. C. Rubel, Chairman of the Task Force on Construction, Leasing and Public Works, stated that after holding initial meetings with the departments in its area of responsibility the group had decided to explore certain areas of interest. Among these were the procedures followed in the acquisition of real property by the County. Accordingly the Task Force met with Mr. C. R. Schoeppe, Chief of Capital Projects Division, Chief Administrative Office, Mr. Bruce W. Edson, Acting Director, Department of Real Estate Management and Mr. Terry Smith, Deputy County Counsel, to discuss land acquisition procedures from inception to completion.

Mr. Rubel further stated that after meeting with all department heads in the Task Force's area of responsibility the group had come to the conclusion that certain policy, procedural and legislative restrictions tended to hinder the activities of these departments and restrict the most effective accomplishment of their operations. He stated that as a result each respective department head had been asked to prepare a formalized statement indicating such areas and to point out to the Task Force areas where that group can be of assistance in making their operations more effective.

Mr. Ferdinand Mendenhall, Chairman of the Budget and Fiscal Task Force, stated that his group had not been too active since the last meeting because of the transition involving the loss of Mr. Stans and the appointment of Mr. Lathrop Leishman.

However, he pointed out that the group had met on the preceding day and reviewed progress made in prior meetings and certain reports which had been requested by the Task Force during those meetings. Mr. Mendenhall stated that the Task Force would now proceed in its operations to thoroughly involve itself in the development of the County budget by attending as many departmental budget hearings as possible. This will begin sometime this month.

Mr. Lee McNitt, Chairman of the Task Force on Organization and Management, stated that his group had been busy compiling and analyzing the replies of County department heads to the questionnaire sent to them over a month ago. He stated that the Task Force was most impressed with the frank, critical and constructive answers which they were receiving from department heads. At the next meeting the group will have a compilation of these replies for referral to the appropriate task force and will have suggestions concerning some areas of study and possible recommendations on some consolidations.

After all reports had been heard, Mr. Wilcox stated that he was most impressed and pleased with the activities of the task forces thus far. He stated that he hoped to have an interim meeting of task force chairmen prior to the next general meeting in an effort to coordinate the activities of the task forces and eliminate possible overlapping. Mr. Wilcox stated further that he felt it was time that the Committee showed some progress in its examination of County government. He stated that the Board of Supervisors fully supports the Committee and that the group should soon take steps to show some constructive and positive results. He, therefore suggested that the Committee have some specific recom-

mendations within the next 60 to 90 days for the Board of Supervisors to consider. This would not only give the Board of Supervisors an indication of the Committee's intent and progress but will also give the Committee an indication of what action the Board will take on its recommendations.

Mr. L. S. Hollinger, Chief Administrative Officer, commented that prior to this meeting he had been somewhat concerned with the progress of the Committee thus far. He stated, however, that he now felt that the Committee was beginning to move and that he concurred in the suggestion of a progress report with recommendations as soon as possible. Mr. Hollinger stated further that this report should contain specific and substantial recommendations to show the Board of Supervisors some positive thinking and effective contributions from the Committee. Mr. Hollinger re-emphasized his desire to have all Committee members attend at least one budget hearing and upon the request of the Chairman stated that he would send each member a copy of one budget report for study. He also pointed out that the Personnel Division would begin its talks with labor groups as soon as the Salary Survey results are available, scheduled for April 9. Mr. Hollinger advised he would meet with his own staff on about April 30, 1965 to finalize the 1965-66 Salary Recommendations to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. He stated that the Task Force on Budget and Fiscal matters should attend these conferences and that Mr. Mendenhall would be provided with the appropriate dates.

A question arose as to the necessity and function of the great many advisory commissions and committees serving the County. Mr. Hollinger stated that it was up to this Committee to decide for themselves the working relationship with these commissions. The Secretary was then instructed to provide each task force chairman with one committee book listing all the commissions and committees within the County structure.

In closing Mr. Hollinger stated that all members should make an attempt to be in attendance on May 4 when the preliminary budget recommendations are presented to the Board of Supervisors.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided that the Committee would meet at the call of the chairman. He requested the members to hold April 21, 1965 until specific notice is received.

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