

**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: Wednesday, March 1, 1972
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 864

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

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Davis Brabant
John Byork
Maurice Chez
James Cunningham
Jerry Epstein
Leo Epstein
Milton Gordon
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Joseph Lederman
Harlan Loud
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
George Shellenberger
William Torrence
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

Dr. John C. Bollens
Roc Cutri
Dixon Harwin
Irvin Mazzei
Robert Olin

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He announced that Irvin Mazzei was undergoing more surgery in Houston, Texas, and he thought it would be appropriate for the committee to send their best wishes.

Mr. Chez made the motion that Mr. Roche send the committee's best wishes and hopes for a successful operation to Mr. Mazzei. Motion seconded by Mr. Lederman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell introduced new committee member Leo Epstein, Foreman of the 1971 Grand Jury.

Mr. Roche was asked to report on the presentation to the Board of Supervisors of the committee's report on the Public Administrator-Public Guardian.

Mr. Roche reported that Mr. Mitchell had formally presented the report to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on February 22. He said that Supervisor Hahn had asked a number of questions about the operation of the proposed commission. During the discussion, Supervisor Debs had strongly stated that he liked the concept of the commission, but he did not believe the Public Administrator should be a voting member. He advocated instead that a fifth member be nominated. Supervisor Hahn indicated a like thinking, and the Board requested the committee to reconsider its recommendations.

Mr. Roche reported that at the same meeting the Board had appointed James Mize to the position of Public Administrator. He will serve in that capacity and also as Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors.

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Mr. Roche said the task force had reconsidered the recommendations and were presenting two alternatives for the committee to consider. (1) The nomination of a fifth member to serve on the commission. The Public Administrator would be the sixth member and attend all meetings but would not have a vote. (2) The nomination of the additional member would be made by the California Real Estate Association, 22nd District, or by the State and Local Government Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. This member, like the member nominated by the E & E Committee, should have executive and managerial experience in private enterprise.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any objections to the addition of the fifth member on the proposed commission. There were none.

Mr. Roche reported that the hearing on the report had been postponed until March 14 at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. They had requested that the Board give them time to study the report so they could make a presentation at the hearing.

The members discussed the nomination of the additional member. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Brabant said they thought the nomination should be made by the California Real Estate Association.

Mr. Chez pointed out that the large part of the assets handled by the Public Administrator were small estates where no real estate was involved. He said there were many other areas involved, and he didn't think the committee would be doing anyone an injustice if another member of the business world were nominated by the State and Local Government Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gordon said Mr. Chez had convinced him that there were other areas just as important as the real estate field. Mr. Walker and Mr. Leo Epstein agreed.

Mr. Mitchell announced that Mr. Arthur Will had arrived at the meeting and discussion would be suspended at this time so Mr. Will could comment.

Mr. Will expressed his appreciation to the committee for the study and said that the Board had referred it to the Chief Administrative Office for comments. He said he had only a couple of things he would like to comment on.

Mr. Will explained that it would have been desirable to continue the arrangement of James Mize in the position of acting Public Administrator until the hearing involving Mr. Kristovich had been concluded. However, under the County Charter a temporary appointment could not be continued beyond February 29th.

Commenting on the committee's recommendation to establish a commission, Mr. Will said that legally there was no way to delegate the Public Administrator's authority to a commission. He suggested changing the wording of the report to make the commission an advisory body instead of an administrative one.

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Mr. Chez said that this commission's first duty would be to devise the procedures and set up the guidelines for the department, and once this had been established, the commission would serve as a watchdog. He asked Mr. Will if he had any objections to these statements.

Mr. Will said he had no objection to any of the functions. He stated that Mr. Mize also believed the commission should be established. The only point was not to assign duties to a group which could not legally perform them.

Mr. Walker was asked to comment as a member of the task force which drafted the committee's report. He agreed with Mr. Will's suggestion to change some of the wording and said it was the intent of the task force to establish a commission for advisory purposes.

Mr. Loud moved that the report be referred to Mr. Roche and Mr. Will for the correct wording regarding the commission. At Mrs. Kidd's suggestion the motion was amended to include a member of the original task force to also work on the amendment to the report. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell told Mr. Will the committee appreciated his participation and help. He said the committee may at times be critical of him, but they want it to be constructive criticism.

Mr. Will said he was critically interested in the committee's study on capital projects. He told Mr. Munzer, Chairman of the subcommittee, that his office would be glad to do anything it could to help move this study along.

Mr. Will left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Mr. Shellenberger asked to be excused at 10:30 a.m. He was asked how he would vote on the nomination of the additional member of the commission. He stated that he preferred that the member be nominated by the State and Local Government Committee of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Torrence made the motion that the fourth member of the Public Administrator-Public Guardian Commission be nominated by the State and Local Government Committee of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lederman and carried unanimously. (The fifth member will be nominated by the E & E Committee.)

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Munzer, Chairman of the Construction Projects Study, to report on the progress of the study. The other members of the subcommittee are: Roc Cutri, Jerry Epstein, Milton Gordon, Joe Lederman, Robert Olin.

Mr. Munzer reported that the subcommittee had held its first meeting February 23. All members were in attendance. Mr. Will had not been able to attend, but he had been represented by Mr. Durkee. County Engineer, Harvey Brandt, also attended.

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Mr. Munzer said the Board of Supervisors had indicated that the whole problem of construction delays and change orders should be reviewed by the committee. Supervisor Hahn had specifically asked for reports on the new County jail addition, Martin Luther King Hospital, and the health building. He said the CAO's office and the County Engineer were not unmindful of these problems, and they were in accord something should be done.

Mr. Munzer reported that Bill Larrabee, Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation had been working on a voluntary basis to explain some of the problems in this study. He gave a very good presentation on the steps he thought should be taken. The main purpose of this first meeting was to fund the services of this Corporation, and Bill Larrabee in particular, to undertake this study. The subcommittee had recognized the complexities of the situation and the need for outside staff help, and it had proposed that a contract be executed between the County and this Corporation.

Mr. Roche said that the Los Angeles Technical Services Corporation had been established by joint action of the City of Los Angeles and the Chamber of Commerce to assist in technical areas of study and to assist local government in solving its problems. It has given the committee assistance on the fire services study and on the preliminary study of the construction projects free of charge. The County Counsel has prepared a draft of a contract to enable the committee to use the services of this Corporation on a per diem basis. The contract will need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Jerry Epstein said the committee should consider whether it would be more economical to obtain outside help on a per diem basis or to add someone to the staff on a full-time basis.

Mr. Mitchell said that would be something to be considered that certainly the demands on Mr. Roche's time were too much.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Loud to name the members of his subcommittee and to report on the progress of the study on fire services.

Mr. Loud said the other members of the subcommittee were: John Byork, Maurice Chez, Jerry Epstein, Dixon Harwin, Robert Olin and Bill Torrence. He said the study was nearing completion and a draft of the report would soon be in the hands of the subcommittee.

Mr. Mitchell said Mr. Chez had been gathering information so they could learn why the amendments to the County Charter had been defeated. He asked Mr. Chez to comment. Mr. Chez said he and Mr. Mitchell were working with certain County officials, and when they had accumulated enough information, they would bring it to the attention of the committee.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.