

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 974-1491

Dr. Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson

George E. Bodle
Dr. Catherine G. Burke
John D. Byork
Anne S. Collins
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Hugh L. Henshaw
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Robert Ruchti, II
Luis A. Ruiz
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary
John Campbell
Staff Specialist
Maxlynn Larsen
Commission Secretary

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

September 7, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson
George E. Bodle
Catherine Burke
John D. Byork
Anne Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Milton Gordon
Richard Gunther
Hugh Henshaw
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo Majich
Luis Ruiz
Gloria Starr
Bryan Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Margaret Paterson Carr
Jerry Epstein
Robert Ruchti
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teasley

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:40. He acknowledged the presence of the press and KABC-TV, which is preparing material for a documentary on local government.

Miscellaneous Items

Dr. Schmidt introduced the commission's newest member, Hugh Henshaw, foreman of the 1976 Grand Jury. Dr. Schmidt reported briefly on a conference of the American Psychological Association which he had attended in San Francisco. Recent studies, he said, have analyzed the difficulties of effecting change within a bureaucracy. Minimal changes may succeed, but attempts to effect substantial changes are usually defeated.

Dr. Schmidt next asked George Bodle to report on his election as an overseas fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University. Mr. Bodle reported that he would be in residence for the fall term from September until December. While at Cambridge, he plans to lecture on American labor law and do research on British labor practices and procedures.

Task Force on Government Structure

At Dr. Schmidt's request, Mary Jane Kidd, Chairperson for the Task Force on Government Structure, gave a progress report on the task force's study. The task force had three meetings at which it has reviewed material on the movements for new county formation and heard presentations from various speakers. At the last meeting on August 23, 1977 the task force had heard presentations from four representatives of new county formation movements. Mrs. Kidd asked members of the task force for their comments. The general observation was that the key issue is the structure and effectiveness of local government. The task force expects to present a report to the full commission early in 1978.

Announcements

Dr. Schmidt said that Burke Roche had two announcements to make. Mr. Roche reported that the Board of Supervisors at a meeting on July 19, 1977, had honored the commission's former chairperson, Dr. Robert J. Downey with a plaque and scroll for his services to the County. Mr. Roche reported also that, on motion of Supervisor Hahn, the Board of Supervisors had voted on April 5, 1977 to establish a Los Angeles City-County Citizens Commission to study possible consolidation of the City-County Fire Departments. On August 23, 1977, the Board on motion of Supervisor Edelman, had voted to establish a permanent City-County Consolidation Commission to study all areas of possible consolidation. In addition to consolidation of individual functions, the commission is also to study the advisability of an eventual merger of the City and County into one governmental unit.

Potential Commission Studies

Dr. Schmidt stated that, as the notice of the meeting to commission members had indicated, the principal purpose was to establish exploratory teams to identify potential commission studies. He said that the Executive Committee had met on August 9 and had established the following schedule. At this meeting on September 7 possible projects would be identified and exploratory teams would be created consisting of members interested in each subject. On September 14 the exploratory teams will meet to define the issues involved in the projects, apply criteria relative to their feasibility and importance, and estimate the work effort necessary to conduct the studies. Each exploratory team will then select one member to meet with the Executive Committee on September 28 to discuss priorities and determine staff needs. Finally, at the regular meeting on October 5, 1977

the commission will determine priorities for discussion with the Board of Supervisors.

As background for this week's meeting, Warren Schmidt said Burke Roche had prepared a report which briefly summarizes studies conducted by the commission since 1970. The report also includes a summary of the Board orders which the commission has not been able to act on in addition to the studies which the commission itself has contemplated, but not yet undertaken. The commission then reviewed the proposed projects.

During this discussion, Milton Gordon emphasized the importance of establishing a function similar to the Office of Legislative Analyst headed by A. Alan Post in the State government. Mr. Gordon reported that he had discussed this project with A. Alan Post, who indicated that he might be willing to act as a consultant. Other members indicated interests in other areas.

Agreement was reached on the following eight projects and the members who were interested.

1. Consolidation of Los Angeles City Attorney's Criminal Division with the District Attorney's Office.

M. Gordon, H. Henshaw, M. J. Kidd

2. Organization and operation of the Department of Health Services.

M. J. Kidd, L. Majich, B. Walker

3. Functions and responsibilities of the County Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education.

A. Collins, M. Di Giovanni, C. Ellner, G. Starr

4. Responsibilities of the Civil Service Commission and operation of the civil service system.

C. Burke, J. Byork, H. Henshaw, G. Starr

5. Establishment of a legislative analyst function.

J. Byork, M. Gordon, R. Gunther, L. Majich, L. Ruiz

6. Follow-up of previous Commission recommendations.

C. Ellner, M. J. Kidd, R. Gunther

7. Contracting services with private firms.

J. Byork, L. Majich, B. Walker

8. Impact of Federal and State mandates and grants.

M. Di Giovanni, L. Ruiz

Dr. Schmidt noted that members who were not able to attend this meeting would be notified of the projects, and would be welcome to participate in the meetings of the exploratory teams covering the projects in which they are interested.

Dr. Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:15.

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