

**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

COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 1970  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 864

Robert Mitchell,  
Chairman

Raymond Arbuthnot  
Dr. John C. Bollens  
Davis Brabant  
John D. Byork  
Maurice Rene Chez  
Roc Cutri  
Dixon R. Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Harlan G. Loud  
P. S. Magruder  
Kiyoshi Maruyama  
Irvin Mazzei  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
R. J. Munzer  
Louis Rogers  
George Shellenberger  
Mrs. Donelle Smith  
William Torrence  
Gus A. Walker

Burke Roche,  
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman  
Davis Brabant  
John Byork  
Maurice Chez  
Roc Cutri  
Dixon Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
P. S. Magruder  
Louis Rogers  
George Shellenberger  
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

Ray Arbuthnot  
Dr. John Bollens  
Harlan Loud  
Kiyoshi Maruyama  
Irvin Mazzei  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
R. J. Munzer  
Mrs. Donelle Smith  
William Torrence

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He said the meeting would proceed without Mr. Roche as he was being interviewed by the news media.

Mr. Mitchell said that he had called Mr. Mazzei who was in very high spirits. He felt the operation had been a complete success and had asked Mr. Mitchell to give his regards to the committee and to tell them he would be back in circulation about the first of the year.

Mr. Mitchell said he knew all the members were keenly disappointed in the defeat of Proposition B, and he would like to hear their views and opinions on the campaign and the defeat of the proposal. He asked Mr. Chez to comment first.

Mr. Chez thought the timing was unfortunate. There were 20 propositions or more going to the public at one time. He also thought that many people confused the City charter revision with the County charter revision. He thought the biggest blow was the tax bills that arrived just before election. The public was probably so irritated with the sharp increase that they voted against everything. His suggestion was that the committee should go back to work.

Mr. Shellenberger thought the County Counsel changed so much language in the charter that it confused the issue. If it could have been kept on one specific issue, separating the administrative and legislative powers, it would have been simple. The very negative campaign against the City charter could also have affected the County charter proposition.

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Mr. Rogers said the committee had one major opposition, and he thought it would behoove the committee to invite Supervisor Hahn to a meeting and listen to his views and the reasons why he opposed the change.

Mr. Cutri said that now this amendment had gone by the board, he thought perhaps the committee should work with the people within the system and see if they can't use the research done for the report to better our government and work for more efficiency.

Mr. Brabant said that the very nature of the projects the committee undertakes is controversial, and this would indicate that they will not always be able to succeed. He said there were a great many County employees who like things the way they are. They looked on Proposition B as an attack on the civil service system, and it was objectionable to them.

Mr. Byork said he feels the committee presented the facts to the public, and it is not the committee's fault that they weren't accepted. He said he was proud of the committee and proud to serve on it.

Mr. Harwin said that every member of the committee should take a good hard look at what the function of the committee is. He thinks that it was sheer political naivete to expect the measure to pass because everyone on the committee believed it to be a good measure. He said that he attended the County Management Conference and listened to the department heads. They were all violently opposed to the proposition and opposed to the committee for endangering their existence. If the proposition is put back on the ballot in two years, the committee should be prepared to do the same things that every other proponent of a ballot recommendation does.

Mr. Magruder agreed with Mr. Harwin, but said that to his knowledge the committee was not formed to go out and raise a lot of money to sell whatever they decided was best for the County. He felt that the committee was an arm of the Board of Supervisors. Four supervisors supported the proposition, but they did not campaign for it other than giving their names. He said that, whenever they seek to change County government, they are going to run into opposition. He feels there is still a chance to work within the present County set-up.

Mrs. Kidd said that Mr. Harwin's point about money was well taken. She was sorry it has to be that way, but you have to spend money to pass propositions. In her area, she found that people had an apathy and a lack of knowledge about County government that is frightening. She does not know how to educate them. She said that she feels the committee is doing a fine job, but she wished the supervisors had come out and supported the proposition.

Mr. Walker said he thought the length and size of the amendment made it impossible to get the facts across to the voters. They didn't seem to have the energy or push to study Proposition B.

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Mr. Mitchell said that he thinks the committee can take affirmative action. They should not let the issue die. At the proper time and in the proper way, it should be pursued.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Roche to comment. Mr. Roche said everyone should recognize that the path of reform in government is a frustrating and slow one. He hopes the committee will not be discouraged and will work towards resubmittal and the planning of a campaign in 1972. He stated that the committee should do all they can to assist the new CAO in a very difficult task.

Mr. Mitchell next called on Mr. Magruder to report on the study of law enforcement charges to contract cities. Mr. Magruder was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to a special committee established to study this issue.

Mr. Magruder said that several Grand Juries had studied the matter of charges for law enforcement services provided by the Sheriff to contract cities. The committee had adopted a middle figure among a range of figures advocated by the contract cities and the independent cities. Neither the contract nor the independent cities were satisfied with this figure. With the approval of the County committee, the City of Lakewood had filed a petition with the Federal government and had received a grant of \$140,000 to hire a consultant to study the issue. The study will be made in two phases. Phase I will concentrate on determining an appropriate charge for inclusion in the County budget for the next fiscal year. The Phase I report is to be completed by February 16, 1971. Phase II of the study is to cover the broad problems involved in the issue, including the Sheriff's legal responsibility for providing law enforcement services on a County-wide basis. The Phase II report is to be completed by November, 1971. The firm of Booz, Allen & Hamilton has been selected to make the study. Mr. Magruder said he would keep the committee informed as to the progress of this study.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Magruder for his report. He next asked Davis Brabant to report on the County Insurance Program.

Mr. Brabant said that the Board became interested in this subject in 1969 when they were questioning whether to get additional bids or go ahead with the insurance they had for hospital and malpractice insurance. He made the recommendation to one of the Board members that they give some thought to a self-insurance program. As a result he was asked to represent the E & E Committee on the County insurance committee. The committee recommended that proposals be obtained for an overall review of the County's insurance program. They selected Warren McVeigh and Associates of San Francisco. The Board employed them to do the study. The study has been reviewed by the committee and the Board and is now being implemented. The implementation is being split up into parts and will be implemented one at a time so the County will be in a position to properly administer the program. He believes there should be considerable savings under this self-insured program. He will keep the committee informed of the progress being made in each field of insurance.

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Mr. Mitchell next asked Mr. Buell Merrill, staff analyst to the committee, to report on the progress of the fire services consolidation study. Mr. Mitchell reported that Mr. Arbuthnot had resigned as Chairman of the Fire Services Consolidation Subcommittee because he could not devote sufficient time to the assignment. Mr. Mitchell had appointed Mr. Loud to replace him. Mr. Loud was recovering from an eye operation and would be back with the committee for the next meeting.

In a brief report Mr. Merrill said that a draft report should be ready for review by the subcommittee in January. He said the initial finding showed an excessive cost for fire protection services throughout the County because there were so many jurisdictions providing fire protection within their own boundaries. After the subcommittee has reviewed and approved the report, it will be presented to the full committee.

There being no further business, Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.