

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**

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

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

April 5, 1978

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

George E. Bodle  
Dr. Catherine G. Burke  
John D. Byork  
Margaret Paterson Carr  
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  
Lauro J. Neri  
Robert Ruchti, II  
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU  
George Shellenberger  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker  
  
Burke Roche  
Executive Secretary  
John Campbell  
Staff Specialist  
Maxlynn Larsen  
Commission Secretary

Members Present:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson  
George E. Bodle  
Catie Burke  
John Byork  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Carolyn Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Richard Gunther  
Hugh Henshaw  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
Lauro Neri  
Robert Ruchti  
Luis Ruiz  
George Shellenberger  
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson  
Margaret Carr  
Milton Gordon  
Larkin Teasley

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He welcomed Dick Gunther back from his trip to China.

Introduction of New Commission Member - Warren Schmidt introduced new member Lauro Neri, appointed by Supervisor Schabarum. Mr. Neri is the owner of Medallion Graphics, Inc., a printing business.

Approval of Minutes - George Shellenberger moved that the minutes of the March 1, 1978, meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Bryan Walker and adopted unanimously.

Community Relations Task Force -

- (1) Statement on County Amendment A - Deletion of the Prevailing Wage Clause
- (2) Statement on Proposition 13 - The Jarvis-Gann Initiative

Carolyn Ellner, Task Force Chairperson, reported that the task force met and reviewed Amendment A and the Jarvis-Gann Initiative. The members made the decision to recommend that the full commission take a stand on both issues. Position papers were developed recommending that the commission take a strong stand in favor of deleting the prevailing wage clause and to oppose Proposition 13. The task force felt strongly that every commission member should have a

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chance to participate in the drafting of these position papers. Copies of the draft were mailed to all members for review and suggestions. The suggestions for changes and additions were incorporated in the statements. She asked that the statement on County Amendment A be considered first.

George Bodle asked to make a statement. He said that he had disagreed with the position of the majority of the task force members, making him a minority of one. He expressed his personal dissent on the recommendation because he believes the prevailing wage clause offers an appropriate floor for bargaining, and he does not believe the consequences of its inclusion in the charter are as serious as pointed out.

Carolyn Ellner reviewed the reasons given in the statement for the recommendation to support deletion of the prevailing wage clause. She moved that the statement be approved. The motion was seconded by Jerry Epstein and passed by a vote of 16 - 1.

Carolyn Ellner reviewed the reasons for urging a no vote on the Jarvis-Gann Initiative. She moved that the statement be approved. Dick Gunther seconded the motion.

Robert Ruchti moved to table the motion; Luis Ruiz seconded the motion. The motion lost by a vote of 13 - 4.

The motion to adopt the statement was debated at length. Warren Schmidt asked the dissenters if they would be agreeable to adopting the statement and then sending a strong letter to the Legislature conveying the sentiments and the frustration of the commission. The Legislature could also be notified that the commission is committing itself to tax relief and will support those organizations who will be working for it.

Luis Ruiz said that as long as the commission is going to commit itself to work with the groups who are interested in a rational tax reform, then he would be willing to vote for adoption of the statement.

The motion to adopt the statement and the recommendation to vote no on Proposition 13 was approved 13 - 4.

Carolyn Ellner moved that the commission send a strong letter to the Legislature conveying the frustration of the members and urging it to work towards a rational plan for tax reform and relief. Also advise the Legislature that although the commission voted not to support Proposition 13, it feels that the initiative is a signal which should not be ignored. Luis Ruiz seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commission Participation in the Campaigns - Warren Schmidt asked if the members wished to discuss the level of commission participation in the campaigns on Proposition 13 and County Amendment A.

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Robert Ruchti moved that the commission do nothing. The motion died for lack of a second.

Warren Schmidt advised the members that he had signed the ballot argument in favor of deleting the prevailing wage clause. He had taken this action after the Community Relations Task Force had a chance to look at the statement which had been drafted by Supervisor Schabarum.

Robert Ruchti moved that the commission support Proposition A and work with Supervisor Schabarum in any way it can to get the prevailing wage clause deleted from the County Charter. The motion died for lack of a second.

Warren Schmidt referred to the policy statement which had been adopted by the commission. The policy states that once the commission has taken a stand on an issue, any member can differ with that stand as long as it is made clear that he or she is speaking as an individual, not as a representative of the commission.

Referring to the statement of policy, Burke Roche said that the vote of 13 - 4 would qualify the commission to take an active role in the campaign. Those members opposing the motion are free to express their individual opinions. The other members would be free to state the commission position by majority vote.

Carolyn Ellner requested that the policy statement be sent to the members again so they can refresh their memories.

Task Force on Government Structure - Mary Jane Kidd, Chairperson, reported. Work on the new county formation study had to be delayed so the staff could work on the Jarvis-Gann and prevailing wage clause statements. However, the task force will meet on April 12 and review the prepared draft. It will focus entirely on new county formation. A second report will be issued in a few months which will deal with government structure. The full commission should receive copies of the draft three or four days after the task force meeting. This will allow the members plenty of time to review it before the full commission meeting.

Letter from Supervisor Hahn - Warren Schmidt read the letter from Supervisor Hahn, dated March 20, requesting the E & E Commission to update a report on creating the position of a County Executive in Los Angeles County.

Jerry Epstein made a strong appeal to the members to start work on this issue. He explained that he feels the whole government structure and the system should be studied, not just the question of whether the County Executive should be elected or appointed.

Warren Schmidt reported that the Task Force on Government Structure had already done a lot of work on government structure, which will be the subject of the next report. In his opinion, another report is not the answer. There is a need to develop some kind of an educational campaign, which is the purpose of the Community Relations Task Force. He questioned the members and found that all were in favor of a County Executive. It was the issue of whether or not he should be elected or appointed that divided the commission.

Luis Ruiz moved that the Task Force on the Chief Executive be reactivated and new members who are particularly interested in the issue be added to it. The task force will be charged with restudying the county executive issue at the time when it becomes convenient. Motion was seconded by Leo Majich.

Warren Schmidt asked if the members would rather do this than to refer it to the Community Relations task force.

Catie Burke suggested that formation of the new task force be delayed until the second report on government structure is issued. Perhaps the issue could be dealt with in the report.

Robert Ruchti objected to including it in the present study, saying it could get lost. He suggested that the commission choose the task force and select those members who are very concerned and interested in the idea of restructuring the County government based on a County Executive.

Warren Schmidt suggested that the commission wait until the report on government structure is issued, then have a meeting of the Executive Committee to decide how to proceed.

Question was called for. The vote was 13 - 1 in favor of reactivating the task force and beginning the study when convenient.

Warren Schmidt asked for volunteers to serve on the task force. The following members volunteered: Carolyn Ellner, Jerry Epstein, Mario Di Giovanni, Robert Ruchti, and George Shellenberger. (Members of the 1974 Task Force were: Leo Majich, George Bodle, John Byork, Jerry Epstein, Catie Burke, Robert Ruchti. Members of the 1976 Task Force were: Mario Di Giovanni, Margaret Carr, Gloria Starr, and Larkin Teasley.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.