

**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: Thursday, August 20, 1970
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 739

Robert Mitchell,
Chairman

Raymond Arbuthnot
Dr. John C. Bollens
Davis Brabant
John D. Byork
Maurice Rene Chez
Roc Cutri
Dr. Warren S. Jones
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan G. Loud
P. S. Magruder
Kiyoshi Maruyama
Irvin Mazzei
L. E. McKee
Ferdinand Mendenhall
Louis Rogers
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Benjamin Erick Smith
William Torrence
Gus A. Walker
Burke Roche,
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Dr. John Bollens
Davis Brabant
John Byork
Roc Cutri
Dixon Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan Loud
Irvin Mazzei
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Donelle Smith
P. S. Magruder

Members Absent:

Raymond Arbuthnot
Maurice Rene Chez
Kiyoshi Maruyama
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
Louis Rogers
William Torrence
Gus Walker

Others Present:

Buell Merrill, Committee Staff Analyst

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He introduced Mr. Dixon Harwin who was appointed to the committee by Supervisor Hahn to replace Dr. Warren Jones. Mr. Harwin resides in Beverly Hills and is President of Alfred Dixon Properties, a real estate investment firm in Beverly Hills.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Roche to read the argument which he had prepared for the charter amendment which the Board of Supervisors had asked the committee to prepare for the November sample ballot.

Mr. Roche said that Sam Soghomonian, Foreman of the 1970 Grand Jury, had agreed to sign the argument jointly with Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Roche said he had arranged to review the argument with Mr. Soghomonian once it had been approved by the committee. He said he would also review it with the four Supervisors who supported the amendment. He explained that the insert containing the arguments for and against the amendment will also include an analysis by the County Counsel explaining the principal sections of the amendment. Mr. Roche then read the argument to the committee members.

Mr. Mitchell then asked for comments from the committee. Several members of the committee suggested changes to strengthen and clarify the phrasing of the argument. The motion was made by Mr. Magruder that the Executive Secretary, after hearing all the discussion, recompose the argument for the final draft. Seconded by Mrs. Kidd and passed unanimously.

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Mr. Roche explained that Supervisor Debs had asked the County Counsel to study the appropriateness of the five-year civil service protection clause in the amendment. Mr. Roche had discussed this question with Mr. Maharg, and he said that Mr. Maharg had repeated the opinion which he had given to the Board during the public hearing. Mr. Maharg believes that five years is a reasonable length of time. After a brief discussion the committee on motion by Mr. Loud and seconded by Mr. Mazzei unanimously reaffirmed its recommendation for a five-year protection period.

Mr. Roche said that he had also discussed with Mr. Maharg whether any executive who is discharged from County service should have the right to a public hearing. Mr. Roche explained that this did not mean that the chief executive's authority to place him in any position was affected. It only meant that if the chief executive recommended that he be discharged from County service because of gross misconduct he would have the right to a civil service hearing. After discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Brabant that the committee stand on the recommendation as contained in the report. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Mazzei said that if a motion would be in order at this time he would like to move that an election task force of committee members be formed to work with the executive secretary and the chairman in drawing up a format and plans which would be presented for consideration to the entire committee. Seconded by Mr. Loud. Mr. Mitchell said he would confer with members of the committee and announce the chairman and members of the task force at a later date.

Mr. Roche reported on the order which was adopted at the Board meeting on August 4, 1970, requesting the Economy and Efficiency Committee to study the proposal from Judge Joseph Wapner, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, to consolidate the Criminal Division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's office with the District Attorney's office. On Mr. Mitchell's recommendation the committee agreed that this study should be postponed until after the November election.

Mr. Mitchell asked Buell Merrill to report on the status and progress of the Fire Services Consolidation Study. Mr. Merrill said that he had been interviewing various city officials principally in cities that have their own fire departments. He has also been working on a statistical analysis including the cost factor involved in city fire department services and the County Consolidated Fire District.

Mr. Mazzei asked if Mr. Merrill had been looking into the question of insurance rates in cities which have their own fire departments. Mr. Merrill said that this was one of the questions which would require study. Dr. Bollens asked how many cities have separate fire departments. Mr. Merrill said there were 42 now.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Merrill for his report. There being no further business he adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.