

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. Bodie
Dr. Catherine G. Burke
John D. Byork
Margaret Paterson Carr
Anne S. Collins
Dorothy Avila Courtney
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Lauro J. Neri
Robert Ruchti, II
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU
George Shellenberger
Bryan Walker

MINUTES

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 5, 1979

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary
John Campbell
Staff Specialist

Members Present:

Warren Schmidt, Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Berk
John D. Byork
Anne S. Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn L. Ellner
Mary Jane Kidd
Thomas F. Kranz
Richard G. Lillard
Lauro J. Neri
Bryan Walker

Catherine Burke

Members Excused:

Margaret Paterson Carr
Jerry Epstein
Milton Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Leo A. Majich
Robert Ruchti, II
George Shellenberger

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Announcements. Warren Schmidt announced that John Campbell's contract had been approved by the Board of Supervisors. He and the Executive Committee have agreed that he will use the title Staff Director. Martha Ohanesian has joined the staff as an administrative assistant.

During the summer some commissioners visited philanthropic foundations to solicit additional support for the staffing of particular commission projects. Carolyn Ellner reported that she and Dr. Schmidt felt positive about the way they were received and shortly will be submitting a letter to one of the foundations listing the kinds of support needed. A research proposal will be submitted to another foundation. Members were asked to make known any contacts they may have with representatives of foundations through which support may be available.

During the summer two doctoral students were working with John Campbell on the government structure work and on the Proposition 13 work.

Warren Schmidt announced that three of our commissioners will no longer be serving: Luis Ruiz, Richard Gunther and Dorothy Courtney. However, the Board of Supervisors has appointed three new commissioners: Susan Berk, Thomas F. Kranz and Richard G. Lillard. Dr. Schmidt introduced each one and each shared a little background information with the other commissioners.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Impact of Proposition 13. In Margaret Carr's absence, John Campbell reported that this task force has been concentrating on the responses of the governmental entities to Proposition 13. In addition to general County information, the task force has obtained some detail on the Sanitation Districts and the Library. The task force is now going to concentrate on producing a report. Commissioners discussed various impacts of Proposition 13, notably the response of voluntary sectors of the community, the levels of public employment where attrition is most severe, the future availability of State surplus funding for bailout; and the potential long range effects of deferred maintenance, hiring freezes, and other cash management responses. John Campbell emphasized that the principal focus of the task force has been on evaluating responses to Prop 13; other researchers, such as Kirlin and Laffer, have analyzed broad economic and fiscal effects.

Government Structure. Catherine Burke reported that the Governmental Structure report was issued last January and a conference was held last May attended by a number of government officials, concerned citizens and some legislators from Sacramento. Myrna Mandell, doctoral student has been interviewing individuals from the five county governments to obtain input on the issues raised in the report. Catie Burke has been meeting with a number of governmental agencies and groups in the Southern California area. As organizations they are interested and supportive. The next step of the task force is to set up workshops and conferences in each of the five counties. The task force filed a preliminary application for funding through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. The application was prepared on behalf of Los Angeles County. However, of the various alternative sources of funding, this is the least appropriate, since it would again involve Los Angeles County as the lead agency in a project affecting all 1600 governments in the five county area. Therefore, Dr. Burke made a motion seconded by Carolyn Ellner, that we withdraw the application and request the Foundation for Effective Government to seek funding to support additional work on this project. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposition A Task Force/Contract Services Advisory Committee. Dick Gunther, who as chairman of the task force also served on the Board's new Contract Services Advisory Committee, has resigned and Larry Neri has assumed his assignment. At Dick's direction, John Campbell performed staff work for the Contract Services Advisory Committee on their first project, recommending that the County consider contracting for security services. John Campbell believes that we should continue to work closely with the Contract Services Advisory Committee, but that we can do so with reduced demands on his time. As the Contract Services Advisory Committee proceeds, certain issues of interest to the E&E Commission should emerge, and joint projects may become feasible. In the meantime, we should ask the Foundation for support possibly in the form of graduate students who could assist in information gathering and research. In this way, he and the task force could continue to coordinate and monitor this effort. The feeling of the Executive

Committee at their meeting was that the time commitment of staff for the Contract Services Advisory Committee should be reduced, John should continue to help this committee particularly if student interns can be recruited to do the bulk of information gathering and research work. As task force chairman, Larry Neri will continue to be our commission's delegate to the Contract Services Advisory Committee. By common consent, the commission authorized Warren Schmidt and John Campbell to work with John Hussey, Chairman of the Contract Services Advisory Committee, to secure additional resources.

Task Force on the Executive Organization of the County. At its meeting last week, the Executive Committee felt that this commission should be in on the design work this time regarding the need for a County Executive. Subsequent to its 1970 report, this commission has had no input other than to be either in favor of, or opposed to a County executive structure proposed by someone else. The task force will work closely with other groups which may be working on this project. Contact will be made with those Board offices who in the past have been interested in the County Executive issue. The principal focus would be on the need for change, if any, design and cost of various alternatives, and public information.

Incentives and Disincentives Task Force. This is a new task force whose basic goals will be to find out - What are the incentives in County government? What are the disincentives in County government? It appears that the County is experiencing severe attrition among middle level and expert people as a result of Proposition 13. The question is whether a system of incentives can be designed to encourage such employees to stay.

Warren Schmidt asked each task force to come to the next commission meeting with an outline of its goals, tasks and need for resources. (Attached is a list of members of the various task forces.)

At the Board of Supervisors hearing during the budget season, the question was raised as to whether the E&E Commission would become completely independent of the County and be supported solely by the Foundation for Effective Government. It was stressed by Chairman Schmidt that this was not the intent of the Foundation. The Foundation's purpose is to act as a means of obtaining additional resources for particular projects as needed. This is clearly stated in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held March 3, 1979.

On motion of Mary Jane Kidd seconded by Mario Di Giovanni the commissioners unanimously excused the absences of those members listed above as excused.

Commission meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION TASK FORCES

Task Force on Proposition 13

Margaret Carr, Chairperson
Anne Collins
Milton Gordon
George Shellenberger
Bob Ruchti

Incentives/Disincentives Task Force

Susan Berk, Chairperson
George Bodle
Catherine Burke
John Byork
Richard Lillard

Task Force on Government Structure

Catherine Burke, Chairperson
Anne Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Milton Gordon
Mary Jane Kidd
George Shellenberger
Gloria Starr

Community Relations Task Force

Carolyn Ellner, Chairperson
George Bodle
Margaret Carr
Jerry Epstein
Milton Gordon
Thomas Kranz

Task Force on Proposition A

Lauro Neri, Chairperson
Carolyn Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Leo Majich
Bob Ruchti
Bryan Walker

Task Force on the Executive
Organization of the County

Mario Di Giovanni, Chairperson
Mary Jane Kidd, Co-Chairperson
Jerry Epstein
Milton Gordon
Thomas Kranz
Gloria Starr