

**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

September 6, 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  
Gloria Starr, Vice-Chairperson  
George Bodle  
Catherine Burke  
John Byork  
Anne Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton Gordon  
Lauro Neri  
George Shellenberger  
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Margaret Carr  
Dorothy Courtney  
Carolyn Ellner  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
Robert Ruchti  
Luis Ruiz

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. Warren Schmidt welcomed members of the Grand Jurors' Association, Pat Yeoman and Herb Shane, and members of the press.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the commission meeting of August 2 were approved.

Change in E & E Commission Ordinance - Warren Schmidt reported that Supervisor Hahn had questioned the policy of automatically appointing the retiring foreman of the Grand Jury to serve for one year on the E & E Commission. He requested the CAO to review the policy. The commission sent a letter to the CAO requesting that he support the present policy, but the CAO did not support the commission. He recommended that the Board reserve the right to determine whether or not it wished to appoint the foreman. The Board adopted the recommendation, but approved the appointment of Dorothy Courtney this year.

Report on Cost Reduction - At the request of the commission, the staff prepared a report to remind the Board of Supervisors of some of the commission's previous recommendations, which had not been adopted. Burke Roche reported that the report was presented to the Board several weeks ago. It stimulated discussion and action on some of the recommendations.

(a) On the recommendation to increase filing fees in the Municipal and Superior Courts, the Board took action to increase the filing fees for the Superior Court and initiated legislation to increase the fees in the Municipal Courts.

(b) On the recommendation that the County conduct a detailed study in each department to determine the ratio and use of supervision, the Board requested the CAO study on the subject, which had been ordered previously. The CAO report is dated August 22, but Mr. Roche has no record that it has been officially presented to the Board.

Mr. Roche said that if the CAO report had used the same type of ratio that was used in the E & E report, the difference in the figures would have been just one-half of a person. The key issue is not whether the ratio is 1 to 6, or 1 to 5.8, but that the County is rich in supervision in some departments; and each department should be looked at separately.

(c) On the recommendation to seek legislation to consolidate the Sheriff's Civil Division and the Marshal's office, the Marshal released a letter advocating that all process serving be transferred to his department. Supervisor Schabarum referred the letter to the E & E. During the Board discussion, Mr. Roche pointed out that the commission did not feel it would be productive to go into this issue again until there was some assurance that the legislation would be passed in Sacramento that would allow the County to consolidate. Supervisor Schabarum agreed with this.

Mr. Roche added that during budget sessions, Supervisor Ward brought up the question of the Marshal's recommendation, and it was referred to the CAO for study and report back by February, 1979.

Governor's Commission on Government Reform - Warren Schmidt reported. The Governor's Commission has been in touch and has received some of the E & E reports. It was informed that Bryan Walker would be the E & E representative to work with them on contracting with private firms. He has not been contacted yet. Catie Burke will work with them in the personnel areas.

Catie Burke said that she had been in touch with some of the staff members. All meetings are being held in Sacramento, and they want her to fly up at her own expense. She advised them that it was out of the question. However, they are communicating in writing, and she has advised them that when they get all their material together and have a summary meeting, she will try to attend.

Foundation for Effective Government - Warren Schmidt announced that they are still waiting for the tax exempt status from IRS. In another month they should be set to move.

County Budget Deliberations - Burke Roche reported. The Board spent 35 days on deliberations and hearings and cut almost every department's budget. It still ended up, because of the inflation factor, with a \$3.9 billion budget - \$300 million more than last year. They had many protests from department heads who said they were being cut to the bone. It comes down to the main theme, by the time the budget reaches the Board, the systems which generated these costs have locked them in, and there is no way to reduce costs except by changing the system.

County Charter Amendments - Warren Schmidt reported that there would be eleven County amendments on the ballot in November. Several concern issues previously discussed by the commission. Various task forces were assigned to study certain amendments and make recommendations to the full commission.

Proposition A, Contracting with Private Firms - The task force headed by Leo Majich was assigned this proposition. It is scheduled to meet next Thursday, September 14, to consider the amendment and report to the commission what position it might take on this amendment.

Proposition B, Civil Service Reform - Catie Burke reported that the task force met this morning before the commission meeting and looked at the amendment. The task force feels there is a need for reform, but is not sure this is the reform needed. The members have some questions and feel they need more information as to what the amendment will do. They will meet again to get other opinions and more information before presenting a recommendation to the commission about the first week in October.

Proposition C, Elected County Executive - Jerry Epstein was appointed to head up a group to look at this amendment.

George Shellenberger asked to speak before hearing Mr. Epstein's remarks. Mr. Shellenberger reported that the task force met a week ago today and unanimously adopted a motion made by Carolyn Ellner. Since she could not attend the meeting today, she asked him to present it to the commission.

- MOTION:
1. The Economy and Efficiency Commission wholeheartedly supports Proposition C calling for the creation of a County Executive for Los Angeles County. The past studies of this commission have detailed the reasons for this position.
  2. We authorize Jerry Epstein to represent this commission in the campaign to be conducted for the support of this measure and to endorse on our behalf any public statements which are consistent with past reports of our commission, including the endorsement of the ballot argument in favor of Proposition C which will be presented in the voters' hand book.
  3. We request Jerry Epstein to keep us informed of developments and to suggest ways in which members of this commission can become involved in the forthcoming campaign for Proposition C.

Moved by George Shellenberger, seconded by Milton Gordon, that the full commission reaffirm the position adopted by the task force.

Jerry Epstein said that a wholehearted effort will be required of everyone on the commission, and the support of the news media will be needed to get the message to the public. He expressed concern that the issue would get lost among all the other proposals on the ballot.

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The members discussed the type of campaign and the involvement of the E & E. Warren Schmidt summed up the discussion. First, as a commission, the proposal is wholeheartedly endorsed. Second, Jerry Epstein is authorized to be the spokesman in the campaign, and the commission endorses the statements which are consistent with past commission policy. Third, Jerry Epstein is asked to keep the campaign organization separate from the commission, since the commission is not a campaign organization. Individual members are free to work on the campaign as long as it isn't the commission as a whole.

Question was called on the motion presented by George Shellenberger, and it was adopted unanimously.

Other Charter Amendments - Catie Burke asked if a report would be made on the Canyon County proposal. Burke Roche answered that the commission's position was stated in the report "Impact of New County Formation." It took a stand against secession movements as a means of solving County problems.

Task Force on Local Government Structure - The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the task force were both out of town. John Campbell was asked to report. Mr. Campbell said the task force met late in July for a briefing on the subject matter in the report. The staff was instructed to go ahead and put a report together for the task force to review. That has been interrupted while the staff works on the charter amendments. As soon as papers are ready on the amendments, the staff will get back to the report on local government structure.

Warren Schmidt asked if there would be something ready for the commission by next month. John Campbell said that the task force would have to review the report when it was ready, and it would probably have some things to add or to change. Therefore it would not be reasonable to say that something would be ready for the commission by next month.

Warren Schmidt urged that the commission move forward on this. He said that all of the data was in, and he feels they should move with all speed to get something out at least by November. The longer the delay, the less impact it will have.

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