

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

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

George E. Bodle, Chairperson
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner, Vice Chairperson
Lauro J. Neri, Vice Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Curtis Ventriss, Vice Chairperson

Susan Berk
John D. Byork
Margaret Paterson Carr
Anne S. Collins
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni
Milton G. Gordon
Mary Jane Kidd
Thomas F. Kranz
Dr. Richard G. Lillard
Abraham M. Lurie
Robert Ruchti, II
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt
Wally Thor
Bryan Walker

Commission Staff
John Campbell
Martha Ohanesian

MINUTES

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 7, 1980

Members Present:

George Bodle, Chairperson
Susan Berk
John Byork
Anne Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Mary Jane Kidd
Richard Lillard
Abe Lurie
Gloria Starr
Wally Thor
Peter Tweedt
Curtis Ventriss
Bryan Walker

Members Excused:

Margaret Carr
Milton Gordon
Tom Kranz
Larry Neri
Warren Schmidt

Absent:

Robert Ruchti, II

George Bodle called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

On motion by Wally Thor, seconded by Carolyn Ellner, the commission unanimously excused the following absences: Margaret Carr, Milton Gordon, Tom Kranz, Larry Neri and Warren Schmidt.

George Bodle shared with the commissioners his concerns regarding the need for additional resources to ensure timely response to Board requests. The Board of Directors of the Foundation for Effective Government will meet soon to act on this matter.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Announcements

Warren Schmidt has sent a letter to Supervisor Ward notifying him of his pending resignation from the E&E Commission.

On June 4th after the commission meeting, the commissioners will host a luncheon in honor of both Warren Schmidt and George Shellenberger. The luncheon will be at the Henry Dreyfuss Board Room of the Music Center. Supervisors Schabarum and Ward will be invited.

The commissioners approved the formation of a new Committee on Finance with Wally Thor as chairman. Other members of this committee are Carolyn Ellner, Abe Lurie and Larry Neri. Wally Thor suggested that the Foundation contact private firms to solicit funds or the services of loaned executives for assistance, particularly on the commission's contracting project. This group will meet to explore further possibilities for funding.

Discussion of Proposition 9

John Campbell explained to the commissioners some of the pros and cons of Proposition 9 which the experts are using as arguments. He recommended that the commission take no position on Proposition 9.

The commission discussed motion of Carolyn Ellner and Richard Lillard to authorize the chairman to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors outlining the alternatives for implementing Proposition 9.

Peter Tweedt offered a substitute motion seconded by Mary Jane Kidd to forward the letter to the Supervisors the day after the election (June 4) with full press coverage. Before the letter is forwarded each commissioner will receive a copy for his/her review and approval or disapproval. This letter will also be submitted to the L.A. Times for publication. The substitute motion carried; the original motion was withdrawn.

TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORTS

Proposition 13/Community Relations

Carolyn Ellner reported that Margaret Carr and John Campbell spoke before the Chamber of Commerce on April 9 regarding our Proposition 13 report. Tom Kranz and John Campbell presented a talk to the Association of University Women on April 14. John Campbell reported that both presentations were successful in view of the questions asked and interest displayed. The members of the Association requested copies of our report on Proposition 13 and also our Challenge for the 1980's.

Abe Lurie reported that legislation had already passed to increase interest rates on court judgments ~~by~~ 10%. Apparently, to raise the interest rates further would require an initiative or change in the State Constitution. Abe will look into this further to see if the interest rates can be raised to market levels as recommended in our report on Proposition 13.

Incentives & Disincentives/Civil Service Commission

The task force met on April 27 and discussed the letter sent to the Board re the Civil Service Commission and the fact that there are very different perceptions in the upper level of management as to the functions of the Civil Service Commission.

Elliott Jaques and our task force members met with the Management Council Executive Committee and with Alex Pope, the County Assessor and his staff. They talked about some of the issues that had to do with incentives in government and some of the problems that managers face.

Jim Pew's statistics reveal that in terms of numbers only, greater numbers of people are not leaving the County since Proposition 13. However, qualitative factors are still unknown.

Wally Thor has suggested a hot line within the County similar to that operated by the State and Federal governments. County employees would call this number under protection of anonymity and make suggestions for further economy and efficiency. The task force will continue to investigate this option.

Herb Kaplan forwarded to the commission his letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding proposed civil service rules. The task force feels that we should not comment on the civil service rules alone, since we are investigating the broader needs of the personnel system for incentives. The commission authorized John Campbell to appear for the commission if the Board holds a public hearing on the rules.

John Campbell announced that on May 6 the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance which would prohibit civil service commissioners to receive any compensation for acting as hearing officers.

Contracting with Private Firms

The Board of Supervisors has asked the E&E Commission to review the County's contracting ordinance and make recommendations to the Board on ways to improve it. John Campbell will draft a letter to Supervisor Schabarum for the task force's approval informing the Supervisor that we are involved in the work he has requested.

Government Structure

Curtis Ventriss reported that at a meeting in San Francisco he ran into Dr. Art Naperstek, Chairman of the Neighborhood Commission (appointed by President Carter). Dr. Naperstek is very interested in what we have done in government structure. He would like to visit us and meet our commissioners.

On April 2, Curtis and John Campbell spoke before the Inland Action, Inc. in San Bernardino. This group is comprised of chief executive officers of the large companies in the San Bernardino area. Curtis and John both felt

that the presentation was well received and that there is a great reservoir of strength in the private sector that could be tapped to help bring about restructuring of government.

Efforts are being made to go forth in the preparation of a grant proposal to further the work of this task force.

Executive Organization of the County

John Campbell received a letter from a Joseph J. Micchiche, a public relations person who is involved in governmental affairs, suggesting that our commission appoint a task force on restructuring County government. John and he met to discuss the matter further and they will continue to communicate.

Other Community Relations

Dick Lillard reported the taping of a program by KCET Channel 28 on May 6, It's Your Government: Board of Supervisors. The panel members on this program are former supervisor James A. Hayes, Evon Gotlieb, Chairman of the County/City Consolidation Commission and Dick Lillard together with the KCET people, Dan Woolridge and Tom Thompson. The viewing will be on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, May 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.