

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

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 874-1491

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

November 26, 1975

Members Present:

Robert Downey, Chairman  
Gustave Anaya  
Catherine Burke  
John Byork  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Carolyn Ellner  
Richard Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo Majich  
Robert Ruchti  
Gloria Starr  
Larkin Teasley

Members Absent:

George Bodle  
Anne Collins  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton Gordon  
Jesse Robinson  
Warren Schmidt  
George Shellenberger  
Bryan Walker

Dr. Robert J. Downey  
Chairman

Gustave R. Anaya  
George E. Bodle  
Catherine Graeffe Burke  
John D. Byork  
Anne S. Collins  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Richard S. Gunther  
Mrs. Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo A. Majich  
Jesse L. Robinson  
Robert Ruchti, II  
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt  
George Shellenberger  
Mrs. Gloria Starr  
Larkin Teasley  
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche  
Executive Secretary  
John Campbell  
Staff Specialist  
Maxlynn Larsen  
Commission Secretary

Robert Downey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Executive Committee - Robert Downey reported that the Executive Committee met on November 19 and reviewed the report the staff had prepared on study requests. The urgency and priority of some of the studies have gone away since some time has elapsed since the request was made. Also some of the study requests were made by supervisors who are no longer on the Board.

The committee gave three studies top priority: (1) the financial study initiated by Supervisor Hahn, (2) the review of the commission structure in the Department of Public Social Services, (3) the request to expedite the study of the health related commissions and committees. The staff is now working on the financial study and the review of the commission structure in the Department of Public Social Services.

The Executive Committee also discussed the staff workload but came to no conclusions.

Task Force on Filling Vacant Elective Offices - Robert Ruchti, Chairman, reported as follows: The report was presented to the Board of Supervisors yesterday at the Board meeting. Supervisor Edelman disagreed with the recommendations of the task force. He feels the supervisors should have the prerogative of calling special elections to fill vacancies. The Board took the report under advisement, and it will be considered February 3.

Other people who attended the meeting and spoke in support of the E & E Commission's recommendations were: Willard Carr, Chamber of Commerce representative;

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J. Roy Holland, Regional Director - Local Affairs, California Taxpayers Association; and Mel Horton, Executive Vice President of the Property Owners Tax Association of California.

Robert Downey added that Supervisor Schabarum requested the County Counsel to draw up the legal language necessary for implementing the recommendations of the E & E Commission and also Supervisor Edelman's recommendations so the Board can see what they will be voting on.

Commission to Review Public Social Services - Burke Roche reported that the Grand Jury had sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the Commission to Review Public Social Services be kept in office for two more years to complete its work. The Board referred the request to the E & E Commission and the Chief Administrative Office and asked for a report in two weeks.

Since there was no time to appoint a task force or to conduct a regular study, the staff, in consultation with the chairman, prepared the report. This is one of the examples of not having enough time to review the report with the full commission, so the chairman must take the responsibility of the report.

The report recommended that since there was not enough time to go into an in-depth study, the Board should continue the Review Commission for one more year. In the meantime a more detailed study of the entire commission structure in the Department of Public Social Services could be performed. The Chief Administrative Office agreed with the recommendations. The Board adopted the report and directed the E & E Commission and the Chief Administrative Office to continue the study.

Task Force on Separate Auditor Department - Catherine Burke, Chairperson, reported. For the benefit of the new members, the 1973 Grand Jury recommended that the audit function be separated from the Auditor-Controller Department. The Board referred the recommendation to the E & E Commission. The task force concluded that a separate audit department was not practical in the County because there was no separation of the legislative and executive branches.

The task force made two recommendations: (1) The Auditor-Controller remain as a single department. (2) An independent audit of the Auditor-Controller, the CAO, and the Board offices could be conducted by an independent agency - the Grand Jury Auditor. It recommended consideration of additional funds for the Grand Jury to accomplish this.

The Board received the report and continued it for six months. In the meantime, the consideration of funds for the Grand Jury was to be taken up at budget time, but it was not. The Board adopted the report and stated that the funding would be considered in this coming year's budget deliberations. However, the Grand Jury is independent and can audit any department it wants to, so the additional funds aren't vital to the audit of these departments.

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Construction Projects Task Force - In the absence of the Chairman, Jerry Epstein, Burke Roche reported. When the Board of Supervisors adopted the E & E Commission report, which resulted in the establishment of the Facilities Department, the task force was requested to remain in existence for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the new department.

Mr. Koonce, Director of the department, gave a very favorable progress report to the task force. It was the decision of the task force to take a careful look at the progress report to see if the interested parties outside the department concurred with the conclusions.

The staff conducted 18 interviews with tenant departments, contractors, architects, and others. Although there are still some problems, which the Director is aware of, there has been substantial progress and improvement in the department. The task force will meet next week to review the final draft of the report before submitting it to the full commission.

Executive Secretary's Report - Mr. Roche reported that the Mayor had appointed a committee to look into the possibility of consolidating some of the City and County services, and Milton Gordon was appointed co-chairman. The committee invited Mr. Roche to attend its meeting to discuss the E & E Commission's Report on the Paramedic Committee. The City Fire Department is interested in consolidating its paramedic services with the County.

The committee will also review police services, parks and recreation, and other possible areas of consolidation. The co-chairmen have assurances from the Mayor that he is serious about the study, and he certainly seems to be concerned with eliminating some of the duplication.

Mr. Roche said that he feels the key problem is that there are two regional governments - Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County which, in a number of areas, duplicate each others services.

Chairman's Report - Robert Downey reported that Supervisor Schabarum had referred a letter to him from a member of the Business License Commission. The letter claimed that the commission's workload was too heavy for the number of meetings it was allowed to hold. It also requested that the stipend be returned to the \$100 per meeting which the members received before the Board of Supervisors adopted the E & E Commission's recommendations to cut the stipend to \$50 and limit the number of meetings.

The staff is checking out the statements with the County people, and John Campbell was going to attend the Business License Commission's meeting today, but it had been cancelled. More research will be done on this subject, and an answer will be prepared for Supervisor Schabarum.

Supervisor Schabarum has made his fourth appointment, so the commission is now at its full strength of 21 members. The new appointee, Douglas Ferguson, will be joining the commission at the next meeting.

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Dr. Downey appointed the following members to conduct the Management and Finances Study: Leo Majich, Chairman; Richard Gunther, Mary Jane Kidd, Robert Ruchti, George Shellenberger, Gloria Starr, and Larkin Teasley. He said that this study may eventually require two task forces to look into the many areas involved. At that time, he will decide whether to create another task force or divide this one.

He appointed the following members to conduct the Study of the Commission Structure in the Department of Public Social Services: Anne Collins, Chairperson; George Bodle, Jerry Epstein, Jesse Robinson, Warren Schmidt, and Bryan Walker.

Dr. Downey reported that Gus Anaya had missed three consecutive meetings, and unless the members voted to excuse him, the Administrative Code required the commission to report to the appointing Supervisor and request that the vacancy be filled.

Mr. Anaya said that he had had conflicts that prevented him from attending the meetings, but he feels that he can give more time to the commission in the future.

Catherine Burke moved that Gus Anaya be excused and be allowed to continue as a member. The motion was seconded by Leo Majich and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.