

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
AGENCY I

January 21, 1977
8:00 A.M.
Room 225

Indian Affairs
Highway Safety
Supplemental budgets o
- Workers' Compensation
- Flood Program

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dorothy Bradley.

Roll was taken - Representative Gunderson and Senator Story were absent.

Michael Koehreke(OBPP) made a brief summary, recommending that basically The Indian Affairs program should remain the same. He says they are not asking for more money, just 3 more people.

The Fiscal Analyst recommends mainly an extention at the current level.

Merle Lucas, Administrator of Indian Affairs, made an opening statement on behalf of the Indian Affairs Unit, established in 1973 to help and advise Indians in Montana, on such things as education, welfare, law and order, work opportunities, and general advice.

Senator Stevens asked about the Indian Talent Bank, what the function was, how many are in the Bank, etc.

Mr. Lucas stated one function was to identify all the educated Indian people, if they are employed, what they are now doing; in general keeping a record of the graduated Indian in Montana. There are now between 2 and 3 thousand Indians in the Bank.

Open discussion. After the questions put to Mr. Lucas were answered, this portion of the meeting was closed.

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HIGHWAY SAFETY -

The Budget Officer made his opening statement, recommending the current level of funding.

The Fiscal Analyst recommends the same base as last year with an expansion of \$500,000. -(\$180,000 on a 5 man unit in highway protection
- \$150,000 Law enforcement for the major cities in Montana
- \$100,000 in Driver Education Schools
- \$50,000 Engineering Assistance
- \$20,000 to develop training methods for drunken drivers

Albert Goke, Highway Safety Division, presented their reasons for the requested funds. He feels the highway death count by the end of the next biennial will reach 330. He feels they can hold the death count down to approximately 288 with the additional money. He feels they could use a portion of the traffic fine money to help off-set the money taken from the Highway Safety funds.

Senator Thomas asked Mr. Goke to rate the 5 areas in order of importance to him.

- No. 1 - 5 Man Unit
- No. 2 - \$100,000 for Schools
- No. 3 - \$150,000 - local law enforcement
- No. 4 - \$50,000 - Technical Assistance
- No. 5 - \$20,000 for research.

After a few more questions and answers, this portion of the meeting was ended.

PROPOSALS OF SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

The Fiscal Analyst feels that with the offset from Social Security, there should not be much of a shortage at the end of the year.

Mr. Murphy, Workers' Compensation, made his opening statements. He said from July 1, 1973 to March 1, 1974 the Carriers were allowed to take 100% offset on fatality claims. There are 22 death claims right now with the State making up the difference between the carriers and what the payments should be.

The supplementary is earmarked to pay back the carriers for what they did pay over what should have been paid by them. This should be a 1 time supplement.

Representative Bradley felt it looked like there could be a surplus at the end of the year, but Mr. Murphy said "No". He felt they would probably be overdrawn again.

After a few more questions, this portion was concluded.

FLOOD PROGRAM

Dan Worsdell spoke for the flood program. He said they received \$650,000 last year from the Fed. Government. They need 25% matching funds from the state.

Representative Marks asked why out of \$525,000 spent on disaster, was 3/4 of it spent on the Indians?

Mr. Worsdell answered that most of the disasters happened on Indian Land.

After a few more questions, this portion was concluded.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30, with a meeting set for 4:00 P.M. this afternoon.


Dorothy Bradley, Chairman