

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTED OFFICIALS
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 9, 1977
9:00 a.m.
Room 428A
State Capitol Building

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch with all members present, except Senator Lockrem, for executive session.

Youth Detention and Shelter Care Plan: Mr. Gosnell reported that Representative Meloy had not had an opportunity to get together with Representative Gerke, chairman of the subcommittee on institutions, which is the subcommittee that will probably be handling this program's request.

Citizens' Advisory Council on Energy: Mr. Gosnell said that he heard from the Governor's Office that there is "nothing lower than this on their priority list." Mr. Bob Long of the Governor's Office stated that they cannot see where they could make cuts and still do the job effectively; they do feel this council, however, is an important part of the energy program. He stated that the companies representing energy interests and influences from the commercial side can afford the representation; the question is: Do you want to balance this out? Mr. Long stated that the Legislative Council used a figure of \$200 per person to bring citizens from the state in for meetings; their request would be for \$150 a meeting for 4 meetings a year or \$600 per person per year. Adjustments could be made by the committee for the size of the council or the number of meetings held by the council. The Lt. Governor has asked Mr. Long to ask the legislature through this committee what kind of citizen input is wanted for this matter.

Senator Regan said she could not see paying a person representing a large industry who would be on business actually and who would be paid by the company and then this \$600 per year would be a bonus for him. Chairman Lynch also felt this was not right, and that the amount of \$150 per meeting was a high figure. There was a brief discussion of how much it would actually cost for individuals to come to Helena from various places throughout the state of Montana.

Senator Regan suggested that this council could be kept strictly public, and the funding could be provided only for the public members and not for persons representing companies, special interest groups, organizations or state agencies or newspapers. This was briefly discussed and the list of members currently on the council was reviewed using this guideline. It was found that about six members would be considered citizens at large, not representing interest groups, etc. Some of

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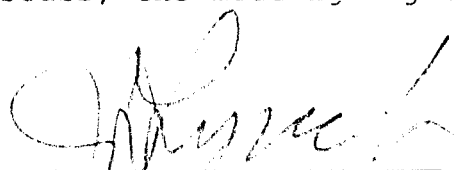
the organizations being represented might have to be funded just to ensure their representation, such as the Montana State Low Income Organization and the Indian Alliance. Other organizations in question were AAUW and others of that nature. Another area of concern was the individuals and organizations, etc. from Helena. There was a suggestion that language be drawn up so that individuals would have to take an oath of poverty to receive the payments; that idea was rejected by the committee members. It was also pointed out that this list is the council membership for last year; it may not be the same in the future. Many members felt they would like to fund this program for the benefit of the low income citizens and those private citizens who would like to be involved in this council. However, generally it was not felt that they would be able to pay only five or six members and eliminate the others and they could not justify granting funding for the benefit of the individuals representing special interest groups and the like, which would happen if the council was funded as requested.

There being no motion, no action was taken to change the decisions previously made.

Montana Computerized Criminal History System: Senator Regan made a motion that this system "do not pass"; that it not be funded. Since this was the action previously taken by the committee, Chairman Lynch determined that a new motion was not required and no vote was taken.

In conclusion, Mr. Gosnell indicated that the Administrative Code Committee has approached him requesting an additional \$8,000. Mr. Gosnell said that this should be brought up before the whole Appropriations Committee at the proper time.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



J.D. Lynch, Chairman

jlm