

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

January 9, 1979  
10:00 A.M.  
Room 104  
State Capitol Building

Subject: House Bill #1  
House Joint Resolution #1

Chairman Bardanouye called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Roll was taken and all members of the committee were present. Also present at the meeting were Representatives Jerry Metcalf and Harold Gerke and Diana Dowling and John LaFaver.

Chairman Bardanouye explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and compare the Feed Bill for this legislative session with the Feed Bill for the previous session.

Mrs. Dowling, the Director of the Legislative Council explained that in previous sessions the printing costs for the sessions have been divided between the House and Senate 2/3 and 1/3. This year all of those costs have been included in the budget for the Legislative Council and that all that appears in the Feed Bill for both the House and Senate is personal services, supplies, telephone, rent, equipment repair, maintenance. etc.

Representative Yardley inquired if the Legislative Council's portion of the Feed Bill is just for the Legislative session.

Mrs. Dowling responded that this is the case. This is for the 6 month period running from November through May.

Representative South asked how this compared with their budget for the session two years ago. Mrs. Dowling stated that they haven't compared them. They simply started from scratch in compiling their budget for this session.

Chairman Bardanouye stated that he had been approached with the question that the Feed bill was a million dollars over last session. Discussion followed between Representatives Metcalf, Gerke and various other members of the committee and the concensus of opinion is that the Feed bill most certainly will not run that high.

Chairman Bardanouye asked how they arrived at the money to be appropriated for the attaches. Mrs. Dowling responded that the Chief Clerk gave her the figure of \$350,000. This is approximately 25% over what they were paid last session.

Representative Marks asked how this compares with the Senate.

Mrs. Dowling said that it is hard to compare since they don't have any figures from the last session.

Chairman Bardanouve stated that it appears that very poor records have been kept in the past and it was suggested that they correct this situation. Mrs. Dowling stated that in preparing the Feed Bill as it was done this session, that in the future comparisons should be relatively simple.

Representative Gerke read from the minutes of the Joint committee who prepared the Feed Bill and explained from those minutes how the pay for the attaches had been established. He also said that the recommendation for the pay had been approved by both the Senate and the House. Mr. Gerke reported that as of this date, the House has 56 employees and the Senate has 51. There was discussion as to whether this would be the final number of employees and Chairman Bardanouve stated that he was under the impression that the House would be hiring 11 more employees. Representative Gerke stated that we won't be hiring 11 more unless it is found that we really need them.

Representative Marks asked for an explanation of the differential pay between the Chief Clerk and the Secretary of the Senate. Speaker Gerke responded that it had been recommended that these positions be at Grade 20. This recommendation has been adopted. The only difference is that the Chief Clerk is at Step 3 of that Grade because of prior service with the Legislature and the Secretary of the Senate is at Step 1, this being her first session. Chairman Bardanouve stated that it is important to keep the pay for the House and the Senate relatively the same.

Representative Marks inquired why it is necessary to have a Business Manager and an Assistant Business Manager in the Senate, when the Sergeant of Arms is taking care of the same duties in the House.

Discussion followed regarding this question. Mrs. Dowling explained that the Sergeant of Arms for the House and the Business Manager for the Senate handle the same duties.

Chairman Bardanouve asked Mr. LaFaver if he was prepared with his comparison of figures for past legislative sessions. At this point it was decided to recess the meeting until 3:00 P.M., January 9, 1979 in order to give Mr. LaFaver an opportunity to review his figures more carefully with the Chief Clerk and other officials.

A motion was made by Representative Moore to recess until 3:00 P.M. Motion Carried.

The meeting was recalled to order at 3:05 P.M. by Chairman Bardanouve. Mr. LaFaver resumed his explanation of the Feed Bill. He stated that he had worked with the Chief Clerk and the Secretary of the Senate to be sure that his figures that he had compiled would be accurate.

He stated that the total amount of the Feed Bill which was estimated before actual salaries were figured was \$374,500. After determining the actual salaries to be paid, the total figure is \$340,540., or a savings of \$33,950 in the House. The Senate will realize a savings of \$19,452. He went on to explain that the comparison was made on the number of employees who worked during the 1977 session; the hourly rate proposed in 1979; the grade and step for all employees during the 1977 session and the number of employees proposed for the 1979 session. He further explained the narrative portion of his comparison for the members of the committee. That part of his report shows that there is an overall increase of two employees for the House. He stated that many positions have increased by one step this session. The reasoning for this is that if an employee holds the same position this session as they held during the last session, they are granted a one-step increase. This is in keeping with the State pay plan. He added that additional duties and responsibilities to certain positions explained exceptions to this policy.

A short question and answer period followed the explanation of the narrative part of Mr. LaFaver's comparison.

Chairman Bardanouve asked for an explanation of new employees being started at a higher rate than ordinarily.

Representative Metcalf answered that new employees would be paid at the same Grade that their job was classified at in previous sessions, but that they would be starting at Step 1 of that Grade. Mr. Metcalf discussed at length the step level for secretaries who have worked before and those who are new employees with the session this year.

Chairman Bardanouve asked for an explanation of the duties of the proof readers. Mr. Metcalf stated that their major job is proofing the daily journal to be sure that everything is published correctly.

Representative Gerke concurred in this. He went on to say that this is one area that may need some attention. It had been requested that this session the proof readers be freed from the basic work that could be done by the legislators. It is felt that the legislators can do their proofing on their bills, etc., and this would free the proof readers for their work on the journals. It was suggested by Representative Gerke that in future sessions this problem be worked out, and that the Legislative Council could do the proofing. However, it was noted that the proof readers do not only proof read, they do filing and some related secretarial duties. Chairman Bardanouve noted that the Senate only has two proof readers this session and the House has 6.

Representative South stated that he feels that the Feed Bill is satisfactory and he is pleased that we have a pay plan to go by. This certainly simplifies the problem of setting the salaries. He said that he thinks there could be a problem in the future and that some thought should be given to giving the employees an increase for every year instead of an increase for every two years as is the practice at the present time.

Chairman Bardanoue again showed concern over the fact that the Feed Bill provides for 6 proof readers in the House and only 2 in the Senate. Representative Metcalf stated that it is always easier to provide for more than to try and get more money at a later date. He suggested that the Feed Bill be left as is. He also stated that the Feed Bill provides for some overtime, but that we will probably have more overtime than we anticipated because of the late sessions. Discussion followed on the overtime for the employees.

Following this discussion, Representative Menahan made a motion that House Bill #1 be passed. Motion was seconded by Representative Manning. Motion carried unanimously. House Bill #1 is passed.

At this point Representative Menahan asked for an explanation of the legislative interns. Mrs. Dowling explained that the interns from the university are paid from the Legislative Council. The interns that are hired by the representatives themselves are paid by the representatives.

Following this discussion, Representative Lund moved that House Joint Resolution #1 be passed. Representative Waldron seconded that motion. Motion carried. House Joint Resolution #1 is passed.

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

  
Chairman

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Secretary