

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY 12, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chairman, Steve Waldron with the following members present:

Chairman, Steve Waldron
Senator Gary Aklestad
Representative Bill Hand
Representative Robert Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Pete Story

Others present were: Harold Fryslie, Director of DCA; Martin Mangan, Deputy Director of DCA; David E. Wanzenried, Field Assistant of DCA; Dan Worsdall, Administrator of Centralized Services; Merle R. Lucas, Coordinator of Indian Affairs; Hal Price, Administrator of the Planning Division; R. Byron Roberts, Assistant Administrator of the Planning Division; John H. Allen, Administrator of Human Resources Division; Herb Bauer, Community Action Bureau; Gary Wiebe, DCA; Curt Nichols, LFA and Carolyn Doering, Executive Budget Office.

Carolyn Doering, Executive Budget Office, handed out revised budgets for the Field Assistants. It has been renamed Community Development Program and the budget revises the number of FTEs from 5.5 to 4 and total funding from \$132,368.00 to \$107,703.00.

Senator Story inquired if "line iteming" would be utilized with regards to the Department of Community Affairs budget. Chairman Waldron did not feel it was appropriate at this time and it would be discussed with regards to other programs at a later date.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

This is a relatively small division. It is designated as a unit and handled directly out of the Director's office. Curt Nichols, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recommends that the division be continued on its current level. The difference between the LFA and the Executive Budget seems to be in the projection of current level. The Executive has used different factors and has some reduction in travel. The LFA has added several hundred dollars for travel purposes.

Carolyn Doering added that the Executive did cut some travel funds. This was done because of the Governor's freeze on funds. Instead of cutting 15% of the travel funds however, they cut the travel back to the 1978 level. The LFA Budget recommends \$7,800.00 for travel and the Executive Budget

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allows \$7,357.00.

Merle Lucas, Coordinator of Indian Affairs, advised the committee that there is never enough travel money. He has only been able to make three trips to the reservations in the last two years. The division has to make trips once a month to Billings to meet with the elected officials of all seven tribes. In these meetings the division representative serves as a link between the state government and tribal concerns. The division also sends a representative to state meetings and there is one annual out of state meeting.

Chairman Waldron expressed concern over the travel cuts and stated the committee will have to consider it. Representative Marks requested a copy of travel expenses from the Indian Affairs.

Representative Hand inquired of Mr. Lucas what exactly the program did. Mr. Lucas gave a handout which explained in detail what the program does which included working with the judiciary branches, working on a booklet and a previous program, the talent bank.

BIA can not handle the programs the Indian Affairs handle because they can not fund any programs off the reservation.

HUMAN RESOURCES

There is very little difference between budgets in this program. LFA cut out \$150,000.00 of interest from the Coal Tax Trust Fund used for weatherization. Federal sources will be funding \$5,000,000.00 for weatherization in the next biennium. LFA is not sure the Legislature meant for this funding to be continued. Carolyn Doering responded by saying that weatherization is energy related and it should be continued. Senator Story commented this might be a program that could be cut without hurting anyone.

John Allen commented on the need for continued funding of the weatherization program for at least one more biennium. This would be until the confusion at the federal level was worked out. The money is needed at the local level. Many of the workers are CETA people and they have to be flowed through to a permanent position. Money is needed to supply these positions. The committee is not obligated to match any federal funds; however if the Community Service Administration remains in the program funds would have to be matched.

Several committee members questioned the work done by the weatherization program. It was established that work was

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done according to need. The need is determined by an energy evaluation.

One-stop Human Resource Councils were discussed. One such office is located in Missoula and it serves a great deal of people very effectively. John Allen told the committee he had requested funds for that type of programming; but the Executive Branch did not feel this was the proper time. Chairman Waldron requested Mr. Allen to develop a plan for this type of program. Chairman Waldron mentioned that perhaps there should be more supervision over the Human Resource Development Councils. The oversight just isn't as good as it should be.

Programs under the Human Resource Development Council are contracted out. There are about 200 on staff through the contracts. Again Chairman Waldron commented on his concern over the lack of oversight of these contracted jobs. Mr. Allen explained that there was a staff of monitors and that contractors were audited annually. He felt they did a good job of watching the contractors and he was not aware of any management problems at this time. Representative Marks requested a list of how many people are being employed under these contracts by Monday.

Curt Nichols explained non-operating costs are grants where the funds are spent by local agencies and merely passed through the state.

PLANNING BUDGET

The difference between the Executive and LFA budgets are: Executive recommends cutting one planner position and they have appropriated extra funds in case the Coal Tax Fund revenues exceed the estimates. The cut of one FTE came from the Hiring Freeze. One other FTE was transferred to the Coal Board.

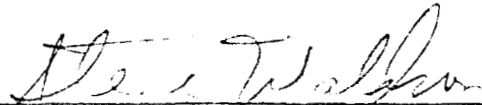
Mr. Hal Price gave some of the duties of the Planning Budget. He did feel that the Planning Division could get along with 20 FTEs. Mr. Price and Dan Worsdall explained that the amount of money from the Coal Tax Fund was set up by a formula, a certain percent is given to the Planning Division to pass on to local communities. The only reason the Executive Branch appropriated extra funds was in case the coal tax fund exceeded estimates, a budget amendment would not be needed. It will not affect the amount received.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. until Monday morning
at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Chairman, Steve Waldron
Approved

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