MINUTES OF THE MEETING STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 21, 1985

The meeting of the State Administration Committee was called to order by Chairman Sales at 7:30 a.m. on the above date in Room 317 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Seventeen members were present with Rep. Garcia excused and left his votes with the Chairman. (Votes attached to the minutes.)

The Committee went into executive session on the bills heard on February 20, 1984.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 780: Rep. Peterson moved that HB 780 DO NOT PASS, seconded by Rep. Compton. The motion CARRIED with Reps. O'Connell, Garcia, Smith and Pistoria voting "no". The vote was 14-4.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 785: Rep. Harbin moved to TABLE HB 785, second being received. Chairman Sales remarked that perhaps they could clean up the language. Rep. Harbin stated that he had talked to the sponsor, Rep. Addy, who suggested that the Committee table the bill as he didn't think it would work. Rep. Moore, however, stated that the firefighters had not asked for anything this year. The motion To Table CARRIED 14-4 with Reps. Fritz, Moore, Pistoria and O'Connell voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29: Rep. Fritz moved that HJR 29 DO NOT PASS, seconded by Rep. Cody. Rep. Moore made the SUBSTITUTE MOTION DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Smith. The proposed amendment was studied by the Committee which consisted of page 1, line 21, following "purpose" inserting ", without exception,". Rep. Harbin asked why this was inserted when on line 23 it says "with certain exceptions". Rep. Sands said it was because the qualifying sentence at the end of (1) would modify the sole purpose. It would only apply to a balanced federal budget with the amendment.

Rep. Jenkins moved <u>ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT</u>, seconded by Rep. Phillips. Motion adopting the amendments CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The Substitute Motion Do Pass, CARRIED on a vote of 12-6. See Roll Call Vote attached.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 788: Rep. Cody moved that HB 788 DO NOT PASS, seconded by Rep. Campbell. Rep. Cody said this was a Billings Relief Act of 1985 and said she had some questions about the handout from Ellen Feaver. Rep. Harbin said this bill was only to attempt to consolidate some of those that exist in Billings.

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985 Page 2

Rep. Campbell said it would cost thousands to save less than that. Rep. Phillips questioned the possibility of construction to consolidate. Chairman Sales restated what Ellen Feaver said - that they couldn't consolidate these offices unless this is in the statute but he didn't want the Appropriations Committee to allow any more FTE's.

Rep. Harbin said that the present law says they can consolidate any offices located in Helena. This bill would amend it to read throughout the state with the approval of the department of administration. At the present they can't do this outside of Helena.

Rep. Harbin made the <u>SUBSTITUTE MOTION DO PASS</u>, seconded by Rep. Fritz. Motion CARRIED with Reps. Cody, Campbell, O'Connell and Jenkins voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 796: Rep. O'Connell moved that HB 796 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Moore.

Rep. Phillips brought out the long range impact on the counties. Motion CARRIED with Reps. Fritz, Compton, Sales and Smith voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 806: Rep. O'Connell moved that HB 806 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Pistoria.

Rep. O'Connel said that the present law is very discriminatory. Rep. Phillips said it violates every principle of management and would create a big "dog fight". Tom Schneider, MPEA, said it gives the right to negotiate the classification and the right to appeal a grade level. Presently, only the unions can negotiate classifications.

Rep. Peterson asked who they would appeal to. There are three steps of appeal including to the personnel division and the final step would be the Board of Personnel Appeals. They can only appeal classification not the grade level. Rep. Peterson asked who sets the grade level. Mr. Schneider said the state pay plan sets the level. The personnel division sets the classification within the grade levels.

Rep. Pistoria said that the bill is needed and Rep. Peterson said she would certainly want the right to appeal. The motion CARRIED 13-5 with Reps. Compton, Jenkins, Sales, Holliday and Phillips voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 814: Rep. Cody had some extensive amendments which were not in writing. The Committee suggested that she have the amendments typed up and brought to the Committee. Rep. Phillips moved TO TABLE HB 814. The motion CARRIED, with Rep. Holliday voting "no".

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985
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The executive session being completed, the Committee then went into the hearing portion of the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33: Rep. Bardanouve, District #16, said that the Governor has established a Capital Finance Advisory Council to keep an eye on the debts of Montana and this Council is comprised of primarily heads of departments. Rep. Bardanouve said he had talked to the State financial advisor in Minneapolis and had asked him if he had any concerns with Montana. He said he did have some concerns which are outlined in the Resolution (a) through (g). The primary concern is the various departments issuing bonds without any real coordination. There would be a central coordinating agency or council in government to coordinate all issuing of bonds and this could maybe save some money.

PROPONENTS: Dave Ashley, who was on the staff of the State Capital Finance Advisory Council supported the bill and said they are ready and willing to undertake the directives in the Resolution.

Dale Harris, Department of Commerce, speaking for Keith Colbo, said they are doing a very good job of coordinating the debt in the State but there is work that needs to be done.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33: There were no questions from the Committee.

In closing, Rep. Bardanouve said this Resolution would be an attempt to request the Capital Finance Advisory Council to look at some of the concerns of the financial advisor.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 875: Rep. Jack Ramirez, District #87, said ther e was a letter directed to the secretary of state asking for some changes in absentee ballots, the letter being from the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Four or five of the suggestions were not included in Rep. Thoft's bill that was before this Committee. One of the suggestions is the elimination of the oath on page 2. On page 3 it permits simultaneous application for registration for all elections during the year. Several other changes were suggested to which he said he had no problem. This bill would make it easier for those overseas to participate in the voting process.

PROPONENTS: Sue Barttlett, Clerk and Recorder of Lewis and Clark County, said if the oath requirement is not eliminated the State may be sued by the Department of Defense. This bill also removes the 50 day limit on page 3 as it is not feasible. She said with those recommendations they would support the bill.

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985
Page 4

Larry Akey, Chief Deputy for Secretary of State Jim Waltermire said they supported HB 875 with the changes suggested.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 875: Rep. Fritz asked if this bill has any affect on the other absentee ballot of Rep. Thoft's. Rep. Ramirez said that this bill would supplement that bill.

Without further comment, Rep. Ramirez closed his presentation.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 842: Rep. Earl Lory, sponsor, said this bill would create a state employee contingency fund from 1/2 of 1 percent of the unexpended spending authority at the end of each fiscal year. He said this bill came about as a result of the retirements in Sonny Omholt's office when Mr. Omholt retired. Some of those employees had 26 years in that office and this created a bill to that office of \$64,000 to pay sick leave, annual leave, etc. Some offices don't have vacancy savings and are unable to and any funds that cannot be carried over must revert to the general fund. One-half of one percent of these reverted funds would be available for agencies that did not have vacancy savings, etc. to draw upon for termination liabilities. This would be a special contingency fund to cover these problems.

PROPONENTS: Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employees'
Association, supported the bill. He said he would like to see local governments have the same option. He believed this problem is going to get greater and greater in the future.

Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said that the termination of long term employees does present some difficulties for the administering agency. Some positions can be left vacant for a period of months in order to have vacancy savings to cover this. He suggested that each agency handle their own fund but thought it was a good concept.

Sue Romney, Montana University System, supported the bill also.

Les Graham, Department of Livestock, supported the concept but had some questions of monitoring the fund.

Bob Robinson, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, supported the bill but had some technical problems with it. He said they have a number of federal funds and earmarked funds that they handle. They would be unable to transfer those funds to this contingency fund. He suggested language to change the specified amount to a calculated amount.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985 Page 5

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 842: Rep. Phillips asked Rep. Lory his thoughts on letting the various agencies handle their money. Rep. Lory said that this bill would spread the liability across the whole state and the departments could ask for the use of it. Rep. Jenkins asked if these are unexpended funds from any department. Rep. Lory said that any left over funds must revert to the fund from which they were appropriated. We would just be taking one-half of one percent of those unexpended funds and said it would even out eventually.

A discussion was held concerning earmarked funds or federal funds and Mr. Flynn said that was the reason for his suggestion that they handle their own funds - there are some fairly stringent restrictions on some funds that the department receives. He said he would question whether some of these funds could be used for this purpose and that each agency should have control of these funds.

There were no further questions from the Committee.

In closing, Rep. Lory said this would take care of the unfunded liability of approximately \$1 million in the state. He said there may be some minor problems but they could be worked out.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 871: Rep. Jan Brown, District #46, read her prepared testimony which explains the purpose of the bill. This would give the governor the authority to issue a Medal of Honor in cases of exceptional bravery. Her testimony is attached as Exhibit #2.

PROPONENTS: There were no proponents.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

<u>DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 871</u>: Rep. Harbin asked if there were going to be any criteria established. Rep. Brown said that would be left strictly up to the governor's office.

Rep. Brown closed without further comment.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 830: Rep. Janet Moore, District #65, commented on the bill which was a committee bill to replace HB 204 which was killed in Committee.

Greg Groepper, Property Assessment Division of the Department of Revenue, said that this bill was adopted to resolve the situation of state appraisers doing work on the side. A subcommittee was appointed in this Committee to work on the bill. He said it was a conflict of interest for these people to be selling real estate as well as working for the department of revenue. He had issued a policy statement to prohibit this practice when he went to work for the department of

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985
Page 6

revenue, however, it has come to his attention that there are other employees of the State that should be included so an amendment was proposed to change department of revenue to read state employees. He said they did support the bill in its original form but would be a stronger bill with the amendment. Rep. O'Connell asked if this would prohibit them from making appraisals for purposes of value.

Mr. Groepper said they are not allowed to do that for money. It is the public perception of what is going on and as State employees they must be above reproach.

PROPONENTS: Rep. Pistoria wished to be on the record as a proponent because he presented HB 204. This situation came to light in 1981 and has been an ongoing situation since then. He agreed this is a better way of handling the problem than HB 204.

OPPONENTS: George Stiner, appraiser for the Department of Revenue, Great Falls, was opposed to the bill. He said there are already administrative rules that cover this problem. It is also unfair and maybe unconstitutional because it tells individuals and groups what they can do. A right-of-way appraisal for the department of highways can do part-time appraisals, liquor store vendors can be bartenders. Section 2-2-121 covers this problem. A policy was set on 9/14/81 that made this illegal for them. There is a case still pending in district court appealing this.

Shannon Wadsworth, Department of Revenue, said he sold real estate and appraisals on the side and said the bill would be discriminatory against them. The vast majority of State employees do some type of part-time work. He did not believe their right to make a living on the side could be taken away.

Mike Morotonio, Department of Revenue, appeared in opposition to the bill.

Rep. Bud Campbell, District #48, said this would be making a rule into law and he had problems with that. He said that a police officer can take employment at night as a security guard and didn't think there was a conflict of interest there.

Rep. O'Connell, Great Falls, wished to be on the record as an opponent.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 830: Rep. Cody asked Mr. Stiner if, in his job as appraiser and assessor of property, he had gone to school. Mr. Stiner said he had gone to schools in Oregon, Denver, Wisconsin, New Jersey and was qualified with the VA, banks in Great Falls, etc. He said that he had paid for the schools himself but did get the time off from his

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985
Page 7

State job to attend the schools.

Rep. Harbin asked Mr. Groepper how many licensed appraisers there are outside the Department of Revenue to which Mr. Groepper said he had no idea. Rep. Harbin then asked what the licensing criteria was for licensing appraisers. Mr. Groepper said that for the department of revenue they have to be certified. They have to have one week's schooling, for which the department pays the expenses. For commercial buildings it would be an additional week which they pay for also.

In answer to Rep. Harbin's first question concerning licensed appraisers, Mr. Wadsworth stated that there are no licensed appraisers in the state because the State does not license appraisers.

Mr. Groepper said that those appearing here today are long time employees of the department of revenue and they have gone out on their own and acquired certification for FNMA, etc. If department employees today do not get certified within one year they are not kept on with the department.

There were no further questions from the Committee.

Rep. Moore closed without further comment.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 864: Rep. Harry Fritz, District #56, sponsor, said that Rep. Hannah's bill would have deleted the requirement that names be rotated on the ballots. He did agree that on paper ballots that must be printed they could eliminate the rotation of names and they could determine the arrangement of candidates' names by drawing lots.

PROPONENTS: Sue Barttlett, Clerk and Recorder for Lewis and Clark County, said that this bill came out as a result of the Hannah bill that they had asked to be introduced. She said that very conservatively, the cost of rotating only the paper ballot in the 1984 primary was \$264 or \$2.32 per ballot; in the general election it was \$216 or \$1.26 per ballot used. She also suggested an amendment on page page 3 (2) of the bill to change the Soil Conservation Services to coincide with the rest of the paper ballots.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 864: Rep. Cody asked Ms. Barttlett how these people requesting an absentee are informed that they have a choice of a paper ballot. Ms. Barttlett said they do not inform them specifically of that choice.

Rep. Harbin said that under this bill the paper ballots would have to be prepared only under one format at a tremendous cost.

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985 Page 8

He asked if there is a law prohibiting using a copy machine. Mrs. Barttlett said there are statutory requirements for the ballots, such as numbers on the detachable stub to correspond with the number on the ballot, each ballot must be stamped, etc.

Rep. Peterson stated that if this bill is passed the names would still be rotated on the machine ballots but not on the paper ballots.

Rep. Garcia asked Rep. Fritz what he meant by "lot" in the title. He said that this term could mean almost anything, however, Rep. Fritz said it meant drawing them out of a hat. Rep. Nelson said that perhaps some other word could be used other than "lot".

Without further comment, Rep. Fritz closed his presentation.

The Committee then went into executive session.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 864: Rep. Phillips moved that HB 864 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Peterson. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 830: Rep. Pistoria moved that HB 830 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Harbin.

Rep. Jenkins moved ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS, seconded by Rep. Frtiz. There was concern among the members about stopping this practice in the future and it was the consensus that a policeman acting as a security guard was detached from his normal duties. An appraiser is not detached from his normal profession.

Rep. Campbell moved TO TABLE HB 830. Rep. Harbin stated that was an UNDEBATABLE motion. The undebatable motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rep. Jenkins said it is a conflict of interest with money involved when these appraisers do appraisal work on the side for a fee.

The original Motion Do Pass, CARRIED 13-4. (See Roll Call Vote attached).

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 871: Rep. O'Connell moved that HB DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Moore. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 842: Rep. Fritz moved that HB 842 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Jenkins.

Rep. O'Connell stated that there were 27 employees in

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985
Page 9

Sonny Omholt's office and the agency could not meet all the annual leave, sick leave, etc.

Rep. Nelson asked how many situations there are like this or is this just an isolated situation, however, it was brought out that it could happen with a change of governor. Rep. Holliday said the bill should be amended to calculated amount rather than a percentage but Rep. Harbin said the federal regulations prohibit these funds going into this fund. Rep. Fritz didn't think this was just an isolated case.

The motion Do Pass CARRIED with Reps. Campbell and Sales voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 875: Rep. Phillips moved that HB 875 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Fritz.

Rep. Phillips moved <u>ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS</u>, seconded by Rep. Harbin. (See Committee Report attached). Amendments ADOPTED with Rep. Campbell voting "no".

The motion Do Pass As Amended, CARRIED with Rep. Campbell voting "no".

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33: Rep. Harbin moved that HJR 33 DO PASS, seconded by Rep. Cody. Motion CARRIED with Reps. Hayne and Campbell voting "no".

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29: Rep. Peterson asked the Chairman to allow her to change her vote on HJR 29. She had spoken to the sponsor of the bill and had told him originally that she would vote to get HJR 29 out of the Committee and onto the floor of the House for debate, however, her vote was not needed to do so, and asked that she be allowed to register her official vote as "no" on the Do Pass motion. Rep. Peterson was allowed to change her original vote to "no" with Chairman Sales, Nelson, Smith and Campbell voting "no".

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 421: Rep. Smith told the committee that HB 421 had been tabled at an earlier meeting and asked the committee if they were willing to take it off the table. Rep. Harbin moved TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE, seconded by Rep. Smith. Motion CARRIED with Rep. Campbell voting "no".

Rep. Smith had been assigned, along with Rep. Harbin, to check with the workers' compensation division regarding the premium for this coverage. A revised fiscal note was requested and the premium is now \$822 against the former \$200. He said this is a fair bill and they do need this bill - these people have to be covered. The money is coming from the Aeronautics earmarked revenue fund and not the general fund.

State Administration Committee February 21, 1985 Page 10

Rep. Nelson moved that HB 421 <u>DO PASS</u>, seconded by Rep. Moore. Motion CARRIED with Reps. Cody, Campbell, Phillips and Sales voting "no".

There being no further business the Committee adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

WALTER R. SALES, Chairman



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

780 - 424 785 - NO 788 - 400 796 - 400 214 - 900 HJR-29 - NO

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DAILY ROLL CALL

State Administration COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 2/2//85

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
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V-Chairman Helen O'Connell	•	·	
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Compton, Duane			
Cody, Dorothy	/		
Fritz, Harry	1		
Garcia, Rodney			
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Harbin, Raymond	/		
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STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

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ROLL CALL VOTE

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Page 1 of 2

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Walter R. Sales, Chairman.

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

Page 2 of 2

State Administration BB 830

Pebruary 21 19 35

5) Page 1, line 14.

Strike: "department of revenue"

Insert: "state"

6) Page 1, line 15.
Strike: "for" through "purposes"

7) Page 1, line 13. Strike: "department"

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ROLL CALL VOTE

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CS-31

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

		February 21	19 8.5
MR. SPEAKER			
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STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

Walter R..Sales Chairman.

Chairman.

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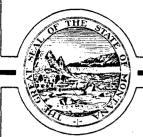
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HJR 29, Introduced (white), be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 21.
 Following: "purpose"
 Insert: ", without exception,"

Ex. 21

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK



CAPITOL STATION

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

(406) 449-2043

February 21, 1985

TO:

House State Administration Committee

Les Graham, Executive Secretary

To the Board of Livestock

RE: H.B. 842

We are neither a proponent nor opponent of H.B. 842.

We are concerned about several aspects of this proposal and have a suggestion as well.

We are not convinced that the establishment of a new fund along with the associated budget, audit and reporting costs is the answer to the problem. The question of how to monitor this fund as it effects special revenue accounts (non-general fund) where the monies may be earmarked for specific purposes bу statute. These funds must be maintained separately.

Perhaps the prevailing question in our minds is the administration of the fund. No doubt, the Department of Administration will need administrative costs. Will this lead to agency assessments in the future? We are concerned that it will, just as the surplus property bureau and others now do.

Employee terminations and associated costs, are always a concern to us all. Agencies may not budget ahead for this cost, and yet must pay when the time comes.

There is a problem each legislative session because the agencies need budget amendments or supplementals to pay these costs.

February 21, 1985 RE: H.B. 842 Page 2

We believe there is a clear cut, simple way to approach this problem which can be before the appropriation committee for approval each session.

- 1.) Develop a one page document with copies. This document would indicate all the final costs associated with the position being vacated. The following signatures would be required.
- a.) Administrator of P.E.R.S.
- b.) Retiring employee.
- c.) Agency involved.
- d.) Governor's Budget Office.
- e.) Legislative Fiscal Analyst Office.

Under the system neither an employee nor the agency could in effect misrepresent the costs. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst would have the information on a single sheet to present in legislative form. Agencies would not have to appear before hearings and spend hours of legislative time as well.

We think this would be an acceptable approach.

Ex, #2

House Bill 871 State Administration 2/21/85

House Bill 871 establishes a Montana Medal of Honor to be awarded by the Governor for acts of extraordinary courage.

The idea for this bill came from an editorial in the Helena <u>Independent</u>

Record after Harry Shryock of Polson was shot and killed during a

hostage standoff at the Polson airport in January 1984.

The Governor issued a citation to Mr. Shryock's family, but he has no authority to issue an award such as a Medal of Honor in cases of exceptional bravery such as this one.

Other states that do have state Medals of Honor include Iowa, Arkansas, New York and Tennessee.

House Bill 871 just provides the statutory authorization for the Governor to present a Montana Medal of Honor to any Montanan who displays extraordinary courage in a situation threatening the lives of one or more people. It would be up to the Governor to decide what type of medal would be awarded and to whom.

I would encourage a "do pass" for House Bill 871.

Jan Brown H.D. 46

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