

MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 14, 1961

State affairs committee met in Room 522, at 1:30 P.M. The chairman called the meeting to order and reviewed the calendar of events as concerns hearings on specific bills.

The chairman then stated that House Bill 110 would be considered. Mr. Kissick inquired if there is any guarantee that after passage of this bill the engineers might come in and want to write their own examination. It was established that the bill passed a few days ago, restricting rules and regulations, would govern any changes. Mr. Bisbee inquired if this isn't a form of "closed shop", and Mr. Underwood stated that he was thinking of the "trades"; that this is a different category--a professional category. Mr. Bisbee inquired if the engineers will come back with a bill to make it mandatory that small cities and counties must hire licensed engineers, and Mr. Underwood stated that although he couldn't speak for the society, he didn't think so, and that personally he would be opposed to such legislation. Mr. Wallace stated that the public seems to always be brought in and that perhaps something should be heard from the "public" if it is going to benefit them so much. Mr. Marshall stated that this is in the "public interest" rather than a benefit; that it is to keep incompetent operators out and therefore protect the public. Mr. Doyen, Mr. Mikesic and Mr. Ford discussed the present qualifications of an "engineer" as opposed to the proposed qualifications. Mr. Ford stated that it was his understanding that it is a protection to our graduate engineers who come from our two engineering colleges, supported and maintained by the taxpayers money. The Chairman pointed out that the public doesn't appear because the members of the committee are really the public, representing the people at home; that it is the responsibility of the committee to do what is in their best interest, and what you think they want. Mr. Unruh stated that we are dealing with "closed shop" only if we tell people they must have a licensed engineer; and further stated that he was not afraid to go along with this bill. Mr. Wallace stated that he wasn't objecting to standards but wondered if there are specific cases where people have been damaged by poor engineering and if the situation would be helped by up-grading the profession. Mr. Underwood quoted from a memo from the highway department which stated the requirements of the department, and pointed out that their requirements are just what this bill seeks to do.

Mr. Ford moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace, that the bill be reported out with the recommendation it be passed. Motion carried by ballot vote, 13 yes to 2 no. (~~see envelope attached for ballots.~~)

Mr. Taylor stated that H.B. 223, introduced today, would require special work and study, and appointed the following sub-committee to study same, and make recommendations: Miss Jacquart, Chairman; and members: Mr. Behee and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Underwood discussed the merits of a device to detect gas leakage, in line with a previous discussion by Mr. Fribley. He distributed material for study, and explained how such a device would operate. Various members of the committee voiced their feeling--Mr. Unruh stated that he was opposed to a mandatory measure, but felt this policy should be followed on a voluntary basis. Mr. Johnson stated that he was opposed to pushing a measure dealing in a specific kind of product. It was felt that when Mr. Fribley returns additional discussion should be had.

Mr. Unruh moved, seconded by Mr. Bisbee, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.