

MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 16, 1961

State Affairs Committee met in Room 529 at 1:30 P.M. Proponents of H.B. 98 were present, and Mr. Fribley, author of the bill made preliminary remarks and introduced Harry Jolley who spoke on behalf of the State Board of Embalming. He stated that the present law has been in effect since 1907, and the proposed measure seeks to bring the law up to the changing conditions. This proposed law is now in operation in other states, i.e. Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota. Mr. Jolley stated that it was the feeling of his group that the law would be a good thing, not only for the public, but for the profession as well. The proposed measure would do away with separate licenses for directors and embalmers, and would combine the qualifications, giving until April, 1962, to those now in business, to bring their own qualifications up to standard. Mr. Jolley felt that it would tend to attract others to the profession and to abolish the promotional type of business in this profession.

Mr. Ford inquired into the grandfather clause, and his question was explained by Mr. Jolley. Mr. Underwood inquired if all original statutes are being repealed under this measure, and it was established that it is. Mr. Unruh inquired if there exists any cases of mal-practice, and Mr. Jolley admitted that it sometimes happens, and that he feels that the dual-licensing might be a factor. He feels with this law everyone in the state will be adequately trained for the job they purport to be doing. Mr. Bisbee inquired if they don't have training now, and it was established that the present program is a 4-year one; 3 years in liberal arts and science, during which time certain requirements are met as set out by the National Board; and one year at the KU Medical Center, dealing in law, history of mortuary science, embalming, etc., concluded by a thesis. Then he must spend a year in apprenticeship. The funeral director need not have any training of any kind, and his duties are limited. The licensed embalmer may act in all phases of the business. Mr. Peppercorn inquired who comprises the board, and it was established that 3 members are appointed by the Governor; President, Don Couffern; Vice Presidency, John Morris, and Secy.-Treas., Hillyard. Mr. Kissick quoted from a letter opposing the bill "because it is like the one in South Dakota". Mr. Jolley stated this is not the same bill at all. Mr. Crownover asked for a definition of funeral director and embalmer, and Mr. Jolley replied that the embalmer is qualified to do embalming, while the director can do everything around the funeral home except the actual embalming. Mr. Johnson inquired if there is any control on charges, and if licenses could be removed in the event of flagrant overcharges. Mr. Jolley stated that removal of licenses is a serious matter, and that if a party felt he had been damaged, his recourse was in the courts; however, if charges were made against a home more than once, then the board would probably consider some steps. Statements were concluded; those in attendance retired (see attached list) and the committee passed over the bill for consideration at a later date.

The Committee adjourned to Room 522 for a continuation of the regular meeting.

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman introduced Mr. Baringer to discuss his HCR 23. He explained what his resolution seeks to do--protect children from assuming that all acts of their hero or heroine is good and proper. He stated that you can't legislate morality and that is why he submitted a resolution instead of a bill.

Mr. Johnson, who is in the business of television sales, stated that there are other aspects of television viewing that he considers even more detrimental--killing, sex, etc.--and that he thinks the best control is the parent with the on-off knob. Mr. Musseman stated that he has grandchildren, and they are not so naive as to believe that the stars are actually drinking alcoholic beverages. Mr. Baringer replied that it is the implication that does the damage. Mr. Ford stated that this business of alcohol has been going on over 2,000 years and that it just won't work to try to control it. Mr. Unruh stated that he respects Mr. Baringer for what he is trying to do; that the children need to be and must be protected; that CBS gave enough weight to the proposal that Mr. Baringer appeared on a national hook-up interview. Mr. Bisbee commended Mr. Baringer for this resolution and stated that in all his years of working with youth that the highest example we can set is what our goal should be. Mr. Peppercorn stated that he believes books depicting violence, drinking, etc. were very bad too. Mr. Ford brought up the thought of advertising alcoholic beverages on television also, and Mr. Baringer pointed out that the resolution didn't deal with advertising. The resolution was passed over for consideration at a later time.

The Chairman stated that business was beginning to press, and asked the privilege of setting up evening hearings on the FEPC Bill because of the length of time that would be required to hear both opponents and proponents. The dates will be set up later. Mr. Taylor appointed a sub-committee to consider H.B. 243, as follows: Mr. Unruh, Chairman; Members, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Crownover. Mr. Taylor stated that this proposal was sent up by the Governor's office, and that it might well require amendments even insofar as the Governor's feelings were concerned.

Meeting adjourned.

Sign your Names
Please

Kenan(?)

~~Paul H. H. H. H.~~ Dept Mort Science KU
John R. M. M. M. - Funeral Director - Topka
Roy Jessendorf, Embalmer + Director - Onaga
E. J. Jordan, Embalmer + Director
~~Ray E. Daringer~~
H. Jolley
ene Parker