

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

The thirty-second meeting of the Education Committee convened at 3:30 P.M., Wednesday afternoon, March 27, 1963 in Room 529 with Vice-Chairman Dixon presiding. Chairman Bower was present but suffered from a throat ailment which impaired his speech.

The meeting was called for the express purpose of hearing proponents and opponents of Senate Bill No. 161 concerning Educational Television.

The Chair introduced Senator Laurin W. Jones, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, who spoke to the Committee about Senate Bill No. 161, going through the bill section by section, especially relating studies and conclusions arrived at by their Committee.

The Chair introduced Mr. David Grove, Principal of Wellborn Elementary School who spoke in favor of the bill. Their school is fortunate enough to be able to use the programs of the educational television station of Kansas City, Missouri. He explained the many ways they are able to use these facilities, and that their costs have been low. He further stated that he did not feel it would ever take the place of teachers but would supplement and enrich their work.

Mr. Verne Hoisington of the Citizens Committee for Better Education, spoke in favor of the bill. Their Committee suggested an amendment in Section 3, Line 23 ", who shall be within the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act"; they felt that this provision might exclude qualified, professional people from participating in this program whose services would be greatly needed. They further suggested

that the State Superintendent might be considered Secretary of the T. V. authority rather than the Chairman, thereby economically utilizing the state office, and the Superintendent could control the curriculum.

Mr. Hoisington introduced Mr. Ed Brown of Lawrence, Video Chairmand of the Committee who spoke in favor of the bill with the suggested amendments.

Mr. Hoisington introduced Mr. Forest Whan from Kansas State University, who spoke in favor of the bill citing the need for educational television in the many small high schools in the State to broaden their curriculum.

Mr. Hoisington introduced Dr. Bruce Linton, who spoke for Kansas State University and Kansas University at Lawrence in favor of the bill to better serve the educational needs of the State.

Mr. Hoisington introduced Dr. Kenneth Thomas, Director of the Division of Kansas State University Information, who spoke in behalf of Mr. Dale Larson of KTVH-TV, Wichita and Hutchinson, to assure his endorsement of the bill. He said KTVH-TV was ready to offer the use of the facilities they are ceasing to use on a leasing arrangement that would permit the State to make maximum use of funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature; they felt the cost would be between 5% and 7% of the value of the property. He further stated that Mr. Larson suggested the contract could contain a clause allowing the State to purchase these facilities at a predetermined price. However, he would need to notify the F.D.C. of arrangements within thirty days and must dismantle the old tower within six months if it is not leased by the State.

Mr. Hoisington introduced Mr. Rush Evans, Program Manager for WIBW, who spoke in behalf of Mr. Thad Sandstrom, General Manager of the station, who urged the passage of the bill. Since their transmitting plant is to be moved from Northwest Topeka, this plant could be utilized by the State for E.T.V. and changed to Channel 11 at a minimum of expense; the tower must be removed within ninety days if other arrangements are not made.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was an estimate of the total operating cost for the complete system in Kansas. Engineer Hefflefinger and Senator Jones answered that it was estimated to cost \$750,000 excluding salaries of professors and teachers for the program. There was further discussion on the possibility of Kansas losing channels for E.T.V.

Mrs. Carter Goodpasture, President of the Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke in favor of the bill citing the past benefits already derived from educational television among adults; she distributed mail received at the Wichita station praising its program.

Mr. Finney announced that the subcommittee assigned to the Foundation Program would meet at 8:00 P.M. that evening.

Representative Beatrice L. Jacquart appeared before the Committee asking that they introduce a bill raising the driving age to eighteen and requiring that applicants for restricted licenses take tests.

Mr. Casado made the motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, that the Committee introduce this bill changing the requirements for drivers age fourteen to eighteen.

Mr. Smith made the substitute motion that the Committee adjourn.

The motion failed with a vote of five to two.

On the motion to introduce the bill, the motion carried with a vote of six for and two against.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

By John D. Bower
Chairman