

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 21, 1963

The Chairman called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee would discuss S.B. 151 and try to come to some conclusion. He then asked for comments from members of the Committee.

Mr. Behee stated that he was in favor of amending the proposal and Mr. Gardner presented his proposed amendment, which eliminated all reference to "university", giving the State Board of Regents full power and authority to do what they feel is best for the higher education system. With regard to the endowment matter, he states that he has no suggestion except that the present set-up wouldn't be workable under the Board of Regents. Mr. Marshall suggested that the additional facility is really needed but that it passed the Senate with such a small margin that any attempt at amendment might cause the bill to be killed. Several members countered that they felt the amendment would make it acceptable to more Senators and that it would carry with this particular amendment. Miss Jacquart stated that apparently the Senate had more faith in the Board of Regents than this Committee. Mr. Behee asked if she had any thoughts concerning the amendment and Miss Jacquart replied that she saw no need to do it; that the Board of Regents could do what is necessary. Mr. Gardner suggested that the inference of the bill that a "university" be established was something that was debatable and he felt that there should be no strings woven into the bill. Mr. Behee stated that a lot of consideration had been given to the bill and that he felt the strings of inference had been woven into the language on purpose, so as to confuse the powers of the Board of Regents. Mr. Ford inquired why the Board of Regents and the State Board of Regents had not met to try to work these matters out and Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Reed had gone to meet with them and had been booed and treated in an unkindly fashion and that probably it was the WU Regents next move. Mr. Gardner stated that he felt if this measure was approved as written, the Board of Regents would feel they should go along with the language of the bill and then we would have the three institutions vying for funds and everything else because of pressure from department heads, alums and everyone else and soon there would be duplication; because the Board of Regents are not infallible and would probably feel they couldn't buck so much pressure. Mr. Behee stated that he believed the bill would be killed on the floor of the House if it is not amended in Committee. Harlow Brown stated that he had been hearing from people in Reno County who favored the incorporation of WU as a university. Mr. W. R. Brown stated that regarding enrollment, WU's fulltime enrollment is 4192 as compared to Emporia's 4601; that on this basis he would rely on the Eurich report and take it on some other basis than as a university.

Mr. Unruh pointed out that this proposal is acceptable to the people of Wichita; that the City is giving \$500,000 per year to the state from here on out. Other members of the committee felt that this amount was to be levied only until the retirement of certain bonds.

The Chairman suggested that what everyone wants to do is really not too different; that it is the desire of the committee to make the measure acceptable to the most people. Mr. Ralph Skoog was introduced to discuss a proposed amendment to the bill. He stated that he desired only to include Washburn University on the same basis as was given to Wichita University; that admittedly the administration and the Board of Regents of Washburn are not in favor of being included, but that they don't necessarily represent the feelings of the people; and at the same time Washburn is asking for a considerable boost to its budget from the state. Upon questions from the Committee, Mr. Skoog agreed that there would be some problems to be worked out concerning property of the University, but that they couldn't possibly be more complicated than the one at WU. Mr. Skoog expressed no opposition to Mr. Gardner's proposed amendment and Mr. Ford inquired if he felt the Attorney General's opinion (that the Board of Regents could do as desired with WU) was incorrect. He stated that he felt that the wording and the past history would be binding to some extent; that there are certain ground rules that such a board would probably not want to tamper with. He stated that he believes more in higher education than being provincial about traditions.

Mr. Taylor dismissed further discussion of the WU issue and asked the Committee if they would consider an amendment to GS 1949, 6014-13 as requested by the purchasing department. That the requirement to furnish bond by a contractor on a minor repair job of \$100.00 has become such a nuisance that the schools and other departments cannot get anyone to do minor jobs; that the department is asking to change the amount to \$1,000 before bond is required. Mr. Ford moved that the committee recommend introduction to the committee of the whole. Motion was seconded by Miss Jacquart and carried unanimously.

Thereupon, Mr. Taylor reminded the committee of the discussion by Mr. Shapiro concerning reimbursement for out-of-state travel by members of the departments. He has drafted a bill proposing that a flat \$18.00 be paid per day for out-of-state. Mr. Unruh moved that this be introduced as a committee bill and referred to the committee of the whole. Seconded by Mr. Ford and carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.