

SENATE WAY AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
March 22, 1965

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. March 22, 1965, by Chairman Sanborn. All members were present.

Mr. Raymond Nichols, Executive Secretary of the University of Kansas, and Mr. Max Bickford, Administrative Officer of the Board of Regents, appeared before the Committee with reference to Senate Bill 328, which will authorize the transfer of land between the University and the University Endowment Association. The following comments were made by Mr. Nichols:

1. This bill relates to Senate Bill 50 now being considered by the Legislature. It is designed to accomplish much the same thing but in a different and more flexible way.
2. There is considerable discussion about possible industrial development and the establishment of research institutions near the colleges to increase the industrial and tax base of the state. The Kaw Valley from Topeka to Kansas City is one of the few remaining areas for this type of expansion.
3. Senate Bill 328 will authorize a trade of land owned by the University (known as the Robinson farm) and land owned by the University Endowment Association needed for the development of buildings.
4. Mr. Henson of the Attorney General's office has given an informal opinion that this bill will effect a legal transfer.
5. Under terms of the will concerning the Robinson farm, use of the land is limited in accordance with Section 6 of Article 7 of the Kansas constitution, strictly for the benefit of the University. It is felt that with title in the Endowment Association it would allow the land to be made available for industrial or research development. The Board of Regents does not wish to get into the position of issuing revenue bonds on the farm.
6. Senator Van Sickle asked about the effect of the passage of Senate Bill 50 which would authorize the Board to issue revenue bonds. Mr. Nichols said there is a possibility that the bill may not be passed, and if not, the University would be hampered for two years. Senate Bill 328 is desired in the interests of flexibility, he said. It is the belief that the use of Robinson Farm could be more effectively used by the Endowment Association.
7. The farm will not be placed on tax rolls unless it is used for purposes other than the present ones. Present use of the area is limited: one area is rough timber land now used as a natural history reservation; some of the bottom land is cultivated; and part is leased to the City of Lawrence for an airport. About 1,290 acres are involved.

8. Estimated value of the Robinson Farm is \$486,000. Land owned by the Endowment Association for which the Farm is to be traded is estimated to have a value of \$550,000.
9. Mr. Nichols stated that he thought the direct material benefit to the University and the Endowment Association would be greater under Senate Bill 328 rather than Senate Bill 50. Senate Bill 50 would be subject to the court decision and probably would allow the University only the use of interest earned off funds derived from the Farm.

Senator Bell discussed proposed amendments to Senate Bill 336 to effect line item control of certain programs administered by the STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. These amendments are in accordance with recommendations adopted by the Committee. Purpose of the amendments is to allow the Finance Council or the Legislature to determine policy matters in connection with programs administered by the Board. Senator Bell moved that the Committee accede to the amendments, and he be authorized to present the amendments while the bill is discussed on general orders. Senator Woodard seconded the motion. Motion carried. (See copy of amendments attached.) Thereupon, the Chairman asked that Senators Bell and Liebert visit with the Governor to explain the amendments.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 29, referred to the Committee for further consideration, was discussed by Senator Bell. He stated that the resolution authorizes a comprehensive reexamination of the special education program administered in the state. Because of the changes made in the school foundation plan, Senator Bell stated these changes may be further reason to reevaluate the overall costs of this program as it may encourage expansion in areas where it is not needed. Senator Bell moved that Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 be recommended for adoption. Senator Liebert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

THEO. A. SANBORN, Chairman