

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
January 24, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman with all members present except Mr. McCray who was excused. Mr. Vogel and Mr. Kay were introduced to discuss H.B. 1005. Mr. Vogel explained that this proposal concerned Haskell Institute; that it was simply enabling legislation which would permit the school to receive fire and police protection; that it would cost the state nothing; and that federal legislation has already been enacted along these lines. He further explained that the officials of Haskell and of Lawrence had met with the two representatives and had asked for this bill to be introduced.

Mr. Spears and Mr. Ossman then appeared as sponsors of H.B. 1006, and Mr. Spears displayed a map of the Capitol area and explained that this bill would amend and add a new section to the urban renewal law. He explained that the Capitol Area Planning Commission had studied the situation and made recommendations; that they had employed a professional (Black & Veatch) to make studies and that Mr. Ash had been working with them. He explained that the area south of the State House to 12th Street and to Huntoon, and bordered on the east by Jackson and on the west by Topeka, was the area involved; that this includes the possible acquisition of the Masonic Temple, and that the state has previously entered into a purchase option agreement. Mr. Spears further explained that this is strictly a "catastrophe" section, spawned by the tornado of June 8th; that the state really needs this area and that this is the time to get it before too many replacements and improvements are made in the damaged area.

Mr. Turner inquired about the purpose of eliminating the relocation proviso and Mr. Spears explained that it would speed up most of the acquisition and that in catastrophe areas most of the people are gone anyway and are anxious to get out from under the tax burden. Mr. Turner expressed his concern for the people, feeling that it might be a way of getting their property away from them without adequate protection for them.

Mr. Spears stated that several people had contacted the Commission wanting to know if they could sell, because they were anxious to dispose of the property and be out from under the tax responsibility. Mr. Buchele expressed concern for the individuals also, but agreed that they already would have notice and that continuing under the present circumstances was a real hardship.

Mr. Turner pointed out instances of which he was aware, where the city had gone in and paved or put in sewers and assessed the property owners; and then immediately urban renewal gave notice and paid the owners the worth of their property, only to have the city require that the specials be paid off, and then the owner ended up with nothing. Mr. Brown inquired if this could be special legislation for the situation in point, and Mr. Spears stated that he would have to check but felt that the funds would probably not

be approved. Mr. Spears further pointed out that after extensive study and the recommendations of Black & Veatch, that the Planning Commission had voted unanimously to recommend this to the legislature.

The Chairman asked that members of the committee study this proposal and plan to discuss it tomorrow.

Thereupon, action was called for on H.B. 1005. Mr. Rogers moved that the bill be recommended favorably; Motion was seconded by Mr. Buchele and carried unanimously.

Mr. Fribley was appointed Social Chairman, and asked the preference of the Committee for dates for a dinner to be hosted by the Hotel & Motel Association. February 6th was chosen.

Meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary