

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 8, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, who introduced Representative Steichen to discuss H.B. 1102. All Committee members were present except Messrs. Andrews, Buchele, Bunten and Fribley, who were excused.

Dr. Steichen explained that this bill proposes to permit the leasing of a portion of the property at Norton for the establishment of an alcoholic treatment center; that the nurses residence could house 18 patients, and now houses only two nurses; that they propose to start only on a small scale. He stated that it was the feeling that the patients could be helpful with the children there; that there are some retarded youngsters who need someone to play with them and read to them, etc.; and that this would be a part of the treatment for the alcoholic--the theory being that they need to feel useful. Dr. Steichen stated that there is an identical bill in the Senate, and that whichever moves the fastest will be satisfactory, because time is a big factor.

Rep. Ratner appeared to again discuss HB 1080, and stated that he had met with the subcommittee appointed by the Chairman, and had come to the conclusion that there were several points that needed working on; that he had also met with veterinarians in the state who had some suggestions. Mr. Lyman Ray of Wichita was introduced. He is president of the Kansas Federation of Humane Societies, Inc. He pointed out several instances of animal cruelty and suggested a licensing of persons dealing with animals, particularly those dealing in laboratory animals such as dogs and related type animals. He stated that there is a real problem with certain animals alien to Kansas, also, such as monkeys and bears; that people sometimes leave them out in the weather, which is indeed cruel. He suggested that people dealing in more than \$2,000 per year business with animals be required to obtain a license. Rep. Ford inquired about pets that were injured and the owner wanted to put them out of their misery; and Mr. Ray stated that they didn't seek to legislate matters of this kind. Mr. Ratner stated that he had discussed this matter with the subcommittee and it was their judgment that the owner is protected in such cases. Rep. Boyer inquired who the enforcement officers would be under this proposal, and Mr. Ray stated that the USDA and local officials. Rep. Rogers, a member of the subcommittee, stated that in reworking the bill, many of the things mentioned could already have been prosecuted.

Fenby Webster of Wayside Waifs of Kansas City, Missouri, but also chartered in Kansas, stated that she thinks the bill is great; that something like this has been needed for many years. She made some suggestions about changes, and Mr. Ratner stated that he and the subcommittee had already considered these points. Mr. George Tomlin of Leawood spoke in favor of the proposal and cited his own case where he had left some bird dogs to be trained, and the trainer had stomped one of them to death. Mrs. Reed Rogers of Wichita, urged some attention to wilful neglect where animals were traveling by air, or other carrier. Mr. Turner stated that in that case she would have recourse under civil law. The Chairman urged members of the Committee to visit with the subcommittee and voice their suggestions, and then the matter would be discussed again in committee.

HCR 1010, concerning capital punishment, was introduced for discussion, and Mr. Turner reiterated his statement of a few days ago, that it is a very big responsibility to defend someone who is accused of a crime that could result in the death sentence; that since trying such a case he has come to some different conclusions.

Rep. McCray pointed out that it has been established that people of low economic circumstances and of certain minority races have not received the same consideration in these cases; that a majority of the people who have been put to death were individuals of low economic brackets and of a minority group. Mr. Buchele moved the favorable recommendation of the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Mikesic, and carried 7 yes to 3 no.

Thereupon, HB 1092, the Employees' Retirement amendment was discussed. After some questions, Mr. Buchele moved that it be recommended favorably. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mikesic and carried without dissent.

Mr. Doyen was asked if he cared to discuss his two proposals again; concerning the assignment of office space and the zoning matter; and he asked if the committee would permit him to introduce them as committee bills and have them re-referred so it would be easier to look at them. There was no opposition.

Mr. Mikesic discussed the Liquor Control Act, and pointed out cases where annexation had occurred, at times it could affect someone already established in business. There were some points suggested for amendments, and Mr. Mikesic stated that he would like the bill introduced and referred to the committee where amendments could be made if necessary. There was no objection.

The Chairman stated that everyone should be present tomorrow, and some action would be taken on HB 1055; that the proposal would be discussed further if desired. He pointed out the proposed motion for secret ballot as it appears in the Committee books.

The meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary