

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
March 8, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman with all members present with the exception of Messrs. Turner and Woodworth, who were excused.

Mr. Holmes was present to discuss HCR 1018, which proposed a study of the feasibility of consolidating governmental bodies; i.e. consolidation of counties, cities and counties, etc. He stated that it is costing entirely too much money to maintain these many individual governmental sections; that it is unfair to the taxpayers. Mr. Lindahl asked, since Mr. Holmes is from Wichita, why he was interested in all these other counties; and Mr. Holmes replied that he is a representative of the state as well as his individual district. Mr. Lindahl then inquired if some of the counties had requested such legislation, and Mr. Holmes explained that it was purely of his own thinking. Mr. Ford stated that he wasn't very much concerned about this resolution because he was sure it wasn't going anywhere; that things in Grant County are just as good as they are in Sedgwick County. Mr. Buchele inquired if there would be objection to amending the bill to combine county-city functions, and Mr. Holmes stated he had no objection and in fact would encourage it. Mr. Madden stated that they were interested in knowing how feasible it would be to consolidate certain functions within the counties.

Mr. Richard L. Harper appeared to discuss H.B. 1142; and stated that this grew out of a concern to what is happening to minors and handicapped individuals insofar as liquor traffic is concerned. Mr. Muth, director of ABC and his attorney, Sherman Parks were present, and proposed certain amendments (see attached). He stated these amendments would provide a standard to work with, would define a minor and also other incapacities. Mr. Rogers stated that without care, one could get into the position where a retailer would not dare sell to a customer unless he had a blood test first, and stated he believed it was a pretty severe restriction on the businessman to require him to make these judgments. Mr. Parks pointed out that the bill says "shall knowingly sell". Mr. Andrews stated that he felt he knew of certain situations where with such a law, individuals might "gang up" on a dealer and sign a complaint that the dealer had sold to someone in an intoxicated state--that he felt it was just too broad.

At this point the Chairman was called to appear in another hearing, and Vice-Chairman Unruh presided. Mr. Unruh called for questions, and there being none, Mr. Harper stated that he was in accord with these proposed amendments.

Mr. Meeker was introduced to discuss HCR 1019, which asks for a feasibility study concerning the relocation of the Capitol. His remarks are attached.

Mr. Buchele asked, since there is a Capitol Area Planning Commission, if Mr. Meeker would object to having them make the study instead of the Council; and Mr. Meeker stated that he would prefer a non-partisan group study. On the question of economy, Mr. Buchele pointed out that the original 20 acre site was given to the State and the state is just now in the process of purchasing additional land. Mr. McCray inquired if Mr. Meeker would be agreeable to moving the capitol to the largest city in the state, and Mr. Meeker stated he was wanting to get it out of congested areas and that Wichita is congested.

Mr. Taylor resumed the Chairmand suggested to members of the Committee that they study the list of bills he was handing out, and then the Committee would meet Friday morning in Room 525 with the hope of voting on some of these measures.

Mr. Doyen presented amendments to H.B. 1454, stating that this had been requested by Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and that the Committee had no objection to it. He then moved that the amendment be accepted, which motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHANGES IN HOUSE BILL 1142

1. Page 2, line 1, delete the word, "such," and insert therefor the word, "any." Add the following language after liquor: "or any person who at the time is under the influence of intoxicating liquors, cereal malt beverages, drugs, or narcotics."
2. For purposes of this section, minor shall be defined as: "Any person, male or female, under twenty-one (21) years of age, regardless of marital status."
3. For purposes of this section, the term incapacitated person shall mean: "Any person who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, chronic narcotic drug addiction, or chronic intoxication."

Remarks of George Meeker  
State Representative  
Regarding House Concurrent Resolution No. 1019

Since introduction of H. C. Resolution No. 1019 most of the comments to be heard have been spoken in economic terms.

While this is justifiable from the short-range viewpoint, especially in light of a planned multi-million dollar capitol expansion program.....I should like to remind you that many of the benefits derived from planning cannot be measured wholly in economic terms. However, I believe now is the time to decide whether we are really interested in further industrial and economic development in our state or if we are just going to talk about it.

The benefits that the inhabitants of a city receive as "consumers" are particularly difficult to measure in dollars. Improved health conditions, more attractive physical surroundings, and improved facilities for education and recreation are just a few.

House concurrent resolution No. 1019 asks simply that a study be made..... that an earnest attempt be made.....to assess both the costs and the expected benefits to see whether costs are reasonable in relation to benefits.

What, after all, is the primary purpose of a seat of government such as the capitol complex?

Richard L. Meier, in his publication "A Communications Theory of Urban Growth" explains that after examining human settlements as they emerged from the beginnings of civilization there is one common element in all perspectives and that is human communication.

The main philosophy of our very system of government is prompted by man's urge to maintain communications (in the general sense) with his fellow man.

When we begin thinking about the year 2,000 we are prone to take the attitude "I don't really care.....I won't be around to worry about it". "Why should I worry, I'll be too old to enjoy life anyway" or "That's only 33 years away..... we have a responsibility now to do our best to prepare for the new century."

I personally favor the latter theory. I believe it is our responsibility to prepare for the new century.

Kansas has seen some dramatic changes in state government. There has been unification of school districts, reapportionment of the legislature and there will be more to come. Should we not prepare ourselves for the continuing demand upon state government?

Construction of new state capitols is not revolutionary. Capitols, like people, have a life cycle. We are meeting in a building which must undergo constant surgery to remain operative.

This capitol was created as the result of a need. It has grown through the state's infancy and adolescence to maturity.

Now we are faced with continued development of the size of the physical structures in proportion to the demands communicated by the people.

Do we continue to purchase more and more land in the highest priced sections of our state.....to build a patchwork of buildings as we add piecemeal to the already outmoded and deteriorating structures? It is proposed that we spend over 4 million dollars to acquire approximately 6 square blocks of property. That is about 20 acres and comes to a total cost of over \$200,000 an acre.

If this decision was left to private business there would be little debate. Every day you see businesses, industries, newspapers liquidate their holdings in outmoded facilities and build new, modern buildings and plants.

Why, then, if we are faced with the problem of better communications with the people whom we serve.....if we are faced with a multi-million dollar expansion.....if we are faced with outmoded and deteriorating property.....why, cannot we as legislators approach this problem on a business-like basis and at least answer to the people that we made an honest attempt to prepare for the years ahead?

Every day land developers acquire raw land, build shopping centers and community facilities and are able to do this at a profit.

There is no reason the State of Kansas could not acquire raw land, and on a business-like basis develop a new capitol complex at a break-even point. When you approach the problem on a business-basis the matter of economics becomes more understandable.

What about the existing structures, you ask? I venture the opinion there would be ready sale for this property, and the halls in which we stand could become a nationally acclaimed school of law or other worthwhile uses.

What then are we really talking about? Are we talking about sentiment? Are we talking about economics? Or are we really concerned about establishing a governmental complex that will better serve the growing population of Kansas in the next century?

These are some of the thoughts that should pass through your mind before you act in haste today and make a decision that will cause untold problems in years ahead.

The science of planning is growing. Examples already exist of well planned communities which can be patterns for a new Kansas State Capitol.

We live in an age of rapidly changing technology. In less than 50 years we have seen television, the automobile, the airplane and round the world communication .....revolutionize our lives.

The real wealth and the comforts and convenience of the average citizen have increased enormously. We have stepped through the open door of the atomic----- yes, even a space-----age.

Our towns and cities can never be the same. We don't want them to be.

However, they must be logically planned to make the most of our future blessings.

That's the purpose of House Concurrent Resolution No. 1019.....some logical planning to make the most of our future blessings.

The decision to plan, or not to plan, for the new century is up to us. This choice should be made intelligently.

We are limited only by our vision, imagination, and courage.

Gentleman, I believe this legislature possesses all three.

Mr. Chairman, I'll appreciate your favorable consideration on HCR 1019.