

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
March 14, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, with all members present except Mr. Fribley, Mr. McGill and Mr. Woodworth who were excused. Rep. Mikesic introduced Mr. L. M. VanDoren to discuss the proposal. He stated that the Economic Development Commission recommends this proposal in principle; that it is consistent with the State planning effort; that he had served on a water resources subcommittee and out of many subcommittees, came the recommendations that set up the Kansas Industrial Development Commission. He stated that there should be a broad planning situation to look over all agencies; that it would not be a separate agency as such but would belong to the Chief Executive.

Mr. Rogers inquired if this would encompass the Department of Economic Development, Economic Analysis and the Research Department, and Mr. VanDoren stated that it would rather coordinate them and prevent overlaps; that the intent was not to do their planning for them, but just to coordinate. Mr. Rogers expressed concern about grants to the colleges and universities, and Mr. VanDoren stated that he visualized no interference here. Mr. Rogers then inquired about local units of government, and Mr. VanDoren replied that the present 701 program handles all cities less than 50,000 population. Mr. Rogers inquired if this would abolish the office of Economic Analysis, and if the office wasn't doing the job. Mr. VanDoren replied that it simply moves those functions into the proposed department; that it is closely allied with the program planning and should be combined.

Mr. Harold F. Wise, a professional consultant from Washington, appeared in support of the proposal, stating that he has been working along these lines for a long time. He further stated that after working for over a year the firm came up with a recommendation that the planning function in order to properly operate at the state level should be located with the Chief Executive, in order to properly coordinate planning efforts; that state-federal programs should be looked at closely to prevent overlaps; that it does not reflect on the agencies, but that often they are not aware of what is going on in other agencies. He testified that the State of Georgia has already done something very similar and that it is working out very well. He stated that this move was originally initiated by Governor Anderson, continued by Governor Avery and now is being carried out by the recommendation of the present Governor.

Mr. Bunten stated that he had read the bill thoroughly and he obtains the impression that for example in the field of health, the Board of Health deals with the whole general area of state health as defined in the statutes, and now we are trying to designate the governor as planning officer for this and all other functions; that he believes such legislation will add greatly to

the red tape. Mr. Wise stated that the objective is to do exactly the opposite; that the business of public health is too complex for even the Board of Health these days; that the problem of health, poverty, welfare, education, needs to have some direction. Mr. Bunten stated that it looks like a big bureaucracy with a big, unweildly staff, and Mr. Wise stated that he visualized only a very small staff of professionals--not more than ten. Mr. Rogers asked if it was inferred that the agencies are not complying with requests to cooperate, and Mr. Wise stated he was not; that it was just a matter of communication; that with the increase in federal grants and matching funds it is difficult for the agencies to know what is going on in other agencies.

Mr. Warren Oblinger and Mr. Edmonds stated that they have been associated in the planning project since it started and that they are in agreement with what had been said.

Mr. James H. DeCoursey from the Governor's office stated that with the changing times we need a different approach in planning; that an independent observer is needed to take an objective look at the overall picture of the state government. Mr. Rogers inquired if this bill is passed, if the Division of Planning would be eligible for federal funds, and Mr. DeCoursey stated that it would be under Title IX.

The Chairman stated that he had a bill which he would like to have introduced; that he had tried to take care of it by an amendment on another bill without success; that it deals with county population and levies and one of his counties needs it to help in their hospital operation. Mr. Buchele moved that the bill be introduced and referred directly to the Committee of the Whole. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary

HEARING - HOUSE BILL #1453  
State Affairs Committee  
Room 522  
March 14, 1967 1:30 P.M.  
Order and Schedule of Witnesses

1. L. M. Van Doren, Chairman 10 Minutes  
Kansas Economic Development Commission  
Van Doren, Hazard, Stallings, Schnacke  
Engineers - Architects  
Topeka, Kansas
  
2. Harold F. Wise 30 Minutes  
Harold F. Wise/Robert Gladstone and Associates  
Planning and Economic Consultants  
Washington, D. C.  
  
Planning Consultant to  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Six states  
Four Metropolitan Areas
  
3. Leland R. Edmonds, Resident Planner 5 Minutes  
Oblinger and Smith Planning Consultants  
Topeka and Wichita, Kansas
  
4. Committee Questions

James H. DeCoursey, Jr.  
Special Assistant to the Governor for  
Urban Affairs