

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
April 3, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, with all members present except Messrs. Buchele and Ford, who were excused. Senator Glee Smith, Senator Hodge, Senator Joseph and Senator Bennett appeared to discuss S.B. 299

Senator Smith, stated as a sponsor of the proposal, that this bill takes into consideration the constitutional amendment allowing yearly sessions; that there are certain committees which are familiar with particular subjects and should continue their consideration and investigations in the interim so as to be ready when the next session convenes; that it would be an economy in the long run.

Senator Hodge stated that eventually this could partially eliminate the Legislative Council; that in thinking particularly of Assessment and Taxation, the Committee is already deep in the study of levies and other subjects and it would be feasible for them to continue to work on these matters rather than present them to the Legislative Council which might be totally ignorant on the subject. He cited the matter of the new cigarette tax law as drawn by the Legislative Council and stated that until it was amended, it would have been illegal for one to have an unstamped package of cigarettes in their car and that for this their car could have been confiscated; that this sort of thing is not realistic.

Senator Joseph stated that he agrees with what the other Senators say, and reiterated that this is the outgrowth of the annual session amendment; that he believes it would improve the mechanics of the legislature to have certain committees continue their work, particularly through sub-committees; that he believes this would be the means of increased cooperation between the two Houses.

Senator Bennett explained the bill in detail, and discussed the various committees that would continue their work; that the Speaker and President Pro-tem of the Senate would have certain controls on how often they would meet and whether it would be through sub-committees, etc.; that he believed most of the work would be done by sub-committees rather than full committee. He pointed out that the Senate is under order to reapportion, and that he hoped that committee might meet and have the bill ready at the beginning of the session. He also mentioned Legislative Facilities as another committee that should continue their work. He mentioned that the Legislative Council will now be asked to report annually, and that they will have such a big backlog that they will not be able to take care of it, and that this is another argument for the committees to take some of the load.

Mr. McGill inquired if these meetings couldn't be held anyway without this bill; and Senator Bennett stated that it was possible, but that there was no provision for reimbursement. Mr. McGill expressed the opinion that maybe the \$100 per month in the interim was intended to take care of these miscellaneous expenses.

Senator Hodge pointed out that the Committees would have the power to subpoena too, and that witnesses should be reimbursed. Senator Smith expressed the opinion that this power would command respect. Mr. Doyen inquired if there was a fiscal note on this proposal, and Senator Bennett stated that it was so difficult to anticipate, but there was a computation of something like \$75,000. Mr. Doyen stated that this was like the Board of Health--that one could spend a month over there and still be trying to figure out what is going on.

Senator Hodge stated that it would be his view that most of the work would be done by sub-committees with perhaps only one full meeting to accept reports, and that the Chairman would use his judgment about the necessity of this.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Boyer had explained SB 368 to him and that the Senators were unable to get away at the moment, and asked Mr. Boyer to discuss the proposal with the Committee. Mr. Boyer stated that this is simply enabling legislation making it possible for the county to take advantage of federal grants for park improvements along rivers; and that Leavenworth is very interested in this proposal. The Chairman stated that SB 119 is enabling legislation also, concerning the Norton TB Sanitorium to enable them to accept grants also; that these two bills will be considered later and that members should be ready to take action.

The meeting was adjourned, to meet again at 8:00 P.M. to hear proponents of S.B. 387.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary