

MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

FROM: Research Department, Kansas Legislative Council June 22, 1967
TO: Special Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities
RE: Conference with International Roll-Call Corporation.

June 21, 1967

10:00 a.m.

Conferees were Marshall F. Thompson, President, International Roll-Call Corporation, and Service Representatives William Pitts and Bernard Pitts. Other persons in attendance were William Hale, State Architect, and John Webb and Frank Applegate from the architectural services division; John Weeks, Revisor of Statutes; and Richard Ryan and Ben Barrett from the Research Department.

Mr. Thompson and his associates demonstrated their equipment which included a vote tabulating device, voting stations, indicator board, miniature vote indicator for the Speaker, reading stand, and the switchboard mechanism.

Vote Tabulating Device

The vote tabulating device uses printed forms which would be provided under the service contract by the International Roll-Call Corporation. The device perforates "yes", "no", and "not voting". At the same time, perforations show the number of the bill, the date and the total vote. Each vote sheet is punched in triplicate and as many copies can be made of a particular vote as might be desired.

The unit is capable of punching four columns of votes at once: the count requires 6 1/2 seconds. The recorder is run by a synchronous motor drive system which recently replaced a magnet ejection unit. The unit is said to be durable and trouble-free.

The present vote tabulating equipment is located in the reading clerk's rostrum and is much larger than the International Roll-Call unit, therefore, a new vote tabulating unit could easily be located in the rostrum. The unit could also be housed under a table or in some other inconspicuous place.

The size of the tabulating paper used in the machine as adapted for the Kansas House would be approximately 8 1/2" x 9 1/2". The vote tabulator seems to operate at least as quietly as the present unit and the votes are tabulated more rapidly.

Voting Stations

The voting stations recommended for use in Kansas are plastic. A toggle switch indicates "yes" or "no" votes. Green and red markings correspond on the voting station and on the vote indicator board to show the "yes" and "no" votes on a bill. The station also includes a dust cover and a switch for summoning pages.

International Roll-Call can provide locks for the voting stations and indicator lights for recording "present". The roll call equipment now in the House has the "present" light. Mr. Thompson's position was that a "present" light was unnecessary as the roll could easily be taken by recording "yes" votes each morning. The "present" button adds more equipment to maintain and, since it is not indispensable, Mr. Thompson discourages its use and he said that very few states now have the "present" light on their indicator boards.

Mr. Thompson discouraged the use of locks on the voting machines stating that his experience indicated the locks proved more of a nuisance than the service. However, should Kansas prefer them, locks would be furnished at the voting stations.

International Roll-Call representatives stated that the voting stations could be adapted with little difficulty to the desks in the Kansas House.

Indicator Board

The indicator board for Kansas would be approximately 6 feet wide and about the same height or slightly smaller than the present indicator board. Names of the members would be posted in any order preferred in this state.

Recently, International Roll-Call has developed neon lighting behind the names to make them stand out more prominently on the indicator board. Mr. Thompson pointed out that although most states list the names of the legislators in alphabetical order, there is at least one state which lists them by political party. The board would be arranged in the manner Kansas requested.

The indicator board is lighted and does not use relay switches. International Roll-Call stated that this point was important because the elimination of relay switches increases the dependability of the equipment. Mr. Thompson stated that the present roll call equipment uses relay switches in the indicator board.

The indicator board can show the names of the representatives, how they voted on each bill or resolution, and the running vote total (totals show every six seconds while voting is occurring).

Also, the bill number is shown as well as an abbreviated form of any particular phase of the legislative process. For example, if the House wished to show the number of a bill being considered in the Committee of the Whole, the indicator board would show the bill number and the abbreviation for "Committee of the Whole".

Because the board can show running totals, it would be unnecessary to take an actual vote to get a recurring total. The running totals would immediately give the House this information.

The capacity of the board demonstrated in Kansas is 125. Other units have been built to handle much larger bodies, but they are somewhat larger and more expensive.

Speaker's Miniature Vote Indicator

International Roll-Call would provide a miniature vote indicator unit for the Speaker of the House. The unit would show the names of the representatives and their "yes" or "no" vote on a bill. The Speaker would also have push button controls for opening the rolls for voting, locking the machine, and resetting the vote indicating unit.

The Speaker's miniature indicator board can be arranged in any position desired by the Speaker. For example, it could be set up to show the House seating chart or the political affiliation of the membership. The Speaker would also have an indicator showing the vote total on the bills.

The unit is smaller than the present vote indicator provided for the Speaker.

Reading Stand

Controls are mounted on the reading stand which light up a number of different items on the indicator board. For example, one switch can light up an abbreviated "third reading". Also, "bill number", "joint resolution", "concurrent resolution", "quorum", "motion", "second reading", etc., are other items that can be lighted on the indicator board from the reading stand. The bill number is shown and Mr. Thompson stated that a machine designed for use in Kansas would probably be wired to handle bills numbering up to 2,999. The equipment can be adapted to accomodate more bills if it should become necessary in the future.

The reading stand control would allow 12 items to light up on the indicator board. Four of the 12 would be required for the bill numbering system, and the others could be designed to fit the special requirements of the Kansas House.

Switchboard

The switchboard is housed in a locked metal cabinet. It takes less than 1/3 the present space required for this equipment.

Acquisition and Service

Mr. Thompson stated that he preferred an arrangement with the state to install equipment (the state would pay for the installation) and to maintain it on the basis of yearly service contracts. In Kansas, the installation cost would be \$17,500. The state would pay the total sum in the form of partial payments as the work progresses, withholding 10 percent until completion of the installation. After installation, the state would pay an annual rental of \$7,500.

Ordinarily International Roll-Call does not guarantee the annual rental price for more than a year at a time. However, Mr. Thompson said that he would be willing to guarantee the \$7,500 annual rental to the state of Kansas for a period of up to three years, but the company would not commit itself beyond that time. The company has a guaranteed annual rent agreement for a specified length of time with only one other state.

The contract would state that either party could terminate the agreement upon 90 days notice prior to the payment date. The contract makes no requirements as to the length of time that Kansas must keep the equipment. Mr. Thompson stated that he believed that once the equipment is installed, the State would be pleased with its operation and would keep it for a number of years.

The rental agreement includes all service to the machine, as well as keeping it up-to-date with the addition of the most recent developments made by the company. For example, since the company has developed the back lighting for the indicator boards, it will eventually install back lighting in all of the indicator boards now being operated under service agreements in the various states at no additional cost to those states. It was stated that none of the International Roll-Call machines is ever inoperable for more than one day. When a malfunction occurs, the state should immediately call the company and report the problem. A man is flown to the state and should have the machine repaired by the time the House convenes the next legislative day.

Mr. Thompson stated that the company preferred this kind of agreement to having an electrician, untrained in the International Roll-Call equipment, work on the machine. To the state, the Company policy results in a roll call machine that functions properly at all times and which is kept up-to-date as developments are added to improve the system. The annual rental fee also covers all of the printed roll call sheets. The roll call sheets can be delivered within 48 hours of the time an order is received by the Company.

The only item not covered by the service agreement is the replacement of under-floor wiring when it becomes worn. This would probably not occur more than once in every 20 or 25 years.

Mr. Thompson indicated that the present voting machine conduits which are owned by Kansas would be sufficiently large to handle the wiring for his equipment. The company would completely replace the present wiring with their own and, at the same time, install sound equipment if the legislature should so desire. They do not manufacture sound equipment themselves, and it would be considered separate from the roll call equipment. The company would not maintain the service contract on the sound: it would only purchase the equipment and install it.

It was reported that it would be possible to install a roll call unit within 30 days, but the company representatives preferred to have as much time as possible allowed for the installation.

Rental agreement figures are based solely upon the size of the legislative body. In legislatures having as many as 160 legislators, the annual rental is \$10,000. For legislatures the size of the Kansas House the rental is \$7,500.

The International Roll-Call Corporation recommends against purchasing their machine, although it is for sale. They pointed out that Arizona paid \$88,000, 12 years ago for their roll call equipment which, at that time, included a sound system. This was the last time an International Roll-Call machine was purchased. Since then, all others are under rent-service agreements. The estimated cost for an up-to-date machine is about \$100,000.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that some states which have purchased roll call equipment have been able to maintain it adequately, but many have not. The purchase arrangement has the disadvantage of not keeping the machine up-to-date with new developments in roll call equipment.

All International Roll-Call boards and page boards would be located wherever the Kansas Legislature would want them, but the most convenient location would be in their present positions because conduit to the boards is already installed.

On a lease-purchase agreement, International Roll-Call would place a one or two-year limit on exercising a purchase option. The Company does not stretch this kind of agreement out over a number of years.

Mr. Thompson stated that the machines were not insured by his company because the cost of insuring all roll call equipment in the states would be prohibitive. He realized that if a natural disaster occurred and his equipment were destroyed, the

loss would have to be absorbed by the company. However, since capitol buildings are rarely destroyed, the company has been willing to take the risk.

If a state desires to have a certain item included in the roll call equipment to fit its own needs or wants, the system will be built to accomodate that request. For example, the New York Senate requested that an automatic "yes" vote arrangement be installed at the voting stations so that a Senator could come in the morning and vote an automatic "yes" on all measures considered during that day. If he decided later to vote "no" on an issue, he would simply change the switch to the "no" position for that bill. However, if he did not switch back to the automatic "yes", a vote of "no" would be recorded for him on all other bills considered that day. Therefore, New York requested that International Roll-Call install a device for an automatic "yes" vote, a manual "no" vote, and an automatic switchback to the automatic "yes" for the rest of the day. Such alterations as these can be provided at the request of the state for no increased cost in the annual rental.

International Roll-Call now has rental and maintenance contracts with 19 states and the United Nations, maintenance contracts with 3 states, service on-call arrangements with 5 states, and they maintain American Signal Equipment in 10 more states. (The American Signal Company was purchased by International Roll-Call in 1950 and the company is committed to maintain this equipment.)

Copies of the roll call sheets and a sample copy of the standard roll call rental and maintenance contract of the company were left on file in the Research Department.