

M I N U T E S

Special Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities

March 8, 1967

All members of the Committee were present and Speaker of the House, John Conard attended.

Dr. Beasley reported on three items: permanent binders for legislative documents, maps of the third and fifth floor to be used by pages and areas in the basement that might be used as a private refreshment stand by legislators.

Representative Turner has planned a meeting with the State Architect Tuesday, March 14 to discuss the possible location of a refreshment area in the basement, improvement of hearing room facilities and the possibility of making an area of quiet study space available for legislative use.

The Committee began its study of the role of the Legislative Council and the utility of allowing standing committees to meet in interim periods by using Senate Bill No. 299 as a point of departure for the discussion. (Copies of Senate Bill No. 299 are included in Committee Notebooks)

Senator Bennett was asked by the Committee to report to the Senate Federal and State Affairs the suggestions for changes that were developed by the Committee. They were:

1. The bill should be amended to allow not more than one meeting in each interim of a full committee. Further meetings of a full committee should require the prior approval of the Speaker of the House or the President Pro Tem of the Senate.
2. If a committee or subcommittee wishes to meet at some place other than the State Capitol, it should be required to get prior approval from the Speaker of the House or President Pro Tem if mileage or expenses are to be paid.
3. Expenses to be incurred by the committees or subcommittees for printing or supplies should receive prior approval of the Speaker or President Pro Tem of the respective houses before such items are purchased.
4. The total number of days or paid trips authorized in Section 2 of the bill should be removed. It was thought that fixing the number in statute would imply consent to that particular number of meetings. Further, the Committee chairmen, exercising their judgment could make the best decision about the number of meetings required and the number of subcommittees that should meet.

5. To maintain coordination and control of the funds appropriated to finance meetings of standing committees during interim periods, the meetings should receive approval of the Speaker or the President Pro Tem and vouchers should be channeled through them. In this way there would be a central point where records would be kept and the remaining balances in the fund would be known.

6. The provision for subpoena power in Section 4 should be changed so that the approval of the Chairman of the full Committee should be required before a subpoena could be issued.

It was generally considered that if a bill should pass containing similar proposals to those in Senate Bill No. 299, the law should be viewed as experimental and if further changes are needed they should be made in 1968.

The problems of staffing for committees, scheduling meetings, duplication of work, the future role of the Legislative Council, financial controls over a modified system and reporting by committees or subcommittees were also discussed. Formal recommendations were not made specifically on these matters.

Senator Bennett requested the Research Department to report on the Missouri system of providing a series of tabs that can be placed in the statutes to show the laws amended or repealed at each session. The Senator requested the Department to check with the office of the Revisor of Statutes to determine the possibility of periodically circulating to legislators a list of the statutes that would be amended or repealed by bills presently being considered by the Legislature.

Also, the Department was directed to check to see if bills printed for the House or Senate could be made to show all the amendments made by the first house. At the present time, for example, if floor amendments are made to a bill, one must read the bill and the Journal of that house to check all the provisions of that measure.

The meeting was adjourned.