

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING -- MARCH 24, 1971

The Roads and Highways Committee met in room 535 at 2:45 P. M. on March 24, 1971. Chairman Dierdorff called the meeting to order and all members were present except Davis and Wingert (excused).

Conferees were: Clarence Rupp, Kansas Farm Bureau, opponent on Senate Bill 137; Senator Tom Van Sickle discussing the priority system of road building.

Guests present were: Mary Turkington and Ray Lindbergh, Kansas Motor Carriers Association; John E. Wilkinson, Topeka, Ks. Ch. Am. Inst. of Architects.

Senate Bill 137 - An act relating to the state system of modern express highways and freeways; providing for the issuance of highway bonds.....

Clarence Rupp of the Kansas Farm Bureau spoke in opposition to bonding in building highways. He said for the past five years in a row his people have been opposed to a vast bonding program for highways. He said this is not a \$300 million bill-- it is a \$600million. Our contractors are geared up to spend this in seven or eight years and we still have the remainder of the thirty years that we have to pay for the bonds. At the end of ten years there is the possibility we would have to increase the gas tax to float more bonds. Somehow we have to measure the capacity and deal with this sort of thing. The Farm Bureau wants to go on record as opposed to a vast bonding program.

Dr. Hughes asked how he would propose to solve the road

building problem.

Mr. Rupp said he thinks his people would prefer to have another one cent on the gasoline tax. He feels that way we could make good headway on the roads. He thinks Kansas has done an excellent job on their roads.

Mr. Dempsey asked Mr. Rupp if it would be more palatable to the Farm Bureau to do about \$30 million a year.

Mr. Rupp said it would at least give you an idea in two years what it would be like.

Mr. Ossmann asked what the Farm Bureau people think of more turnpikes, and Mr. Rupp said he thought they would approve them where proven feasible.

Mr. Lady asked if he had any idea how many bonds we have outstanding for construction for our colleges and universities.

Mr. Rupp answered that he thought the only outstanding revenue bonds were for housing - that he was not aware of any beyond that.

Mr. Ossmann asked if the Farm Bureau would think it feasible to use a bonding program but finance it with additional gas tax to pay them off.

Mr. Rupp said that speaking off the top of his head, he thinks they would be in support of one cent instead of the whole highway fund.

Mr. Weaver asked if the interest rate was reduced if this would affect their thinking.

Mr. Dierdorff said he felt anything above 6% should be forgotten.

Mr. Ratner asked Mr. Rupp to describe the mechanics of securing an opinion from the Farm Bureau.

Mr. Rupp said a Resolutions Committee meets in February and outlines issues that are of public concern. When the legislature adjourns, he feels he is very objective and presents both views to the committee. He said they get response and in the middle of September they get together again. They disseminate the resolutions in October and they are examined. The delegates come to a meeting in November. They talk over the issues and three days later vote on them.

SENATE BILL 239 - AN ACT relating to taxation; concerning the motor-fuel tax law; defining motor-vehicle fuels; amending KSA 79-3401 and repealing the existing section,

Mr. Lady made a motion, second by Mr. Hayes, that Senate Bill 239 be reported favorably for passage. Motion carried.

Senator Van Sickle left the attached proposed amendment and asked for favorable consideration of it. He said there is no reason in the world the Highway Department could not accept this priority system. He said he is not suggesting we tell them where to build the highways except where the people are getting killed and where traffic is the greatest.

He said the reason he insists on the priority is because 69 highway had more traffic than west of Hays on I-70. He said they have a greater volume of traffic. He feels the 4th district has been served a rotten apple. He wants the roads

justly distributed over the state so they can get in and out of their area. He said 69 is so bad that they can't even get around cars.

Mr. Dierdorff asked Senator Van Sickle if he had any assurance that if we did put his amendment in the bill if they would get the roads built.

Senator Van Sickle said at least the people would be more receptive to taxes, etc. if they knew where the roads are to be built. He said they have no assurance because the Highway Department operates under its own rules.

Mr. Dierdorff asked why the Ways and Means removed the \$12 million from the budget?

Senator Van Sickle said the House Ways and Means took it out because they had an excess of funds over programs, and the House took it out of the budget.

Senator Van Sickle distributed the attached material, see exhibit II.

The Chairman announced that the Contractors Association and Bond people would be heard on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fran Stafford, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:


ARDEN DIERDORFF, CHAIRMAN

March 25, 1971