

Name of Committee; STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS
Date and Place of Meeting: February 23, 1972, Room 522-S
All members present except: Senators Saar and Ball
Bills Considered: S.B. 641, 711, H.B. 1394
Conferees: See Attached List

Chairman Norman E. Gaar called the meeting to order.

Hearing on S.B. 641, an act creating a commission on Mexican-American affairs, to provide for an executive director and setting out the purpose and function of the commission. Mr. Manuel Fierro, Chairman, Kansas Institute For Minority Empowerment, spoke briefly to the committee and presented a list of individuals who wished to testify. Mr. D. C. Garcia, City Councilman, Garden City, presented his printed testimony stating the key to the establishment of the commission is in its authority to employ personnel to accomplish its goals. In the Commission, they would have a vehicle for transmitting services and facilities to those people who need them, and they would have a body to start the process of communicating, coordinating, and educating the government as well as the people to the concerns and needs of this large minority group. Mr. Rogelio Moreno, United Mexican American Voters of Kansas, Wichita stated that each of us has the responsibility to see that the people of this state are able to live and work and study together, and the Mexican-Americans have not had this opportunity. Better communication is needed. Mr. R. Q. Rodriguez, Chairman, American G.I. Forum of Kansas stated this commission would serve a very valid need and perpetuate better working and living conditions for the Mexican-Americans. It would serve as a grievance committee where uneducated Mexican-Americans could bring issues. Equal educational opportunities were discussed and Senator West suggested there is a definite need for further bi-lingual teaching in the primary grades. Senator Herd ask if statistics were available on job opportunities for Mexican-Americans. Mr. Fierro said statistics were available for the committee and would be sent for our information. Of the 37,000 employees of the State of Kansas, 360 were Mexican-American. .9% in Kansas with a population of Mexican-Americans of from 60,000 to 90,000. The adverage salary is \$450 per month within the state agencies. 28% of Mexican-American workers in the state agencies work in hospitals and the Highway Commission, labor type work. Only five or six have responsible jobs in the state. Fierro further stated that within Kansas the dropout rate at an early age was as high as 75%. 60,000 to 100,000 people will be affected by this bill. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the majority of professional Mexican-Americans in this state are not native born but imported. Mr. Rodriguez presented a telegram to Chairman Gaar from the Garden City Chapter of the American G.I. Forum in support of this bill. Rev. Ralph Sanchez, Campus Minister, Kansas University presented printed testimony to the committee and said in effect the Mexican-Americans are entitled to a fair share of all the good things that life in this country has to offer and the Commission would give them the

agency to find out why these citizens are kept in miserable economic deprivation, and propose an adequate solution to that problem. Mr. Mike Marmolejo, United Mexican Voters of Kansas, Topeka, said he was not representing any federal agency today but appearing as a Mexican-American, and that they were elated with this proposal. He feels the Director of such a commission should be responsible to the governor, and this committee should have an advisory board of those agencies that are subsidized by the federal government, and would hope eventually it would be comprised of both Republicans and Democrats, perhaps two members from congressional district. He said they were not setting themselves apart, that the federal government has established many programs but excluded the Mexican-Americans. Further, the Mexican-Americans need a vehicle to assume fiscal responsibility, there are some places where they can get resources but they need the vehicle. Dr. Vincent Serrano, Kansas State Department of Education, Title 1 Programs, presented printed testimony to the committee and said the bi-lingual bill will help offset difficulties in migrant education, and that this will help offset the lack of a good self-image caused by the "white power structure". Dr. Serrano further stated that "Chicanos are better represented in battle skirmishes and on foreign soil than we are in decision making positions in Federal, State, Local Government, business, education or industry. Commission would provide means of communication. Senator Gaar stated time had run out as so often is the case in the legislature, and Mr. Fierro said he would leave copies of the rest of the testimony for our information.

Senator Robinson presented amendments to H.B. 1394 and made the motion to adopt these, with Senator Booth seconding. Vote 9-0. Carried. H.B. 1394 is hereby amended. Senator Robinson made the motion that H.B. 1394 be reported favorable for passage as amended, with Senator Herd seconding. Vote 9-0. Carried. H.B. 1394 is hereby reported favorable for passage as amended.

S.B. 711 discussed. Senator Robinson made the motion to adopt the suggested amendments, with Senator Foster seconding. Vote 9-0. Carried. S.B. 711 is hereby amended. Senator Robinson made the motion that S.B. 711 be reported favorable for passage as amended, with Senator Booth seconding. Vote 9-0. Carried. S.B. 711 is hereby reported favorable for passage as amended.

The committee will meet Thursday morning, February 24, 1972 at 9:00.

Jean Campbell
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved:

Norman E. Gaar
CHAIRMAN

2-23-72
DATE

The following individuals from throughout Kansas would like to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 641

1. Manuel Fierro, Chairman, Kansas Institute For Minority Empowerment
2. D.C. Garcia, City Councilman, Garden City, Kansas
3. Rogelio Moreno, United Mexican American Voters of Kansas, Wichita
4. R.Q. Rodriguez, Chairman, American G.I. Forum of Kansas
5. Rev. Ralph Sanchez, Campus Minister, Kansas University
6. Mike Marmolejo, United Mexican American Voters of Kansas, Topeka
7. Dr. Ken Martinez, Professor, Kansas University, Lawrence
8. Vincent Serrano, Kansas State Department of Education, Title I Programs
9. Gonzalo Rodriguez, United Mexican American Voters of Kansas, Kansas City
10. Rev. Ramon Gaitan, Catholic Archdiocese