

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

September 16, 1977

Room 529 - State House

Members Present

Representative Ambrose Dempsey, Chairman  
Senator Neil Arasmith  
Senator Joseph F. Norvell  
Senator Larry Rogers  
Representative Richard D. Adams  
Representative Dean Hinshaw  
Representative John Vogel  
Representative George Works

Members Absent

Senator Fred Kerr, Vice-Chairman  
Representative Ralph Bussman  
Representative John Maloney

Staff Present

Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ron Smith, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Others Present

Kenneth Wilke, Attorney, Kansas Board of Agriculture  
John Miller, Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations  
P. D. Turner, Mid-America Dairymen  
Dean K. Bishop, Kansas Board of Food and Drug  
John Blythe, Kansas Farm Bureau  
June Rose  
Stan Teaskey

September 16, 1977

Morning Session

The Special Committee on Agriculture and Livestock was called to order by Representative Ambrose Dempsey, Chairman, at 10:00 a.m.

The Chairman called for approval of the August 23, 1977 minutes. Senator Arasmith made two suggestions for minor changes and Representative Works added one change. Senator Arasmith moved the minutes be approved with the suggested changes and Representative Works seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman then directed the Committee's attention to the Committee Report on Proposal No. 4 - Filled Milk and Filled Milk Products. He called on Kenneth Wilke to bring the Committee up to date on the progress of the legal actions taken by the Board of Agriculture regarding filled milk products. Mr. Wilke reported that the three recent actions give the stores until the middle of the month to remove the items from their shelves. He also noted he has had some inquiry from other counties regarding filled milk sales, and that the Dairy Commissioner is in the process of checking items in those counties. Mr. Wilke indicated that wherever they find illegal products similar legal action will be taken.

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Senator Arasmith asked if the filled milk products involved were high volume products. Mr. Wilke responded that he did not know whether they were or not. He added that the products do not appear in the smaller communities. They appear most often in the larger chain and independent stores.

Representative Dempsey asked if the Board had run into any stores which would not comply. Mr. Wilke said one such event has occurred and that they are checking to see what additional legal action may need to be taken.

Senator Arasmith asked if the Board knows what products they are looking for. Mr. Wilke called attention to the list of products distributed to Committee members at an earlier date, and said those were the products the Board was monitoring.

Representative Vogel called attention to the draft of the Committee report, and said he would like to see the paragraph on sodium caseinate expanded to include the fact that it is imported and that very little is manufactured in the United States. He noted that other legislators reading the report would not have been in the meeting and would not be in a position to understand without some additional clarification. It was agreed to expand this section of the report.

The Chairman called on Mr. Turner and Mr. Miller for comments. Mr. Miller said his organization is definitely interested in Proposal No. 4, but felt nothing much could be done until disposition is made of the case pending in Shawnee County District Court.

Representative Vogel asked for a clarification of polyunsaturated fats. Considerable discussion followed on this matter. Representative Vogel also mentioned that he felt the report should cover briefly the other actions taken in other counties. He felt this was significant information and should be passed along to the other legislators. Staff agreed to include this in the report.

The Committee adjourned for lunch.

#### Afternoon Session

The Chairman called the afternoon session to order at 1:30 p.m. He called for comments from anyone in attendance.

Mr. Bishop cited a particular product being manufactured in Wichita which is displayed in the dairy case but is an imitation dairy product. Committee discussion followed regarding this product and many members felt this was a case of fraudulent labeling. Senator Arasmith pointed out that there are labeling laws at present which should be enforced.

Senator Norvell commented on the subject of labeling. Senator Norvell mentioned that if some of the products were properly labeled, it would eliminate some problems. He felt that all ingredients should be clearly stated in large enough letters so that they could be read. There was Committee discussion about "labeling" being within the scope of the Committee's assignment.

Representative Vogel suggested that perhaps some work should be done in the area of labeling, but not at this late date, and he went on to say it might be done in the 1978 Legislative Session.

Senator Rogers felt labeling worthy of study and felt that the Committee should definitely give it some consideration, noting that additional problems could arise further down the road if the subject is not studied.

Senator Arasmith moved that the Committee report be adopted with the suggested changes. Representative Vogel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Representative Hinshaw requested that the records show he voted against the motion.

Senator Norvell added the Committee report was well written and draws logical conclusions.

The Chairman thanked the staff for their outstanding work and research this summer on behalf of the Special Committee. He also thanked all Committee members for their attendance and help.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Ron Smith

Approved by Committee on:

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(Date)

*Ambrose L. Simpson*  
Chairman