

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Communication, Computers and Technology

The meeting was called to order by Representative Mike Meacham at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~am~~ p.m. on January 27, 1983 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Marlin L. Rein, Chief Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Committee Staff Director
Sherry Brown, Fiscal Staff, Research Department
Chris Stanfield, Fiscal Staff, Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stanley Z. Koplik, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Dr. Robert P. Cobb, Executive Vice Chancellor of
The University of Kansas
Dr. Ronald Borchardt, Professor of Biochemistry and Director of
The Center for Biomedical Research
The University of Kansas
Dr. Robert Kruh, Dean of the Graduate School,
Kansas State University
Dr. William Wilhelm, Dean of The College of Engineering,
Wichita State University

Chairman Meacham made announcements regarding next Monday's tour at the University of Kansas.

The chairman introduced Mr. Stanley Koplik, the Executive Officer of the Board of Regents. Mr. Koplik introduced the other conferees and began his testimony. He said that when we, in Kansas, describe high technology, we are also talking about economic development. High technology is a new way of doing a particular task. There is high technology currently in Kansas; there is much that we can build on. He doubted that high technology can occur in any environment in which there is not a full-fledged university participation.

Mr. Koplik mentioned some examples of high technology: improvement in biochemistry innovations, the aviation industry in Wichita and its relationship with Wichita State University as it relates to high technology.

Mr. Koplik stated that we are interested in high technology because it creates jobs, especially for graduates. One of Kansas' problems is that we import students and export graduates. There are many persons who are qualified to take jobs in technological related industries in the State of Kansas if there were such jobs in the state. The competition between states for high technology industry is intense and one cannot afford to be left out.

One of the most significant issues to be faced in the future is manpower and the facilities to support on-going research. Our universities play a vital role in providing that kind of assistance to business and industry. There is high technology research that can go along with applied projects. These projects require research, but they are removed from research activities such as biochemical research, research in genetics, or computergraphics.

Testimony from Dr. Robert Kruh related to a range of areas in which Kansas State University is involved in "high tech" research.

Further testimony was given by Dr. William Wilhelm, Dean of the

CONTINUATION SHEET

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room 522-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on January 27, 1983

College of Engineering at Wichita State University. Dr. Wilhelm outlined the various programs and capabilities at Wichita State and reiterated the need for the legislature to realize the potential which Kansas universities have to promote the economic growth of the state.

Dr. Ronald Borchardt stated that high technology is rather difficult to explain, but it is appropriate for Kansas to take initiatives. High technology really is doing old tasks in a new way. High technology brings its own economic development--for Kansas it would require university participation and indeed some firms locate to be close to the seat of knowledge in a particular field. This support of knowledge is better than low taxes and other incentives.

Drug development doesn't receive the press notice as perhaps a heart transplant, but it has a greater impact and is more beneficial to society as a whole. High technology firms are expensive, but pay off two ways--to society and with profit.

Pharmaceutical firms changing with high technology might be called a revolution. Drug discoveries of the past used to be empirical, now they are rationally designed. Computer graphics has enabled disease to be broken down to molecular level and drugs can be designed at this level.

As the discovery of new drugs takes place, another growth industry takes place--to solve the problem of drug delivery. The University of Kansas is strong in the field of rational drug delivery, dermal delivery, "band-aid" delivery; even an occu-sert has been devised.

Further testimony related the need for funds to allow the university to build their faculty, to encourage research and to take its place as a traditional site for research and ideas; thus to attract new high technology industry to Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 3:30 p.m. on February 1, 1983.