

Approved 2/20/84

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Bill Morris at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~ p.m. on Monday, February 13, 1984 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~.

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor
Louise Cunningham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sen. Mike Johnston
Wayne Maichel, AFL-CIO, Topeka
Mr. George Trombold, Board of Review member
Mr. Jim Yount, Board of Review member
Mr. Jack Janssen, Board of Review member
Mr. Wayne Kitchen, Department of Human Resources
Mr. Ken Barker, Communication Workers of America
Mr. Larry Farmer, CWA
Mr. Jerry Kyle, CWA, Wichita
Mr. Larry Mathews, CWA, Newton
Mr. Steve Goodman, Department of Human Resources

A motion was made by Sen. Burke to approve the Minutes of February 6. Motion was seconded by Sen. Arasmith. Motion carried.

S.B. 628 - Employment Security; relating to the compensation of members of the Board of Review.

Sen. Johnston said this bill would increase the salary of the Board of Review to \$18,000 annually. Members usually don't know the amount of work involved when they take the job and \$6,600 is too low for the amount of work they do. He requested the committee to give favorable consideration to any amount between these two figures.

Mr. Wayne Maichel said labor and management would endorse a pay increase. These members have a very heavy caseload and the compensation should be increased.

Mr. George Trombold was the senior member of the Board of Review and has been on the Board for 10 years. He had a chart which showed the caseload movement upward from 1974 with 409 cases to 2300 cases by mid-October in 1983. The chart also showed the movement of the salaries compared to state salaries and there was very little movement because the Board of Review salaries are fixed by statute. He said salaries should be raised so that responsible people would be attracted to the positions. The salaries are paid by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Other states have salaries that are far greater than Kansas is paying.

In response to a question as to why the caseload had increased so much, Mr. Steve Goodman, DHR, said there was a direct relationship to the increase in unemployment. There are approximately 21,000 unemployed now as compared to 35,000 last year. The appeals go up in proportion.

Mr. Jim Yount brought in a large pile of reading material which he said was necessary to read before a hearing. It takes approximately 37 hours a week. The Board wants to be fair to employers and employees. He said they should be paid more than minimum wage for doing the job.

Mr. Yount said they had some of their meetings by teleconference and therefore they could limit the amount of time they used for travel. Since they started the disqualifications more attorneys are getting involved and they are seeing more appeals because some of the amounts are large. There is also a time limit set on these cases.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM,
room 529-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on Monday, February 13, 1984

Mr. Jack Janssen said he was the newest member on the Review Board and he was surprised at the amount of work involved. Even \$18,000 would still be below the average. Other states pay much more.

S.B. 629 - An act concerning safety in hazardous underground work spaces.

Mr. Wayne Kitchen, Department of Human Resources, said all states were giving attention to work in hazardous spaces and OSHA was working on legislation but the process was very slow. Proposed legislation was drafted in 1978 and there is still no bill.

Mr. Ken Barker, CWA, said he was a cable splicer and has worked for Southwestern Bell for ten years. He is an officer of the Union and felt it was necessary to come before the legislature because he is concerned about a solo person working on manhole assignments. They are usually 3 to 30 feet underground and there is usually water in these spaces. There may also be gases of various types, cleaning fluids or carbon monoxide.

Mr. Larry Farmer, CWA, works on cable repair and said he was concerned about traffic hazards. When they set out the cones and are then underground, the cones could be moved and they would not be aware of it.

Jerry Kyle, CWA, has worked for Southwestern Bell for ten years on long distance cables. He is frequently out in the woods alone. If something should happen to him it is possible he would not be found until the next day. There are usually no people around to investigate.

Mr. Larry Mathews, Local 640, Newton, said there is no prescribed method of rescue from manholes. The telephone company is now employing more women and some of the areas where women will be working are isolated and it would be unsafe for a woman to be out there by herself. He said there was an incident in St. Louis where someone tossed a brick into a manhole and hit the worker on the head. He felt another worker should be there.

Mr. Mathews said they had no radio communications because this method did not work well underground.

The Chairman said this meeting would continue on the following day.

Meeting was adjourned.

SENATE LABOR, INDUSTRY & TOURISM COMMITTEE

Date 2-13 Place 529-S. Time 1:30

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Jerry L. Perrin	5217 W 32 nd	CWA
Robert E. Bonn	7813 FONTANA, P.V., KS.	AT & T
Wayne Kitchen	512 W 6 th Topeka	Ks. Dept. Human Resources
Don Barker	R/Box 134 M Basehor, Ks	CWA
Jerry Mathews	1004 Highland Newton, Ks.	CWA
Jeff Russell	1108 Merchants, ToP.	UNITED OF KANSAS
Lynn Arlen	4117 Huntton, ToP.	C. W. A.
JERRY Kule	2513 S. LAURA WICHITA	C. W. A.
Ramy M. Famer	123 VAN ARSDALE	C. W. A.
Wayne Maiches	110 W 6 th ToP	Kansas AFH-CIO
Don Young		
Steve Goodman	Topeka	Dept. Human Resources
Don Kellman	"	CWA
Sammy Young	Vally Falls	
Jack Brown	Lyon	
Bob Holm	Topeka	KCCI
Pill Young	"	S. W. Bell
Bill Selby	Topeka	AT & T
Bob Leonard	"	Ks. Tel. Room
RICK EMEWOLD	"	AT & T
Gilbert Ruyden	STAFFORD	
Narvel Sloan	Topeka	TEO

Roy D. Shenkel

Shawnee

KEPL