

Approved

Date

Stephen R. Cloud
2-14-85

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Stephen R. Cloud at
Chairperson

9:08 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Tuesday, February 12, 1985 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman - Revisor
Carolyn Rampey - Legislative Research Dept.
Julian Efird - Legislative Research Dept.
Jackie Breymeyer - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Larry Wolgast, Secretary, Department of Human Resources

The meeting of the House Governmental Organization Committee was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Representative Stephen R. Cloud, Chairman. The minutes of the February 5 meeting were approved. The February 7 minutes were distributed. The item on the agenda for today was the continued review of the Post Audit reports on the Department of Human Resources Hiring Procedures and Unemployment Compensation by Secretary Wolgast.

Secretary Wolgast described the procedure a person goes through to file a claim and stated the average claims examiner handles 15 determinations per day. No more than 22 minutes per claim is allowed. Any longer time spent on handling a claim is viewed adversely by the federal officials because of the money they allot to the Department for claims use. Secretary Wolgast said the examiner is a Range 15 position. A committee member volunteered the information that the salary starts at \$14,700 and up. The examiner trains at Topeka or in his particular area. Secretary Wolgast showed the committee the book of regulations or BOMB as it is called. Out of the claims that are handled, 8.8% are appealed. The claims examiners are hired by managers at the local level; the referees in the Appeals Division are hired by the Chief of Appeals, Claude Lee.

Discussion ensued as to the people who handle the claims. As they are intermittantly employed, they are entitled to file for unemployment compensation. One of the committee members requested a list or set of statistics that would show the number of people hired part time who file for unemployment compensation when they finish the job.

The subject of voluntary quits was discussed. Secretary Wolgast had brought along copies of HB 2254, Representative Douville's bill which is an act concerning the unemployment law; relating to maximum benefit and disqualification for benefits. The chairman asked if some type of spread sheet had been done, and if not, added that it should be. This would be advantageous to the legislators as they would have a much better understanding of the bill than just by reading it.

Secretary Wolgast told the committee it was a matter of looking at this matter subjectively; whether a person uses a philosophical or judicial approach as to how much emphasis you want to put in the decision-making process. He showed the committee the book entitled "Handbook For Employers". He said it was very informative and helpful but getting the employer to read it is the problem. He said the Department has an image like the IRS in the role it has.

The chairman thanked Secretary Wolgast and stated he had two comments to make. The first being that he had appeared before the Legislative Post Audit Committee to get approval of the mini audit to see if the claims are being challenged and if this is or is not in the employees' job description and if there is incentive to do so. The second comment was regarding HB 2231, the law enforcement training center bill by Representative Aylward. Hearings will be held in the future on this bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

SRC

