

Approved March 1, 1988
Date

JOINT HOUSE AND
MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was called to order by Senator Wint Winter, Jr. at
Chairperson

12:40 ~~am~~ p.m. on February 15, 1988 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Norma Daniels - Excused
Senator Paul Feleciano - Excused
Senator Gerald Karr - Excused

Committee staff present:

Bill Edds, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Mary Allen, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Sol Hurwitz, Vice-President, National Committee on Economic Development

The House and the Senate Committees on Economic Development met jointly in a meeting which was called to order by the Chairman of the Senate Committee, Senator Wint Winter, Jr. Senator Winter introduced Dr. Sol Hurwitz, Senior Vice-President of the Committee for Economic Development in New York, a private, non-profit organization of two hundred twenty-five business leaders and university presidents. This Committee is devoted to research and policy formulation on issues of significance to the economy and to society in general. The Chairman observed that Dr. Hurwitz has dual expertise in human service issues and economic development issues.

Dr. Hurwitz told the Committees that six years ago a survey of the Board of his organization was taken concerning what they perceived to be the most important economic issue facing the nation. Education appeared at the top of the list. He noted that it is impossible to deal with problems of economic development without getting down to the heart of what makes the United States economy as strong as it is. He said that this strength comes from the way we develop and train our people.

Dr. Hurwitz said that during the past three years the Committee for Economic Development issued a series of statements dealing in various ways with the problem of human resources. In 1985, it issued "Investing in our Children". In this report they identified a series of investment strategies. Among the various strategies on education problems which they identified as the most cost effective was pre-school education for disadvantaged three and four year olds. He pointed out that if you do not start early much of the money invested in education will not be effectively used and there will be additional costs in terms of remedial education and costs in a whole array of social services.

Dr. Hurwitz said that in 1986, the Committee began to look closely at the problems of children-in-risk. He observed that if the problems of children-in-need are not dealt with, all of what follows will be very costly. He stated that the Committee found that thirty percent of the children in this country are at risk of failure in education, at risk at failing to find jobs, and at risk of being excluded from the mainstream of our economic and social life. He said that if we fail to deal with this problem, we not only impoverish these children but we impoverish the nation economically, socially and culturally. Dr. Hurwitz said that the Committee did a follow-up to "Investing in our Children" called "Children In Need - Investment Strategies for the Educationally Disadvantaged". He observed that the first investment strategy identified was "start early", start with conception and deal with problems of pregnant teenagers and teen parents through pre-natal care, neo-natal care and care through infancy, toddler years and pre-school years. The focus is to bring an array of services together to help these children get a better start. He said that an investment in these children is an investment in our economic future and our society. The most effective strategy is a program of early and sustained intervention of support services in the lives of these children and their parents.

CONTINUATION SHEET

JOINT HOUSE AND
MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

room 313-S, Statehouse, at 12:40 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 15, 1988

Dr. Hurwitz said that the Committee's approach also calls for a fundamental restructuring of the schools which will position the schools to be more responsive to these children. This would mean smaller classes and smaller schools. The approach also calls for reaching outside of the schools for help from the community, from social services and agencies. It also means involving parents for support from home.

Dr. Hurwitz said that human resources are really at the core of economic development. He noted that Kansas needs to incorporate the strength, talents and the tremendous resources which it has in the interest of advancing its economy. He spoke of the third report issued by the Committee called "Leadership for Dynamic State Economies". This report provides a competitive strategy for a state to move forward with its resources.

Dr. Hurwitz said that there are barriers in dealing with the problems of human resources. He listed the first barrier as money. He said that the Committee determined that additional or new resources, not ones which are moved from one area to another area, are needed to deal with the problems of children-in-need and education of the disadvantaged. He said that the second barrier is the one of fragmentation, the fragmented decision making now taking place. A whole array of services must be brought together in a coherent way. He observed that the private sector has a very important role to play in this for it is becoming a very important advocate for children. The private sector should work closely together with the public sector to make headway on the issue of human resources.

Dr. Hurwitz answered questions from members of the Committees. He listed the following states as ones which are worth looking at in terms of the priority which they have given to the issue of pre-school education, day care and child care: Colorado, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, Washington, Texas and Minnesota. He said that there is a public school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, called "New Futures" for pregnant teenagers and for teenage parents where these young people receive nutritional care, psychological counseling and parenting courses in addition to their normal curriculum. He said that this school is probably the best example of the kind of program which he would like to see in other schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Winter.

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Craig Grant	Kansas - WEA
Debbie Zabel	IPPBR - University of Kansas
STAN WARD	KS BOARD OF AG
JACK MONTGOMERY	KDOC
Melissa Ness	Ks. Children's Serv. League
Ray Petty	Topeka Resource Center for the Handicapped
Nancy H. TUSH	WFT - Wichita
Jan Cople	KFT Wichita
Peg Spencer	SRS / Rehabilitation Services
Janet Schalansky	SRS / Adult Serv.
Jan Allen	Commissioner adult Serv. / SRS
Sam Brounack	Bd of Ag
L Sheree Banzert	~ Ks. Coal. Against Death Pen. ~ Ks. Co. of Crime + Delinquency
Janet Swall	Unity of Kansas
Sal Boverio	Committee for Economic Development, New York