

Approved 3-2-88  
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gordon at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on February 24, 1988 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~:

Committee staff present:

- Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes' Office
- Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Senator Wint Winter, Jr., State Senate
- Dr. Jacob Gordon, K. U.
- Senator Mike Johnston, State Senate
- Earl Nehring, Common Cause/Kansas

On motion of Senator Strick and second by Senator Bond the minutes of February 17 were approved.

SB 601 - Relates to political parties concerning the membership of state party committees. Myrta Anderson of the Legislative Research Department briefly reviewed the bill. Senator Winter, one of the sponsors of the bill, said this is a very simple bill and that it broadens by one vote the representation of the state committee of both parties by including the chairperson of the parties' official organization of blacks. The statute was amended in recent years to extend the voting rights on the state committees of each party to presidents of the political parties official state organizations for women and young persons. Senator Winter did not know why blacks were not extended voting rights on the state committee at that time. Senator Winter said he would urge the committee to give this bill a favorable recommendation as it is good for the political process and it is good for the blacks in the state of Kansas. In answer to a question Senator Winter said he had not contacted heads of any political parties concerning this legislation to see if there is any problem with either organization. Senator Winter also said it is good for the political process to have active black groups involved and he would urge the committee to give this bill a favorable recommendation.

Dr. Jacob Gordon from the University of Kansas appeared before the committee in support of SB 601 and distributed copies of his testimony. (Attachment 1).

SB 619 - Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department, gave a brief explanation of the bill concerning campaign finances and relates to the filing of treasurer's reports.

Senator Johnston, one of the sponsors of the bill, stated the bill provides that a treasurer of a candidate file a report in the secretary of state's office on May 1 of an election year and this report should be the period beginning December 1 of the preceding election year for the office the candidate is seeking and ending on April 20. He stated the other reporting dates remain as they were under the current law. The bill would now require the filing of four reports instead of three as previously required.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections,  
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on February 24, 1988

Senator Johnston said the effective date of this legislation should be amended to read the Kansas register instead of statute book in order to take effect before the next general election.

Earl Nehring, speaking for Common Cause/Kansas, supported SB 619 and distributed copies of his written testimony. (Attachment 2).

Senator Vidricksen, Chairman of the subcommittee on SB 582 concerning the presidential preference primary elections, stated that the subcommittee had met and agreed to write to all the first and second class cities and have them survey their election officers and talk to their commissioners and report back to the subcommittee in regard to changing all city elections and municipal elections to even numbered years to coincide with the years in which a presidential primary election is held. The subcommittee decided that an exhaustive study was needed to do what is right and best for the state of Kansas regarding a presidential primary.

The Chairman announced that next Wednesday, March 2, the committee would meet to discuss and take action on all bills previously heard.

The meeting was adjourned.



SENATE BILL NO. 601

Presentation to the Committee on Elections

February 24, 1988

Senator Francis Gordon, other members of the Committee on Elections, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very delighted to have the opportunity to visit with this august body today to share my point of view on the proposed Senate Bill No. 601, sponsored by Senators Winter, Anderson, Mulich, Parrish and Reilly. I urge you to give this bill a unanimous decision to recommend it for approval by the Kansas Legislature during the 1988 session. My support for the bill is guided by three related factors; (1) my personal and professional experiences, (2) our state and national interest, and (3) the need to broaden the base for our political process.

First, as a former British subject from Nigeria and as one whose professional career has been research and teaching of Black history at the University of Kansas for nearly twenty years, I have developed a better appreciation for my African roots and American heritage. During these years I have also become more sensitive to the social, political and economic needs of Black Americans. These experiences have led me to conclude that the United States is politically pluralistic and that values concerning democracy and the political process are operative.

Second, it is in our state and national interest to approve the proposed bill. Demographers have projected that by the year 2000 Blacks and other minorities will constitute more than a third of our population. This being the case, I would submit that a democracy like ours cannot afford the

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Senate Elections Committee  
Attachment 1

luxury of denying minorities full political participation in our society. Any de factor denial and/or the perception of the denial of minority full participation in our political process is inconsistent with our democracy as a system of values. In fact such an act of denial will not only threaten the future of our society but will weaken our ability to provide effective leadership to the free world and freedom fighters in the Third World, especially in South Africa and Nicaragua.

My third reason for speaking in favor of the bill is the need to broaden the base for our political process. We were pleased to note that voting rights on state committees of each party were extended to presidents of the political parties' official state organizations for women and young persons by the Kansas Legislature last year.

The Kansas Legislature should be commended for such a wise and timely action. This act, in my opinion, has helped to broaden the base for effective participation by the women and youth auxiliaries of both the Democratic and Republican parties in our state. Thus we have come today to ask you to extend similar opportunities to the chairpersons of the official organizations of Blacks and other minorities in both parties. The approval of this bill will mean a celebration of democracy as defined by President Abraham Lincoln, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The heart of democracy is the fact that people feel that they govern themselves.

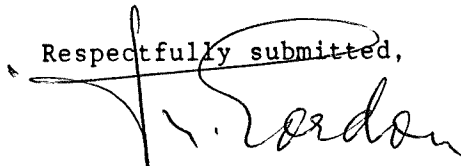
Sine the 1870's, Kansas has always been the dream world of Black Americans, a spiritual and political haven in the eyes of Blacks. This is the home of many great Black leaders in America. To name just a few are Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, founder of the Black Exodus movement; Alfred Fairfax, the first Black Kansas Legislator in 1889; Gwendolyn Brooks, a

native of Topeka, became the first Black American to receive the Pulitzer Prize in 1950; W.L. Sayers, district court clerk for Graham County and later served as county attorney, 1900-1903 and 1912-1916; Gale Sayers, the youngest and most terrific football player in the nations's Hall of Fame; attorney Charles Scott, a leading lawyer in the famous 1954 case of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education; Edward McCabe, the only Black who has ever served in Kansas as state auditor in 1882 and 1884; Gordon Parks, the first Black man to direct full-length movies for a major Hollywood studio, etc., etc. The point here is that Kansas has always met its challenge and I have no doubt that we are prepared to meet new challenges as we enter into the 21st century.

Let me conclude by saying that your vote for this bill will make the difference in how we as Blacks perceive our democracy. This is particularly important to us at a time when American democracy is undergoing vast changes in our domestic ideas, policies, and institutions as well as in our relations with the rest of the world.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. U. Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jacob U. Gordon, Chairman  
Black Agenda Sub-Committee  
Kansas Black Republican Council



**COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS**

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February 24, 1988

Statement in support of Senate Bill 619  
presented to the Senate Committee on Elections  
by Earl Nehring for Common Cause/Kansas

Senate Bill 619 would require treasurers covered by the Campaign Finance Act to file an additional campaign finance report on May 1 of an election year, with other reporting dates remaining as they are under current law.

Our organization supports this proposal in principle, just as we will support any proposal which we believe strengthens the effectiveness of the Campaign Finance Act. That law is intended to inform the public about election campaign financing. It is inadequate now because it requires too few reports and requires these reports too close to the dates of elections for the public to have time to assess them.

S. 619 addresses these weaknesses by adding one report and requiring its submission earlier in the election year. It would be an improvement on the present situation, but it does not resolve the inadequacies in the law. For example, many candidates do not file until just before the June 10th deadline and would not be affected by this change. The improvement would lie in requiring an earlier report by ongoing candidate committees, party and political committees. If the date of the new report were changed to June 1, more newly declared candidates would be affected--unless this new reporting date results in all candidates waiting until after that date to file for office.

Our organization prefers legislation requiring annual reports of all ongoing candidate, party and political committees as well as an additional report before the primary and general elections. That would provide the base for effective campaign finance accountability.

Thus S. 619 does not meet our policy goals, but it moves in the right direction.

February 24, 1988  
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Attachment 2