

Approved 3-22-90
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Kenneth King at
Chairperson

9:07 a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, March 20th, 1990 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Research
Fred Carman, Revisor
Ellie Luthye, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Michael Johnston
Michael Woolf, Common Cause

The House Election Committee was called to order by Chairman Kenneth R. King at 9:07 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20th in Room 123-S.

The Chair opened hearings on SB 417, an act establishing the Kansas Select Commission on Ethical Conduct. Senator Johnston appeared before the committee and explained the bill and presented testimony in support of this legislation. The proposed commission would study the state's laws on disclosure, conflict of interest and campaign finance during the summer and fall and submit a report, with recommendations, to the 1991 Legislature.

The committee then presented questions to Senator Johnston.

Next to appear before the committee was Michael Woolf, Common Cause, who presented written testimony in support of SB 417. He stated Common Cause also supports the proposed changes in HB 3065 but feels this bill does not address all areas of concern. (Attachment I)

There were no other conferees to appear before the committee and the Chair closed hearings on SB 417.

HB 2862, concerning fees accompanying declaration of intention to becoming a candidate, was next opened for hearings. The three sponsors of the bill, Representatives Baker, Cates and Sawyer, all spoke in favor of this legislation, stating it would be a source of revenue for the parties that would not come from special interest groups and that it would strengthen the party.

Representative Blumenthal suggested that the Chair call for final action on HB 2862 but the Chair alluded to the rules of the committee which states that all bills placed on final action shall be announced prior to the meeting. He then closed hearings on HB 2862.

The Chair called for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on March 15th. Hearing no objections he declared the minutes approved.

Chairman King told the committee that Arden Ensley, Revisor, was home with a back problem and Fred Carman would be serving as Revisor to the committee in his absence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting of the House Election Committee will be Thursday, March 22nd in Room 521-S.



COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

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March 20, 1990

Statement in Support of Senate Bill 417
Presented to the House Committee on Elections
by Michael Woolf, Executive Director

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I want to thank you for allowing me to testify this morning in support of Senate Bill 417, which would set up a Select Commission on Ethical Conduct to make recommendations to the 1991 Legislature concerning ethics laws in Kansas.

As some of you may be aware, in January, Common Cause released an "Ethics Agenda for Kansas". This package of proposals addressed five different areas of concern in our ethics laws.

While we support the proposed changes in House Bill 3065 and commend this Committee and the full House for their action, this bill does not address all areas of concern. We believe that a Select Commission could give in-depth study and consideration to ethical concerns not addressed in HB 3065.

Once again, Common Cause rises in support of SB 417, and we hope the Committee will pass the bill out favorably.

Attachment I

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