

Approved: January 31, 1995
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Salisbury at 8:00 a.m. on January 30, 1995 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Members present: Senators Salisbury, Burke, Downey, Feleciano, Gooch, Harris, Kerr, Petty, Ranson, Reynolds, Steffes and Vidricksen.

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Betty Bomar, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Larry K. Williams, Halstead
George E. McCullough, Topeka
Steven "Ken" Morse, Topeka

Upon motion of Senator Steffes, seconded by Senator Reynolds, the Minutes of January 26, 1995, were unanimously adopted.

Confirmation hearing on the appointment of Larry K. Williams, Kansas Inc., Board of Directors, term expiring June 30, 1997.

Larry K. Williams, testified he had thirty-four years experience as a banker in Halstead. As a small town banker he automatically becomes involved in economic development. Mr. Williams reported his bank is intricately involved in job creation programs in both Halstead and Harvey County. He is currently President of the Kansas Bankers' Association and serves on the Kansas Rural Development Council; he has no hesitancy about being able to serve the current administration. Mr. Williams testified that the best gauge for determining the benefits of economic development dollars is to look at the economy in the State today and compare it to that in 1986. Economic dollars should be utilized with a broad contained focus rather than in a scatter-shot manner.

Confirmation hearing on the appointment of Steven "Ken" Morse, Public Employee Relations Board, term expiring July 1, 1998.

Ken Morse testified he was appointed to the position on the Board that is a representative of the public at large. He is a graduate of Washburn Law School, was employed as Employee Relations Manager, Volume Shoe Corporation; has been legal staff for the Kansas Civil Service Commission, and presently is Vice President of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. Mr. Morse has attended two meetings of the Board to date, and is astounded at the tremendous backlog. He believes there are administrative changes and stream-lining of the process that can be instituted that would alleviate some of the backlog. The Board has written a letter to the Governor regarding the backlog and the need for an additional hearing officer and staff. The response was not favorable due to state financial constraints. Additionally, he would be supportive of binding arbitration as a remedy, but not further expansion of governmental units to come under the Public Employee-Employer Relations Act. He further stated that even though he was appointed by Governor Finney, he would have no hesitancy in working with the present administration.

Confirmation hearing on the reappointment of George E. McCullough, Public Employee Relations Board, term expiring July 1, 1998.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m.
on , 1995.

George E. McCullough, testified he has been reappointed to the public employee representative position on the Board. He has attended four meetings of the Board and it is his observation that it takes at least two years to process a complaint due to the backlog. There is only one hearing officer to hear complaints, to write findings and submit them to the Board for a decision. He suggested remedies might include binding arbitration and board members acting as hearing officers. He has not been supportive of expanding the Board's hearings to teachers, nor does he feel it would be prudent to require more governmental units to be subject to the Public Employee-Employer Relations Act. The Board does intends to speak with the new Secretary of Human Resources about the backlog.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 1995.