

Approved: 4-26-95  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at 1:00 p.m. on March 24, 1995 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department  
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Kim Perkins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bernie Norwood, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Control

Others attending: See attached list

Sen. Oleen announced that the committee would begin the confirmation hearing for Bernie Norwood as Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Bernie Norwood made brief introductory comments and stood for questions from the committee.

Sen. Tillotson asked Bernie Norwood the effective date of his appointment and Bernie Norwood answered February 1. Sen. Vidricksen stated that over the years he had dealt with ABC frequently and he complimented the service he has received from that department as being extremely efficient.

Sen. Praeger stated that it was a pleasure to have Bernie Norwood before the committee and asked Bernie Norwood to explain the transition of a staff member to director of the department. Bernie Norwood stated that the transition has been very smooth and that he has the support of all of the staff. Sen. Oleen called for further questions from the committee, and seeing none, closed the confirmation hearing.

Sen. Oleen asked the committee to direct its attention to **HB 2527**, an act concerning alcoholic beverages; relating to consumption in certain places; prohibiting certain acts and providing penalties. Sen. Parkinson made a motion to amend the bill to allow for properly licensed hotels and motels to place mini-bars in their hotel rooms. The motion was seconded by Sen. Vidricksen; the motion passed.

Sen. Papay made a motion that **HB 2527**, as amended, be recommended for favorable action. The motion was seconded by Sen. Gooch; the motion passed.

Sen. Oleen announced that she had distributed the resignation letter from Arthur Neuhedel, Executive Director of the Racing Commission, who had come before the committee for confirmation (Attachment 1). Senator Oleen expressed Neuhedel's sentiments that he appreciated the senators' consideration of his confirmation.

Sen. Oleen stated to the committee that she had distributed a news article concerning the concealed weapons legislation which she received for the committee's reference (Attachment 2).

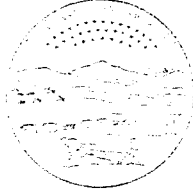
Sen. Oleen asked the committee to turn its attention to **HB 2420**, an act providing for licensure to carry certain concealed weapons. Sen. Praeger made a motion to report the bill adversely and the motion was seconded by Sen. Jones. The motion passed.

Sen. Oleen called for further discussion, and seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 1995.



STATE OF KANSAS



KANSAS RACING COMMISSION

3400 Van Buren  
Topeka, Kansas 66611-2228  
(913) 296-5800  
FAX (913) 296-0900

March 24, 1995

The Honorable Lana Oleen  
Senator  
Chair, Sen. Federal & State Affairs  
State Capitol  
Room 136N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Oleen:

With this letter, please be advised that I am withdrawing my name for consideration for the position of executive director for the Kansas Racing Commission. My resignation shall be effective immediately.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Art J. Neuhedel".

Art J. Neuhedel  
Executive Director

95AJN20-dpb

Sen Fed & State  
3-24-95  
Attachment 1

# Unconcealed arrogance

**T**he Kansas House seems deathly afraid of approving the lottery — but then votes in favor of more guns on the street. And, in the process, it votes to strip local governments of the power to restrict lethal weapons.

Question: What's wrong with this picture?

Answer: Where to begin?

First of all, it's ludicrous on its face to authorize the carrying of concealed weapons, as the House did by a 78-46 vote on Wednesday. It's a statement that the reason we have too much crime is that we have too few guns.

Pure bunkum.

Common sense alone tells you that the more weapons there are on the streets, the more violence we'll have.

But the facts bear that out as well: University of Maryland researchers found that in four of five cities studied, more people were killed with guns after gun restrictions were loosened.

Three of the cities with higher rates of homicide were in Florida — often cited as the darling of concealed-carry laws.

But even more egregious than the House's approval of a concealed weapons bill is its arrogant decree that state law shall pre-empt local restrictions on guns.

Many legislators, especially freshmen, swept into office last November

**■ The 1995 edition of the Kansas House prefers more guns on the street than lottery tickets. Huh?**

on a wave — if not an outright promise — of less government-on-high. They self-righteously decried federal mandates and championed government at the local level.

Yet, many have hypocritically ordained that they now know better than city or county residents and their elected officials how to regulate guns.

Besides the arrogance of it, the notion of pre-empting local gun laws is downright stupid: It's a statement from legislators that cities or counties shouldn't be too tough on crime.

"This," said dissenting Rep. Jim Lowther, R-Emporia, "takes away the right of the people to govern themselves as they think best."

Absolutely.

It is also an unconcealed slap in the face for communities that have enacted gun laws — most conspicuously Wichita, where voters last November affirmed a gun control ordinance there.

Thankfully, these two bad ideas were quickly landfilled in a Senate vote Thursday.

Good. There isn't enough fill dirt there to cover the stench.

# Don't pass this chance

**K**ansas House members used an innocuous-looking sleight-of-hand in doing it. But their action

Wednesday to send the lottery issue back to committee has the potential to scratch the games completely.

Without legislative action, the Kansas Lottery is scheduled to end in July 1996 — almost 10 years after nearly two-thirds of Kansas voters approved it.

The lottery's predicament is even more precarious than that: Since games such as Powerball and Cash Lotto allow winners 12 months to come forward, lottery director Greg Ziemak said that without action by the House to save the lottery, sales of such tickets will have to end June 30 of this year.

If so, we know whom to blame.

House members voted 67 to 57 Wednesday to strip the "enacting" clause from the lottery bill — which would keep the bill alive, but would stop it from being enacted into law.

The bill was then sent back to the House Federal and State Affairs

**■ The House has several weeks to stop playing games with the lottery.**

committee. Its chairman, Rep. Garry Boston, R-Newton, claimed not to be excited about re-opening hearings on it.

Fine. Just pass it.

How much more public will must be demonstrated? Besides the initial 1986 vote, polls now indicate even more people — nearly three-fourths of Kansas residents — support it. And they show it, by purchasing tickets by the millions. The state's own share of lottery proceeds was nearly \$50 million last year.

Some House members apparently are using the lottery as a bargaining chip to get more tax cuts out of the governor and Senate.

Stop playing games with the people's lottery. Either pass it or don't.

And if you don't pass it, be ready to explain it to three-fourths of the state.

Sen Fed & State

3-24-95

Attachment 2