

MINUTES FOR THE LONG RANGE OPTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held: January 20, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brickley, Chairperson; Herrell, Jordan, Lang, Russell, Snedecor, Stuhr, Yost

EXCUSED: Clarno, Jaeger, Keller, Kirkpatrick, McGilvra, Roberts, Telfer

STAFF: Macpherson, Rich, Stamm

The meeting was called to order, and the committee discussed "The Outline of Potential Recommendations" (LR-21). Changes were made by the committee and the revised version is contained in LR-22 which will be presented at the next meeting.

Discussion on LR-21 included the following:

Rich explained the difference between the two proposed approaches. (1) The Statute way would give county consolidation, but nothing more. The legislature could do this through a statute which would then be submitted to the voters. (2) The constitutional route would establish a more truly two-tier unit with their relationships spelled out in the charter. A charter committee could draw up charters for both tiers and their relationship, assigning functions, etc.

Jordan felt that lines 20 and 21 took away the home rule authority of the City of Portland, and it would become a part of a larger home rule unit. He suggested it could require two ballot measures to be approved by the voters: state-wide to adopt constitutional amendment and approval of a new charter.

Herrell would like the lower tier to have some powers that the metro unit could not touch.

Rich: You can attempt to do that or leave it for the drafters of the charter to do.

Jordan thought that what we have now is better than this portion of the proposal (lines 20-21).

Stuhr: Our proposal is definitely long range.

Herrell would like more decentralization within a larger framework than what is shown.

Jordan suggested having a series of options. He agreed we should have the ideal, but wanted to show the practical aspect, honing in on a good one.

Stuhr: No one can decide on what is the long range ideal, so let's take a step.

Jordan: We are giving people reasons not to support our proposal.

Brickley: This is a mechanism to get to something new.

Rich: The present statute would not go into effect until 1979. Looking long range, let's take what is being proposed, let it get into operation and then decide whether it is effective or not before proposing consideration of the longer range.

Brickely: Provide that the metropolitan government adopt a regional home rule chartered government.

Snedecor thought the committee had reached the conclusion to look at the ideal for the long range solution and submit it whether it would hurt someone or not.

Jordan suggested putting down both ideals as options.

Snedecor questioned placement of Human Services; prefers it in lower tier.

Macpherson: Funding is in upper tier; services are at the lower.

Rich: This is only the committee's final report -- a legacy for others to start from; details can be changed.

Stuhr: You must let the people know what you think needs to happen.

Jordan: There should be another body to continue this study -- give this body three or four options. Reach a balance between a dream and reality. A future body would have had the experience of living under it.

Yost: Give a long range position to make it relative for other communities.

Brickley suggested statutory and constitutional methods be presented and show problems involved in each one.

There was general agreement to amend the first page to include discussion of the two methods and a recommendation of creation of a charter commission.

Long Range Options: (1) Constitutional -- legislature could make an amendment; (2) Statutory -- the commission could provide for county consolidation and still maintain the present home rule of cities.

Yost suggested putting the options at the end with advantages and disadvantages. It was generally agreed that a paragraph address education -- that tho the Commission did not deal with it, but the charter commission should consider education.

Brickley: Boundaries of the Tri-County area should also be discussed.

Herrell: Charter commission could do that, if passed by voters.

Lang: A resolution can adjust county boundaries. A current bill has some good backing this time. Brickley said that parts of counties could be cut off.

Final draft will be completed at next week's meeting, January 27th.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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