

GOVERNOR BALZAR MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE LEGISLATURE

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OUTLINES VIEWS ON NEEDS OF NEVADA

Recommends Lowering of Expenditures in the Conduct of State Government

titles to those interested in the development of its mineral resources. It needs capital however, for the exploitation of its older camps and its new discoveries. Capital must be sought from without the state and it should be encouraged to enter Nevada by liberal laws. Let capital be attracted to our mining industry and the rewards will be great, not only to the communities concerned but to the state as a whole. It is well recognized that no other line of endeavor can such immediate and substantial responses to appeals for funds be obtained. To that end, the advancement of the industry should be encouraged in every possible way.

Education
It is essential that our State University and public school system be maintained upon the high standards heretofore set. The future citizenship of the state will very largely be determined by the educational opportunities given our young men and women and I recommend that you provide adequate funds with which to carry on this most important work. At the same time, I suggest that you scrutinize all such appropriation measures with the same zealous care as you devote to other similar demands upon our treasury.

State Highways
I recommend that nothing be done to impair the continued prosecution of highway construction and maintenance in Nevada. While there has been much complaint for several years because of the large overhead cost of the highway department, I am confident that this condition can be corrected in substantially all respects by administrative action.

In view of the limited railroad mileage within the state, its highways system constitutes a most important part of its transportation structure. However, I do not believe that it is wise to materially enlarge the present system before the mainline roads are completed, in the absence of assurance that federal aid for such additional roads can be obtained.

I submit for your consideration, the suggestions which have been made that the directors of the highway department be selected from zones or districts defined by the legislature. Those advocating such a distribution of the directorate believe that thereby the various sections of the state would be more properly represented in the administration of highway affairs. It does not seem advisable, however, if such suggestions meet with your approval, that the membership of the department be increased beyond its present number.

Labor
The welfare of those engaged in industry, is one of the state's most important responsibilities. The high standard of living which prevails among the workers of America is due, not only to their own splendid efforts, but

to the wisdom of the protective enactments of the states and the nation. I trust that Nevada, through your efforts, will continue to maintain its advanced position in this respect.

It is a pleasure to report that for some time past, our industries have furnished employment to all those desiring work, and the very favorable conditions now existing throughout the state in the ranks of labor are equal to or better than for many years. In the past, the state has enacted laws to protect and preserve the life and health of those engaged in the industries of the state, and it is found that additional legislation is necessary upon this subject, serious thought should be given to measures which may be offered by organized labor.

Parole System
At this time, I wish to recommend a change in the indeterminate sentence law and a reorganization of the present parole system. Our penal registers are replete with glaring inequalities in the administration of justice. In many instances the hardened criminal of unquestioned guilt is serving a lighter sentence, for a similar offense, than a first offender. One pleaded guilty before the court; the other fought unsuccessfully for his liberty before a jury. It is to correct these inequalities, that many paroles are granted, which too often bring down the unjust criticism of an unkind and unenlightened public.

Sentences should be for an indeterminate term, with a fixed maximum, but no minimum. At the institution to which commitment is made, a complete history of each case should be compiled, including the physical and moral fitness of the prisoner; his past record; and all circumstances attending the commission of the crime.

It would then become the duty of the parole board to classify him; fix the time when he may be paroled, based upon a merit system, and determined by fixed and definite rules and regulations. Such a system would be in keeping with the most advanced prison methods; would facilitate institutional discipline; hasten the reformation and rehabilitation of the prisoner; and relieve the executive, and the prison and parole officials, from the incessant and distressing demands for clemency.

Home For Indigents
From time to time it has been suggested that the legislature establish a state farm for care of the indigents who are now supported in county institutions. The counties now have 126 inmates in such homes, and have \$176,000 invested in lands and buildings according to their official reports. Their annual cost of maintenance, according to the same reports, is \$109,000 annually, or \$72 per month for each inmate. Those advocating such a central home or farm are of the opinion that it would afford equal or better accommodations and care than is now being bestowed, and at much less expense to the counties. Inasmuch as some of the counties might be opposed to state maintenance of their indigents and as establishment of such a home might lay the foundation for another costly state department, I suggest that it be given the most conservative consideration. At the same time, I am convinced that the present cost of maintenance of our indigent population is excessive and that economies of considerable

magnitude could be effected by an intelligent study of this question.

Fish and Game
Our wild life constitutes one of the state's most valuable assets and averting should be done to increase its supply. It is not only a palatable source of food but furnishes the most healthful out-of-doors recreation. The fostering care of the state could well be applied to its preservation and increase, through such cooperation with the various counties as may meet with your approval.

The Inheritance Tax
The enactment by congress of a federal estate tax which applies to its full extent only in those states which impose no taxes upon inheritance, make it advisable for Nevada to re-enact an inheritance tax law similar to the one repealed two years ago. Unless this is done, important revenues which should accrue to the Nevada state treasury will flow to the treasury of the United States to the injury of Nevada and its people.

Uniform Laws
As has been the custom of my predecessors, I desire at this time to commend the Nevada board of commissioners for the work done in promoting uniform legislation. Nevada ranks high in the percentage list of uniform acts adopted, having approved fifty per cent of all laws recommended.

The state of Nevada in the past has contributed to the support of the National Conference, and I recommend that a like appropriation be made for the coming biennium.

State Departments
I have no comment to make at this time upon the various state institutions, commissions or boards as their biennial reports will be placed in your hands at an early date, and contained therein will be recommendations regarding such departments.

Legislation in Connection With Constitutional Amendments
Section 20 of Article IV of the Constitution has been amended to authorize the county commissioners to establish and regulate the compensation and fees of township officers.

The legislature should enact the legislation necessary to enable the various boards of county commissioners to exercise such power under this amendment.

Section 8 of Article VIII of the Constitution has been amended and under the amendment the legislature may by general laws, permit and authorize the electors of any city or town to adopt amendments to their city charter. It is important that the legislature enact a general law making the necessary provisions for carrying this amendment into effect.

Purchasing Agent
It comes to my attention that there is considerable diversity among state departments in methods of purchasing supplies. I believe that our local trades people, whether selling at wholesale or retail, should have the preference when the state is the purchasing party, provided the prices, quality and delivery are equally satisfactory. While this should not be an inflexible rule, to the detriment of a department needing some special article not readily obtainable locally, yet as a general rule, the practice of purchasing at home is preferable. Serious consideration should be given to the creation of a purchasing agent for the state. I am convinced that such a step would effect a considerable saving in the transaction of its public business.

General Suggestions
The increase in the cost of the Nevada state government to an extent disproportionate to the increase in wealth and population, is a matter of serious concern and should receive your thoughtful attention.

To carry on the various functions of the state requires many departments, but it is not necessary, in my judgement, to supply each of such departments with an exclusive staff of officials merely because their duties are not directly related. This practice has resulted in some instances, in what might be termed part time employment of high salaried officials. Certainly no person paid by the state on the basis of the full utilization of his time, can object to rendering services for which he may be qualified during the usual hours which a prudent person devotes to the conduct of his own business or as may be expected of him in private employment.

I am of the opinion that the secretary of the state tax commission, with the present regular staff of employees of that department, could readily discharge the duties imposed upon the office of state auditor. A consolidation of this character would have the state, the present salary of the state auditor and deputy.

I also believe that the state bank examiner could discharge the duties of one of the appointive members of the public service commission, without in any way lessening his efficiency as an examiner of banks. Such a consolidation of duties would effect a saving of at least two thousand dollars annually.

There is at present a duplication of work in connection with the issuance, recording and collection of motor vehicle licenses which is costing the state large sums of money each year. This is a function which properly belongs to the department of highways and I would respectfully recommend that this entire activity be transferred to that department.

I also recommend that a constitutional amendment be proposed to abolish the office of state surveyor general, with a view of having the work of this office performed in the future by the state engineer or some other state official. The small remaining amount of the state owned land makes such a step advisable.

Attention might be also devoted with profit to a study of the various state officers, boards, commissions and institutions as to their required medical services, clerical assistance and traveling expenses.

The expense incurred in transportation of prisoners from the various counties to the state prisons involves a large annual outlay. I recommend that the present law be so amended as to provide that prisoners, held in the several county jails under felony sentences, be conveyed to the state prison under the direction of the warden of that institution.

Conclusion
It has not been possible for me to mention all the subjects that may deserve your consideration; but I realize that you will have many topics of legislation relative to the affairs of our state that will merit your earnest attention. I most sincerely urge that after your organization is completed, you immediately consider all necessary appropriations, any required amendments to our laws, repeal of state statutes, and that all new legislation be given careful consideration before final action is taken. If this can be done in less than the usual time required, and the work of your session completed within a period of forty days' time, the tax payers will appreciate the example set and the saving in time and money.

As governor of the state, I ask your cooperation, and to the best of my ability, will work with you to the common end of making this one of the most successful and constructive legislative sessions in the history of Nevada. I shall be glad to consult with you at any time, and invite you to avail yourselves of any assistance that may be rendered by the state departments.

I may from time to time, desire to further communicate with your honorable bodies and reserve the right to so supplement this message.

Personal Mention

Mrs. Frank Gusewell and Miss Vera Clark received the sad news Monday of the death of their father at Jamison, Miss. Miss Clark left at once and will probably be away two weeks. The sympathy of their many friends is extended to them.

Miss Ellen Lenore spent the past week in the Mogpa valley. C. P. Squires and Ed. W. Clark left Monday evening for Los Angeles to attend the tri-state conference. Dr. R. W. Martin left Tuesday evening to attend the tri-state conference.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bracken are spending the week end in San Francisco.

Ex-Senator Charles Henderson of Elko has been appointed a member of the Colorado River commission by Gov. Balzar. He was unable to attend the conference held the past week in Los Angeles.

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