

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN COLUMBIA APRIL 8, 1959

Present were Commissioners Warren, Cantey, Cox and Oliphant, Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Dan McKeithan and Jack Carroll.

Senator Warren reported on the fisheries bill, which has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee, with some amendments. He said that he had taken the responsibility of agreeing to an amendment to ~~eliminate~~ the \$5 annual retail dealer's license, which was strongly opposed.

Some objectionable amendments had been voted down, he said, and none of the pending amendments was too important. He said that a special committee now had it under consideration and he believed it would pass after being reported out next Tuesday.

Senator Warren also said that he had discussed the boating bill with some of its authors and that he believed the amendments he had suggested would be incorporated in the bill. He said that the authors were set in their intention to have a Director and a Division within the Department and he had recommended that the bill be changed to provide that the Commission administer the Division and employ the Director and other personnel required under terms prescribed by the Commission. He added that no commitments had been made regarding a Director.

After a general discussion it was agreed that unless the above terms were included the bill would be unsuitable.

Senator Warren also said that in view of Director Richardson's announced retirement the Commission should be studying the matter of a successor, and possibly take this up at the next meeting. He also said it was the firm hope of the Commission that Director Richardson keep in touch and that he be considered as Director Emeritus. The Secretary was instructed to draw up a suitable resolution for presentation at the next meeting.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country. It is noted that the economy is still in a state of depression, and that the government is struggling to meet its obligations. The report also mentions that the population is suffering from a lack of food and clothing, and that the government is trying to do its best to help them.

In the second part of the report, the author discusses the political situation. It is noted that the government is still in a state of uncertainty, and that there are many different groups vying for power. The author also mentions that the military is still a major force in the country, and that it is trying to influence the government's policies.

The third part of the report deals with the social situation. It is noted that the population is still suffering from the effects of the war, and that there is a high level of unemployment. The author also mentions that the government is trying to do its best to help the poor, but that it is still struggling to do so.

In the fourth part of the report, the author discusses the future of the country. It is noted that there are many challenges ahead, but that there is also a great deal of hope. The author believes that the country has the potential to become a strong and prosperous nation, but that it will need to overcome many obstacles in the process.

The report concludes with a summary of the author's findings and a list of recommendations. The author believes that the government should focus on improving the economy, reducing unemployment, and helping the poor. The author also believes that the government should work to improve the political situation, and that it should try to build a strong and stable government.

Director Richardson expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the Commission and his friendship toward its members and said that he would certainly keep in touch.

Mr. McKeithan discussed a bill by the Darlington delegation that provides for an advisory fish and game commission for the county and said he believed all undesirable features had been removed.

The reappointment of Wardens Boozer and Barfield was approved and that of Warden Moore subject to the approval of Commissioner Huggins. The reappointment of Warden Parsons of Georgetown was also approved.

Salary raises of \$220 annually were approved for 12 wardens whose work had been very satisfactory and who had not been on long enough to receive the benefit of a previous merit raise. Director Richardson pointed out the raises were in conformity with the recommendations of the Gabrielson report.

The commissioning of W. C. Whitworth, to be paid from Santee-Cooper funds, was approved after Mr. Webb said he appeared to be a desirable addition to the force and could be used immediately on some important work.

There was a general discussion of the Department's financial situation and Mr. Webb said some federal money was being lost because matching funds were not available. The Commission requested that a report be made at the next meeting on what surplus would be left over routine obligations that would be available for federal projects.

Bob Lunz and Mr. Schley reported that the fisheries bill would be reported out next Tuesday and that apparently it would go through without major change, House sentiment appearing strong for passage.

Mr. Warren discussed a Beaufort proposal that the county treasurer be allowed to continue handling the license and fine money and said he had agreed that this could be worked out if the Commission were allowed to promulgate rules of operation.

Eddie Finlay

