

ARCHIVES RECORD

Nebraska,
RG20 Constitutional Revision Commission

Records etc.: 1969-1970
Cubic Ft: 4
Approx. No. of Items: 2000

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Nebraska Constitutional Revision Commission was established by the 1969 Legislature and assigned the task of making a complete study of the Constitution of Nebraska to determine what changes, if any, should be made in it. The Commission placed special emphasis on simplifying and condensing the Constitution. Likewise, it attempted to give the Legislature broader powers, rather than restricting it. Since it has been almost fifty years since the last review of the Constitution, there were many obsolete provisions, some hampering the development of new governmental ideas.

The Commission created four sub-committees, staffed with three members each, to study the Constitution article by article. Public hearings were held and comments and recommendations were received from citizens from all over the state of Nebraska, making their views known to the Commission.

The Commission reported its findings and recommendations for changes in the Constitution to the Legislature, the Governor, and the citizens generally.

The Commission consisted of twelve members. The Legislature appointed six members of the Commission, three of them acting legislators, with one legislator and one nonlegislator residing in each of the present Congressional districts. Three members of the Commission were appointed by the Governor, with one of such members residing in each of the present Congressional districts. The Supreme Court appointed three members of the Commission, with one of such members residing in each of the present Congressional districts.

The members were: Senator Ramey C. Whitney, Chairman, Chappell; Phillip A. Gass, Vice-Chairman, Omaha; James W. R. Brown, Omaha; David Dow, Lincoln; Senator William H. Hasebroock, West Point; Albert A. Kjar, Lexington; Walter P. Lauritsen, Grand Island; Mrs. J. F. Lucas, Omaha; Robert McKelvie, Alma; Rodney R. Smith, South Sioux City; Senator George Syas, Omaha; and Mrs. James Weber, Lincoln.

Robert E. Barnett was Executive Director of the Commission.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the records of the Constitutional Revision Commission, 1969-1970, arranged in three series: (1) Administrative Files, 1969-1970; (2) Minutes of the Constitutional Revision Commission meetings, Nov. 1969-1970; and (3) Reports of the Constitutional Revision Commission, 1969-1970.

This collection relates to the operation of the Constitutional Revision Commission in its efforts to propose amendments to the Nebraska State Constitution.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, 1969-1970

Box 1

Folder 1 Amendments
 Folder 2 Acknowledgement letters
 Folder 3 Constitutional Amendments proposed by 1967 Legislature (to be voted on at General Election, November 5, 1968.
 Folder 4 Biographies - Commission members
 Folder 5 Budget
 Folder 6 Citizen's comments - #1
 Folder 7 Citizen's comments - #2
 Folder 8 Constitutional convention
 Folder 9 Correspondence (general) 1969-1970

Box 2

- Folder 10 Documents, i.e., research reports, proceedings of the Nebr. Const. Convention, 1919-1920
 Supreme Court Case #620, Oct. 1968
 Folder 11 Legislative Council
 Folder 12 Commission Meetings
 Folder 13 Hearing Testimony: Correspondence with prospective witnesses
 Folder 14 Hearing Witnesses
 Folder 15 Meeting - Corres., list of witnesses, topics discussed, etc. (Oct. 21, 1969)
 Folder 16 Meeting - November 7, 1969
 Folder 17 Meeting - November 21, 1969
 Folder 18 Meeting - December 4, 1969
 Folder 19 Meetings - March 5, 1970 & Mar. 6, 1970
 Folder 20 Meeting - March 17, 1970
 Folder 21 Meeting - April 10, 1970

Box 2

Folder 22 Meeting - May 8, 1970 & May 9, 1970
 Folder 23 Meetings - May 21, 1970 & May 23, 1970
 Folder 24 Meetings - June 11, 1970 & June 13, 1970
 Folder 25 Meetings - June 18, 1970 & June 20, 1970
 Folder 26 Meeting - July 31, 1970
 Folder 27 Meeting - August 21, 1970
 Folder 28 Memos and progress reports.
 Folder 29 Newspaper clippings
 Folder 30 News releases

Box 3

Folder 31 Organization: subcommittee assignments, members of the Const. Rev. Comm., proposed schedule of Comm.

Folder 32 Other Commissions

Folder 33 Publicity Funding

Folder 34 Questionnaires relating to possible changes to the Nebr. State Constitution (restricted unless permission granted)

Folder 35 Research - Law Firms

Folder 36 Report of Const. Rev. Commission

Folder 37 Speeches

Folder 38 State Agencies: request by Const. Rev. Comm. for proposed changes by various state agencies.

Box 4

Folder 39 Subcommittees

Folder 40 Subcommittee 1: responsible for study of Bill of Rights, Distribution of powers, Judicial and Suffrage.

Folder 41 Subcommittee 2 (I) responsible for study of Legislative and Executive

Folder 42 Subcommittee 2 (II) same as above.

Folder 43 Subcommittee 3: responsible for study of revenue, counties, Public Service Corporation, Municipal Corporations, miscellaneous corporations, and State, County and Municipal Indebtedness.

Folder 44 Subcommittee 4: responsible for study of Education, Militia and miscellaneous provisions.

SERIES TWO

MINUTES OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION MEETINGS, November, 1969-August, 1970 (transcribed on dictaphone belts)

Box 5

Carton 1 November, 1969 - March, 1970

Carton 2 April, 1970- May, 1970

Box 6

Carton 3 May 21-23, 1970 - June 11, 1970

Carton 4 June 12-19, 1970

Box 7

Carton 5 July, 1970 - August, 1970

SERIES THREE

REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

SERIES THREE (cont.)

Box 8

- Vol. 1 Report of the Constitutional Revision Commission (2nd Draft, November 26, 1969)
- Vol. 2 Report of the Constitutional Revision Commission (Draft of working report, September 24, 1970)
- Vol. 3-4 Report of the Constitutional Revision Commission (Published version, Sept. 24, 1970)

DJJ/pmc December 17, 1970