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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2006
TO: Jeff Loflin, Technical Communication Systems Specialist
FROM: Jan Wolfley, Assistant Librarian *ju*
Research Library
SUBJECT: **History of the Broadcast and Production Services Unit within the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau**

This memorandum responds to your request for the history of the Broadcast and Production Services Unit of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. As you know, the department was formerly known as the Media Services Unit of the Legislative Counsel Bureau until 2006 when the name was changed to adequately reflect the services of the unit.

In 1991, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 588 (Chapter 644, *Statutes of Nevada*), which appropriated \$202,300 to the Legislative Fund for expenses of a telecommunication system. Specifically, the measure established a telecommunication system capable of linking rooms in the Legislative Building with suitable facilities in Clark County to accommodate public hearings and the taking of testimony.

For your review, please find enclosed a copy of the comprehensive legislative history of S.B. 588, which includes a summary of the measure, a complete bill status report, minutes of committee discussion regarding the bill, and exhibits.

In addition to the legislative history noted earlier, please find enclosed copies of the following documents that provide further information regarding LCB's Broadcast and Production Services Unit:

- Excerpt of the minutes from the Legislative Commission meeting, September 12, 1991. John R. Crossley, former Legislative Counsel Bureau Director, reported the actions taken by the Legislative Commission's Building Subcommittee of September 11, 1991. Included in Mr. Crossley's report was the authorization that a telecommunication system be installed connecting the Legislative Building with the Cashman Field Center in Las Vegas;

- A memorandum dated November 14, 1991, prepared by John R. Crossley, former Legislative Counsel Bureau Director, addressing Nevada Legislators and Legislative Counsel Bureau staff on the installation of a video teleconferencing system;
- Newspaper article titled "Teleconferencing by Video Could Revolutionize Legislative Business," *Nevada Appeal*, June 8, 1992.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I trust this information is helpful. Please contact me at 684-6827 if you have any questions or if I can provide additional assistance.

JW:06BPS0726
Enc.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU (LCB)
Legislative Building
Carson City, Nevada
September 12, 1991

The sixth meeting in 1991 of the Legislative Commission of the LCB, created pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218.660, was held on Thursday, September 12, 1991, commencing at 9 a.m., in Room 131 of the Legislative Building in Carson City, Nevada.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Regular:

Senator John M. Vergiels, Chairman
Senator Raymond C. Shaffer, Vice Chairman
Senator Virgil M. Getto
Senator Ann O'Connell
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Randolph J. Townsend
Assemblyman Morse Arberry, Jr.
Assemblyman Joan A. Lambert
Assemblyman James W. McGaughey
Assemblyman Gene T. Porter
Assemblyman Robert M. Sader
Assemblyman Gaylyn J. Spriggs

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Leonard V. Nevin
Assemblywoman Jan Evans
Assemblyman John W. Marvel
Assemblyman Bob Price

LCB STAFF PRESENT:

John R. Crossley, Director
Wm. Gary Crews, Legislative Auditor
Robert E. Erickson, Research Director
Lorne J. Malkiewich, Legislative Counsel
Daniel G. Miles, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Steven J. Watson, Chief Deputy Director-Administrative Division
Mouryne B. Landing, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
John McCloskey, Chief Accountant
Marcia J. Conway, Assistant to Director

Chairman Vergiels reminded the members that cost-saving efforts are the goal of all chairmen in combining meetings on the same days.

ASSEMBLYMAN SADER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S HOST COMMITTEE FOR THE 1993 WESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE. MOTION SECONDED BY SENATOR TOWNSEND AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

✓
F. Legislative Commission's Building Subcommittee (NRS 218.682)--John R. Crossley, Director.

✓
Mr. Crossley said the building subcommittee took the following actions at its meeting on September 11, 1991:

- (see next page)
1. Authorized the improvements to the Legislative Building and grounds from the 1991 Capital Improvement Projects. The 1991 legislature approved the current capital improvement projects which included \$88,500.

In-house staff will be used to work on the projects on a first priority basis in order to maximize available funding.

Mr. Crossley indicated that three items (i.e., g., h. and i.) were deferred by the building subcommittee.

A brief explanation of each task, estimated cost and the date of completion follows:

a. Floor Replacement in the Freight Elevator:

The floor of the freight elevator has severely deteriorated and presents a safety hazard. Action was postponed until the end of session because of Phase I construction. The problem should be addressed, as soon as possible, after the end of session.

Project cost: \$2,000

September 1991

b. Air Conditioning System:

Chiller float replacement--two refrigerant floats were manufactured into the chiller to maintain the proper refrigerant level. After 21 years, the floats are intermittently malfunctioning--causing the chiller to fail.

To replace the floats, a cut with a torch must be made and the new floats welded into the unit.

Project cost [to repair]: \$5,000

October 1991

c. Cooling Tower Filter Media Replacement:

The filter media in the cooling tower is the original material used when the tower was installed 21 years ago. Over that period, the ability of the media to transfer and dissipate heat has deteriorated to the point that the chiller overheats on very warm days.

Mr. Crossley stated that plans would continue but action would be deferred at this time.

3. Authorized the telecommunications system to be installed connecting the Legislative Building with Cashman Field Center in Las Vegas. This will allow for meetings to be conducted via telecommunications between Las Vegas and Carson City.

Senator Townsend asked if all Las Vegas meetings would be held in one location so the public may become familiar with one particular room in the Las Vegas area and access to the north through the telecommunications function. Mr. Crossley replied affirmatively. The meeting location for the Las Vegas area will be Room 207 at the Cashman Field Center. The room will hold approximately 65 persons. If it is a large meeting, he added, there is an adjacent room with a divider wall that can be opened to allow 200 to 300 persons.

Mr. Crossley explained that each hearing room in the Legislative Building will be wired to accommodate the proposed videoconferencing equipment. This option will allow both Senate and Assembly committees the opportunity to utilize the videoconferencing system without rearranging room assignments. While the various committee rooms are being completed for the 1993 legislative session, Room 243 in the Legislative Building will house the system. This room was utilized for videoconferencing during the 1991 legislative session.

The major portion of the proposed equipment, Mr. Crossley stated, will be two videoconferencing room systems from Compression Labs, Incorporated (CLI), an updated version of the same type of equipment which the 1991 Nevada Legislature field tested. Each system will include one 35-inch TV monitor which will provide the picture from the remote location, two 25-inch TV monitors which will be used to show the on-site location and provide for the viewing by the public in attendance, two cameras to cover the witness and the legislator areas, a far-end camera control so each location can utilize camera movement, and a touch control panel to be used by staff to run the system.

Mr. Crossley recommended that the Nevada Legislature purchase the Carson City equipment from Nevada Bell and the Las Vegas equipment from CENTEL. This will be advantageous in the maintenance of the equipment at each location. Estimated installation to be completed by mid-October 1991.

In response to Senator Getto, Mr. Crossley said that the wiring could be done in-house at a savings--the system could be moved within the Legislative Building. A permanent storage location would be available at the Cashman Field Center in Las Vegas where the equipment can be placed until needed.

Senator Vergiels asked if the Cashman Field Center will provide directional signs for the public. Mr. Crossley said that there will be proper directions, adequate parking and security available.

4. Authorized the director to work with the architect of the State Office Building to be built in Las Vegas to develop the 10,000 usable square feet for the legislative quarters.

Mr. Crossley answered Senator Shaffer saying that the State Office Building is to be located near Cashman Field Center.

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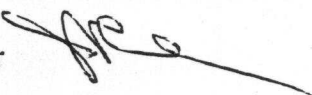
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November 14, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada Legislators and Legislative Counsel Bureau Staff

FROM: John R. Crossley, Director 

SUBJECT: Video Teleconferencing Equipment

I am pleased to announce that, pursuant to NRS 218.085 and the 1991 Nevada Legislature, a video teleconferencing system has been installed linking Carson City and Las Vegas. The system is capable of simultaneously carrying voice, data and compressed video between committee rooms in the Legislative Building and a suitable facility in Clark County which can accommodate public meetings and the taking of testimony.

Room 243 in the Legislative Building will house the system. This room was utilized for video teleconferencing during the 1991 Legislative Session. The meeting location for the Las Vegas area will be Cashman Field Center, 850 Las Vegas Boulevard, North, in Room 207. Reservations for the system must be made through the Director's Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

The major portion of the equipment will be two video teleconferencing room systems from Compression Labs, Incorporated. An updated version of the same type of equipment the 1991 Legislature field tested. Each system will include: One 35-inch TV monitor, which will provide the picture from the remote location; two additional TV monitors, which will be used to show the on-site location and provide for the viewing by the public in attendance; two cameras, to cover the witness area and the legislator area; one far-end camera control, so each location can utilize camera movement; and a touch control panel to be used by staff to run the system. A part-time staff position will be at each location to operate the equipment.

218-B
1991
Legislative - Improvements - NV

SB588 - 66th Session (1991)

Introduced on: May 21, 1991

By: (**Bolded** name indicates primary sponsorship)

Finance ,

Makes appropriation to legislative fund for expenses of telecommunication system. (BDR S-2206)

Fiscal Notes:

Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains Appropriation.

Most Recent History Chapter 644. **Effective July 1, 1991.**

Action:

(See full list below)

Votes

Senate Final Passage Jun-29 Yea 20, Nay 0, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 1

Assembly Final Passage Jun-30 Yea 27, Nay 12, Excused 1, Not Voting 0, Absent 2

Bill History

May 21, 1991 Read first time. Referred to Committee on Finance. To printer.

May 22, 1991 From printer. To committee.

Dates discussed in committee: 6/11, 6/28 (DP)

Jun 28, 1991 From committee: Do pass.

Declared an emergency measure under the Constitution and placed on General File for next legislative day.

✓ Jun 29, 1991 Read third time. Passed. Title approved. (20 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Excused, 0 Not Voting.) To Assembly.

In Assembly.

Read first time. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means. To committee.

Dates discussed in committee: 6/29 (DP)

✓ Jun 30, 1991 From committee: Do pass.

Declared an emergency measure under the Constitution.

Read third time. Passed. Title approved. (27 Yeas, 12 Nays, 2 Absent, 0 Excused, 1 Not Voting.) To Senate.

In Senate.

To enrollment.

Jul 03, 1991 Enrolled and delivered to Governor.

Jul 05, 1991 Approved by the Governor.

Jul 08, 1991 Chapter 644.

Effective July 1, 1991.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION 1991
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU - RESEARCH DIVISION

S.B. 588 (Chapter 644)

Senate Bill 588 appropriates \$202,300 to the Legislative Fund to establish a telecommunications system capable of linking rooms in the Legislative Building with suitable facilities in Clark County which can accommodate public hearings and the taking of testimony. The bill provides that other governmental entities may be allowed to use the system and that any fees for this use are allocated to paying for the system.

SENATE BILL No. 588—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MAY 21, 1991

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes appropriation to legislative fund for expenses of telecommunication system. (BDR S-2206)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains Appropriation.

EXPLANATION—Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT making an appropriation to the legislative fund for the expenses of a telecommunication system to connect the legislative building with a suitable facility in Clark County; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to
2 the legislative fund created pursuant to NRS 218.085 the sum of \$202,300 to
3 be used by the legislative commission to establish a telecommunication sys-
4 tem capable of simultaneously carrying voice, data and compressed video
5 between committee rooms in the legislative building and a suitable facility in
6 Clark County which can accommodate public meetings and the taking of
7 testimony.
8 2. The director of the legislative counsel bureau may allow other govern-
9 mental entities to use the system established pursuant to subsection 1 and
10 charge such users a fee set by the legislative commission. Any fees collected
11 pursuant to this section must be deposited in the legislative fund and may be
12 used for the purpose described in subsection 1.
13 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1991.

MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Sixty-sixth Session
June 11, 1991

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chairman Nicholas J. Horn, at 8:15 a.m., on Tuesday, June 11, 1991, in Room 234 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nicholas J. Horn, Chairman
Senator Bob Coffin, Vice Chairman
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator Thomas J. Hickey
Senator Raymond D. Rawson
Senator Diana M. Glomb

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator John M. Vergiels
Assemblyman Christina R. Giunchigliani

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lorne J. Malkiewich, Legislative Counsel
Dan Miles, Fiscal Analyst
Bob Guernsey, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Jeanne L. Botts, Program Analyst
Marion Entrekin, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

George Pyne, Operations Officer, Public Employees' Retirement System
John (Jack) Jeffrey, Lobbyist, Southern Nevada Central Labor Council
Glenn B. Rock, Director, Department of Personnel
James T. Spencer, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Mitch Brust, Chief, Technical Service Division, Department of Personnel
Robert Gagnier, Lobbyist, State of Nevada Employees Association
John R. Crossley, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Steven Watson, Chief Deputy Director, Administration, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Charles Slavin, Director, Telecommunications Division
Elizabeth Breshears, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Myla Florence, State Health Administrator, Health Division
Donald Mello, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, Supreme Court

* * * * *

Senator Horn submitted Bill Draft Request (BDR) R-2258 for committee introduction.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST R-2258: Encourages senior citizens to form senior citizens' legislature.

Senator Horn stated BDR R-2258 is a Concurrent Resolution as opposed to a bill.

SENATOR JACOBSEN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR R-2258.

SENATOR HICKEY SECONDED THE MOTION.

you with double damages and liabilities. That would probably come up to maybe somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8 million or \$9 million. It depends on what the court determines.

Mitch Brust, Chief, Technical Services Division, Department of Personnel, stated, "I believe those fiscal notes were divided by the cities and counties themselves."

Senator Glomb stated, "I just wonder, is this what the impact would be if we lost in court, or are they saying this is the impact because of this bill?"

Mr. Rock replied, "If you lost in court."

Senator Glomb stated, "My concern is that when we defend this bill on the floor, I think one of the pages applies to if A.B. 576 is passed, whereas page 7 applies if A.B. 576 isn't passed."

Mr. Miles stated, "Clark County and the Nevada Association of Counties responded to the bill, as it's drafted, and Washoe County responded to the bill as if it hadn't been approved."

Robert Gagnier, Lobbyist, State of Nevada Employees Association (SNEA), testified in opposition to A.B. 576:

The stated purpose of this bill is to retroactively change the law, in an effort to negate legal action. SNEA opposes the bill for this purpose. We also think that on a perspective basis, you're opening a can a worms, and I think that was demonstrated here this morning.

I can understand that the state would want to limit its legal liabilities in this issue, but we have trouble with changing laws retroactively, and in this case 5 years.

Mr. Gagnier mentioned an action has been filed in court on behalf of 352 SNEA members. In closing his testimony, Mr. Gagnier stated, "Finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say that SNEA believes that there is still hope for a settlement of this issue, but if this law is passed settlement is no longer an option."

Mr. Gagnier had missed the hearing on A.B. 701, and wanted the committee to know he supports the amendment to A.B. 701, submitted by Mr. Jeffrey.

Senator Horn closed the hearing on A.B. 576, and opened the hearing on S.B. 588.

SENATE BILL 588: Makes appropriation to legislative fund for expenses of telecommunication system.

Senator John M. Vergiels stated:

John Crossley came to me, probably 3 weeks ago, and talked about the use of interactive video during the interim. At that time we discussed a procedure where we would check with Speaker [Joseph E.] Dini, Chairman of [the Assembly Committee on] Ways and Means, and of course yourself, to find out if we should draft a bill. We drafted a bill, and that's what this hearing is for. John Crossley has pulled together the figures. I think he had the figures before he asked us, so we could see what the expense might be, and how he might be able to operate this during the 18 months between sessions.

John R. Crossley, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated the teleconferencing started being used during the 2-week adjournment. Once the 2-week adjournment was over, it was used exclusively by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, between Carson City and Cashman Field in Las Vegas. Both the senate and the assembly have been using the teleconferencing, during the legislative session. Mr. Crossley distributed Exhibit E to the committee, consisting of the Appropriation to Legislative Fund for Expenses of the Telecommunications System, the budget estimate, how the system works, and the schedule of usage since March 20, 1991 through June 12, 1991.

Steven Watson, Chief Deputy Director, Administration, Legislative Counsel Bureau, went through the cost figures (Exhibit E) with the committee.

Senator Glomb asked, "Is this money already built into the budget?"

Mr. Watson stated the money is not built into the budget, but an additional appropriation.

Senator Glomb asked, "Depending on the fees that you have, would you be entitled to spend more than the appropriated amount in the bill?"

Mr. Crossley replied, "Yes, we would be able to spend more than the amount. This just gets us started."

Senator Glomb stated, "The way the bill reads, at least the way I read it, is that you could use [the teleconferencing system], expand the system, and do whatever, rather than any of it being reverted back to the General Fund."

Mr. Crossley replied, "That is correct. I can assure you right now that the idea is that the fee would be very nominal. At \$25 an hour, we're not covering anywhere near our costs, believe me. It would be a very nominal fee, again, just to provide, if we needed, an operator in Las Vegas."

Senator Jacobsen stated sometimes he was impressed, and other times he was not impressed, by the telecommunications.

Mr. Crossley stated the telecommunications has been a test basis, a trial, and he felt there would be considerable improvement in the system.

Mr. Watson stated the sound system, and the pictures, are already better.

Senator Jacobsen asked, "What do you think the average daily cost is currently?"

Mr. Crossley replied, "Right now we're paying about \$13,000 to \$14,000 a month."

Senator Horn asked, "Are you looking at the Thomas and Mack Center as a home for this, or where are we looking?"

Mr. Crossley replied:

No, Mr. Chairman, I think we would want a separate room...about 1,000 square feet, which we can put 60 to 80 people in. I think that would fit our needs in almost all cases. It's an undetermined location. We want to pick a good location, where there's ample parking. To pick a place, we'd like to pick one just as soon as

possible, if you approve the bill, so we can start setting this up.

Charles Slavin, Director, Telecommunications Division, testified in support of S.B. 588. He referred to articles and case studies of private-sector companies, who had deployed video-conferencing technology, and realized substantial benefits. Mr. Slavin was opposed to charging a fee for teleconferencing, further amplifying the reluctance of using something new.

Senator Jacobsen asked who would be the primary users of the system in other locations, states, etcetera.

Mr. Slavin replied:

It depends a lot on the applications. A lot of the other states are beginning to deploy this technology for educational purposes. That type of application, obviously, would lend itself more towards some kind of a school or campus location. In those instances where it is used for administrative purposes, wherever you can locate it close to the most bodies is probably the most appropriate.

Senator Horn closed the hearing on S.B. 588, and opened the hearing on A.B. 690.

ASSEMBLY BILL 690: Authorizes Nevada athletic commission to prescribe additional penalties for certain violations of law or regulation concerning contest or exhibition of unarmed combat.

Assemblyman Christina R. Giunchigliani stated:

I had this bill drafted, and brought it to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means after our hearing in Las Vegas, regarding the athletic commission. The athletic director, in talking to some of his board members, reviewing their regulations, felt that with the size of the increase in purses, more than anything else, the take that's done in some of the large boxing matches, that their fines have never been incrementally increased, based on that. That's simply what this bill is attempting to do. It allows them the flexibility of going up to \$100,000 or 10 percent of the purse, and that money goes into the General Fund, so there's really no impact.

Senator Rawson asked, "How does this relate to fines that are levied at other places. Is this consistent with Florida, Chicago [Illinois], or New Jersey?"

Assemblyman Giunchigliani replied:

They felt that the \$100,000 cap was commensurate, and by doing a 10 percent on a purse, in and of itself, allowed them the flexibility. For example, if it was a \$17 million purse that was paid, then they could apply either the \$100,000 or the 10 percent factor, which gave them some flexibility to be competitive.

Senator Jacobsen asked what was included in the "unarmed combat."

Assemblyman Giunchigliani replied, "What the terminology, according to LCB [Legislative Counsel Bureau], deals with is boxing."

Senator Horn asked Mr. Miles to get the two amendments together and return to the committee.

Senator Horn referred the committee to A.B. 576, previously heard in today's meeting.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO PASS A.B. 576.

SENATOR JACOBSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Hickey stated he had a problem with the bill being retroactive.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS HICKEY AND GLOMB VOTED NO.
SENATOR COFFIN ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

Senator Horn closed the hearing on A.B. 576, and reopened the hearing on A.B. 32 and S.B. 369, which he stated are the same, but deal with different agencies.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO PASS A.B. 32.

SENATOR GLOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS S.B. 369.

SENATOR GLOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Senator Horn closed the hearing on A.B. 32 and S.B. 369, and reopened the hearing on A.B. 400.

SENATOR RAWSON MOVED TO PASS A.B. 400.

SENATOR JACOBSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Senator Horn closed the hearing on A.B. 400, and reopened the hearing on A.B. 690.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO PASS A.B. 690.

SENATOR JACOBSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Senator Horn closed the hearing on A.B. 690, and reopened the hearing on S.B. 588.

Senator Rawson stated, "This bill is not in the budget anywhere. I would like to see this capability continue. I think it's important, but with the budget closed I don't know how we deal with

it, so I'll follow the chairman's lead on that."

Senator Glomb stated she also had concerns with S.B. 588, since it is not built into the budget. "I'm not sure in terms of how the taxation is going to come down with Fair-Share and...is there a fund that we're paying for some of these additional requests."

Senator Rawson stated, "I guess it's possible that this could be taken from the money that was set aside for the next legislative session, if we wanted to develop it for then, or maybe from the counsel bureau."

Senator Horn stated, "The way that it currently states is it would come out of the General Fund."

Senator Coffin asked, "Is this the cost to simply enable it to continue for the next 2 years, or is it a permanent purchase?"

Senator Horn replied:

What they had was kind of a pilot program that we used, and have been using, and this would buy the necessary equipment, so that we would have it in the north and in the south, so that they could do telecommunications, thereby negating the necessity for people to travel back and forth.

Senator Coffin asked, "A lot of state agencies are going to be using this. Was there any consideration given to an allocation of expenses amongst agencies?"

Senator Horn replied, "It allows for fees."

Senator Rawson stated, "We could take it out of travel funds, in-state travel."

Senator Coffin stated, "That's the most logical place."

At the request of Senator Hickey, Senator Horn put a hold on S.B. 588, and reopened the hearing on S.B. 637.

Senator Horn stated, "The first part of this brings us in compliance with the way that we closed the budget. The question is whether or not we want to adopt any or all of the amendment."

Senator Raggio stated:

I believe that I could support the first amendment, which I think is important. That deletes the language on page 2, line 5. I could support the Amendment Number 2. In substance, I guess, from bill drafting, it probably may be reworded. I also think we need to address, either in section 5, or at someplace in the bill, some language that allows the return to the state of the monies that have only been partially collected, and that are sitting there. And, I have a problem with the suggested Amendment 3, because I believe that the excess funds should revert to the General Fund.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS S.B. 637, EXCEPTING AS STATED WITH AMENDMENTS 1, 2, AND A CHANGE IN SECTION 5, CHANGING AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL RECEIPTS OVER THOSE BUDGETED WOULD GO TO THE GENERAL FUND.

SENATOR HICKEY SECONDED THE MOTION.

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S.B. 588

Appropriation to Legislative Fund
for Expenses of Telecommunications System

The teleconferencing link between Carson City and Las Vegas during the current legislative session has been used extensively. During the 2-week adjournment, the unit in the Legislative Building was in Room 213 and the unit in Las Vegas was at the Cashman Field Center. Shortly thereafter, we moved the unit in the Legislative Building to Room 243 and, at the same time, moved the unit in Las Vegas to Meeting Room D at the Thomas and Mack Center on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas grounds. In addition to the legislative committees utilizing the link, state agencies have also availed themselves of the process.

Exhibit A is our estimate of the one-time cost and the 2-year continuing cost to have a unit in the Legislative Building and another in Las Vegas. One of the things we will have to do is to rent a hearing room in Las Vegas which will hold 50 to 60 people. In addition, we need to provide for sufficient parking.

Exhibit B is a schematic of how the system works.

Exhibit C is a schedule of the uses of the video since March 20, 1991.

We would start working on the purchase and installation of the system right away if this bill passes. We want it ready by early fall so it can be used between sessions as well as during sessions.

The bill also provides that other governmental entities may use the system. We would charge those users a fee which would be set by the Legislative Commission.

5119

EXHIBIT E

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
 VIDEO TELECONFERENCING
 BUDGET ESTIMATE

EX. A

	<u>One-Time Cost</u>	<u>Two-Year Continuing Cost</u>
<u>Carson City:</u>		
CLI gallery 125 system to include monitor, camera, control system and mics	\$ 25,000	
Codec system	31,500	
Graphic system package	8,500	
Installation	1,500	
Telephone interface	5,100	
Auxiliary camera system and switch	8,800	
Far end camera control system	1,000	
CC to LV telephone line		\$ 24,000
VCR tape system	3,500	
TV monitor	700	
Wiring system	<u>500</u>	
Total Carson City Costs	\$ <u>86,100</u>	\$ <u>24,000</u>
<u>Las Vegas:</u>		
CLI gallery 125 system to include monitor, camera, control system and mics	\$ 25,000	
Codec video system	31,500	
Installation	1,500	
Conference room		\$ 24,000
Graphic system package	8,500	
TV monitor	700	
Telephone and line costs	<u>1,000</u>	
Total Las Vegas Costs	\$ <u>67,200</u>	\$ <u>25,000</u>
TOTAL COSTS	\$ <u>153,300</u>	\$ <u>49,000</u>

Teleconferencing by video could revolutionize legislative business

By ED VOGEL
N.A. 6-7-92
Appeal Capital Bureau

Six years ago, state Sen. Ray Shafter sat in a hotel room in Hawaii and watched the demonstration of a two-way television talk-back system coming in over telephone lines from Virginia.

Shafter, D-North Las Vegas, immediately saw the potential of video teleconferencing.

Southern Nevadaans no longer would have to fly 450 miles to Reno,

then rent a car to drive to Carson City where if time permitted they could testify before the Legislature.

In response to his efforts, the Nevada Legislature last December began regular "videoconferencing" of interim committee meetings between room 243 in the Legislative Building in Carson City and room 207 in the Cashman Field Center in Las Vegas.

The video technology revolution is just beginning.

The video technology revolution is just beginning.

Verjels, D-Las Vegas, talks of holding regular videoconferences during the 1993 legislative session between Las Vegas, Carson City, Reno, Ely and Elko.

"The technology is available to hook up to eight different sites so that people can talk with each other from every site," Verjels said.

Steve Watson, the Legislative Counsel Bureau's chief deputy director, added that by the 21st century a C-SPAN-style system could be operating, allowing citizens to

watch every meeting of the state Legislature on their living room televisions.

At a typical videoconference, two legislators have gathered in the conference room in Carson City room, while the remainder are in Las Vegas.

More than 40 people have showed up to testify on legislation in the Las Vegas room, although the crowd in the capital city is sparse.

Two cameras and three TV moni-

tors have been installed in each room.

A camera operator zooms in on the person speaking and transmits the picture and sound to the other location.

Typically, the focus remains on the speaker or members of the legislative committee, although members of the audience often are shown.

"There still are problems with it but it is an important development," said Carole Vihardo, director

of the Nevada Taxpayers Association.

"It is a waste of taxpayers' money not to use it."

Vihardo added that more state agencies should make use of the system, rather than flying people from Las Vegas to Northern Nevada.

In particular, she accuses the state Environmental Commission of wasting money by holding meet-

(See VIDEO, Page A-3)

Video

(Continued from Page One)

ings in Reno rather than a video conference.

In watching from Carson City, the most obvious problem is that the lips of speakers do not always synchronize with their words.

People wearing red-colored clothing also appear on television to have on purple clothing.

"It is getting better all the time," said Watson, who supervised the installation of the videoconferencing system.

"We are making it more and more TV-like."

Videoconferencing costs the Legislature just \$7.50 an hour in telephone charges.

They assess a \$25-an-hour charge to state agencies and commissions that use the system when it is available.

That charge covers the wages of two camera operators who manage the system.

"This is going to save people millions of dollars and it is going to

bring Southern Nevadans a lot closer to the Legislature," Shaffer said.

"Why should people fly to Reno when they can do the same thing by videoconferencing?"

A similar video teleconference system also is used between the computer offices at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Board of Regents uses the system.

The Legislature's videoconferencing system, manufactured by Compression Labs Inc., transmits its pictures and sounds by converting them into digital signals that can be carried by fiber optic wires over telephone lines.

Watson compares technology used to that of a facsimile machine.

In the first four months of regular videoconferencing, the Legislative Counsel Bureau estimates that participants have saved \$84,624 in travel costs, about 40 percent of the \$202,300 appropriation made last year for the system.

Steve Graff, information technol-

ogy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures, said Nevada is the first Legislature in the nation with its own videoconferencing system.

"Teleconferencing has been around for a while," said Graff, speaking from Denver. "Other legislatures have used it more or less on an experimental basis, but Nevada is the first Legislature to put it in themselves."

Graff added that videoconferencing has become especially hot in business circles since Operation Desert Storm.

"With Desert Storm people were afraid of flying and that was the impetus for the commercial world to adopt videoconferencing," he said.

Ironically the Nevada Legislature's first use of videoconferencing occurred during Desert Storm on Feb. 11, 1991.

Legislators then were holding meetings in Las Vegas during a two-week adjournment of floor vot-

ing sessions.

Vergels said the system instantly received praise and numerous committees made use of the system before adjournment that June 30.

After the success of the experiment and heightened concern about legislators' travel costs, the Legislature voted to buy a system.

Enough remains from the \$202,300 appropriation to allow him to wire all Legislative Building hearing rooms for videoconferencing, Watson said.

"This going to open up government in Nevada," added Vergels. "It is the most startling new concept to come out of the last session of the Legislature."

As for Shaffer, he only regrets he did not act as he watched the price of Compression Lab Inc.'s stock increase from \$12 to \$35 a share.

"I see this becoming the main means of communication between points in the state," he said.

"I see it going into libraries. It is the most prudent way to save money."