

Gov. Bryan Presents Governmental Plan to Supersede Code System

Governor Charles W. Bryan on February 20 presented his forty-four bills composing a complete governmental plan to supersede the code system, to both branches of the Nebraska legislature. The house of representatives and senate met in joint session to receive the bills and hear the governor's message.

Governor Bryan's message follows:

To the Members of the Forty-second Session of the Nebraska State Legislature.

Gentlemen:

I submit to you and introduce herewith forty-four bills which are companion bills to the bill that was introduced to repeal the civil administrative code and establish an executive council, and identified as House Roll No. 315. These bills are attached hereto and are listed by titles. Taken together as a whole, these bills compose a complete governmental plan to supersede the code system and put the state government back on a simplified and direct business basis.

The supplementary budget which is before you makes provision for conducting the state's business affairs during the coming two years at a total cost of \$21,987,554.41. This represents a reduction of \$5,680,662.45 from the appropriations made to cover the cost of the state government during the past two years. This great reduction in the taxes to the people of this state cannot be made unless a number of activities of the state are reduced and large number of the state's employes are dropped from the pay rolls. These numerous activities cannot be discontinued and the number of state employes greatly reduced unless the code bill is repealed that provides for these numerous activities and which is responsible for the great increase in the number of state employes during the past four years.

CUT OUT DUPLICATION

These bills which I am introducing provide for cutting out the duplications in the state's activities. They provide for removing the overlappings between the departments. These bills provide for dispensing with the services of a large number of inspectors which are now annoying the public, increasing the cost of living, imposing upon the taxpayers and interfering with the orderly business of the state. The taxpayers demanded a reduction of taxes, a reduction in the state's activities, a reduction in the number of state employes, such as inspectors, etc., and these bills which I have introduced are drawn in accord with the wishes of the people as expressed at the polls in November.

These bills are drafted to comply with the plan outlined in my supplementary budget message, and they, together with the recommendations in the budget message, will, if enacted into law, reduce the cost of the state government for the next two years about \$9,000,000, which represents a thirty per cent reduction from what the state government has cost the taxpayers during the past two years.

The bills presented herewith are drawn by clipping from the statutes and pasting them up in such a way that it may be seen at a glance just what changes are made in the present laws. No change has been made in the substance of any law, and such changes that are made, are made in the way of interlineations to bring the administration of a statute under the new plan which these bills provide for. All of the unnecessary governmental activities, all the duplications, all the overlappings, are dropped and only such statutes reenacted as are needed to conduct the state's business on a strict business basis.

Under the plan provided in these bills, and which was outlined in my budget message, the finance department is abolished. These bills provide that the accounting work will be transferred to the state auditor's department. The department of purchase and supplies is transferred to the commissioner of public lands and buildings, and the budget department will be directly under the governor but will be prepared by the tax commissioner. This change should eliminate eight employes that are now on the pay roll. It should make a saving of about \$45,000 for the biennium, and by placing the purchase and supplies in the hands of one of the constitutional officers, it would make a large ad-

ditional saving to the state on the cost of supplies.

ABOLISH SECURITIES BUREAU

These bills contemplate the abolishment of the bureau of securities so that there will be no more fake securities unloaded on innocent purchasers of the state under the belief that the state has endorsed or recommended such securities to the investor.

The bills provide that the banking department shall be placed directly under the governor as it formerly was and made a department by itself where the banking business of the state can be supervised through a deputy bank commissioner with the decision of the policies relating to the banking business placed in the hands of the executive council composed of state officers. If this plan had been in effect during the past year, it is not likely that the Holdrege bank matter would have become so complicated or that the supervision of the banking business of the state would have proven so unsatisfactory or a demand at this time be made for new banking laws to put the supervision of the banking business on a strict business basis.

These bills provide for making the insurance department a separate department, administered by the governor as it formerly was, through a deputy insurance commissioner with the executive council acting as a board of review to determine the policies to be pursued.

The hail insurance department is placed under the deputy insurance commissioner, and the fire warden's department is dissolved and the fire inspection part of it placed under the department of inspection. By the abolishment of the department of trade and commerce, including the secretary and the changes provided in these bills, probably seventeen of the employes in this department can be dropped from the pay rolls and thousands of dollars saved to the taxpayers, as well as the investors of the state.

DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION

These bills provide that a department of inspection be established under the direct supervision of the governor. This enables all of the present state inspections to be consolidated in one department where all duplications are eliminated and where one inspector, while he is in a town, can make possibly seven inspections in place of having seven different inspectors annoy the business men. This department of inspection will also provide for inspections at their source, in place of waiting for goods to be distributed throughout the state before inspections are undertaken. This inspection department will also enable inspections to be made before the goods that are to be inspected have been sold and consumed and thus prevent the inspection farce which is now practiced throughout the state.

These bills provide that all of the inspections now in the department of agriculture, with the exception of the bovine tuberculosis, seeds and dairy cow inspection, will be placed in the department of inspections. Inspection of dairy herds and inspection of seeds will be placed in the state agricultural farm, where the work is already duplicated.

The bureau of markets and marketing, division of market news and publicity, which includes radio, are abolished as being of no real value to the farmers, and the work is also being duplicated and paid for by taxpayers at the state agricultural farm.

These bills provide that the department of agricultural statistics, which has been operated for the past two years in the department of agriculture at an expense of \$12,000, although the law was repealed two years ago, is placed by these bills in the state board of agriculture, where it was handled for many years prior to its being operated in the code department without any authority of law.

The game and fish department, including the state hatcheries, etc., is made a separate department and placed under the direct control of the governor, where they formerly were, and the department of athletics is also consolidated with the game and fish department under the department of game, fish and athletics.

This dissolution of the department of agriculture will separate over fifty employes from

the pay roll and bring a saving to the taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

These bills provide for the dissolution of the public welfare department.

The department of health will be brought directly under the supervision of the governor where it formerly was, without any change in the substance of the laws governing health matters.

The bills provide that the child hygiene and child welfare departments be placed under the direction of the superintendent of public instruction, where the work is being duplicated, where the original laws intended these departments to be, and where these departments are handled by almost every other state throughout the country. This dissolution of the department of public welfare, besides cutting out a large amount of duplication in educational work which has been done by other state institutions, will eliminate about eighteen employes besides making a large saving to the taxpayers.

These bills provide that the automobile license plates will be handled by the secretary of state where they formerly were and where they can be handled for considerable less expense than they are now costing.

PUBLIC WORKS REORGANIZATION

The department of public works is brought back directly under the governor with the title of state engineer. When those laws are enacted, the material yards can be discontinued. The using of automobile license tax money to build federal highways under the head of maintenance will be stopped and the cost of road building, maintenance, etc., be kept within the appropriations provided by the legislature. The reorganization of the public works department as outlined should eliminate the expense of probably seventy-five persons who have been on the pay roll in this department.

These bills provide that the labor department will be placed directly under the governor, where it formerly was, and be operated through a deputy, where it can be done with a saving of considerable expense as outlined in the budget message.

Under the code bill as now operated, the governor has authority to appoint all the officers and employes, and during the month of last July there were on the payrolls in the code departments alone three-hundred and seventy-nine persons. In addition to the present code law giving the governor the authority to appoint this army of employes, a great many of whom duplicate the work of other departments and of other institutions, the governor is given the authority and power to determine all the policies of these departments, as well as being given authority to administer and execute the laws relative to these departments.

These forty-four bills introduced herewith take from the governor power he now has, and none of them increase any of the power that the governor now has. All of these appointments which the governor now has under the code system are intended as political appointments, and all of these places have been filled in the past four years as political appointments at the will of the governor.

The bills which I present herewith abolish practically one hundred and fifty positions, or in other words, if enacted into law, cut off one hundred and fifty political appointments from the governor that he now has authority to make and is expected to make, and will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

These bills also take out from under the governor's authority the department of purchase and supplies, which is given to the commissioner of public lands and buildings.

The accounting department, which is now under the governor, is to be given to the state auditor.

The automobile license plate departments now under the governor is to be given by these bills to the secretary of state.

CURTAIN POWER OF GOVERNOR

Other departments, as enumerated above, are to be given to the state agricultural college, the state university, the state superintendent of public instruction and to the attorney general. All of these changes lessen the number of appointments that the governor now has, and all of them curtail the powers and duties that the governor now possesses. Not one of the bills submitted herewith gives to the governor one particle of power which he does not now have, and not one of them give to him the power to appoint a single appointee that he does not now have authority to do. These bills, in addition to taking out from under the governor more than one hundred and fifty political appointees, takes from the governor the power to determine the policies