

August 19, 1947
Columbia, South Carolina

The State Budget Commission met in the Senate Chamber at 11:30 O'clock A.M. on August 19, 1947. All members of the Commission were present.

This meeting was for the purpose of receiving the report and recommendations of a special committee appointed by Governor Thurmond to investigate the desirability of the acquisition by the State of Sullivan's Island, which, according to information, was to be disposed of by the Federal Government.

Mr. Lester L. Bates, Chairman of the special committee, submitted the report and recommended, as the unanimous opinion of the committee, that the property be acquired by the State for such uses as may be determined, and discussed various uses for which it appeared to be fitted.

Senator Edgar A. Brown raised the question of price, stating that, while acquisition of the property was undoubtedly desirable, a prohibitive price might be asked. This question was further discussed by Mr. R. A. Cooper and Senator O. T. Wallace, who stated that, although no price had been fixed, it was believed that there would be no serious difficulty in this connection.

Mr. Charles H. Flory, State Forester, exhibited a map of this property, and explained its possibilities as a park and recreation center.

Governor Thurmond spoke of a misunderstanding which had evidently existed earlier in negotiations for this property, because of the fact that the State had evidenced no interest when it had been suggested that the property be acquired for use as a "training center for National Guardsmen". It was explained that there was no need for such a project for that purpose, but that the acquisition of the property for other purposes, which had not been originally proposed, was a matter in which the State would be very greatly interested.

Governor Thurmond further stated that he had requested an opinion of the

Attorney General as to the possibility of the property reverting to the State when it was abandoned by the Federal Government because of such a reversion clause carried in the Act conveying the property to the Federal Government.

It was the opinion of the Attorney General that the property should revert to the State when abandoned by the Federal Government. General Daniel discussed this feature of the matter and his opinion which had been filed with the Governor in that connection.

Governor Thurmond further stated that he had written to the President of the United States, requesting that the property be returned to the State of South Carolina and had received a reply, which, although not conclusive, was favorable.

Representatives of the War Assets Administration, present at the meeting, stated that the property had not been turned over to them for disposition, but that, when and if this was done, it was believed that the priority of the State to acquire it would be recognized, and they assured the meeting of their desire to cooperate fully in handling the matter in a satisfactory manner.

It was the sense of the meeting that the State Budget Commission should follow the matter closely with the Federal Government and do everything possible towards acquiring this property for the State.

The Commission then recessed and met again in the Governor's office at 3:00 P.M.

Salary changes were approved for the following Departments and Institutions:

Clemson College - Changes requested in letters dated August 14, 15 and August 18th.

S C School for Deaf and Blind - Requests dated August 2 and August 14th.

State Library Board - Request dated August 18th.

State Hospital - Request dated August 6th.

State Penitentiary - Requests dated August 7 and 11th.

State Board of Health - Requests dated August 7, 12th and August 13th.

S C Tax Commission - Request dated August 7th.

Insurance Department - Request dated August 7th.

The Commission had before it a request from the State Forestry Commission for permission to purchase approximately 400 acres of land in Chesterfield County for \$550.00. This request was denied by the Commission in view of the fact that it had not been the policy of the State to purchase lands for forestry and park purposes, and, further, because of the doubtful condition of the operating budget of the State Forestry Commission.

The Commission considered a letter from Honorable R. L. Gamble, Commissioner of Labor, stating that his appropriation for travel would apparently be insufficient to meet the demands of the department for the fiscal year 1947-48. The Secretary was directed to advise Mr. Gamble that he would be expected to operate within the amount appropriated for travel and that if it appeared unlikely that he would do so, the Commission would exercise the powers conferred upon it in Section 75 of the General Appropriations Bill permitting the Budget Commission to restrict the rate of expenditures.

The Commission had before it a letter from Admiral Norman M. Smith requesting permission to increase the maintenance fee for full time law students at the University and to use the additional revenues therefrom for publication of a Law Review Yearbook. The Commission took the position that it had no power to grant this request under the terms of Section 1 of the General Appropriations Act.

The Commission then adjourned.

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