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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON
HB 2139-B

May 30, 1995 Hearing Room H170
8:30 a.m. Tape 1

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Chuck Carpenter, Chair
Sen. Brenda Brecke
Sen. Bill Kennemer
Sen. John Lim

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Rep. Gail Shibley

STAFF PRESENT:

Joseph Cortright, Executive Officer
Jeri Chase, Office Manager
Bobby Sullinger, Assistant

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE 1, SIDE A

001 CHAIR CARPENTER: Brings committee to order at 8:39 a.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB 2139 -- Deletes requirement that Tourism Council and Tourism Program assist communities and local agencies in attracting conventions or in publicizing certain local events -- Work Session.

002 CHAIR CARPENTER: Opens WORK SESSION on HB 2139.

006 JOSEPH CORTRIGHT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER: The provisions common to House and Senate versions of HB 2139 deal with the Tourism Council and the Tourism Program of the Economic Development Department. The bill changes the requirements for technical assistance that is provided by EDD to local convention and visitor bureaus and local events. The measure requires EDD to provide only technical assistance rather than publicize and promote events. The difference between the two bills is in the Senate version. HB 2139-B contains sections 1 through 5 which create an Asian Tourism and Cultural Affairs Commission of up to 10 members appointed by the Governor.

It does not provide for the allocation of any state funds for the operation of the commission.

018 CHAIR CARPENTER: What is the reason for the creation of the Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission? Why can't the private sector do this without the government?

023 SEN. LIM: I think it is like any other commission in our state. It is prestigious to have members appointed by the Governor. I am sure this commission could be provided by the private sector, as well as the other commission in the state, but being appointed by the Governor and working for the people in the state is a great privilege. With the creation of the commission the state may be able to attract more touriSMfrom Asian countries. People that visit Oregon from out-of-state spend more than \$1,000 dollars per person which is good for the economic development. It will create jobs.

041 SEN. BRECKE: I agree the status that goes with the commission along with the recognition will increase awareness of the Asian culture and the prospects of Asian tourism.

050 SEN. KENNEMER: The Asia community is growing. It seems appropriate that we recognize this group. We have recognized a number of other minority group such as: The Indian Commission, Black and Hispanic Affairs Commission, and the Women's Commission.

057 CHAIR CARPENTER: Are all the commissions funded by the state?

059 SEN. KENNEMER: They are all funded by the state except the proposed Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission. Funding was an issue and Senator Lim thought the funding could be raised privately. It is hard to see how this bill has an adverse impact if there is nothing added to the budget.

065 SEN. LIM: We have about 100,000 Asia Americans in our state. It is one of the fastest growing populations. The majority of Asia Americans live in the Portland metro area. It is likely that most of the members of the commission will reside in the Portland metro area which will keep cost down since travel will not be an issue.

080 CHAIR CARPENTER: To me this is just more government expansion. I have reservation about expanding government. I think a lot of the things that we have talked about relating to attracting more visitors from Asia is a role for the TouriSMCouncil. I recommend that the associations that already exist, for example The China Export Council, could better meet the needs of the community rather than getting the government involved. I am very reluctant to agree to the Senate amendments to this bill because this session has been a session to minimize government. These amendments expand government.

098 SEN. LIM: The Asian community is made up of more than 15 different nations. They all speak different languages. When we talk about Asians we are talking about many different nations. This commission will bring these nations together. The Governor is a strong supporter of the Asian community. This is a good idea because without investing state funds we

will bring a lot of dollars to our state. I would like to offer a compromise to have 7 members instead of 10 members appointed to the commission.

121 CHAIR CARPENTER: The other concern I have is that you do not specify that the commission will not be funded by the state. Two years from now a request for funding could be made based on the fact that all the other commissions are state funded. It goes against what this session has been about which is to reduce government.

146 SEN. LIM: We have over 300 commissions in our state. Have you voted no for all of these commissions?

149 CHAIR CARPENTER: When it came to funding those commissions in most cases I voted against them.

151 SEN. LIM: You voted no in most cases but not all of them?

152 CHAIR CARPENTER: I can not recall my voting record exactly.

153 SEN. LIM: If you feel so strongly against state supported commissions then you should have voted no for all of them.

155 SEN. BRECKE: This may be viewed as expanding government. I view it as a way for government to reach-out to the private sector to coordinate efforts for the common good.

161 SEN. LIM: The Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission would operate like the private sector except the members are appointed by the Governor.

162 CHAIR CARPENTER: You are expanding government, and you are leaving the door open for government funding in future sessions.

170 SEN. LIM: I would like to make another compromise. I propose a two year sunset on the Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission.

178 CHAIR CARPENTER: I will agree to a sunset in two years. I also want the commission to be made-up of 5 members instead of 10.

179 SEN. LIM: That is better than nothing.

181 CHAIR CARPENTER: Can you draft the conceptual amendment?

183 CORTRIGHT: We can have these amendments prepared.

185 CHAIR CARPENTER: I would like amendments prepared to have the commission sunset in two years, a provision to have 5 commission members, and I want clear language to specify that funding shall originate from private sector sources. I do not want federal or state dollars contributing to this commission in the future.

194 SEN. LIM: Since we are sunseting the commission in two year we do not need to draft amendments relating to private sector funding of the commission.

197 CHAIR CARPENTER: Just for the sake of precedence I would like to have it explicitly stated there shall not be funding from government sources for

this commission.

201 SEN. BRECKE: Would that preclude Asia nations from contributing to the funding of the commission?

205 CHAIR CARPENTER: Could we have language drafted not to preclude Asian governments from contributing to the funding of the commission?

206 CORTRIGHT: Yes.

210 CHAIR CARPENTER: I just want to make sure that United States tax dollars are not used to fund the Asian commission.

226 CHAIR CARPENTER: We will have the three conceptual amendments ready when we reconvene.

228 CORTRIGHT: I would like to suggest one other technical amendment. Senate Bill 342 creates an Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission. I think you should include a provision in HB 2139 that if SB 342 passes the provision in HB 2139 relating to the Asian TouriSMand Cultural Affairs Commission would be repealed.

230 SEN. LIM: That is all right with me.

231 CHAIR CARPENTER: That will make four conceptual amendments for us to consider at the next meeting.

233 SEN. LIM: Do we need to reconvene since we all agree with these amendments?

234 CHAIR CARPENTER: I would like to reconvene with Representative Shibley present.

234 CHAIR CARPENTER: Closed WORK SESSION on HB 2139

235 CHAIR CARPENTER: Adjourns meeting at 8:57 a.m.

Submitted by,

Bobby Sullinger
Committee Assistant

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

None