

Approved: 2-18-94  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:20 a.m. on February 16, 1994 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Robert A. Gottschalk, General Manager, The Kansas State Fair Board  
James R. Bell, Concessionaire, at The Kansas State Fair  
Jean Barbee, Travel Industry Association of Kansas  
Representative George Dean

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Corbin opened the hearing on SB 711 - establishing the Kansas State Fair Board. He called on Robert A. Gottschalk to testify.

Robert A. Gottschalk requested the Committee consider the following additions to SB 711: The Kansas Fairs Association have membership on the State Fair Board; Kansas Technology Enterprise continue to have representation on the State Fair Board; Replace the word "may" with "shall" on line 11, page 2; Add to item (6) on page 1. The majority of members from the general public appointed by the Governor must be actively engaged in agriculture (Attachment 1).

James R. Bell, concessionaire, at the State Fair testified in opposition to the bill. Mr. Bell recommended that the Fair Board members be from the agricultural industry. He favored HB 2569 that reinstates the old Kansas State Fair Board until 1995, until the appeal process has had its day in court (Attachment 2).

Chairperson Corbin stated the passage of HB 2569 is only a vehicle for this year and SB 711 is designed to look down the road design a structure for upcoming years.

Responding to a question, Robert Gottschalk, stated he thought it would be legal to have the board members selected from the agriculture business. Staff agreed since the Board has such a narrow focus.

Jean Barbee, Travel Industry Association of Kansas, stated they have a member on the board at the present time and the person is selected by the travel industry. This process has been successful, but they could live with nominating three person from their industry, and allowing the governor to make the appointment from that list.

Representative George Dean stated he is the current representative from K-Tech on the Board. He said the input from the members of the Board of Agriculture is missed. He recommended that SB 711 be amended so that six members have an agriculture background. He suggested HB 2569 that extends the current board is important as a short term patch, but a long term solution needs to be addressed.

Responding to a question, Bob Gottschalk stated exhibitors and concessionaires will notice the absent of the State Board of Agriculture members on the Board, in their capacity as fair superintendents, they worked very closely with the exhibitors and concessionaires.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 1994.

## GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Agriculture

DATE: 2-16-94

[illegible]



ROBERT A. GOTTSCHALK, General Manager  
ELMER K. DENNING, Assistant General Manager

Starting the first Friday after Labor Day.

February 16, 1994

Senator David Corbin, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Statehouse, Room 143-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Corbin:

The State Fair Board would request the Committee consider the following additions to SB 711:

- \* The Kansas Fairs Association have membership on the State Fair Board.
- \* Kansas Technology Enterprise continue to have representation on the State Fair Board
- \* Replace the word "may" with "shall" on line 11, Page 2
- \* Add to Item (6) on Page 1. The majority of members from the general public appointed by the Governor must be actively engaged in agriculture.

Your consideration will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gottschalk  
General Manager

dn  
pc: Fair Board Members

*Senate Ag. Co.  
2-16-94  
attachment 1*

A STATE FAIR PARTICIPANT OPPOSES  
SENATE BILL #711

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION. I AM JAMES BELL, A KANSAN RAISED IN GREAT BEND. IN THE 50'S AND 60'S GREAT BEND WAS AN OIL TOWN AND AN AGRICULTURAL CENTER. AS THE SON OF A KANSAS OIL MAN I BUCKED BALES, CUT WHEAT, PLOWED, FED CATTLE AND BASICALLY LEARNED THE TRUE MEANING OF WORK FROM LOCAL FARMERS. ONLY THEN DID MY FATHER ALLOW ME TO WORK WITH HIM IN THE OIL FIELDS OF KANSAS.

WHILE WORKING FOR KANSAS FARMERS I FIRST LEARNED OF THE KANSAS STATE FAIR AND EARNED THE PRIVILEGE TO GO TO THE STATE FAIR IN 1957. I WAS TEN YEARS OLD. I HAVE NOT MISSED A STATE FAIR SINCE EXCEPT FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE LATE 60'S. I HAVE A BACHELORS DEGREE AND A MASTERS DEGREE FROM TWO KANSAS STATE COLLEGES, PAID FOR BY MONEY I EARNED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF KANSAS. I OWE MY EXISTENCE TODAY TO KANSAS AGRICULTURE.

THE KANSAS STATE FAIR WAS 40 SOME YEARS OLD WHEN I WAS TEN. THE KANSAS STATE FAIR IS NOW AN 81 YEAR OLD AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTION GOVERNED FOR THOSE 81 YEARS BY THE KANSAS BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. IT IS THE CLEANEST, MOST ORGANIZED OF ALL STATE FAIRS THAT I HAVE EVER ATTENDED.

*Senate Ag Co*  
*2-16-94*  
*attachment 2*  
*2-1*

HUMAN EVENTS DO NOT LAST 81 YEARS WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE. THE KANSAS STATE FAIR HAS A COMPLICATED AND INTRICATE ECO SYSTEM OF ITS OWN, YOUNG AGRICULTURALISTS AND 4-H ER'S (BOTH FARM & URBAN) GO TO SHOW LIVESTOCK AND PRACTICE THE TRADITIONS OF KANSAS AGRICULTURE. MANUFACTURERS OF FARM EQUIPMENT AND KANSAS BUSINESSMEN EXHIBIT AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AS WELL AS ALL OTHER AREAS OF KANSAS PRODUCED PRODUCTS. IT PROVIDES A GREAT CLASSROOM WHERE KANSAS CHILDREN COME TO LEARN. IT'S A FORUM FOR KANSAS CRAFTS AND TALENTS. IT'S ALSO A PLACE TO CELEBRATE STATE WIDE, THE INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT MAKES KANSAS AGRICULTURE GREAT. IT IS A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE KANSAS STATE GENERAL FUND. THE FAIR PAYS ITS OWN WAY. EVERY YEAR IT GROWS AND IMPROVES.

FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS I HAVE INVESTED MY TIME AND RESOURCES TO OWNING CONCESSIONS AT THE FAIR. I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY UNOFFICIALLY REPRESENTING MANY OF THE COMPANIES THAT PROVIDE FOOD SERVICES FOR THE 10 DAY EVENT. I AM NOT IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS. I TRAVEL THE STATE OF KANSAS SELLING PACKAGING MATERIALS TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF KANSAS. EACH YEAR MY FAMILY AND I TAKE OUR VACATION AND RETURN TO OUR ROOTS, THE KANSAS STATE FAIR. OUR FAMILY RECIPES ARE FEATURED IN OUR CONCESSIONS, NOT JUNK FOOD, NOT FAST FOOD, JUST GOOD LAND OF KANSAS, KANSAS GROWN FOOD.

I FEAR FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE KANSAS STATE FAIR AND MY FAMILY'S INTERESTS. THE BILL #711 CAN IN EFFECT CHANGE THE FOCUS OF THE FAIR FROM AGRICULTURE TO COMMERCIAL, TO TOURISM, TO WATERED DOWN MULTI-CULTURAL EVENTS THAT BUREAUCRATS ARE FAMOUS FOR, OR TO GOD KNOWS WHAT. THE BILL PERFECTLY NUMBERED IS A ROLL OF THE DICE 7 COME 11. WHO WILL DIRECT THE STATE FAIR THIS 4 YEARS?

THE IOWA STATE FAIR, ONCE A GREAT AGRICULTURAL FAIR, FELL VICTIM TO GOVERNOR APPOINTEES IN RECENT YEARS. PRICES WENT UP, ATTENDANCE DROPPED, EXCLUSIVE BUSINESS DEALS WERE SIGNED, AND BIG BUSINESS TOOK OVER. THE IOWA STATE FAIR IS NOW A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF.

I'VE TOLD YOU I'M A TRAVELING SALESMAN IN KANSAS, THE PROBABILITY THAT I DIE ON THE KANSAS HIGHWAY IS GREAT. I HAVE SIGNED AN ORGAN DONOR CARD IN CASE OF THAT EVENT. BUT DON'T ASK ME TO GIVE AN ORGAN UP EARLY!!

81 YEARS OF FOCUSED AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE BEATS IN THE HEART  
OF THE KANSAS STATE FAIR, AND AS WE ALL KNOW THE KANSAS BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE LIES NEAR DEATHS' DOOR BECAUSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
INTEREST GROUP LITIGATION. THERE WILL BE APPEALS IN COURT BEFORE  
THE FINAL DEATH BLOW IS DEALT TO THE KANSAS BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.  
I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE DECISION WILL BE OVERTURNED.

PLEASE TAKE A WAIT AND SEE APPROACH TO THE KANSAS STATE FAIR  
ISSUE. DON'T TRANSPLANT THE FAIR UNTIL THE GOVERNING BODY HAS BEEN  
DECLARED DEAD. THEN TRANSPLANT IT WITH GREAT THOUGHT AND CARE INTO  
A GOVERNING BODY WHERE THE RED BLOOD OF KANSAS AGRICULTURE FLOWS.

THE ICE WATER BLOOD OF  
GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY AND  
POLITICAL APPOINTEES (THAT  
CHANGE EVERY FOUR YEARS) WILL  
KILL THE KANSAS STATE FAIR.

IT DID IN IOWA!!

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

WHY DOES RENO COUNTY GET A SEAT ON THE STATE FAIR BOARD, AND JOHNSON COUNTY, BARTON COUNTY, OR YOUR COUNTY DOES NOT?

THE STATE FAIR IS AN AGRICULTURAL EVENT, WHAT DOES TOURISM HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

IS #711 GOOD FOR THE FAIR WHEN IT TAKES THE FARMERS OUT OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND EXCHANGES THEN FOR TOURISM, COMMERCE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS?

WILL ALL GOVERNOR APPOINTEES HAVE AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS?

WHERE IS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE KANSAS FAIR ASSOCIATION?

*PLEASE EMBRACE THE ALREADY APPROVED HOUSE BILL #2569 THAT REINSTATES THE OLD KANSAS STATE FAIR BOARD UNTIL 1995. THIS WILL GIVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE FAIR AND ALLOW FAIR BUSINESS TO CONTINUE AS IN THE PAST 81 YEARS.*

**REMEMBER THE OLD FARMERS ADAGE  
IS STILL TRUE, IF IT AIN'T  
BROKE, DON'T FIX IT".**