COMMITTEE TOURING STATE

Convention Names Research Director

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — An assistant director of the Louisiana legislative council, Norma Duncan, has been named $29,000-a-year director of research for the state's constitutional convention.

Mrs. Duncan, an employee of the council since 1952, was hired Wednesday by the convention's executive committee.

The committee took the action after a brief session behind closed doors.

Composite Committee
The executive panel, earlier, voted to create a 12-member composite committee to tour the state in late February or early March listening to the opinions of the public at large.

The idea, based on a practice followed by the Illinois Constitutional Convention, was offered to the full assembly earlier in the day by State Dist. Judge James Dennis, a delegate from Monroe. Dennis was appointed to head the composite committee, which will include the chairmen or vice chairmen of the convention's 12 committees.

The hearings in various parts of the state would precede any research-gathering tours by the convention's article-writing, or substantive, committees.

The executive committee spent all day Thursday discussing the procedures the substantive committees will take in accumulating data.

Sentiment appeared to be weighted in favor of general meetings at the outset to educate committee members, followed by public hearings.

Convention Chairman E. L. "Bubba" Henry of Jonesboro, who also is chairman of the executive panel, suggested delegates would be at a disadvantage if they sought public opinion with little or no background knowledge of their own.

"Question Wisdom"
"I just question the wisdom," Henry said, "of going out and saying 'you know we haven't thought this out but you tell us what you think.'"

Substantive committees will not begin their meetings, it was decided, until after Feb. 15. That will give the new research director and her staff time to organize.

The executive committee, before knocking off until Feb. 12:
- Appointed a seven-member committee to examine the costs of printing a daily convention journal. States Sen. Samuel Nunez Jr. of Chalmette was named to head the panel.

Print Cheaper
A spokesman for the State Division of Administration, Paul Hayes, told the committee the same practices as are used in the printing of the daily legislative journal are followed, he said, the job could be better done by a commercial printer.

He agreed to replace delegate Joseph Anzalone of Amite with Delegate Calvin Fayard of Livingston on the procedural committee on legislative liaison and to add Delegate Kendall Vick of New Orleans to the same panel.

Authorized Dr. Emmett Asseff of Mansfield, a delegate to prepare a set of guidelines for the substantive committees to follow in drafting constitutional articles. Asseff is a member of the committee on style and drafting.

Permanent Offices
- Agreed to a recommendation to establish the convention's permanent offices at the law school at Louisiana State University.

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