



WELCOME TO THE 2015 LOBBY GAMES

| Organizing For Action

Synopsis



The Island of Harmonia is a peaceful island off of the coast of the United States. It is a fairly large landmass – about the size of Maine, and has a population of about 400,000 people. A little over 300,000 people live in the capital of Harmonia – Shellsville, with the rest of the population scattered throughout the agricultural communities across the island's east coast. The economic core of Harmonia is nuts. Cashew nuts to be precise. They are grown and processed throughout the island and then exported to the mainland mainly for use in exotic deserts and many of the ice creams produced by Bob and Jay's brand of ice cream. There is a thriving summer tourist business, but the nearly \$1 billion in nut sales are the dominant theme in Harmonian life.

The Island is governed by a council of Senators who are elected every 4 years. Each of the 5 Senators represents about 80,000 constituents, and the Council meets for 4 months every year starting in January. The Senators mostly have day jobs for the rest of the year and are widely held in good esteem across the Island of Harmonia.

The Island has one newspaper that is published in Shellsville. The Daily Harmonica is the main source of news and opinion on the Island and prides itself as being at the center of Harmonian life. Read by tourists, senior citizens, suburbanites and Senators, the Harmonica's notes find many ears across the Island.

Shellsville is a port town located on the west side of the island, and in addition to being the export point for Harmonia's main export of Cashew nuts, it is the landing point for many summer tourists who continue to seek summer solitude and beauty in this quaint and peaceful Island far from the shrill realities of modern life.... *Or so we think.*



Synopsis (continued)



Harmonia doesn't have a lot of problems; its budget is pretty tight and they are struggling to manage growth in Shellsville, but the big buzz is health care. There is a major Hospital and medical school in Shellsville. Named after St. Stuckey, the hospital can take care of most all of the medical needs of the Island, but with advances in technology on the mainland, many residents and the occasionally overexerted tourist are required to be sent to the mainland for specialty treatments, including any kind of transplant or heart surgery. This shortcoming of medical attention has long been a major problem for the hospital and some of its 5000 employees.

This is not the only healthcare problem though. The population on the East side of the Island is also short of the resources that they need for basic medical care. With only a few remaining doctor's offices, many of the residents of these rural communities – including an increasingly aging population – have to travel all the way to Shellsville for medical attention. With narrow roads and only a few buses this is not only becoming an annoyance for those out East, it is also becoming a health threat to many of the older and more infirm residents who have spent their entire lives building the small agricultural communities across the Island.

Health care is certainly a hot issue on the Island of Harmonia.

The Council is reaching the end of its annual session, and the budget and health care have dominated the session. There are two competing health care proposals that are on the table and the Council is soon to vote on those proposals before finalizing the budget and adjourning for the year. There is a nut harvest, summer tourist season and many good fishing days to be had as soon as the Council can take its votes on this issue and move on.



Rules of the Council

- Each Senator on the Council has an office in the capitol with one staff person. Once a bill is scheduled for a vote, any Senator can offer one amendment to the bill before it is voted on for final approval. The rules stipulate that only the two amendments with the most cosponsors can be brought up for a vote however. Amendments have to be filed in advance of the floor vote and the Clerk of the Council decides which amendments may be offered. There are certain budget rules however that are principally designed to keep some order and fiscal discipline in the legislative process, and the Leadership has a great deal of discretion about how the rules are applied, and many amendments are often ruled out of order once they reach the floor. It is not the most democratic process, but it has worked for the Island for centuries and if anyone doesn't like it they can get their own Island.
- All voting is done by secret ballot, and vote tallies are announced after the vote. A Senator may withdraw an amendment, but a bill must be voted on once it is scheduled.
- There are two bills on the schedule for health care:
- Council Resolution 1: Sponsored by Senator Strouse, will finance the construction of a community medical center on the Eastern side of the Island. The medical center would take care of most of the basic health care needs of the Eastern residents. It will cost \$30 million over 3 years, and be financed by a 1% tax on nut exports for the next three years.
- CR2: Sponsored by Senator Ruben will finance the construction of a new hospital wing at St. Stuckey's. The new wing will include the latest in surgical technology and bring the hospital up to the standards enjoyed by those on the mainland. The new wing will be financed by an increase in the corporate income tax of Harmonia and will cost approximately \$50 million over 3 years. \$5 million has already been raised by the hospital capital fund and \$5 may be available through federal support.

Rules for Lobbyists

- Announce yourself to the staff-person at the door.
- If another group is waiting, only 2 minutes with a Senator.



Time Schedule



- 20 minutes: Overview and Rules
- 5 minutes: Divide into groups:
- 30 minutes: Prepare in Groups
- 75 minutes: Lobbying
- 30 minutes to first paper
- 30 minutes to second paper
- 15 minutes to deadline for filing amendments
- 30 minutes: Voting Session
- 20 minutes: Debrief

Total Time: 3 Hours



The Senators



Senator Strouse is an activist legislator from the Eastern side of the Island. A former Director of the Gray Panthers, she is doggedly pursuing the passage of her bill to fund a medical center. She doesn't have many years left in her as a Senator and may retire at the end of this session, but she is waiting to see what happens with the health care issue. All of Senator Strouse's district is rural and on the eastern side and she is easily elected every time. Staff Assistant is **David Masur**

Senator Ruben is a retired Dr. and professor emeritus at St Stuckey's. He is very excited about the new hospital wing that he is proposing, and like Senator Strouse sees this as his crowning moment. Senator Ruben represents the wealthier suburb of Shellsville, including the ritziest neighborhood near the capital. He is very popular in the district and enjoys significant support from the wealthy residents and the doctors from the hospital. He was never been a favorite of the nurses or the medical students, but his impressive network and war chest usually scares off any kind of serious opposition in the elections. Staff Assistant is **Sam Boykin**.

Senator Lioz is from Shellsville and the owner of a tractor and farm machinery dealership. He is an honest man and quite moderate, but very tied in to the Shellsville Chamber of Commerce who frequently give him their Senator of the year award. He is very in touch with the rural communities because of his farming business, but is also a practical and successful businessman. He won his recent election by 55% after outspending his opponent significantly. His district is growing and the demographics are changing as the area attracts mainlanders and suburbanites. Staff Assistant is **Josh Irwin**.

Senator McConnel is from a progressive businesswoman from Shellsville. She is fairly new to Harmonia but has quickly become a leader in the community with her energy, vision and pragmatism. She is respected by her suburban electors and the opinion leaders in Shellsville, although she is a little more liberal than some at the Chamber would like. She won her election by 75%, but really had no opposition. She represents the North eastern suburbs of Shellsville and is involved with a chain of coffee shops and some real estate ventures. Staff Assistant is **Nathan**.

Senator Biel is a retired Farmer who represents a mix of suburban and rural constituents on the east side of shellsville. He is always challenged vigorously by the more progressive elements of the district and wins narrowly every time. He is an independent thinker, fiscal conservative and general curmudgeon. Staff Assistant is **Evan Paul**.

The Groups



Harmonia Association of Senior Citizens is a liberal senior group that has 5,000 members across the Island. Their membership is mostly those from the Eastern side of the island who have been galvanized by the fight for CR1. They have a couple of staff people and some great activist volunteers. They split their time between the council and building up their activist membership. They are pretty sophisticated public interest players but are vastly outgunned by many of the powerful interests on the Island.

The Harmonia Medical Association is the main lobbying group for the doctors. They are well respected, have a dozen or so staff who not only represent the doctors, but provide services to the medical community as a membership association. They work very closely with the leadership at the hospital and see their futures as being mutually linked. They make political contributions through their PAC, but do not endorse candidates and try to be as generous to all as they can be. They also have a small endowment that has been raising money for the new hospital wing and other charitable ventures. They are ardent supporters of CR2 and have placed all their eggs in the CR2 basket because they don't believe both measures can pass. (2 new taxes in one year isn't politically feasible.)

The Harmonia Chamber of Commerce is the powerhouse business group on the Island. They are very large and wealthy. They are very active in the Council and while they don't speak up publicly very much, they make their opinions known and have mastered the art of using their financial clout, political network and issue expertise as a means toward their agenda of building the economy and prosperity of Harmonia. The Chamber opposes both measures for tax reasons.

Dewey, Cheatum and Howe is a small but powerful lobby firm in the Shellsville. Mostly they handle corporate and trade contracts, but they have a small government relations section that will occasionally be active for some unnamed clients.



Sample Forms

Island of Harmonia

Living Free and Good Lives in Harmony

Founded 1762 * Under the Leadership of a Council of Senators Since 1854

An Act

Placed before the Council by Senator Strouse

Be It Here Resolved by the Council of Harmonia that;

Whereas, many senior citizens from the Island of Harmonia receive substandard healthcare services that are both dangerous and disrespectful to our Island's citizens, and whereas the poor and dangerous quality of care is principally the fault of the lack of medical services on the Eastern Shore of the Island of Harmonia, be it resolved that,

As an Act of the Council of the Island of Harmonia, that the Island will finance the construction of a community medical center on the Eastern side of the Island. Such a medical center will cover all of the most basic health care needs of the Eastern residents. Based on the Accounting office official estimates, the Council shall appropriate \$30 million over the next three years for the purposes of this Act.

In accordance with the Frishberg-Alt Financial Accountability Act of 1993, the appropriations contained herein will be financed by a 1 percent levy on the export sale of nuts. Said levy will expire three years after the date of enactment of this bill. After five years after the date of enactment, the Clerk of the Council will prepare a report to the Council on the effectiveness of this legislation.

Agreed to by Senators, being affirmed by the Clerk of the Council as a legal majority of the council on the date of _____



Sample Forms

Island of Harmonia

Living Free and Good Lives in Harmony

Founded 1762 * Under the Leadership of a Council of Senators Since 1854

An Act

Placed before the Council by Senator Ruben

Be It Here Resolved by the Council of Harmonia that;

Whereas, many citizens of the Island of Harmonia are subject to dangerous and unnecessary travel to the mainland United States of America for certain vital medical care and attention, and whereas the existing hospital facilities on the Island are not adequate to cover certain life threatening situations, be it resolved that,

As an Act of the Council of the Island of Harmonia, that the Island will appropriate \$50 million over the next three years for the construction of a new hospital wing at St. Stuckey's. Appropriations for the new wing shall include the latest in surgical technology and bring the hospital up to the top standards of the American Medical Association. In accordance with the Frishberg-Alt Financial Accountability Act of 1993, the appropriations contained herein will be financed by a one percent increase in the corporate income tax of Harmonia. Said levy will expire three years after the date of enactment of this bill. Appropriation of the funds contained in this act are contingent on matching funds of \$10 million through local and federal matching funds. After five years after the date of enactment, the Clerk of the Council will prepare a report to the Council on the effectiveness of this legislation.

Agreed to by Senators,

being affirmed by the Clerk of the Council as a legal majority of the council on the date of _____





CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT AT OFA

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