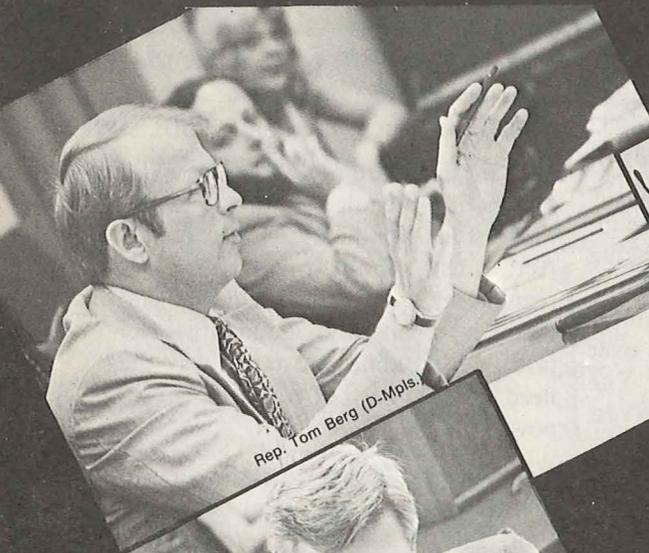


77 Oct.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

interim

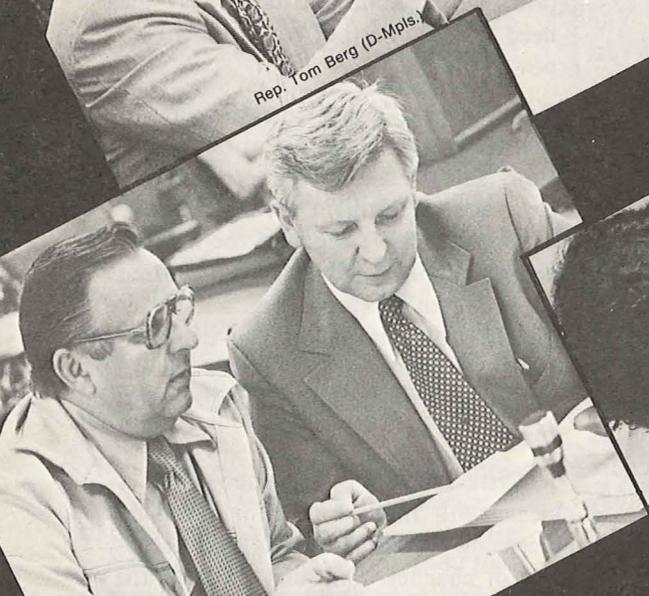
Vol. 1, No. 1
Oct. 1977



Rep. Tom Berg (D-Mpls.)



Rep. Arnold Kempe (D-West St. Paul)

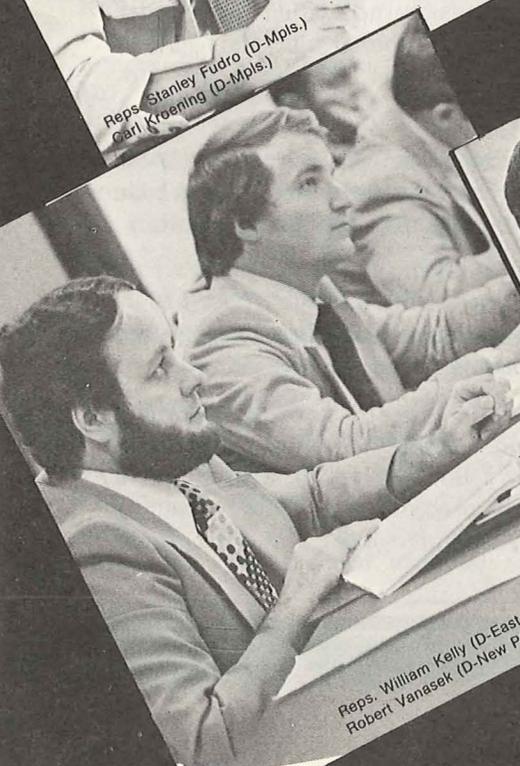


Reps. Stanley Fudro (D-Mpls.)
Carl Kroening (D-Mpls.)



Rep. Janet Clark (D-Mpls.)

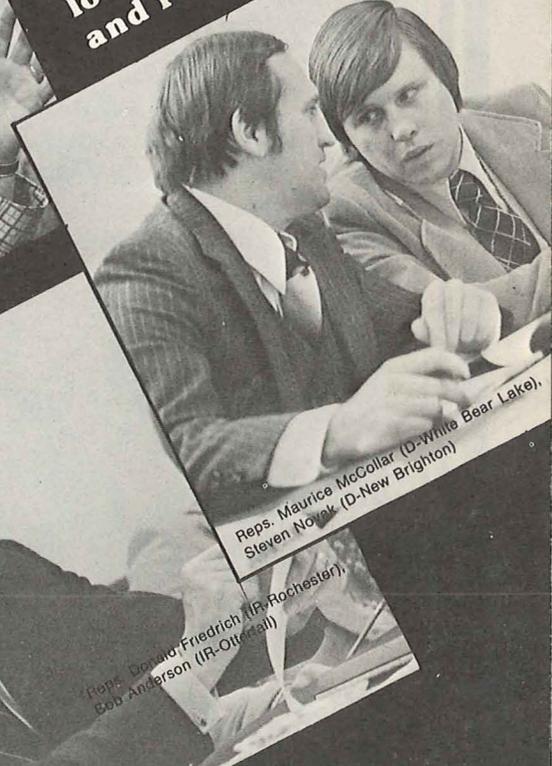
**Inside:
Committees/Commissions
look, listen, study
and review**



Reps. William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks),
Robert Vanasek (D-New Prague)



Rep. John Biersdorf (R-Bowling Green)



Reps. Maurice McCollor (D-White Bear Lake),
Steven Nowak (D-New Brighton)



Reps. Donald Friedrich (R-Rochester),
Bob Anderson (R-Ottawa)

Committees

Preview

a look at some proposed legislation

Board of Teaching

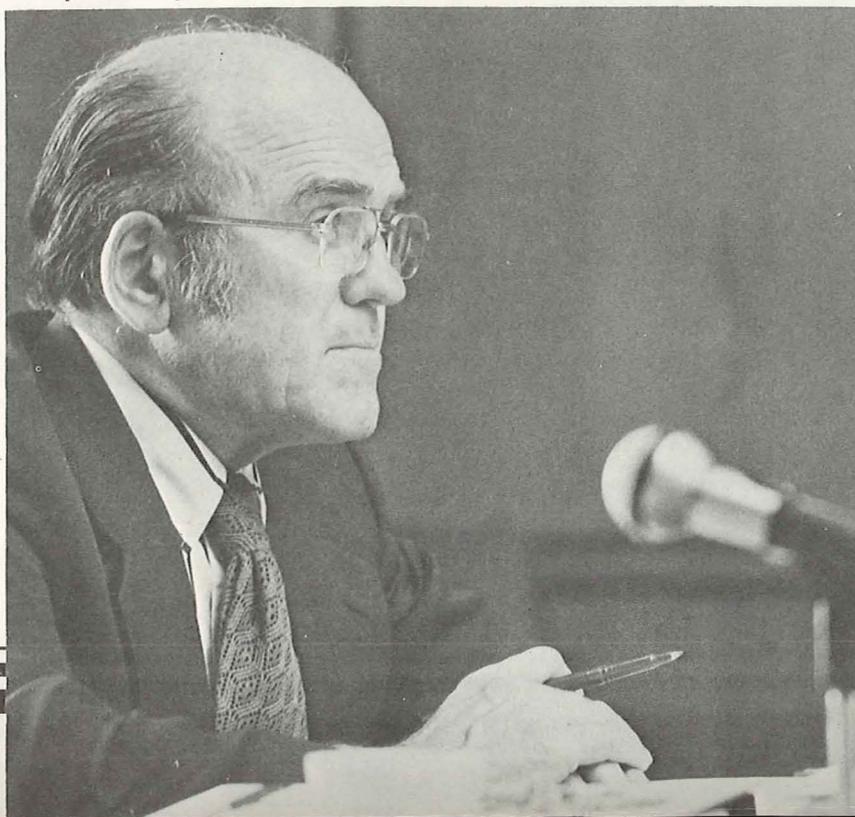
Unemployed teachers

Housing redevelopment

Employment fees

Charitable trusts

Rep. Peter Fugina



"Teachers should be able to govern themselves," Rep. Peter Fugina (D-Virginia) told the House **Education Committee** during the September mini session. Fugina was testifying in favor of his bill, **HF1213**. The bill would eliminate requiring the state board of education to approve licensing standards the board of teaching sets up for teachers.

Fugina told the committee the 1973 legislature created the board of teaching to serve as an advisor to the board of education. The legislature intended that the board of teaching should set the rules for licensing teachers, but that the board of education should have final veto power over the adoption of those rules. The legislature wanted the final say to rest with a public body, but wanted the teachers to have input to the final decision, he said.

Supporters of HF1213 told the committee the legislature's original intent, in 1973, to have the board of teaching act as an advisory body to the board of education "made sense then, but it doesn't now."

Ed Rapp, a member of the board of teaching, said the board spends years studying proposed rules; but because of the board of education's busy schedule, the board can't give them

adequate time to present their testimony. He said the board relies totally on staff recommendation, and, "The part that bothers me is there is no longer a public veto."

Jo Malmsten, another member of the board, told the legislators that the board of teaching is "the only occupational licensing board in the state that must get the approval of another board."

She said the board of teaching now has two public members and, under the Minnesota Administrative Procedures Act, must submit their rules and regulations to the public. She said these two changes give added protection to the public and take away the need for the board of education's veto power.

Von Valletta, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, said, "The real controversy is over the department's veto of three proposed rules." She said the hearing examiner concluded that the proposed rules weren't reasonable, and after considerable discussion and deliberation, the state board of education agreed with the hearing examiner's ruling.

Valletta said the three proposed rules dealt with life licenses for teachers, licensing of school nurses, and licensing of coaches. She said, "The board must be concerned with a higher order and that proposed rules not have a negative impact on schools and students."

Chairman Rep. Carl Johnson (D-St. Peter) said the committee plans to hear the bill again before taking a vote.

The problem of unemployed teachers had the attention of the House **Labor-Management Committee** during the September mini session.

The committee is studying Chairman Stanley Enebo's (D-Mpls.) House Advisory Bill 30 (HA30), a proposal to study procedures to allow retraining and re-employment for unemployed



Reps. Bob McEachern (D-St. Michael), Carl Johnson (D-St. Peter)

teachers. It recommends "the legislature undertake a study of procedures to allow unemployed teachers the opportunity of transition from education into other occupations and careers which make maximum use of their training experience." It suggests the legislature examine the alternative of creating a Teacher Maximum Employment Center which would function as a re-employment agency, as a retraining center, and as an information and research center.

Deputy Commissioner Joseph Graba, department of education, told committee members declining enrollments facing schools today are causing the teacher layoffs. He said, by 1990, 70 Minnesota counties will have 60 percent or less of their 1975 student population and only four counties will have what they had in 1975.

"It is a problem, but it doesn't represent a crisis," said Dean Honetschlager of the state planning agency. He presented a study that Gov. Rudy Perpich ordered last April after several thousand teachers received their layoff notices. The study noted that due to 1977 legislative action giving school districts "substantial financial assistance, extensive teacher layoffs would not occur." It estimated that by the start of this school year, schools would have placed at the most 500 teachers on unrequested leave.

Honetschlager said the study showed most of the teachers districts laid off were young (under 30) females with less than four years teaching experience. He concluded, "There is little evidence to indicate that a major initiative by state government is needed now." He recommended there be a

continuous monitoring of teacher supply and demand and teacher reductions.

Teachers and representatives of teacher organizations told committee members the need is great for state action. "It certainly is a crisis to those people who get their pink slips and have to pay their bills and make mortgage payments," said Bob Rose, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers president. The teachers supported establishing a center to help retrain teachers and find new jobs for them. Douglas Davis, teacher at South High School in Minneapolis, estimated the center would cost up to \$90,000 a year. He said the taxes they pay back to the state after getting re-employed would "more than pay for the cost of the center."

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee (Rep. Walter Hanson, D-St. Paul, chairman) heard two bills that will come up for discussion again in January.

Redevelopment

First on the agenda was **HF1009** (Nelsen, M., D-Aitkin) a bill which would permit the Minnesota Area Redevelopment Administration (ADA) to make direct loans to private companies when there is no local non-profit development corporation, or when a corporation is financially unable to participate in a proposed redevelopment project.

"Unless you are wealthy, have an exceptionally good background in economic development, and know a banker, you can't get any money for redevelopment," Nelsen told the committee. "This legislation will help small

communities redevelop deteriorated areas."

Under the bill, the ADA would provide "technical assistance grants or loans from the redevelopment revolving fund for the development and redevelopment projects."

Employment fees

The second bill on the agenda, **HF608** (Jaros, D-Duluth), would require employers to pay all employment agency fees and costs. Chief author Rep. Mike Jaros said, under the present system, employers use employment agencies for hiring employees instead of having their own personnel department do their hiring. He said the employer should bear the costs of hiring, not the employee.

Toby Lapako, Minnesota AFL-CIO, said there are many abuses in the current system which would disappear if the employer had to pay the agency fee. She gave an example of an employment agency that advertises for a "manager trainee in food service" which turns out to be a "glorified dishwasher." She said the person finds this out, quits the job, but still must pay the agency fee.

Helen Deardorf, owner of Upper Midwest Employment Service, told the committee that a recent United States Supreme Court decision ruled a similar law in the State of Washington unconstitutional because it infringed upon the 14th amendment.

In September, the **Commerce and Economic Development Committee** heard and laid over **HF1246** (Reding, D-Austin), a bill making several changes in laws relating to charitable trusts.

Christine Luzzie, special assistant attorney general, spoke. She said the attorney general's office has the authority to supervise and enforce charitable trusts, has become aware of various provisions and concepts in the laws which need clarification, and other instances where their office needs additional authority to "safeguard the

Committees

Charitable trusts

Gas-fuel prices

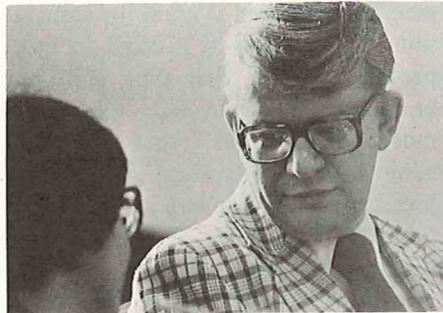
Wind energy systems

Homeowners' insurance

Watercraft license fees

interests of the ultimate charitable beneficiaries.”

The committee decided to lay the bill over after questions arose on a provision relating to the amount of funds a professional fund raiser can collect for compensation and expenses. Present state law prohibits paid, professional fund-raisers for charitable organizations from receiving more than 30 percent of solicited funds. HF1246 would extend the 30 percent limitation to in-house fund-raising. Luzzie said this would prevent “excessive solicitation



Rep. Walter Hanson

expenses whether an organization performs this function itself or contracts with a professional.”

Some members favored reducing the 30 percent limitation to 20 percent, but decided to postpone any action until they had more information on what it costs to solicit funds for charitable organizations.

“**Minnesota gas prices** may not necessarily have to go up if the United States Congress changes federal regulation of prices,” Rep. Walter Hanson (D-St. Paul) said.

Hanson, chairman of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, plans to introduce a bill in the House when the legislature reconvenes in January, “to protect Minnesota’s gas users.”

The bill would repeal Minnesota’s law that allows an automatic pass-through — from utility companies to users — federally regulated increases in cost on gas and other fuel that generates electricity.

The proposed legislation would change Minnesota law to require a hearing before the Public Service Commission (PSC) to determine if the increase the federal government allows really affects the cost of delivering electricity to Minnesota consumers. If so, the commission would decide how much of a rate increase to allow.

“This would place all utility rate increases in the same category — through a hearing process before the PSC — and base them on facts and information — not merely on a change the federal government makes.

“All rates would be under a full hearing process. No special privileges would be granted for natural gas or other types of fuel used in the generation of electricity,” Hanson said.

Wind Energy Systems

The **Environmental Protection subcommittee** of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee heard testimony concerning HA31 (Kostohryz, D-North St. Paul). Kostohryz said the bill is in response to the growing concern for energy conservation and overproduction of electricity by private owners. The advisory bill calls for a study of supplemental energy systems, including, but not limited to, electrical energy from wind-driven generators and the interaction of these systems with present power systems.

Hans Meyer of Mukwonago, Wisconsin, told members of present wind systems in existence. He said that some citizens and some electric companies are using small wind systems for supplemental energy. Places like Alaska and Boston, Massachusetts, where there is a high, steady wind level and where utility costs are high, can use wind generators efficiently, he said. The most serious problem with wind generation of electricity is economic; in most places it is just not economical to use wind systems, even though technology for producing the systems is available, he said.

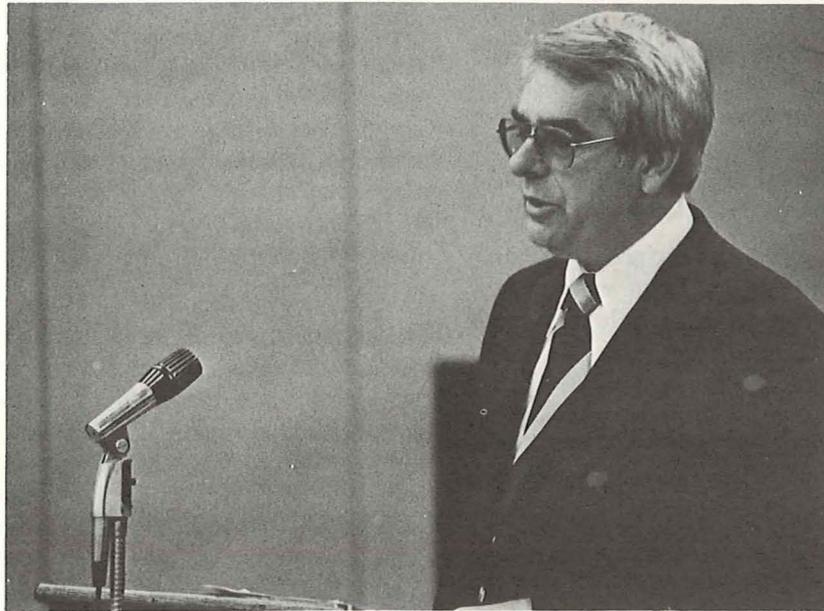
Meyer said several individuals in different parts of the country have set up small wind systems and contracted with utilities for exchanges of electricity. Under these contracts the private owner would sell electricity to the utility on windy days when the system produces more power than the owner needs. In turn, the utility would charge the wind system owner for electricity on days the system could not produce enough to meet the owner's needs.

Minnesota Energy Agency representative, Ron Visness, said there are some problems with wind generators and utilities buying back electricity. Days when the need is greatest for additional energy (i.e. days when it is extremely cold or hot) are not usually days when there is wind to produce needed additional energy, he said. This means utilities must have the capacity to produce this necessary amount of energy whether or not there is supplemental energy from wind systems, he said.

Visness said that some companies and energy related agencies are researching ways to efficiently store wind-generated energy in storage batteries. These batteries would enable the owner and/or the utility to save energy to use at peak energy times.

A spokesman from NSP said the company is experimenting with supplemental wind systems and has a contract with one individual windmill owner to purchase small amounts of electricity. These experimental projects, he said, will aid in the company's evaluation of technical, economic, and safety factors concerning supplemental wind-generation systems.

Others testifying said the size of wind systems is a problem. Many people do not want windmills in their communities because of the visual effect. One person testifying said, "Windmills are not attractive, especially if everyone on the block has one." ■



Rep. Richard Kostohryz

The Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance heard and laid over a bill which would make redlining in the sale of homeowners' insurance an unfair trade practice.

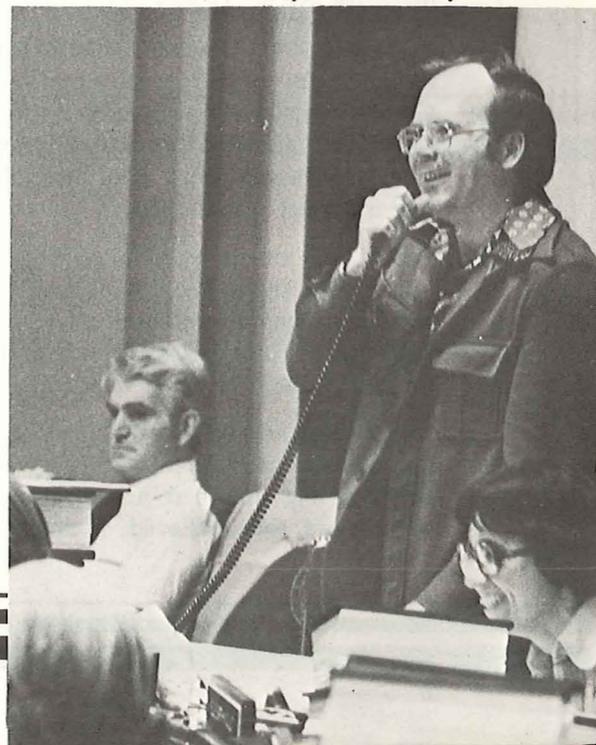
According to the author of **HF 189**, Rep. James Casserly (D-Mpls.), redlining is selling homeowners' insurance to residents of a Minnesota town or city and then refusing to sell equivalent coverage to another resident of that town or city **solely** because of the location of the home. Casserly told the committee that a number of homeowners from his district and from similar neighborhoods came to him for help because they had problems getting homeowners' insurance. "These are not isolated situations," Casserly said. "They are occurring over and over again."

A number of witnesses from the north Minneapolis area, which is under redevelopment, told the committee of their experience in trying to get and keep homeowners' insurance. One homeowner said he called a number of insurance agencies and one agent told him his company "wouldn't cover homes in that neighborhood." "This is a clear example of redlining," he said. ■

The Recreation and Open Space subcommittee of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee continued work on a bill Rep. Phyllis Kahn (D-Mpls.), subcommittee chairperson, will introduce. The bill deals with watercraft license fees and watercraft safety.

It includes an increase in boat registration fees along with a graduated motor surcharge of 25 cents per horsepower. Under the bill, counties would receive the increased revenues for water safety enforcement programs.

Rep. James Casserly



The Labor-Management Relations Committee (Rep. Stanley Enebo, D-Mpls., chairman) traveled to the Iron Range in September to meet with the public and discuss two bills dealing with employees and their health. The bills are HF582 (Prahl, D-Grand Rapids) and HA25 (Lehto, D-Duluth).

HF582 aims at correcting discriminatory practices in employment when prospective employers turn down applicants because of certain back problems. The bill lists 20 injuries to, or defects of, the body's skeletal (bone) structure which would not be acceptable reasons for refusing to hire an individual.

HA25 is an advisory bill which directs the Labor-Management Relations Committee to study rights of employees and their bargaining agents, survivors, or designees, to employee medical records — and the state's keeping of permanent medical records.

People from Nashwauk, Grand Rapids, and several surrounding communities told how they feel about the proposed legislation.

At Nashwauk, most of the testimony on HF582 came from people that local mining and paper companies had not hired for what they said were back abnormalities. Prahl said his bill would make it an unfair discriminatory practice not to hire because of those back problems HF582 singles out.

Prahl said, "A normal back is difficult to find. A few years ago, the American Chiropractic Association tried to find a 'Miss Back.' After months of searching, they gave up. They couldn't find a perfect spinal X-ray."

People told of applying for jobs and not getting them because of routine company physicals and evaluations by company doctors declaring them unfit for work. They felt these were unfair.

Many said they were active in sports and were currently in jobs that require heavy lifting and had no problems. Many said they believed companies

were refusing them jobs for other reasons, such as age or sex.

At Grand Rapids, a company physician from a large employer in the Grand Rapids area said his company has never denied anyone employment because of the kind of back defects HF582 lists. But Prahl said he had specific complaints from people the physician's company had rejected.

Talking about HA25, people told the committee, "It is a basic right for all citizens to have access to their employee medical records." And they said their bargaining agents — attorneys, relatives, survivors, etc. should have access to their records if employees request that.



Rep. Norman Prahl

A spokesman for the Save Lake Superior Association said, "We are especially interested in HA25 at this time, because it relates to an aspect of the health issue surrounding the Reserve Mining situation which has received far too little attention in the past."

He said, "It's important that public policymakers have access to studies based on such records so that both workers and the general public can be protected from potentially harmful substances modern industry creates." ■

Back injuries

Employee medical records

Committees

study

*a look
at issues*

Feedlots

The Agricultural Products and Marketing subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee went to Rochester and Wanamingo to hear citizen opinion on feedlot construction in Minnesota. People have been concerned about increased numbers of feedlots (places where owners fatten cattle and pigs for market).

"Controversy over feedlots deals with two issues," subcommittee chairman, Rep. Tony Eckstein (D-New Ulm), said. "They are pollution and the economic factors of large feedlot operations."

Opponents to feedlot construction told committee members that large feedlots produce animal wastes that could pollute the water and ground and give off an unpleasant odor. They don't want them near residential areas.

In addition to the environmental concerns, opponents said large corporate feedlots tend to lower prices for cattle and pigs which makes it hard for the small family farmer to compete.

PCA (Pollution Control Agency) officials told committee members that large corporations control approximately 10 percent of the livestock operations in the state. The large feedlots contain anywhere from 500 to 8,000 animals.

Animal waste odors are exempt from air quality standards by statute, PCA officials said, which makes regulation difficult. Because of the difficulty in regulating air pollution, and because the extent of waste pollution in the state is not known, the PCA reviews each feedlot permit request separately, they said.

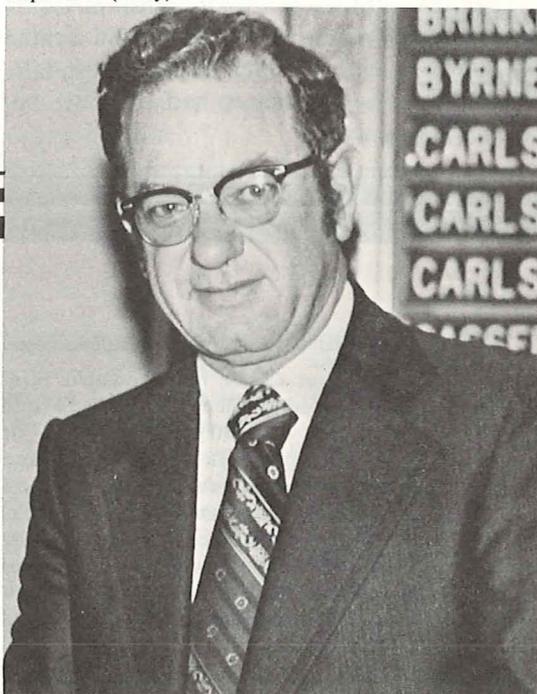
Robert Silvagni from PCA said that county boards can regulate feedlot operations and enact zoning ordinances to keep feedlots away from residential areas. Twenty-eight counties have some permitting regulations now.

Because of the concern over feedlots, Silvagni said, the PCA and the Environmental Quality Board are beginning a study of the situation. The study will include: water, ground, and air pollution; economic impacts; land use; water appropriations; and the impact of increased transportation.

Assistant Commissioner, department of agriculture, Dave Velde, said that now it is not possible to judge the economic impact of large feedlots on family farms. Current anticorporate farming laws do not cover feedlot operations, because most feedlot owners do not cultivate land or raise their own feed, he said.

A spokesman from the Minnesota Farmers Union urged an extension of the anticorporate law to include feedlots and stressed county control over feedlot permitting programs. ■

Rep. A. J. (Tony) Eckstein



Committees

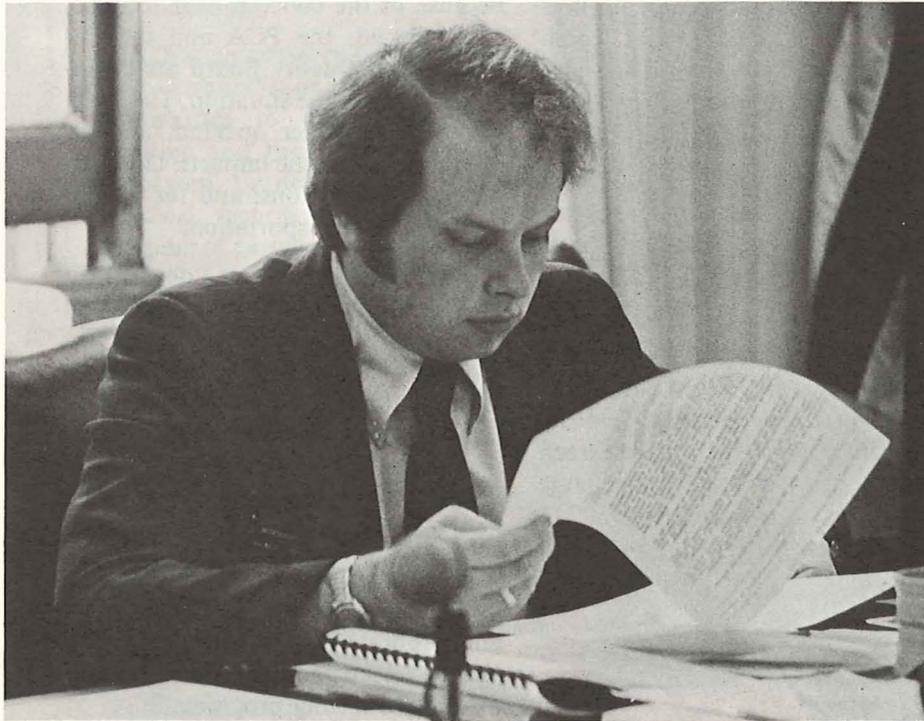
The Departmental Affairs subcommittee of the Health and Welfare Committee (Rep. John Clawson, D-Center City, chairman) has been studying Minnesota's Health and Welfare Department's Rule 36 which relates to licensure for community based residential facilities and state hospitals.

Kevin Kenny of the House Research Department works with the subcommittee. At the request of Chairman Clawson, Kenny reported on the sub-committee's interim study that will be the basis for recommendations to the full committee.

Rep. John Clawson

Department of Public Welfare

Cost of health care



Kenny said the study concentrated on getting better management of state programs and on the question, "What is it, really, that institutions in the state provide for its citizens?"

The need for information is vital, Kenny said, because "We are dealing with the closing of state hospitals. There is a need to know what is happening at all ten state hospitals before the committee can significantly respond to any proposals."

The subcommittee reviewed, in detail, the state hospital system in terms of its relationship to other institutions treating people.

Kenny said the subcommittee is grappling with how to establish a state policy without firm agreement on the role of state hospitals. "You can't identify policy without getting into the area of 'what is the role of the state hospital?'"

In the ongoing study, the subcommittee has had people from various divisions and departments come in to talk about their parts in implementing state policy. And the legislators met with representatives of private organizations, for example, the JCAH (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals), to discuss how they interface with state licensure, Kenny said.

"In the last six months, the Council of Community Programs did a rather extensive survey of state hospitals, and the committee had a report on that survey."

Speaker Sabo appointed to national committee

President Carter has appointed Minnesota Speaker of the House Martin O. Sabo to serve on the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). The commission monitors the operation of the federal system and recommends improvements. Congress established the commission in 1959. It has 29 members; six members of Congress, three cabinet officers, four governors, four mayors, three state legislators, three county officials, and three private citizens. Members serve two year terms.

etc.

Two doctors from the council gave their views and responded to questions from the subcommittee on the kind of research that has gone on over the years on the length of hospital stay — in which kinds of environment — and on coordination between agencies.

Kenny said, in searching out data for the interim study, they looked for sources of information "that had not been available to us."

He said the subcommittee now wants to know "How do you make this kind of information available to researchers? ... and how best to use it."

The Joint House-Senate Select Committee on the Cost of Health Care, Rep. James Swanson (D-Richfield) and Sen. John Milton (D-White Bear Lake), chairmen, has held five meetings this interim, studying 1) cost containment mechanisms, 2) future directions in health care, and the 3) future role of government in health care.

Agendas for the meetings were:

June 13

- **Presentations from committee staff** on 1) perspectives of health care costs, 2) historical perspectives of health care costs, 3) scope of existing regulation of health care and summary of proposed federal regulatory methods.

Representatives of Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the Minnesota State Medical Association spoke.

July 25

- **Future directions in health care** 1) How do we contain health care costs? 2) the fundamental changes in the health care system (lifestyle and the way we take care of ourselves).

Speakers were from the Department of Urban Studies, Northwestern University, Illinois; the Minneapolis Health Department; and the University of Minnesota Medical School.

August 22

- **Health Manpower** 1) physician supply and the Canadian experience, 2) reimbursement of hospital-based physicians, 3) health manpower in Minnesota, 4) physician licensure fees, 5) physician extenders, 6) second opinion on surgery, 7) a presentation by a retired nurse educator.

Other speakers were an associate professor from the University of Chicago; a former health economist with Interstudy; a representative from the Minnesota Department of Health; and research assistants from House Research.

September 26

- **Information reports** 1) Reducing Excess Hospital Bed Capacity, by a physician from Interstudy; 2) reports from a Minnesota Department of Health spokesman, a senior vice-president of Health Central, the director of finance from the Minnesota Hospital Association, and a written memo on nurse practitioners

and physician extenders from House Research; 3) Health Planning and Regulation, Certificate of Need by Stephen Jackson of House Research.

October 17

- Sen. John Milton, who has resigned from the Senate, said goodbye to the committee and spoke on "The Future of Health Policy."

Stephen Jackson, House Research, presented the proposed Certificate of Need bill and announced the schedule of mark-up sessions where interested parties can have input into the final proposal. Dr. John Kralewski, University of Minnesota, will assist Jackson during the mark-up sessions.

A Citizens League spokesman gave a report on a study of hospitals in the Twin Cities.

A vice-president of Northwestern National Life Insurance Company presented an insurance industry perspective on cost containment.

A spokesman for the joint committee said the next meeting will be on Monday, November 14, and that attention will be on the Certificate of Need bill for the next few months. "It will most likely be the only legislation to be acted on in 1978." ■

State publishes book listing services available

The Minnesota Department of Administration has published a 380-page book describing the services available from various state agencies.

The book, which is intended to make state services more accessible, lists the agency providing each service, its telephone number, fees and any special requirements. The book sells for \$5.95 and is available from the state documents section in the Centennial Building in St. Paul or from bookstores around the state.

Student Edition of the Legislative Manual

Secretary of State Joan Grove announced that copies of the student edition of the official *Legislative Manual* for 1977-78 (the Blue Book) are available, without charge, to young people, their teachers, schools, parents, and other interested citizens.

They may get them through the Secretary of State's Office, Room 180, State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, or through the House Information Office, Room 8, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Capitol Calendar for 1978

A public Minnesota Capitol calendar for 1978 is now available from the Documents Section of the Minnesota Administration Department.

Perhaps the first the state has offered, the 18 by 24-inch wall calendar costs \$1.50 at the Documents Section of the Minnesota Administration Department, Room 140 of the Centennial Building from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Chief Edna Staudenmaier said the Documents Section will accept mail orders.

Committees

listen

*reports from
state departments
come before
interim
committees*

*Commissioner, Department
of Public Welfare*

*Commissioner, Department
of Natural Resources*

Game and fish fund

*Preventative medicine
programs*

The Health Welfare Committee (Rep. James Swanson, D-Richfield, chairman) heard a report from Ed Dirkswager, acting commissioner of the public welfare department.

Plans

Dirkswager talked about the observations he has made of problems of the department, his management style and plans, and responded to questions from the committee.

Since taking on the job of acting director, Dirkswager said he has met with legislators to get an overview of what the legislative issues are and to discuss the tour of state hospitals he had completed.

He said he has appointed a legislative liaison person who will be accessible to legislators for information. The assistant commissioner will liaison with local officials and the health care delivery system.

Dirkswager said the department needs a long-range plan of its mission as it relates to the whole system of health and welfare. There will be some consolidation and reorganization and a major study of the role of state facilities.

Problems

He listed some of the problems:

- rate setting. This absorbs a great deal of time because it is a sensitive subject, in which health and welfare is deeply involved.
- mentally ill and dangerous sex offenders. He is studying the need for facilities for the dangerously mentally ill. He has established an advisory task force of people prominent in health care fields to recommend programs for St. Peter Hospital and to find answers to questions, for example, "Is it possible to have an effective treatment program for sex offenders?"
- abortion. The question of whether or not to fund abortions for aid recipients is a decision the elected representatives will have to make, Dirkswager said. As of the date of

his appearance, he said the law is that the state will fund abortions.

Priorities

Dirkswager summarized his priorities:

- reorganization, reallocation of resources, elimination and simplification of forms, identification of the mission of the department; simplification and elimination of duplication in licensing processes.
- closing of Hastings State Hospital with consideration for patients and employees.
- provision of services to the mentally ill. "This group needs a spokesman now," Dirkswager said.
- humanizing of the environment people live in; less institutionalized development. Try to get rid of the incentives to take people out of their homes. Help parents who have children needing care but who can't get insurance to pay for the care, can't afford to purchase it, but who would like to keep their children at home.

In responding to questions on the rate of welfare fraud in Minnesota, Dirkswager said random checks of eligibility show a three or four percent error rate. In over and underpayment, this percentage was slightly higher — in the area of five percent.

Minnesota has been a model to other states because of its mechanized computerization system which allows for surveillance in the prevention of fraud, Dirkswager said. ■

The Game and Fish subcommittee of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Glen Sherwood (D-Pine River), chairman, reviewed the state game and fish fund. All proceeds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses go to the fund.

The fund supports Minnesota's game and fish management and enforcement programs. The subcommittee also heard testimony from department of natural resources (DNR) spokesmen concerning fall hunting season regulations and the status of game and fowl populations. ■

Environment and Natural Resources Committee

William Nye, newly appointed commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), spoke to the committee suggesting changes he feels the department needs. Nye talked about problems in management, organization, and manpower. He said that some management employees in the department have achieved their positions because of their background in biology and the physical sciences.

"We are starting a program to train these people in management skills," he said. Nye explained that these employees are not necessarily poor managers, but may not have training in that area.

Comparing the number of personnel in the department with that of the environment agency in Ohio, where he was director for four years, Nye said he would not like to see a reduction in staff numbers. Ohio, with approximately the same number and acreage of park lands and much less forest areas than Minnesota, has a department with about the same number of staff as Minnesota according to Nye.

Nye feels there should be some organizational changes in the department. He said he does not feel a need to appoint a deputy commissioner and would rather hire someone to head a section on enforcement. The department is lacking in this area, he said. Nye said he may seek changes in the division structure of the department.

Nye told the committee of legislative changes DNR will propose to the legislature during the 1978 session. They include: dam safety legislation concerning hydroelectric and mining dams; environmental education legislation for adults on ecology, land use, and the state's resources; and forest management legislation concerning logging, timber growth, and wildlife.

Nye also said the state should increase and improve public access areas to public waters. ■



Rep. Lyndon Carlson

The Health Care subcommittee of the Health and Welfare Committee (Rep. Lyndon Carlson, D-Brooklyn Center, chairman) heard information on updated preventive medicine programs from the department of health's personal health services division at an October 13 meeting.

Dr. Ellen Fifer, assistant commissioner of the department of health, listed the division's goals: prevention of accidents and disease, control of the spread of communicable diseases, detection and prevention of disease, perinatal care of mothers, and health problem detection in children.

Grace Gumnit, acting director of the health services division, explained its responsibilities and introduced employees who reported on its programs.

Diane Peterson of the immunization service said that the immunization program received increased federal funding for the coming year. Recent surveys by the department of health found that 30 percent of Minnesota's two-year-olds are not properly immunized according to federal standards. Mothers too young to remember the effects of polio and tuberculosis, before the development of vaccines, may be the cause of this deficiency. Children usually receive their immunizations through their first year, but after that, there is no followup.

In the detection and control of venereal disease, staff member Pat

McConnen, emphasized the department's efforts to detect and follow up on cases of V.D. The State experienced its first drop in the incidence of gonorrhea (8.3 percent) in the past 20 years. Minnesota, he said, reported the first case of a new penicillin-resistant strain of gonorrhea outside the original outbreak area. From the initial case, the department tested and interviewed 24 possibly exposed persons and treated three of those.

Shiela Swaiman reported on the preschool screening program in effect to reach children who don't qualify under Title IX. Approximately 60 percent of those the program screened needed referral for some health problem.

Thirty percent of these referrals were for inadequate immunization, 10 percent for developmental deficiencies, 11 percent for dental problems, seven percent for ear problems (not hearing) and six percent for hearing.

The department indicated a problem in followup on these referrals and recommended on-site immunizations for those children needing them.

Programs for diagnosis of chronic disorders are in the developmental stage. A program for identifying patients in a high-risk group for diseases such as hypertension is underway.

Chairman Carlson held over additional testimony by Dr. Fifer and Dr. Ronald Campbell, of maternal and child health care, until the next subcommittee meeting.

Laura Klopp is a junior from Macalester College interning with the House Information Office.



Committees

review

*Energy conservation
promotion*

Escrow accounts

The **Environment and Natural Resources Committee** met October 13, 1977 to review the energy conservation promotion program of the Minnesota Energy Agency, which 1977 law directed the energy agency to set up.

Manager of Information and Education, Minnesota Energy Agency, Dorothy Hozza spoke to the committee. She said the legislature appropriated \$15,000 for the development and distribution of radio and TV messages and pamphlets.

These messages explain how saving energy saves money, and that energy saving improvements can make a home more comfortable. Pamphlets include: *Home Energy Audit*, a questionnaire with energy saving tips; *Ceiling Reinsulation; Weatherstripping and Caulking; Windows and Doors; Conservation Begins at Home; Home Improvement Grants*. For copies of these pamphlets and information on energy, contact the Energy Information Center. The number for metropolitan residents is **296-5175**. For out-state residents the toll free number is **1-800-652-9028**.

The **Escrow Accounts subcommittee** (Rep. Michael George, D-Mahtomedi), chairman, is reviewing laws that affect escrow accounts.

"Escrow Accounts hold the money financial institutions can require home buyers to deposit for the payment of taxes or insurance," George explained.

Past state law had required lenders to pay home buyers not less than three percent interest on monies they deposited in escrow accounts. New 1977 law changed that to not less than four percent interest, if mortgage-holders required the accounts.

It's the law that lenders must tell home buyers state law does not require them to offer escrow accounts and that the home buyer is legally responsible for the payment of taxes and insurance.

And, under the law, if lenders don't require an escrow account, they must offer these options to home buyers:

- management of their own payment of insurance and taxes.
- a passbook savings arrangement carrying the current rate of interest the lender pays on passbook savings accounts.
- a non-interest-bearing escrow account which the lender will have to service at no charge to the buyer.

George said the subcommittee wants to see how the new law has affected financial institutions, counties, and individuals so it can make recommendations to the full committee prior to the 1978 legislative session. George said he sent a questionnaire to all county treasurers. Thirty-six replied that they had not experienced any serious problems as a result of homeowners electing to handle their own escrow accounts.

The subcommittee plans further meetings to look into the possibility of extending the escrow account option to other types of properties and mortgages. George said he's interested in financial institution practices in estimating amounts they need for escrow accounts. He said the subcommittee would be researching costs versus income derived from investment of escrow funds.

Other members of the subcommittee are: Reps. John Clawson (D-Center City); Bob Ellingson (D-Brooklyn Center); O. J. Heinitz (R-Plymouth); and Gordon Voss (D-Blaine). ■

The Local and Urban Affairs Committee, Rep. Tom Berg (D-Mpls.), chairman, reviewed the 1977 law that appropriated \$28 million to aid local communities in the fight against Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt disease.

Agriculture Commissioner Bill Walker told committee members that "within six weeks of becoming law, 571 communities had submitted applications and were eligible for state funds." He said 435 of these were out-state communities and 282 had populations under 1,000.

"The Shade Tree Program set as its initial goals enlisting border to border participation and ensuring involvement of Minnesota's small communities," he said. "These goals have been attained through speed of operation and simplicity of form."

Walker reported the following allocations available to the 571 communities in 1977:

Metro area (sanitation) .	\$7,051,750.00
Metro area (reforestation)	1,340,130.65
Out-state area (sanitation)	3,473,250.00
Out-state area (reforestation)	660,064.35

St. Paul Mayor George Latimer told the committee that the loss of elms in St. Paul "has reached epidemic proportions." He said the city lost more elms this year than they had anticipated, losing 45,000 trees (a 225% increase over 1976). The city lost 74,000 of a total of 131,000 elms, according to Latimer. Latimer said the total cost of St. Paul's shade tree disease program in 1977 was \$9,181,500 with the state paying over \$3 million in grants to the city.

Dave Devoto, park forester from Minneapolis, reported a similar situation in Minneapolis. He said the state's money in 1977 "saved our life." "Next year the city will be asking Minneapolis taxpayers for \$7.7 million to fight Dutch Elm," he added.

Dr. David French, a University of Minnesota professor, when asked about chemically treating the trees with the chemical, Arbotect, answered, "I am reasonably optimistic at this point to recommend this chemical and procedure." He noted that Arbotect is too expensive for treating large populations of trees, but communities could use it to protect certain valuable elms.

Commerce and Economic Development Committee

The committee reviewed a 1977 state law requiring employers who offer sick pay for temporary disabilities to make the same benefits available to women unable to work because of pregnancy and childbirth. The law is part of the state Human Rights Act under the section on sex discrimination.

"The reason for this hearing is to better inform employers and employees the intent of the law and to see if any revision is necessary," Rep. Ann Wynia (D-St. Paul), chief author of the 1977 legislation, told committee members.

Human Rights Commissioner Bill Wilson said the law does not require employers to offer disability programs. "The law is contingent with benefits already in existence," he said. He said it works this way: "Whatever benefits employers make available for employees unable to work because of physical disabilities, they must also give to employees who are unable to work because of pregnancy or childbirth."

Wilson said, under the new law, employees seeking maternity leave can claim disability pay only for the period during which a physician says they are actually disabled and unable to work. He told the committee his department will accept charges of discrimination prior to the effective date, June 3, 1977. He said he sees no need for additional language in the law, that rules and regulations would clarify its intent.

*Shade tree disease program
Pregnancy related illnesses*

PRAYER FOR GROUND BREAKING

Lord God, we intend to build a house here, not a Church, nor a Synagogue, or Mosque or Sacred Lodge where people gather to worship, but a place where we do what we believe we must to protect society.

Help us to build it and administer it so that the people who live in it may be made aware of the peace and justice we dream of.

Help us to make it a place where humane punishment is experienced by those who break laws, and meaningful and rewarding employment is found by those who come to work.

Help us to make it a place that will say something to the world about our desire to insure the peace of our communities and just treatment for those who do things to destroy that peace.

Lord God, help us to accomplish this most difficult task of protecting our society without ruining the lives of those who act out against it.

We know this is an awesome responsibility. Give us wisdom and strength to bear it well. In the name of the One who is both just and compassionate, we pray.

AMEN

Chaplain C. Richard Knowles
Minnesota State Prison
Stillwater, Minnesota





Above: Rep. Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater), Rep. Michael George (D-Mahtomedi)

Right: Rep. Donald Samuelson (D-Brainerd), "Plans have become a reality. Minnesota will have a badly needed secure facility, not only to contain offenders but to provide effective rehabilitation."

Left: Rep. Paul McCarron (D-Spring Lake Park), "It's a privilege to see something work out after five years of effort."

new prison at Stillwater

By mandate of the 1976 Legislature, the Department of Corrections initiated the High Security Facility Project in June of 1976. The objective of that project is: "to complete planning, facilitate design, construction, and phasing for operation of a high-security facility to house 400 inmates by September 1980."

On October 19, ground-breaking ceremonies took the first step in making this project a reality.

The new prison site is 159.7 acres directly west of the present Stillwater prison. It is on a hilltop overlooking a wet lands area on the east and a large valley leading from the area of mean elevation to the lower wet lands area. On the west is Washington County Highway 67.

Blending into the existing landscape, the three-story facility will have some walls below ground level, yet living spaces will have windows looking into a central courtyard, giving an open feeling to residents while maintaining security. This design will result in energy saving and will incorporate heat reclaiming design.

Commissioner Schoen of the Minnesota Department of Corrections said, "When constructed, it will be the only facility of its kind in the world. Requests to see the plans and site are already coming into the department."

Commissions

House members serve on commissions. Here is a listing of those commissions, their members and responsibilities.

Advisory Committee to Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission

House members serving: Reps. Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater), Richard (Dick) Lemke (D-Lake City), Michael Sieben (D-Newport), Tom Stoa (D-Winona), and Al Wieser (IR-LaCrescent).

Assists the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission in doing studies and making recommendations relating to the present and future protection, use and development — in the public interest — of the boundary lands, river valleys, and waters of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Advisory Committee on Economic Development

House members serving: Reps. William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks) and Fred Norton (D-St. Paul).

Assists the State Planning Agency in developing state and regional growth plans and recommending a policy for economic alternatives in Minnesota.

Advisory Council on the Economic Status of Women

House members serving: Reps. Linda Berglin (D-Mpls.), Stanley Enebo (D-Mpls.), Mary Forsythe (IR-Edina), Arlene Lehto (D-Duluth), and Russell Stanton (D-Arco).

Studies all matters relating to the economic status of women in Minnesota, including matters of credit, family support and inheritance laws relating to economic security of the homemaker, educational opportunities, career counseling, contribution of women to Minnesota's per capita and family income and state revenues, job and promotion opportunities, and laws and business practices which are barriers to women's full participation in the economy.

Citizen's Committee on Voyageurs National Park

House members serving: Reps. Irvin Anderson, majority leader, (D-Int'l Falls) and Willard Munger (D-Duluth).

Studies all matters relating to establishing and operating Voyageurs National Park. Makes recommendations to the United States National Park Service, and other concerned federal and state agencies, regarding operation of the park.

Education Compact Commission of the States

House member serving: Rep. Peter Fugina (D-Virginia.)

Studies matters concerning educational needs and resources and develops proposals for the improvement of public education.

Great Lakes Commission

House members serving: Reps. Mike Jaros (D-Duluth), Harry Sieben Jr. (D-Hastings).

Promotes the development and resource conservation of the Great Lakes in cooperation with the other Great Lakes States.

Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

House members serving: Reps. Janet Clark (D-Mpls.), Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater), Douglas St. Onge (D-Bemidji).

Acts in the interests of the Indian community in delivery of resources and services and serves as a liaison between the state and tribal governments.

Interstate Cooperation Commission

House members serving: Reps. Leo Adams (D-New Hope), Linda Berglin (D-Mpls.), Wendell Erickson (IR-Hills), Carl Johnson (D-St. Peter), James Rice (D-Mpls.).

Maintains cooperation between the states in matters that require uniform interstate statutes, regulations etc.; also processes information concerning intergovernmental offices and interstate research.

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

House members serving: Reps. Joseph Begich (D-Eveleth), Norman Pahl (D-Grand Rapids), Donald Samuelson (D-Brainerd).

Examines resource development and unemployment on the Iron Range and makes recommendations for the expansion of natural resources utilization.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

House members serving: Reps. David Beauchamp (D-Moorhead), Donald Moe (D-St. Paul), Al Patton (D-Sartell), Leo Reding (D-Austin), and John Biersdorf (IR-Owatonna).

Makes a continuing study and investigation of retirement benefit plans applicable to non-federal government employees in the state. Analyzes proposed pension and retirement legislation. Makes biennial reports to each session of the legislature.

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules

House members serving: Reps. Irvin Anderson, majority leader (D-Int'l Falls), Neil Haugerud (D-Preston), Wayne Simoneau (D-Fridley), Gordon Voss (D-Blaine), and Mary Forsythe (IR-Edina).

Responds to complaints on rules or proposed rules from legislators, legislative staff, interest groups, and individuals. Requests state departments to submit, to commission staff, petitions for rule changes and department responses. Sets up procedures to review potentially troublesome proposed rules. Attempts to review existing rules which do not comply with legislative intent, exceed their legislative authorization, or are unreasonable, inadequate, or improper.

Legislative Commission to Study Public Broadcasting

House members serving: Reps. John Arlandson (D-Golden Valley), David Beauchamp (D-Moorhead), James Pehler (D-St. Cloud), Gene Wenstrom (D-Elbow Lake), and Bill Dean (IR-Mpls.).

Studies public broadcasting in the state, including the statewide expansion of public broadcasting to serve unmet educational, cultural and informational needs by using existing facilities at post-secondary institutions and other public broadcasters, and by adding of facilities to approximate statewide coverage and achieve live interconnection among the stations. Report to the legislature due no later than January 15, 1978.

Legislative Coordinating Commission

House members serving: Reps. Martin O. Sabo, speaker of the House, (D-Mpls.), Irvin Anderson, majority leader, (D-Int'l Falls), William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks), Fred Norton (D-St. Paul), Henry Savelkoul, minority leader, (IR-Albert Lea), and Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater).

Coordinates the legislative activities of the Senate and the House.

Commissions

Continued

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

House members serving: Reps. Bob McEachern (D-St. Michael), John Sarna (D-Mpls.), and Joseph Niehaus (IR-Sauk Centre).

Reviews land use activities, projects and studies, and promotes the planning and maintenance of the Great River Road from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, in cooperation with other state and local governments.

911 Telephone Emergency System Study Commission

House members serving: Reps. Richard Welch (D-Cambridge) and Douglas Ewald (IR-Minnetonka).

Studies and considers alternatives for continuing financing of the statewide 911 telephone emergency system. Report to the legislature due November 15, 1977.

St. Paul Downtown People Mover Steering Committee

House member serving: Rep. Pete Petrafeso (D-St. Louis Park).

To direct the preliminary engineering study of the St. Paul downtown people mover project.

Joint Legislative Study Committee

House members serving: Reps. John Clawson (D-Center City), Harry Sieben Jr. (D-Hastings), and Ken Zubay (IR-Rochester).

Reviews report of the commissioner of economic security on the newly created department of economic security. Report due on or before January 1, 1978.

Legislative Advisory Committee

House members serving: Reps. William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks) and Fred Norton (D-St. Paul).

Makes advisory recommendations on transfers of funds from the general contingency account to various departments and agencies to supplement their original budgets.

Legislative Audit Commission

House members serving: Reps. Martin Sabo, speaker of the House, (D-Mpls.), William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks), Fred Norton (D-St. Paul), Donald Samuelson (D-Brainerd), Harry Sieben Jr. (D-Hastings), Bill Dean (IR-Mpls.), Wendell Erickson (IR-Hills), Rod Searle (IR-Waseca).

Reviews the effect of grant-in-aid programs, the spending of public funds and their financing at all levels of government.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

House members serving: Reps. Irvin Anderson, majority leader, (D-Int'l Falls), James Casserly (D-Mpls.), Neil Haugerud (D-Preston), Gerald Knickerbocker (IR-Hopkins), Willard Munger (D-Duluth), Fred Norton (D-St. Paul), and Rod Searle (IR-Waseca).

Provides the legislature with the background necessary to evaluate proposed programs to preserve, develop and maintain the natural resources in this state. Studies and examines anticipated future needs. Makes recommendations to the legislature November 15 of each even-numbered year.

Tax Study Commission

House members serving: Reps. William Kelly (D-East Grand Forks), Peter Fugina (D-Virginia), Joel Jacobs (D-Coon Rapids), Wesley Skoglund (D-Mpls.), Jim Evans (IR-Detroit Lakes), Bob Vanasek (D-New Prague), and Bob Searles (IR-Wayzata).

Examines the total tax structure and the revenue needs and the sources of revenue of the state. Makes recommendations on long range tax policy. Analyzes proposed tax legislation and reports its findings to the legislature.



Members of the Tax Study Commission at an October meeting. Left to right: Reps. Joel Jacobs, Peter Fugina, Jim Evans, Robert Searles, Wesley Skoglund, Robert Vanasek, and William Kelly.

Worker's Compensation Study Commission

House members serving: Reps. Leo Adams (D-New Hope), Wayne Simoneau (D-Fridley) and John R. (Dick) Kaley (IR-Rochester).

Studies and reports on: the procedure by which insurers establish workers' compensation insurance premium rates, the level of Minnesota workers' compensation premiums as compared to premium levels in other jurisdictions, the various methods of providing workers' compensation insurance to employers in other jurisdictions, and the administration of the law by the department of labor and industry and workers' compensation court of appeals.

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Upper left: Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato), District 22B, with family and friends after swearing in ceremony Oct. 11, 1977. Onnen replaces Harold Dahl who resigned to accept an appointment as district judge.



Center left: Rep. John Arlandson (D-Golden Valley) talks to visitors about how a bill becomes a law.



Lower left: Rep. Jim White (D-Farmington) meets with guests at a Sunday Open House in the House chamber.

Lower right: Rep. Phyllis Kahn (D-Mpls.) played tennis, Rep. Ray Pleasant (IR-Bloomington) played basketball, and Rep. Peggy Byrne (D-St. Paul) swam in the five-mile marathon for the benefit of women's athletics at the U of M on Oct. 29, 1977. (Photo - U of M)

