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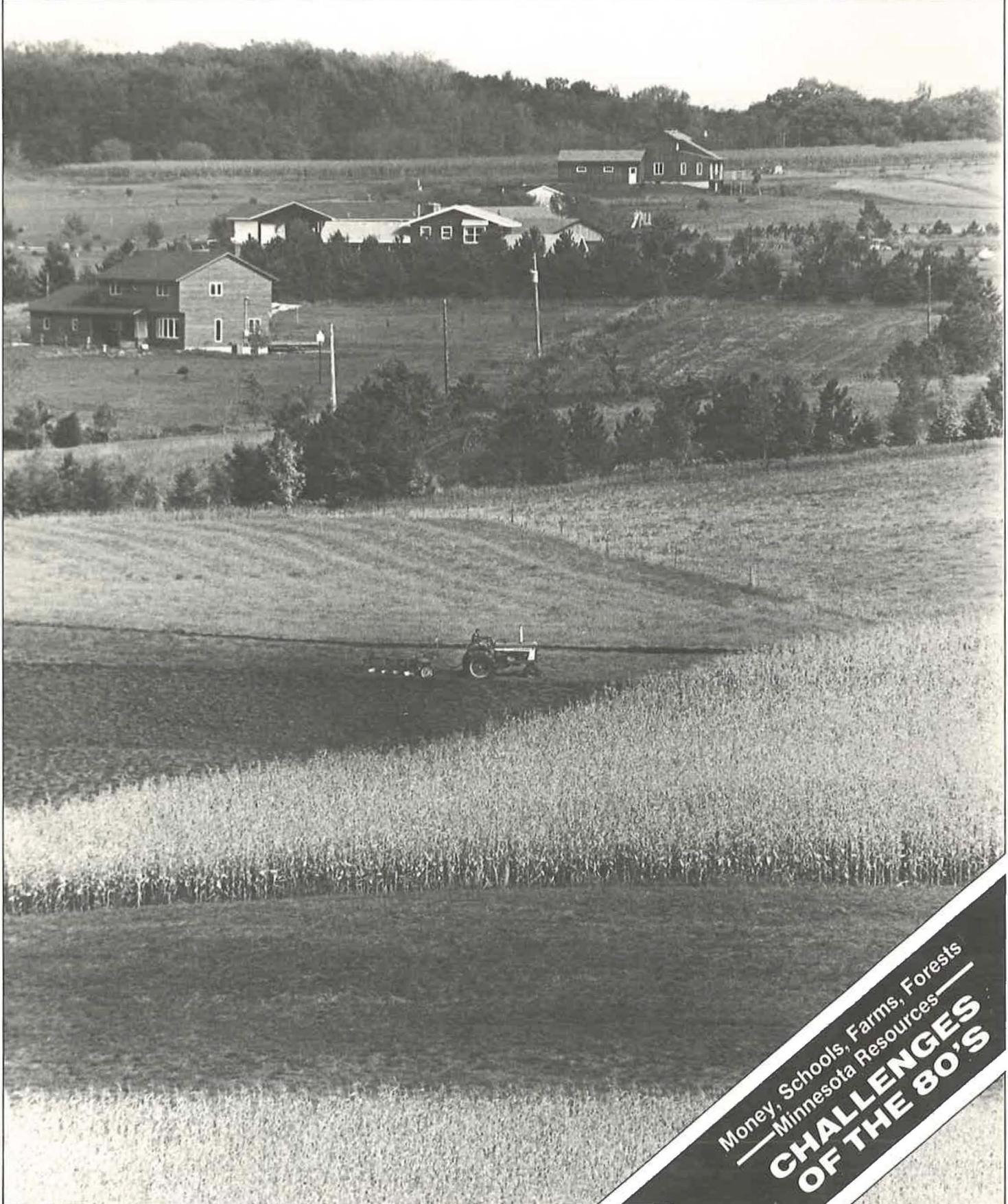
Interim

1981

Minnesota House of Representatives

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June/July/Aug 1981



Money, Schools, Farms, Forests
— Minnesota Resources —
**CHALLENGES
OF THE 80'S**

Where did the summer go?

“**T**his was an unusual year with those two special sessions. Fishing trips were cancelled; the trip to this or that place was cancelled. Everyone was just kind of hanging in limbo. When we finished with the legislative duties, we were right smack in the heart of the summer. It’s just like summer passed us by,” says Rep. Bruce Nelson from Staples.

Each year in *Interim*, the between-sessions magazine, we talk to House members to help you get to know them. We can’t interview all 134 members, so we select a cross section—some from each political party, some from the metropolitan area, some from rural Minnesota—and this time from the Northeast, Central, South and North Central parts of the state.

We ask them questions we think you’d ask if you were to sit down to visit with them individually.

“Well, what are you going to do now that the session’s over? Have any plans?” you’d say.

“I’ve got a lot of catching up to do,” they’d say, as did Representatives Henry Kalis from Walters, Minnesota, Lon Henitz, from Plymouth, and Glen Anderson from Bellingham when we caught up with them in the midst of interim activities.

“Sometimes I wish I had an airplane” says Glen Anderson, who goes home every weekend during the session, 170 miles from the Capitol. For him, part of the catching up is getting to know the family again.

“My oldest is 15, a girl. I have a boy 14, a girl 11, and a girl 6. And this summer we have a girl from Norway with us. So we’re keeping her entertained.”

Although John Drew’s home is in St. Paul, he says, “One thing I’ve always felt bad about is that, during the session, you never see the kids. I’m out the door before they get up, and many times, with evening meetings and all, until Friday, I never get to see them. For me, summer’s make up time.”

For Phyllis Kahn of Minneapolis, catching up means following up on how legislation affects her district, on some of the effects of the bills relating to parks and open space and responding to constituent complaints by “finding the right person to get back to them.”

“How did folks feel about the ‘81 session, or sessions?” you might ask ...

comment continues on page 16

Interim is a between-sessions magazine for people and about people and government from the Minnesota House of Representatives. The magazine previews the issues of '82 as it gives you a look at issues the legislative committees are studying, the questions they're asking, the answers they hope will lead to solutions when the Legislature meets again.

interim

Minnesota House of Representatives

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in this issue:

Where did the summer go?

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A rundown on commissions

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Government's for everyone. Be a part of it.

That's the theme each year when the House Information Office goes to the Minnesota State Fair. House members and staff meet people, answer questions, and make friends, letting people know about the legislative process and where they fit in **18-19**

Information: Where to go for what

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Farmland and how we use it, forests, schools, and how we deal with energy costs raise management questions. Legislators look for the answers during the interim, the time between sessions, when committee meetings and studies; first-hand tours of tax-funded projects are part of the legislative job.

on the cover:
A farmer works his land on the fringe of urban development near Afton, Minnesota.

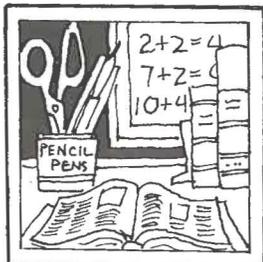
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Speaker of the House:
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Majority Leader:
Willis R. Eken

Minority Leader:
Glen A. Sherwood

Education



Schools hosted legislative tours this summer as School Aids Division members checked into state-funded summer programs.

What is summer school?

Summer school may include basic skills building, physical education, advanced math, English as a second language, or special education. All are dependent on school aids from state and local taxes.

Members of the House School Aids Division of Education visited summer school programs to see how districts use this aid.

Legislators looked at programs in Montevideo, West Concord, Mantorville, Westonka (Mound), St. Paul and Minneapolis and found many differences.

Not all districts hold summer school and get summer school aid. Districts select curriculum differently, and some districts combine summer school with community education and physical activities.

Curriculum may be remedial, recreational, enriching, or geared for special education students. Hans Christian Andersen schools in Minneapolis offer elementary students and their parents a choice of curricula year around. Students may enroll in Andersen A, B, C, or D schools. Each school features its own blend of basic skill building, open classrooms, or special education.

South High in Minneapolis offers summer school curriculum which includes classes and activities for dropouts and dropout-prone students to help keep them in school and earning degrees. Principal Gerry Cady said that the Partnership Program for potential dropouts is working on one of South's bigger problems.

"We are retaining the kids," said program director Helene Turnbull, "I believe it's due to our efforts during the summer."

Summer school at Michael Dowling School is like the regular year. Dowling has 180 students with multiple handicaps. Many of them would be in state institutions without a school like Dowling, according to principal Charles Marks.

The school gives the children a chance to socialize, learn something and, Marks says, gives them fulltime supervision when parents often can't.

Humboldt Center in St. Paul serves 1,000 junior and senior high students, 44 percent of them in special education programs. Humboldt also offers

enrichment programs for gifted students and transition classes for grade school students who may have trouble with the jump to the combined junior-senior high.

Other schools combine morning academics with afternoon recreation, taking advantage of state aid for transportation to school classes not available for recreation.

Highland Park High School Administrator Fred Kober pointed out that summer school offers over 50 classes of English as a second language (ESL) courses for recent immigrants. Legislators visited several classrooms of ESL students at all achievement levels.

Kober also pointed out Highland's community involvement with the St. Paul Urban League. The league sponsors summer school activities and instruction at Highland for students with school and adjustment problems. Legislators hope these summer tours and those at Groveland and Webster Elementaries, Johnson Senior High, the Twin Cities Institute for Talented Youth, and other schools will help in making future decisions about summer school funding. □



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Is discipline education's major problem?

The Minnesota House Discipline Subcommittee of Education is studying factors that may relate to discipline and members hope to find out if discipline is a major educational problem. And, if so, is there a legislative solution?

Student attitudes

At a July 29 subcommittee meeting, Diane Hedin, assistant director of the Center for Youth Development and Research at the University of Minnesota, reported on results of the Minnesota Youth Poll. Hedin said discussions with young people centered around students' ideas on what they get out of school, and on what parents think their children are getting.

Poll results show that today's students find school uneducational, boring, and uneventful, but a means to securing a good job. Students chose drug and sex education, social skills, and career preparation as their top priorities. According to many of the polled students, history, grammar, and higher mathematics are not important because they don't provide marketable skills.

Mike Robin from the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota told legislators that he doesn't see much of a discipline problem in Minnesota. Students see bigger problems in drug use and student, teacher, and parental attitudes. Robin presented some current disciplinary practices and suggested some causes of student truancy and indifference. Television, he says, may contribute to classroom boredom, "because teachers can't compare to song and dance entertainers."

Dropouts

On July 9, Dr. Galen Anderson from the State Department of Education gave committee members department facts and figures on secondary school dropouts.

"The number of dropouts from Minnesota schools steadily increased over the last five years," said Anderson, "despite declining enrollments. Dropouts in Minnesota represent a wide range of youth, but no clear picture of the typical dropout emerges."

However, in a study which CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) sponsored and Minnesota schools conducted, some trends do appear, such as:

- grade 11 is the peak year for dropping out of public school
- highly populated urban areas have the highest dropout rates
- dropout rates for American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics are disproportionately high in Minnesota
- high rates of dropouts are from families of low socioeconomic status and from parents with low educational attainment levels
- dropouts more often have lower occupational aspirations than their peers
- unemployment rates are high among high school dropouts
- dropouts earn less future income than high school graduates
- low reading, achievement, and motivation levels are more likely among high school dropouts, although half of all dropouts score about average on intelligence tests
- while in school, dropouts participate in extracurricular activities less than other students
- dropouts tend to have had high levels of absenteeism and school failure

- dropouts tend to view school negatively, and view leaving school positively
- though discipline problems are sometimes correlated with dropping out, in this study, school authorities did not consider dropouts as major discipline problems
- dropouts more likely have experienced some form of trauma
- dropouts tend to have a low self-image, or lack a sense of identity
- dropouts are over-represented among persons who attempt suicide, self-mutilators, chemical users and abusers, delinquents and adolescent parents
- reasons for dropping out often include lack of interest, personality/adjustment problems and educational difficulties.

Department statistics show a 4.32 percent dropout rate in Minnesota in grades 7-12 for 1979-80, compared to a 2.89 percent rate in 1975-76. Dropout percentages vary among Minnesota school districts from no dropouts to a high of 23.7 percent. Compared to national figures, Minnesota has a higher percentage of students who graduate from high school, and Minnesota adults have more years of education, on the average, than adults nationwide. □



Money



**Legislators check on money decisions—
who gets it and how much—with a closeup
interim look at where money goes and what
it does.**

Appropriations: Is state money doing the job?

Appropriations Committee members spend half the year deciding how to slice the state's revenue pie. The other half they spend investigating requests for money and touring state projects to see if the state's getting its money's worth.

On July 10, the State Departments Division of Appropriations looked at construction work and several upcoming projects in Duluth and other northeastern areas of the state.

One such project is the Government Service Center in Duluth, under construction to consolidate state and county offices in the area.

Division members visited the Department of Agriculture's grain inspection unit in Duluth, and looked at nearby buildings to see if any are suitable for relocation or if new construction is necessary. Space rental is the most likely option, according to division staff.

Members also inspected the Duluth Port Authority's operation to see what improvements a 1981 appropriation will make.

A third task committee members face is anticipating problems that will require a decision in the next few years. One decision Rep. Phyllis Kahn, State Departments Division chairman, expects is energy related—if officials decide to mine Minnesota's peat deposits for fuel. The division will be part of the decision on any state funding for peat mining.

Other energy concerns include those of the communities surrounding the Kettle River Dam near Sandstone and the Grindstone Dam near Hinckley. The division will make decisions on money for upgrading the dams to provide hydroelectric power.

Other visits included Nemadji State Forest, Big Island Veteran's Camp and the new nursing facility at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home. □

How will education share the money?

Members of the House Education Division of Appropriations are touring state universities, AVTI's, community colleges, and Department of Education projects to help decide which campuses will get bonding approval for building projects.

Requests for state bond sales to finance building improvement and repair items are more than the governor's budget allows and it is up to the Legislature to set priorities.

Legislators will have to divide funds for projects such as the Northwest Experiment Station, the Minnesota Technical College at Crookston, Bemidji State University, and Bemidji AVTI, which committee members visited June 22.

Half a million dollars would remodel and make improvements at the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston, according to Superintendent Bernard Youngquist. In 1982, the station's six-year plan calls for remodeling a former livestock judging pavilion to provide meeting space, classrooms and offices, and for building an auditorium and foyer.

The university's technical college at Crookston requested \$53,000 for plans for remodeling and new construction on Owen Hall. Another technical college project requires legislative approval before the university can purchase 40 acres of land to start an agricultural operations laboratory.

Rebecca Stafford, president of Bemidji State University, listed six priority bonding items for the campus. One is a \$201,000 request for pollution control improvements, to bring the heating plant within PCA emission guidelines. The building plan calls for \$163,000 to replace leaking roofs. Another request is for \$174,000 for new conveyer belts that feed coal to the boilers.

These are the only projects at Bemidji the governor recommended funding. Other requests the committee is considering include \$1.9 million to remodel the Education-Art Building and bring the heating system up to energy codes, \$950,000 to improve and expand Clark Library, and \$50,000 for plans to remodel Sattgast Hall to correct overcrowding and unsafe conditions.

The Bemidji AVTI's request is for \$1.1 million to add space for Auto Mechanics and similar heavy shop curricula and to remodel offices and space for vocational programs. □

Building funds: Where will they go in '82?

"There is always something to be gained and learned from an on-site visit," one legislator said after the Health, Welfare and Corrections Division of Appropriations met to answer that question, July 15 and 16.

Rep. Shirley Hokanson, division vice-chair, agreed. "Whether it is a state hospital, state nursing home or one of the prisons, it is very helpful for us to be right there, to sit down and eat meals and be in the milieu of the institution and have a chance to visit with people," Hokanson said.

Division members visited the St. Cloud Correctional Facility, the new economic security facility in Brainerd, and the Brainerd State Hospital to review program needs, staffing and physical plant requests.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Jack Young told members, during a tour of the grounds, that budget requests for St. Cloud are for repairs and for bonding authority to finance an additional day room and activity space.

Members looked at program structure at the new regional economic security facility at Brainerd which combines the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, CETA, and Department of Economic Security in one building. Commissioner Rolf Middleton of the Department of Economic Security said that the combination of offices helps the agencies coordinate services.

Brainerd State Hospital needs some remodeling, according to hospital administration and Department of Public Welfare requests. Legislators talked with staff about program and staffing needs and visited some of the cottages—patient residences—which the department must remodel to meet federal and state requirements. □

Resource Management



How we use our natural resources and what we pay for utilities are part of committee studies this interim.

Money update

Legislative committees met during the September mini-session, Sept. 15 and 16 to review the state's financial situation and the impact of federal spending cuts on the state's budget.

Val Vikmanis, acting commissioner of finance, outlined for members some of the problems the governor will ask the Legislature to solve. State welfare services will cost, Vikmanis said, \$15 to \$20 million more than the state budgeted:

The economic model the state's financial forecasters have used for years is not a true indicator of the state's economic health, according to Vikmanis. This means that the cash flowing into the state's coffers is \$34 million behind estimates for the first two months of the fiscal year.

Federal spending cuts Congress approved in August, as part of the President's economic recovery program, cut \$200 million that the federal government would have spent in Minnesota. The state's budgeting process assumed that \$200 million would be available for such projects as housing and urban development planning, wastewater treatment plant construction grants and weatherization grants. The Sept., Oct., Nov. edition of *Interim* will look again at the money issue as the Legislature works on the budget differences. □

What's the state's role in forest management?

"The earth is like a spaceship with limited supplies of natural resources, especially timber," Ray Hitchcock, director of DNR's forestry division, told the new House/Senate Joint Select Legislative Committee on Forestry.

The committee, looking at the state's role in forest management, held its second meeting July 16.

"One-third of the world is now arid," warned Hitchcock, "and we continue to harvest forests at a rate faster than we re-forest them," reminding committee members that the forestry industry came almost to a standstill in the 1970's, and Minnesota got behind in its re-foresting.

"Timber is important to our economy. Nationally and locally," Hitchcock said, "we're in a position to be a major exporter."

"In Minnesota, we have a good port, surplus species, good soil and environmental conditions. We're able to harvest timber with minimal adverse effects on the environment, and we have potential for expansion."

Hitchcock talked about the state's role in forest management including fire protection; forest development and maintenance; timber sales and harvesting; forest planning, recreation, and environment studies; use and marketing of forest products.

Land commissioners from Cass, Carlton, Betrami, and St. Louis Counties came to discuss land management at the county level, and representatives of Chippewa and Superior National Forests talked about the federal forest service.

The committee's job is to study total forest management and timber sales in the state, and to report to the Legislature no later than Jan. 1, 1983, with recommendations to improve state policy. □

Is there a better way to set utility rates?

Setting rates for electricity and natural gas service is often a year-long process in Minnesota. Utility companies make proposals. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) reviews the proposed rates and may order public hearings. The Office of Hearing Examiners conducts public meetings where consumers can have a say in the rate-setting process.

State agencies, the PUC, utilities, and consumer groups—the intervenors—testify, cross-examine each other and present arguments to the hearing examiner for inclusion in a report. The PUC uses this report to help make a decision on how much of a rate hike is reasonable, and how much each class of customer should pay. These decisions are subject to appeals. ↵

utilities, cont.

In a July 8 meeting of the House Regulated Industries Committee, participants in the rate-setting process gave their views and suggestions.

"It's a long process," Penny McCarron, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce said. "I have to do the fund-raising for us to participate. That can't be done overnight, so the shorter time you have for a rate case, the more difficult it is for us to participate. Efforts to shorten the process may not be in the best interest of the users (utility customers)."

Jim Miller, MPIRG attorney says, regulation of utility rates is also a costly process. But, he says, "the cost of regulation can be a mere drop in the bucket compared to the savings realized. When regulation, for example, prevents the need to build a new power plant, the rate payers come out tremendously well."

But while most people who testified at the meeting agreed the time and cost may not be avoidable, they also questioned PUC's rate decisions, such as: Does the Hearing Examiners' report contain enough information for the PUC to use it as a basis for decision-making? And, who's watching over the workings of the PUC?

The commission is a state regulatory body that has to decide reasonable utility rates and base those rates on a reasonable return. The commission also sets policies on what percentage of a rate increase residential consumers pay, and what percentage businesses pay.

There are legislative guides and court interpretations to aid in those decisions, but some people who testified said the PUC has too much power.

On Aug. 18, PUC commissioners and other state agency staff talked with the committee about rate setting decisions.

PUC Chairman Roger Hanson said the regulation process works well in Minnesota, and costs rate payers only one or two cents per utility bill.

The rate making process could be shorter, said Duane Harves, chief hearing examiner, if the PUC would make

rules about what costs can go into the rate base. PUC commissioner Leo Adams agreed, but said the commission doesn't have the money to make such rules.

Kris Sanda, director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, suggested that rate payers would probably come out ahead if small rate increases were exempt from the lengthy hearing process. She agreed that PUC rules on what costs the rate base could include would save her office, which intervenes in rate cases, money and staff time.

The committee's look at the rate setting process in Minnesota will continue through the interim. □

What's happening with Minnesota farmland management?

Minnesota loses between 50,000 and 100,000 acres of farmland a year to non-agricultural purposes. The United States loses over one million acres of farmland a year. Statistics like these have prompted the House Agriculture Committee to hold statewide hearings this fall on legislation to prevent further loss of farmland in this state. Hearings began on Sept. 15 at the State Capitol and will run through December.

Agricultural problems generally fall into three categories: land management (erosion), land values (property taxes), and land use (development).

Local taxes increase in developing urban areas because of the extension of water lines, sewer lines, and roads. Farmers share this new tax burden, and their property tax assessments rise. In some cases, tax pressures force farmers to sell to developers.

At an Aug. 4 meeting of the Joint House and Senate Legislative Committee on Agricultural Land Preservation and Conservation, the State Planning Agency presented the results of a study of local efforts to manage land use in Minnesota. Their study concentrated on the problem of unmanaged urban growth. According to the study:

- current zoning legislation is unclear and vague
- there is a need for qualified planners and zoners
- the state should set guidelines for local government to support local land use planning
- the state should provide incentives for local governments to zone agriculturally.

Some of the questions the committee debated were: How can we encourage farmers to keep their land in agricultural use? How can we encourage farmers to practice soil and water conservation on their land? And, would tax incentives or penalties work better to keep land in agriculture?

The committee is looking at a variety of options and will study cases in other states where agricultural land preservation plans are in effect. □



An Update:

House members serve year-round on legislative commissions, joint committees, advisory boards, and task forces where a lot of state business goes on. Here's a review of June and July activities.

LAC met June 23 to review legislative auditor's budget and the Permanent School Fund the DNR manages ... heard testimony on the auditor's office projected funding deficit ... approved program evaluations of timber sales, mineral leasing, fire inspections of residential facilities for the disabled, state purchasing, Small Business Procurement Act, set-asides for socially and economically disadvantaged persons ... heard reports on crimes against the state.

Legislative Audit Commission

The LAC subcommittee on Topic Selection met June 4 ... recommended program evaluation studies on state timber policies; set-asides for socially or economically disadvantaged people; fire inspections of living facilities for mentally ill, mentally retarded and chemically dependent ... heard testimony on proposed studies of solid and hazardous waste, and the education information system.

Reviewed present research activities on June 18 ... including research on causes of cancer, groundwater protection, invention and patent processes, wind energy systems, pump hydro-storage systems, energy research needs, sludge on forest land, adequacy of Minnesota's solar data, residential insulation and building standards ... approved proposed research projects on low-level radioactive waste disposal; peat harvesting; energy benefits of food packaging; deterioration of highway, bridge, and building construction materials.

Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology

The committee also approved seminars on managing low-level radioactive waste, energy cogeneration and energy-saving technology, road and bridge deterioration, and cost-efficiency of high technology health care ... reviewed proposed budget.

On June 8, the commission discussed the transfer of funds from the Post Retirement Investment Fund to the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) ... met July 20-22 to review 1981 pension and retirement legislation, disability benefit coverage, and police and firefighters' relief associations.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

At a June 16 meeting approved interim plan for unrepresented employees ... approved continued employment of commission consultants ... approved placement of veterinarians the state employs in a state bargaining unit ... reviewed commission's authority in reviewing labor negotiations when the Legislature is not in session ... heard memorandums on the commission's role in approving University of Minnesota salary supplements, interim Civil Service studies, and potential PELRA (Public Employees Labor Relations Act) issues for study.

Legislative Commission on Employee Relations

On July 22, met to review Waste Management Board's progress and criteria for siting waste facilities. (The board hopes to narrow its 60 potential sites to 15 to 20 in September.)

Legislative Commission on Waste Management

The commission also reviewed the board's report on interstate waste planning and management ... reviewed Pollution Control Agency (PCA) actions on solid waste grant programs, sewage sludge rules, waste classification, and classification for land disposal ... reviewed Ramsey County Board's process for siting solid waste landfills in the metro area ... reviewed Metropolitan Council's progress in meeting requirements of the Waste Management Act.

commissions

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

Met June 4 and 10 ... approved funds for hydraulic turbine testing at St. Anthony Falls ... adopted a resolution supporting reforestation in the BWCA ... approved work programs for **State Planning Agency**, including ... update of land use information ... review of Outdoor Recreation Act ... grants for recreation programs ... placement of topographic information in Land Management Information System ... completion of natural resource index.

Approved for the **Department of Natural Resources**, work programs for ... floodwater retention projects in the lower Red River watershed management area ... consultant services to determine state share of a Koochiching County ditch repair costs ... statewide water data system ... update of 1969 shoreland study ... grants to improve Rainy River navigation ... improvement of state-owned geological drilling equipment ... coordination of natural resource information for program management and analysis ... acquisition of water access sites ... state assistance for wild and scenic rivers program ... development of forest resources information system ... assistance to private non-industrial forest land owners ... inventory in Beltrami State Forest ... analysis of fire management ... providing technical soil information ... data collection on wildlife management areas ... development of state park and recreation areas ... implementation of Outdoor Recreation Act ... grant to Upper Mississippi Headwaters Board ... development of land resource and management plan ... laid over the National Heritage, non-game wildlife, and pulpwood weight study programs.

For the **Energy Agency**, approved work programs to ... design and implement a wind monitoring system ... support city of Bagley wood residue district heating system ... study industrial cogeneration of electricity and thermal energy ... review modifying combustion turbines ... assess alternative energy development ... study performance of solar energy systems.

Approved work programs for the **University of Minnesota** to ... continue a soil survey of state lands ... study geology of Southeast Minnesota to determine drainage, hydrology, and effect of land practices ... study industry-caused environmental problems ... purchase cement project equipment ... develop improved hydropower technology for use at existing sites.

Approved work program for **Historical Society** to develop archeological data base and publish reports on location, characteristics, and significance of preserving archeological sites ... for the **Pollution Control Agency** approved work program to complete lake classification study.

On June 10, also considered park bonding work programs ... met again June 25 ... approved LCMR budget ... approved work programs on merger of Heritage and Non-game Wildlife work programs ... approved International Falls/South International Falls consolidation study, Duluth/Superior harbor environmental management, study of impacts of copper/nickel mining in Lake and St. Louis Counties, river planning, and special energy-peat.

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules

LCRAR met May 26 ... reviewed water bank rules ... approved plan to review a Pollution Control Agency (PCA) rule on eligibility for construction grants to municipalities for sewage disposal facilities ... reviewed new laws under the Business Licensing Act ... reviewed pending rule cases on public safety rules, issuance and cancellation of drivers' licenses, public welfare rules, services to the mentally retarded, jail standards rules, PCA hazardous waste rules, Environmental Quality Board rules, nursing assistant training rules and rules for vocational education evaluator payments.

On June 30, LCRAR continued review of PCA's eligibility rule for grants for sewage disposal facilities ... reviewed vocational rehabilitation under workers' compensation laws ... heard testimony on providing protection for wild and scenic rivers, state canoeing routes, state and national park waters ... met July 30 to discuss workers' compensation vocational rehabilitation rules.

(see pages 20-23)

School Aids

At \$2.2 billion dollars, education aid is Minnesota's single biggest funding bill. School aid formulas combine the school district's share, property taxes, and state aid, sales and income tax revenue in figuring school aids.

In the 1982-83 school year the state will distribute a base rate of \$1,416 dollars per student to each school district. Part of that funding will come from the 23 mill local property tax levy, a 2 mill increase the Legislature approved as part of the finance package.

Aid to local districts

To receive that \$1,416 base rate, this fall school boards will have to approve a tax rate increase of about .002 per dollar of property value in the district. Higher increases will be in store for most school districts, because money for school transportation comes from an extra one mill levy in addition to state aid.

Summer school, community education, discretionary levy, and other add-ons make the total local levy closer to 30 or 35 mills.

The new aid package also increases the maximum allowable discretionary levy which goes to operating and salary expenses. In the '82-83 school year, this

will go up from 1 mill to 2¼ mills. Many school districts will have to levy that additional 1¼ mills to cover new employee contracts due this fall.

The local tax portion of the school aid formula has gone down in recent years, from 30 mills to 27 mills for the '79-80 school year, 23 mills for '80-81 and 21 mills for property taxes payable this year to fund the '81-82 school year. Legislators said the decline was to offset the rapidly increasing property values. The increase to 23 mills for '82-83 is to help balance the state's budget. ▽



1981 laws

school aids, cont.

How does funding affect local districts?

In Kason-Mantorville: "Everybody's got to take their share of the problem. We're not immune to it," said Sigurd Anderson, superintendent in Kason-Mantorville. "We had already planned to cut back on a few staff people," he said. "This year we will be cutting into our reserves, but with the additional discretionary levy for '82-83 we ought to be close to balancing."

Anderson is just one of the school administrators concerned about the new school aid package. Anderson said the district's close to balancing its budget based on next year's projected expenses plus nine percent salary increases. Salary settlements will be a big consideration in schools' budgets for the next two years, according to Anderson.

"It will cause some anguish with the taxpayers," he acknowledged. "We've also got a bond issue coming up for a vote this fall. There are some tough times ahead."

In Sartell: Bill Galarnault, business manager for district 748 in Sartell, says his district is financially sound.

"We are not in the trouble that some districts are, mainly because our enrollments are not declining."

Property owners in Sartell's area may see the school board levying 6 to 8 mills over last year's tax rate. That levy will show up on 1982 taxes to pay for the '82-83 school year.

The transportation formula for '82-83 allows state aid and a property tax levy for only elementary students living more than one mile from school or for those whose walking route is hazardous. Two miles is the new transportation limit for secondary students. A special levy will provide funding for hazardous route transportation. School boards would decide if the route is hazardous.

"That's going to cause problems," Galarnault said. "If you transport some kids, you darned near have to transport all of them. It will be hard to tell a sixth grader he or she can ride and tell a seventh grader to walk."

Next year Sartell may add an additional transportation levy to bus secondary students who live one to two miles from school on a hazardous route.

In St. Paul: Gary Parks, assistant to the superintendent for legislative affairs, said the St. Paul School Board held necessary hearings and is ready to levy an additional two mills and the extra one and one-fourth mills discretionary levy.

"I think it's fairly clear that, as a result of this year's legislation and the options open to the board, there will be a property tax increase," said Parks. "We've been told to anticipate the maximum increase in the EARC; that's going to cause a tax increase in itself."

The Equalized Aid Review Committee (EARC) rate is the property value the commissioners of revenue, education, administration, and agriculture set for school aid purposes.

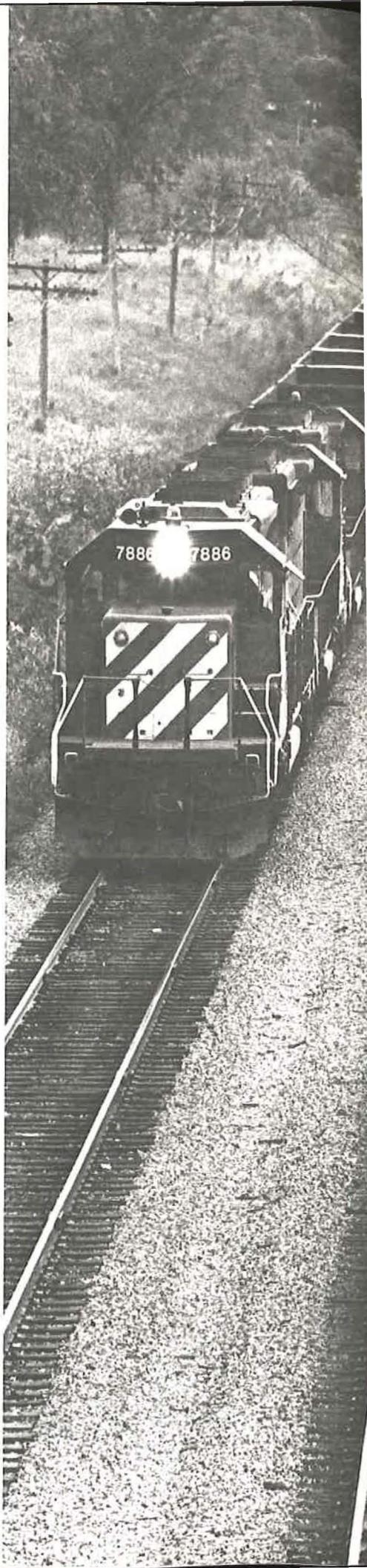
In Minneapolis: Public schools will face some cutbacks because the higher tax levy isn't keeping up with inflation and declining enrollments according to Larry Harris, legislative and community relations, Minneapolis public schools. He agreed with Parks saying that members of the school district's 17 employee bargaining units, including teachers, probably have inflation on their minds during contract negotiations.

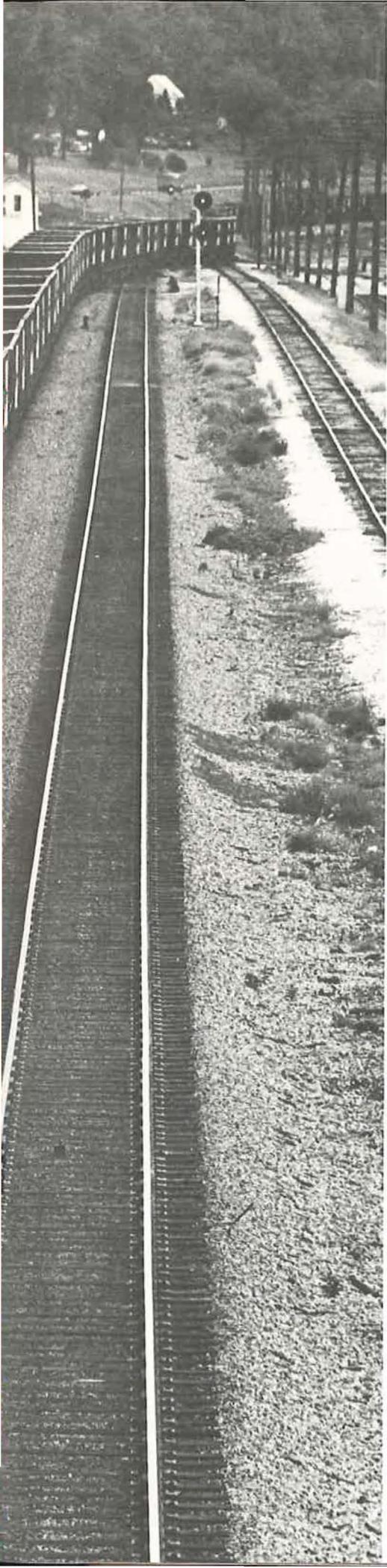
Minneapolis has also held the necessary public hearings on increases in the discretionary property tax levy which would go to operating expenses and salaries. Those anticipated salary and inflationary increases plus the costs of declining enrollment are forcing support staff cutbacks.

Harris said that school social workers and counselors will have to carry increased loads this year and cut some of the time they spend on special programs. Finances are tight all over, Harris pointed out.

Community programs will suffer too, he said, and schools won't be able to take up the slack as people often expect. For example, the MICE program which combines day care and other services for high school-aged mothers used county funding probably not available for the coming year. "About half these young mothers will drop out without MICE (Mother Infant Care Education)," Harris said.

"I don't particularly like it," he said of the new school aids formula and tighter budget. "But I appreciate the amount of work the legislators put in. They did work hard." □





Railroads

Railroads helped open the Midwest frontier. For years, they networked the nation, serving commerce and people.

But now, other modes of transportation seem to have taken over. Planes carry people to their destinations more rapidly, automobiles are more private. For shipping certain products, trucks are less expensive and more flexible.

The result: miles of abandoned steel rails stretching over the countryside, empty and unusable.

Have trains outlived their usefulness?

"Are railroads dead? Not by a long shot," says Rep. Buzz Anderson, author of railroad-related bills in the 1980 and 1981 legislative sessions. "Practically speaking, we have to have railroads for the survival of the state and the nation. I don't think railroads are dead by any stretch of the imagination."

Rep. Wendell Erickson, from Hills, agrees. "Steel rails and steel tracks are still the most efficient way to move commodities."

Erickson says major grain terminals in his district are locating near main rail lines, and the railroad companies are putting money into fixing up tracks and improving service, evidence that rail users and owners have not given up on

rail service. Government, too, contributes money to keep the trains running. Both federal and state governments—and now sometimes local and county governments—are involved in planning and financing rail service programs. Sometimes the programs maintain rail service; sometimes they help find alternatives for inefficient rail service lines.

The 1981 Legislature: (1) voted for a state subsidy for the Amtrak line between Duluth and the Twin Cities; 2) corrected the constitutional problem with appropriating \$13.5 million in bonds for the rail service improvement; and 3) established an account to start the 1980 rail bank program. ☐



1981 laws

railroads, cont.

Amtrak subsidy

In 1980, the state appropriated \$475,000 to Amtrak to continue the Twin Cities-Duluth line, the only state-subsidized Amtrak line and one of only two Amtrak lines in the state. The other is an interstate route between Seattle and Chicago. The state has paid a 50 percent subsidy for the train since April of 1975. This year's \$200,000 subsidy is less. But more people have taken the train this year than last, and more riders—between 23 and 110 percent more—may keep the line going, even with the lowered state aid.

Rail improvement funds

The state began a major rail improvement program in 1976 when the Legislature declared that "integrated transportation systems, including railways, highways, and airways, are necessary to meet the economic and energy needs of the citizens of the state, both now and in the future."

The bond approval for 1980 was \$13.5 million, but a constitutional problem kept the state from selling the bonds.

How the rail bank works

Within the last 10 years, railroad companies have abandoned 1400 miles of rail line—17 percent of Minnesota's rail mileage—500 of those in 1980 alone. Rather than allow companies to sell the land to private owners who pull up the tracks, the rail bank holds onto it for a variety of uses.

"We shouldn't save every rail line for train service," says Rep. Anderson, "because the lands may have other uses.

"You have to take into consideration the potential for the pipeline, mineral extract corridors, the potential for powerlines, the potential for roadways.

"It isn't easy to put together the land for a powerline, as we've seen here in Minnesota. Once the rail land is sold to a private owner, it's hard to get it back for use as a transportation corridor."

But the program also banks on the idea that some day railroads will be more important than they seem now.

"Why? Simply because it'll be too costly to try to maintain roads. The weight of trucks is getting so extreme, we just aren't going to be able to maintain the roads. We're going to have to find an alternative. You can put almost unlimited weight on a railbed for very little maintenance every year. I think at some point the railroads are going to come back," says Anderson. □



Farmland

Not just anyone can buy Minnesota farmland. The state has laws prohibiting certain people and organizations from purchasing land. The Minnesota Legislature passed two in the 1981 session.

by Sarah Gardner

Pension funds

A 1981 amendment to the Corporate Farm Act (HF28—Redalen, IR, Fountain), forbids pension funds, mutual funds, life insurance company separate accounts, and other investment funds from buying farmland.

In a House Agriculture Committee meeting during the session, Rep. Elton Redalen expressed concerns about the purchase of agricultural land for outside investment and speculation purposes.

"Farming and agriculture are too important to be put at the mercy of the speculator, the inflation hedger, and should be left in the hands of the owner-operators as far as possible," Redalen said.

When competing for farmland, pension funds have several advantages over the average farmer. They have a lot of capital and tax advantages, which enables them to outbid farmers for land.

Vern Ingvalson, Minnesota Farm Bureau, stressed the fact that increased competition by pension funds for productive farmland will further drive up land prices, resulting in higher property taxes for farmers.

With only 0.4 percent of Minnesota farmland coming up for sale each year, supporters believe that the new law will promote widespread ownership of land and prevent a situation which could feed growing land prices.

Non-U.S. citizens

The "Alien Land Ownership" bill (HF697—Stumpf, DFL, Plummer), another 1981 law, changes regulations on alien ownership of farmland. The law sets forth a definition of "permanent resident alien," requiring that a non-U.S. citizen be lawfully admitted to the country for permanent residence and actually live in the U.S. for at least six months out of every year.

Formerly, a permanent resident alien needed to show up only once during a year at a federal immigration office to keep the status.

The bill requires permanent resident aliens to report their landholdings to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture each January. It also grants the commissioner of agriculture subpoena powers to look into records and investigate foreign landholdings.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that foreigners owned approximately 30,000 acres of Minnesota farmland in 1980.

Mark McAfee, Minnesota Farmer's Union, said farmers are concerned about long-term effects on the family farm structure if foreigners begin to outbid young people who want to start farming.

For more on agricultural land preservation, see Committees—What's happening with Minnesota farmland? □



comment

comment, cont. from p. 2.

"How did folks feel about the '81 session?" "Maybe they weren't happy, but they weren't exactly sad," says John Drew. "I had a barbecue for about 80 volunteers early in the interim, and reactions amounted to some confusion about the session. But most people interested in politics tend to talk about the future more than the past—about who'll run on the DFL ticket; who may be on the Republican ticket."

John Ainley of Park Rapids says he found people dismayed over the tax increase, especially the business community and senior citizens.

"I spoke to a group of senior citizens just after the session ended, and they responded quite vocally about the sales tax."

Glen Anderson will tell you he finds people still wondering where the surpluses went and upset over going from money in the bank to short-term borrowing.

"Why don't you guys meet every other year?" is what Lon Heinitz of Plymouth says he's hearing.

"People seem to think we spend too much time over there [the Capitol] and that we really don't need annual sessions. This session they were somewhat confused by the fact that we didn't get our work done in the regular session and had to go back."

Then, there's the other side, coming from Henry Kalis, who farms about 280 acres near Walters.

Kalis says, "Sometimes out in the field I get to feeling guilty because I know there's some legislative work I should do. Yet, when I'm working fulltime in the Legislature, you hear criticisms about the Legislature being a fulltime job and it shouldn't be. So I feel guilty about working so much on that. It's a job that'll take as many hours as you can give it."

About people's reaction to an unusual year, Kalis says, "In the years that I've served in the Legislature [this is his 4th term], and in local government, I've never seen the people so quiet. I get requests to check on personal problems, but I've never seen such a lack of discussion about what's going on, federally or statewide. It's kind of a wait-and-see attitude."

"When it comes to taxes or government services, it's easy to be critical. That goes for all of us, myself included," Kalis says. "Sometimes people say things without really realizing what they're saying. They really don't mean all of it, deep down."

"Educating the public about the system can help with that. All of us sometimes put our mouths in motion before we have our minds in gear, or something like that."

From Hibbing, on the Iron Range, Lona Minne says, "I mostly find myself explaining the taxing philosophy over the past two or three years. Folks just don't know what indexing means."



Bruce Nelsen (Staples)



Lona Minne (Hibbing)



Glen Anderson (Bellingham)



Phyllis Kahn (Minneapolis)



Henry Kalis (Walters)

“Payroll clerks understand it and the reason for it. But when you’re working, getting paid twice a month, the average person sees a difference of only two, three, or four dollars on a paycheck. When you multiply that by 12 months, and the number of people in the state, people understand better.”

Juggling time for careers and the Legislature is a year-long process most members will tell you.

“I continue my law practice during the session, but it’s very hard to refer all my cases to my partners,” says Mike Sieben, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. “Some are of a nature that can’t be referred. I work on those myself whenever I can get down there [Hastings].”



Lon Heinitz (Plymouth)

Then, during the interim, the Appropriations Committee is ongoing legislative work. “We have a staff of eight fiscal analysts who delve into the various department and agency budgets to find out whether their programs are following legislative intent.”

About Appropriations Committee demands, Phyllis Kahn agrees. She’s chairman of the State Departments Division of Appropriations. And she says, “There’s always a heavy schedule of interim activities, mainly because, besides making the appropriations, we feel that we have an important oversight function to see how they’re spent.”

Some vacation plans were underway. Sieben said he and his wife planned to go to San Francisco. Heinitz and his wife hoped to get in a trip to Norway, and Phyllis Kahn and her family were to journey to the Soviet Union, looking forward to seeing a total eclipse of the sun in Brotsk in eastern Siberia. Then, Kahn, who ran in the Boston marathon, said, “I plan to do lots of running . . . hot weather races instead of cold weather ones.”

How do folks keep in touch during the interim?

The church picnics and suppers, the community meetings, county fairs, the legislators tell you, help them to communicate with the rest of us. Both Minne and Kalis mentioned that most ideas for legislation come from the home folks.

When you visit with Minne, she’ll say, “Get involved. Get to know your legislators. I’ve found people are frustrated with government and mistrusting of government officials.”

“Once you get involved and get to know the process, you can really have a big impact on that process.”

Kalis adds, “I think, too many times, people get the impression that they’re not heard, and that we don’t react to their wishes. Yet, if you really follow the legislative process, you’ll see that the Legislature does react to what the majority of people are thinking.”

“I think, also, we’re all afraid to admit we don’t understand something. Don’t be. Call and ask.”

Chances are pretty good we legislators won’t have the answer either, but it helps us and educates us if we have to dig into it and try to find out what the problem is.”

Bruce Nelsen, a vocational instructor, would tell you he’s taking some courses at Bemidji State University this interim. He’s hoping to combine interim legislative duties with the fall mini sessions so he can finish his course work.

But when the mini sessions start, it means, as Glen Anderson put it, “The Legislature’s steaming up again.”

Where did the summer go?

Mini session dates: Sept. 15, 16; Oct. 13, 14; Nov. 17 and 18. □



John Ainley (Park Rapids)



Mike Sieben (Newport)



John Drew (St. Paul)



STATE FAIR

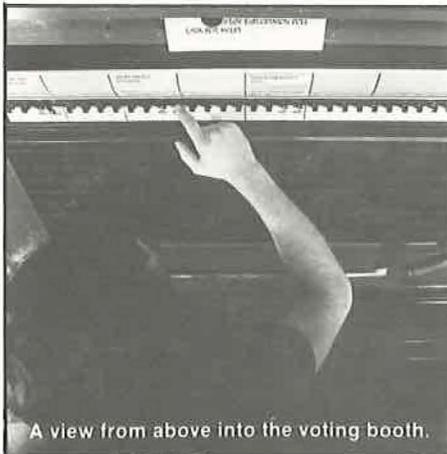
1981 Great Minnesota Get-Together

People came in record-setting numbers to stroll the Midway and tour educational and commercial exhibits at Minnesota's great get-together, the Minnesota State Fair.

A chance to trade ideas on the issues of the '80's with House members, and to learn about the Legislature, brought fairgoers to the House information display in the Machinery Hall/State Exhibits Building.



Visitors stopped to find "home" and their legislative districts on display maps of the state.



A view from above into the voting booth.

Unofficial State Fair Opinion Poll

Many people voted in the Unofficial State Fair Opinion Poll. The poll's a hands-on learning experience for anyone who wanted to vote—adults or kids—a total of 1213 'voters.' Here's how the unofficial balloting went:

August 27-30

- Q. Should state highways have special lanes for car pools and buses?
 Yes—285 59%
 No—197 41%
- Q. Should the legislature add limitations to laws allowing state employees to strike?
 Yes—217 46%
 No—259 54%
- Q. Should the state regulate the sale of handguns?
 Yes—302 63%
 No—177 37%

August 31-September 3

- Q. Should there be a deposit on recyclable cans and bottles?
 Yes—230 82%
 No—52 18%
- Q. Should the state increase subsidies for public transportation?
 Yes—146 51%
 No—139 49%
- Q. Should the state require farmers to practice soil conservation on their farms?
 Yes—195 68%
 No—93 32%

photo: Jean Mehle



The information rack gets a visitor's attention, while below, "The Road to Minnesota Laws", a cartoon version of how a bill becomes a law, attracts two young viewers.



Government is for Everyone — Be a part of it

A young fairgoer's hat sends a message as he works on "Joey's Visit", a coloring book that introduces government to the very young. The adult with him rests and reads "New Laws for 1981."



These House members took State Fair duty during the 12 days of the fair.

September 4-7

Q. Should the state forbid the sale of farmland to all corporations?

Yes—233 61%
No—151 39%

Q. Should the state fund solar energy research and development?

Yes—313 82%
No—75 18%

Q. Should education budgets get fewer cuts than other programs?

Yes—237 61%
No—151 39%

Peggy Byrne, St. Paul
Douglas Carlson, Sandstone
Karen Clark, Minneapolis
George Dahlvang, Minneapolis
Douglas Ewald, Minnetonka
Dave Fjoslien, Brandon
Don Frerichs, Rochester
Thomas Harens, St. Paul
Bob Haukoos, Albert Lea
Dorothy Hokr, New Hope
Tad Jude, Mound

Randy Kelly, St. Paul
Robert Lemen, Grand Rapids
Connie Levi, Dellwood
Kenneth McDonald, Watertown
James Metzen, South St. Paul
Paul Ogren, Aitkin
Tony Onnen, Cokato
Bill Peterson, Bloomington
Robert Reif, White Bear Lake
John Rose, Roseville
Elliot Rothenberg, St. Louis Park

Don Samuelson, Brainerd
Tim Sherman, Winona
Glen Sherwood, Pine River
Wayne Simoneau, Fridley
Wesley Skoglund, Minneapolis
Randy Staten, Minneapolis
Kathleen Vellenga, St. Paul
Gordon Voss, Blaine
John Weaver, Anoka

commissions

The who, what, and where of commissions, task forces, advisory committees and boards; the legislators who work on them, statements of what they do, and contact numbers.

An added part of the legislative job, House and Senate members work within these groups which guide much of the state's business all through the year. (See Commissions, page 9)

Advisory Committee to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission Contact: (612) 436-7131

Members:

House

Clawson (DFL-Center City)
Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing)
Reding (DFL-Austin)
Shea (DFL-Owatonna)
Wieser (IR-La Crescent)

Senate

Engler (IR-Randolph)
Peterson, R. (DFL-Wyoming)
Sikorski (DFL-Stillwater)
Stern (DFL-St. Louis Park)
Vega (DFL-St. Paul)

Responsible for assisting the commission in joint regional planning, controlling air and water quality, and regulating land use development in the St. Croix/Mississippi River boundary area.

Advisory Council on the Economic Status of Women Contact: (612) 296-8590

Members:

House

Clark, K. (DFL-Mpls)
Hokr (IR-New Hope)
Lehto (DFL-Duluth)
Otis (DFL-Mpls)
Rodriguez, C. (DFL-Apple Valley)

Senate:

Berglin (DFL-Mpls) Chair
Lantry (DFL-St. Paul)
Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone)
Petty (DFL-Mpls)
Stokowski (DFL-Mpls)

Other

12 governor-appointed citizen members.

Responsible for studying the economic status of women in Minnesota, including: credit, family support, inheritance laws, educational opportunities, career counseling, job and promotion opportunities, and laws and practices that constitute barriers to women's full participation in the economy.

Advisory Task Force on Independent Living

Created in the 1981 session
Task force will disband on Jan. 1, 1982

Members:

House

to be appointed

Senate

Benson (IR-Lanesboro)
Menning (DFL-Edgerton)

Other

Governor
executive director of the Council for the Handicapped
Commissioners of Economic Security and Public Welfare
7 other advocates or disabled persons

Responsible for studying independent living programs and services and making recommendations to eliminate service gaps or duplications and to foster closer cooperation with community residential services.

Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Personnel/Payroll Reporting Contact: (612) 296-4257

Members:

House

Kahn (DFL-Mpls)

Senate

Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

1 employee commissioner of education appoints
1 member Board of the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium appoints
1 regional management information center member Education Board appoints
3 public school employees Education Board appoints
1 governor's office employee

Responsible for recommending policy standards for school district reporting of payroll and personnel data.

Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Student Reporting Contact: (612) 296-4257

Members:

House

Kahn (DFL-Mpls)

Senate

Stokowski (DFL-Mpls)

Other

Same as for the Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Personnel/Payroll

Responsible for recommending policy standards for school district reporting of student data.

Capitol Area Architectural/Planning Board

Contact: (612) 296-7138

Members:

House

Ellingson (DFL-Brooklyn Center)

Senate:

Moe, D. (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

Lieutenant governor, Chair
3 members governor appoints
3 members mayor of St. Paul appoints

Responsible for land-use planning, architecture, and zoning in the Capitol area.

Citizens Committee on Voyageurs National Park Contact: (218) 283-3507 (Richard Mollin, Chair)

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Halberg (IR-Burnsville)

Senate:

Kroening (DFL-Mpls)
Lindgren (IR-Richfield)

Other

4 governor-appointed citizens from: Koochiching County, St. Louis County, state at large (total of 12)

Responsible for researching the establishment and operation of Voyageurs National Park Service and securing funds.

Commission on Historical Memorials

Contact: (612) 726-1171 (Dave Nystuen)

Members:

House

Clawson (DFL-Center City)

Senate

Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

1 representative each from Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul Arts and Science Museum, St. Paul City Council.

Responsible for designing and erecting memorials to commemorate the first two State Capitol buildings, the meeting places of the territorial government, and the State Constitutional Convention.

Education Commission of the States

Contact: (303) 861-4917 (Denver) or (612) 296-1755 (Minnesota)

Members:

House

Erickson (IR-Hills)

Senate

Hughes (DFL-Maplewood)

Other

Governor
4 members governor appoints.

Responsible for collecting and interpreting information on educational needs and resources, encouraging research, developing proposals for financing, proposing recommendations for improvement of public education, and maintaining nationwide, state and local cooperation.

Great Lakes Commission Contact: (612) 224-5705

Members:

House

Gustafson (DFL-Duluth)
Novak (DFL-New Brighton)

Senate

Ulland (IR-Duluth)
Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

One member governor appoints (each participating state has 3-5 members on the commission)

Responsible for collecting and interpreting data on the water resources of the Great Lakes area; recommending methods for development, use, and conservation of water resources; and recommending agreements between the United States and Canada relating to the Great Lakes Region.

Highway Policy Study Commission

Created in the 1981 session
Commission will disband after
its Feb. 1, 1982 report to the
Legislature

Contact: (612) 296-9676

Members:

House

Anderson, G. (DFL-Bellingham)
Kalis (DFL-Walters)
Mann (DFL-Windom)
Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing)
Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls)
Redalen (IR-Fountain)
Valen (IR-Moorhead)

Senate

Bang (IR-Edina)
Lantry (DFL-St. Paul)
Menning (DFL-Edgerton)
Peterson, D. (IR-Fairmont)
Peterson, R. (DFL-Wyoming)
Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault)
Ramstad (IR-Plymouth)

Responsible for an interim study on collecting highway user taxes from out-of-state vehicles and on county contracted highway maintenance.

Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

Contact: (612) 296-3611
(218) 755-3825

Members:

House

Drew (IR-St. Paul)
Stumpf (DFL-Plummer)
Ogren (DFL-Aitkin)

Senate

Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake)
Rued (IR-Aitkin)

Third member to be appointed

Other

Governor or his designee, Commissioners or designees of Departments of: Education, Public Welfare, Natural Resources, Human Rights, Economic Development, Corrections, Health, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Housing Finance Agency.

Elected tribal chairman or designees of reservation business committees or council of: Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, White Earth, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), Leech Lake, Red Lake, Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Shakopee-Medwankanton, Prairie Island.

Responsible for clarifying tribal governments and their relation to other agencies, assisting in establishing elections, making recommendations to the Legislature, assisting in delivery of services to the Indian community, and providing a liaison between the Indian community and other government and private agencies.

Interstate Cooperation Commission

Contact: Joyce Naumann
(612) 296-4929

Members:

House

Rice (DFL-Mpls) Chair
Erickson (IR-Hills)
Johnson, C. (DFL-St. Peter)
Lehto (DFL-Duluth)
Nelson, B. (IR-Staples)

Senate

Bang (IR-Edina)
Humphrey (DFL-New Hope)
Knutson (IR-Burnsville)
Langseth (DFL-Glyndon)
Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island)

Other

Attorney general
Commissioner of finance
Commissioner of administration
Commissioner of state planning
Lieutenant governor
Governor, ex-officio

Responsible for developing and maintaining friendly contact between Minnesota and other states, the federal government, and local units of government; and advancing cooperation between units of government through compacts, uniform statutes, rules, and regulations.

Iron Range Resources/Rehabilitation Board

Contact: (218) 744-2993

Members:

House

Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors)
Begich (DFL-Eveleth)
Elioff (DFL-Virginia)
Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd)

Senate

Johnson, D. (DFL-Cook)
Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing)
Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Rued (IR-Aitkin)
Solon (DFL-Duluth)

Other

Commissioner of natural resources

Responsible for developing natural resources and providing vocational training and rehabilitation for residents, where distress and unemployment exists.

Joint Commuter Rail Study Commission

Created in the 1981 session

Members:

House

to be appointed

Senate

Davis (DFL-Princeton)
Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud)

Other

1 member from the St. Cloud Transit commission the commissioner of transportation appoints
1 member St. Cloud Area Planning Organization president appoints
2 members of the Metropolitan Council the council elects
2 members from planning region 7W
Commissioner of transportation, Chair

Responsible for conducting a feasibility study for the development of commuter rail transit service between St. Cloud and the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Joint Legislative Committee on Agricultural Land Preservation

Contact: (612) 296-4156

Members:

House

Kalis (DFL-Walters) Vice Chair
Hauge (DFL-Glenwood)
Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea)
McDonald (IR-Watertown)
Ogren (DFL-Aitkin)
Redalen (IR-Fountain)
Schoenfeld (DFL-Waseca)
Valen (IR-Moorhead)

Senate

Wegener (DFL-Bertha) Chair
Berg (IR-Chokio)
Bertram (DFL-Paynsville)
Davis (DFL-Princeton)
Engler (IR-Randolph)
Langseth (DFL-Glyndon)
Schmitz (DFL-Jordan)
Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island)

Responsible for studying ways to assure Minnesota lands are suited to the production of agricultural products, and provide tools and incentives to prevent the unplanned and unscheduled conversion of agricultural and open space lands to other uses.

Joint Select Legislative Committee on Forestry

Contact: (612) 296-4147
296-2404

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Anderson, R. (IR-Ottertail)
Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors)
Begich (DFL-Eveleth)
Carlson, D. (IR-Sandstone)
Munger (DFL-Duluth)

Senate

Frederick (IR-West Concord)
Johnson (DFL-Cook)
Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids)
Penny (DFL-New Richland)
Rued (IR-Aitkin)
Willet (DFL-Park Rapids)

Responsible for studying total forest management and timber sale procedures in the state.

Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology

Contact: (612) 296-8041

Members:

House

Rees (IR-Elko) Chair
Nelson, K. (DFL-Mpls) Chair after 4/82
Den Oudin (IR-Prinsburg)
Greenfield (DFL-Mpls)
Zubay (IR-Rochester)

Senate

Frederich (IR-W. Concord)
Olthoff (DFL-Herman)
Ramstad (IR-Plymouth)
Tennessen (DFL-Mpls)
Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul)

Responsible for overseeing the Science and Technology Project, and studying science and technology issues.

Legislative Advisory Commission Contact: (612) 296-4207

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Sieben, M. (DFL-Newport)

Senate

Johnson (DFL-Cook)
Willett (DFL-Park Rapids)

Other

Commissioner of finance is secretary
Governor is presiding officer, but not
a member.

Responsible for overseeing
and making recommendations
on personnel and transfers of
appropriations from the gen-
eral contingent fund to depart-
ments and agencies.

Legislative Audit Commission Contact: (612) 296-4708

Members:

House

Clawson (DFL-Center City)
Dean (IR-Mpls)
Heinitz (IR-Plymouth)
Hokanson (DFL-Richfield)
Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids)
Kelly (DFL-St. Paul)
Onnen (IR-Cokato)
Wynia (DFL-St. Paul)

Senate

Ashbach (IR-St. Paul)
Bernhagen (IR-Hutchinson)
Davies (DFL-Mpls)
Knoll (DFL-Mpls)
Moe, D. (DFL-St. Paul)
Pillsbury (IR-Wayzata)
Tennessee (DFL-Mpls)
Willett (DFL-Park Rapids)

Responsible for reviewing the
effects of grant-in-aid pro-
grams, spending of public
funds and financing, and over-
seeing the activities of the
legislative auditor.

Legislative Commission on Employee Relations Contact: (612) 296-4331

Members:

House

Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) Chair
Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
Rose (IR-Roseville)
Sherwood (IR-Pine River)
Sieben, M. (DFL-Newport)

Senate

Ashbach (IR-St. Paul)
Johnson (DFL-Cook)
Keefe (IR-Hopkins)
Nelson (DFL-Austin)
Spear (DFL-Mpls)
Willett (DFL-Park Rapids)

Responsible for monitoring
collective bargaining negotia-
tions between state employees
and the state and reviewing
agreements.

Legislative Commission on Energy Contact: (612) 296-4180

Members:

House

Ainley (IR-Park Rapids)
Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids)
Nelson, K. (DFL-Mpls) Co-Chair
Otis (DFL-Mpls)
Rothenberg (IR-St. Louis Park)
Stumpf (DFL-Plummer)
Vanasek (DFL-New Prague)
Wigley (IR-Lake Crystal)

Senate

Humphrey (DFL-New Hope) Co-
Chair
Belanger (IR-Bloomington)
Bernhagen (IR-Hutchinson)
Dahl (DFL-White Bear Lake)
Menning (DFL-Edgerton)
Olhoft (DFL-Herman)
Peterson, D. (IR-Fairmount)
Peterson, R. (DFL-Wyoming)

Responsible for studying
energy supply and use, identi-
fying potential for economic
growth and job creation from
increased energy efficiency
and use of renewable re-
sources, identifying ways to
assure energy supplies, co-
ordinating resources on
energy conservation.

Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Governance Created in the 1981 session

Members:

House

Brandl (DFL-Mpls)
Hanson (DFL-St. Paul)
Levi (IR-Dellwood)
Rodriguez, C. (DFL-Apple Valley)
Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park)

Senate

Belanger (IR-Bloomington)
Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
Schmitz (DFL-Jordan)
Wegener (DFL-Bertha)

Responsible for developing
and recommending to the
Legislature a comprehensive
policy on governance in the
metropolitan area with empha-
sis on the relationships be-
tween government units.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Contact: (612) 296-2406

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Carlson, D. (IR-Sandstone)
Laidig (DFL-Stillwater)
Metzen (DFL-S. St. Paul)
Munger (DFL-Duluth)
Norton (DFL-St. Paul)
Sarna (DFL-Mpls)

Senate

Willett (DFL-Park Rapids)
Knutson (IR-Burnsville)
Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park)
Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids)
Moe, R. (DFL-Ada)
Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault)
Renneke (IR-LeSueur)

Responsible for studying state
policy relating to outdoor
recreational facilities, public
waters, historical sites, land
exchanges, timber, and review-
ing and approving projects re-
lating to Minnesota's natural
resources.

Legislative Commission on Pensions/Retirement Contact: (612) 296-2750 (612) 296-6806

Members:

House

Kaley (IR-Rochester)
Reding (DFL-Austin)
Rice (DFL-Mpls)
Rodriguez, F. (DFL-St. Paul)
Sarna (DFL-Mpls)

Senate

Fredrickson (IR-Morgan)
Moe, D. (DFL-St. Paul)
Peterson, C. (DFL-Detroit Lakes)
Renneke (IR-LeSueur)
Spear (DFL-Mpls)

Responsible for studying re-
tirement benefits of non-
federal employees in Minne-
sota, making recommenda-
tions on proposed legisla-
tion, financing pension funds and
accrued liabilities and estab-
lishing and maintaining sound
pension policy.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management Contact: (612) 297-3604

Members:

House

Anderson, R. (IR-Ottertail)
Dahlvang (DFL-Mpls)
Harens (DFL-St. Paul)
Long (DFL-Mpls)
Searles (IR-Wayzata)

Senate

Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids)
Keefe (IR-Hopkins)
Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park)
Sikorski (DFL-Stillwater)
Taylor (IR-Mankato)

Responsible for overseeing
the Waste Management Board
and the Pollution Control
Agency on activities relating
to waste management.

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules Contact: (612) 296-1143 (Kathy Burek, Exec. Dir.)

Members:

House

McCarron (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
Vice Chair
Berkelman (DFL-Duluth)
Fjoslien (IR-Brandon)
Peterson, B. (IR-Bloomington)
Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)

Senate

Penny (DFL-New Richland) Chair
Kroening (DFL-Mpls)
Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park)
Olhoft (DFL-Herman)
Taylor (IR-Mankato)

Responsible for promoting
adequate and proper state
agency and department rules,
public understanding of the
rules, and investigating com-
plaints on rules.

Legislative Coordinating Commission**Contact:** (612) 297-3697 (Janet Lund)**Members:****House**

Sieben, H. (DFL-Hastings) Chair for '81
Eken (DFL-Twin Valley)
McCarron (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd)
Sherwood (IR-Pine River)
Welker (IR-Montevideo)

Senate

Davies (DFL-Mpls) Chair for '82
Ashbach (IR-St. Paul)
Frederick (IR-West Concord)
Hanson (DFL-Hallock)
Moe, R. (DFL-Ada)
Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul)

Responsible for coordinating activities of the House and Senate, overseeing activities of the Revisor of Statutes and the Legislative Reference Library, and reviewing legislative commission budgets.

Midwestern Education Board**Contact:** (312) 236-4011**Members:****House**

McEachern (DFL-St. Michael)

Senate

Hughes (DFL-Maplewood)

Other

Governor or his designee
2 citizen members governor appoints (at least 1 from education field)

Responsible for providing greater educational opportunity and services for citizens in states which are parties to the compact. The board will begin functioning if six states ratify it by the end of 1981.

Minnesota Education Council**Contact:** (612) 296-1755 (Donna Knight)**Members:****House**

Johnson, C. (DFL-St. Peter)
Nelson, K. (DFL-Mpls)
Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park)
Tomlinson (DFL-St. Paul)
Weaver (IR-Anoka)
Zubay (IR-Rochester)
2 vacancies

Other

1 lay person the governor appoints from each of the eight congressional districts.

Responsible for studying recommendations of the Education Commission of the States and exchanging information about education activities.

Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Contact: (612) 224-9903**Members:****House**

Jude (DFL-Mound)
Peterson, D. (DFL-Mpls)
Stowell (IR-Lewiston)

Senate

Bernhagen (IR-Hutchinson) Chair
Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud)
Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

3 members governor appoints

Responsible for promoting a scenic parkway and highway for Minnesota, and reviewing programs involved in water and land-use and improvement of the Great River Road of the Mississippi River Parkway.

State Advisory Task Force on Epilepsy**Created in the 1981 session****Members:****House**

Ewald (IR-Minnetonka)
Reif (IR-White Bear Lake)
Swanson (DFL-Richfield)

Senate

Knutson (IR-Burnsville)
Lantry (DFL-St. Paul)
Solon (DFL-Duluth)

Other

1 member the Council for the Handicapped appoints
8 citizens the governor appoints

Responsible for studying and reporting to the Legislature the status of programs, services, and facilities for epileptic persons in Minnesota.

State Ceremonial Building Council
Contact: (612) 341-7170
(612) 296-2961

John Ondov, Chair

Members:**House**

Metzen (DFL-S. St. Paul)

Senate

Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

Commissioner of administration
Executive director of the arts board
Director of the Historical Society
9 persons the governor appoints including one each from:
field of higher education
American Society of Interior Designers
American Institute of Architects
American Society of Landscape Architects
Family that donated the ceremonial building, if available
four public members

Responsible for developing an overall restoration plan for the state ceremonial building (governor's residence.)

State Council on Black Minnesotans
Contact: (612) 297-3708**Members:****House**

Nelson, K. (DFL-Mpls)
Staten (DFL-Mpls)

Senate

Berglin (DFL-Mpls)
Moe, D. (DFL-St. Paul)

Other

7 citizen members governor appoints

Responsible for advising the governor and the Legislature on the nature of issues confronting Black people and on statutes or rules necessary to insure Black people access to benefits and services, recommending revisions in the state's affirmative action program, implementing programs to help Black people, and publicizing accomplishments of Black people.

Tax Study Commission
Contact: (612) 296-6717**Members:****House**

Anderson, I. (DFL-Int'l Falls)
Evans (IR-Detroit Lakes)
Kvam (IR-Litchfield)
Novak (DFL-New Brighton)
Searles (IR-Wayzata)
Tomlinson (DFL-St. Paul)
Vanasek (DFL-New Prague)

Senate

Berg (IR-Chokio)
Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul)
Hanson (DFL-Hallock)
Johnson (DFL-Cook)
Olthoff (DFL-Herman)
Peterson, C. (DFL-Detroit Lakes)
Sieloff (IR-St. Paul)

Responsible for examining the total tax structure, revenue needs and sources of revenue of the state and its political subdivisions, and recommending long range tax policy.



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WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Chief Clerk's Office
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-2314

House Index Department
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-6646

House Information Office
Rm 9, State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-2146

LEGISLATORS

Who represents you at the State Capitol?

The House Information Office can tell you. State maps of legislative districts are also available.

Legislators' districts, addresses, phone numbers, biographical information, and photos

The House and Senate publish this in the *Official Directory of the Minnesota Legislature* and the *Members Directory*. You can get copies of these in the House Information Office. Information Office publications are also available in the Chief Clerk's Office.

What legislation did your representative introduce?

Stop at the House Index Department. They have a CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) which shows information on a television-like screen. The CRT lists each member and the bills he/she sponsored in the current session. Index staff will help you use the CRT.

To contact your legislator, address him/her as follows:

The Honorable (name),
Minnesota House of
Representatives (or Minnesota
Senate) State Capitol, St. Paul,
MN 55155. Dear Representative
(or Senator) name.

BILLS

Need a copy of a bill?

The Chief Clerk's Office can give you copies of bills and resolutions.

Need to know the status, authors, or committee assignments of bills?

Call the House Index Department. The information is on computer, and includes Journal page numbers of action on bills.

Bill introductions.

The House Information Office publishes bill introductions in the *Weekly Wrap-up*. If you would like to be on the mailing list for the *Wrap-up*, contact the Information Office.

Bills on a specific topic, or in a specific committee.

The House Index Department has lists of bills in each committee and on specific topics, e.g. environment, taxes, education, etc. (175 topics) on the CRT.

Which bills became law?

This is on the CRT in House Index. Each week, the *Wrap-up* lists the bills the governor signed. The final issue summarizes all bills the Legislature passed during the session. The *Session* magazine

Would you like a tour of the Capitol?

The Office of Educational Services, Rm 124-D, State Capitol, (612) 296-8081, will arrange visits which highlight the work of the Legislature and its members, for school groups, citizens' groups, and out-of-state visitors.

The Minnesota Historical Society provides tours. Groups of 10 or more should schedule tours (612) 296-2881.

In the Senate

The Secretary of the Senate's Office (612) 296-2343 and Senate Index (612) 296-2887, Rm 231, State Capitol, provide services similar to the Chief Clerk's Office and House Index.

The Senate Information Office, Rm B-29, State Capitol, (612) 296-0504, provides services similar to those House Information offers.

summarizes new laws each session. Contact the Information Office to get on the *Session* mailing list.

COMMITTEES

For committee meeting schedules.

Call (612) 296-9283, a 24-hour hot line recording of daily House meeting schedules (time, place, and agendas). Senate hot line: (612) 296-8088. The Information Office and the Chief Clerk's Office have copies of daily schedules, *Today*.

The weekly schedule of upcoming meetings is in the *Weekly Wrap-up*.

Standing committees and committee assignments.

These are in the *Members Directory* and the *Official Directory*.

Committee action during the session.

The *Weekly Wrap-up* reports on what happened in committees each week.

Committee action during the interim.

The House Information Office summarizes what happened in committees during the interim in the *Interim* magazine. (Same mailing list as *Session*.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Proceedings in the House.

The Chief Clerk's Office can answer your questions. The office publishes the *Journal of the House*, the official daily record of legislative action.

The Legislature — how it all works.

The House Information and Chief Clerk's Offices can give you general information. The Information Office has brochures on the process including: *How a Bill Becomes a Law*; *The Road to Minnesota Laws*, cartoon version of how a bill becomes law; *Citizen's Participation Course*, test-yourself quiz on the Legislature; *Joey's Visit*, coloring book for the very young.

Agendas of House action.

The Chief Clerk's Office has copies of the *Calendar*, *General Orders*, etc., schedules of House floor action.

Where members sit in the House Chamber.

The Information Office publishes a *Seating Arrangement of the Minnesota Legislature*.

House employees.

You'll find this in the *Staff Telephone Directory* and the *Official Directory* available in the Information Office.

Other areas of state government.

The House Information Office can direct you to the appropriate place. The office publishes the *Three Branches of Government*, a wall chart showing the structure of state government.