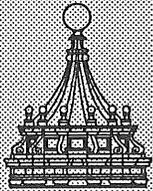


Session Weekly

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 8, 1991 • Volume 8, Number 5





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Flashback

It's a political given that Congress and state legislatures should always allow at least a token honeymoon anytime a new chief executive officer takes over the affairs of state. And there seemed little doubt there was a good deal of swooning during the first few weeks of the 77th Legislature as Gov. Arne Carlson's budget-cutting proposal was quickly approved.

Although the honeymoon may continue awhile longer, edges everywhere seemed a little frayed this week at the Capitol. Look for the cans of creamed corn to begin flying soon at a committee hearing near you.

Local government officials, appearing in the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, say they've already shouldered the brunt of cuts in Carlson's first budget-trimming bill. And they're digging in to protect what's left in anticipation of the debate over how to head off an expected \$1.2 million shortfall in the next biennium.

"It's gotten to the point over the last 10 years where we are going to have to start cutting into those things that you hold near and dear," one local government official told lawmakers.

In a joint meeting of the committees on Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources, there was friendly discussion about how farmers really are environmentalists. While that may be true, look for discussion over HF1 — the wetlands preservation bill — to become much more intense as environmental and economic concerns meet head on. And that could happen as early as next week.

And on the universal health care access front, the debate is heating up as well. In a meeting of the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee, Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin) accused the health care industry of mounting a preemptive strike upon his health care access bill by adopting a few of its key components — while ignoring the rest — and fashioning a bill to its liking, which has since been introduced.

While the Legislature actually convened Jan. 8, it's a safe bet to say the real work will just start beginning next week.

— Grant Moos

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On the cover: Dealing with fish and wildlife issues can get complicated, so the Environment and Natural Resources Committee can rest easy that it doesn't have to worry about dinosaurs, too. Members of the committee got a look at a 60-foot diplodocus Jan. 31 when they toured the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

(Photo by Laura Phillips)

Highlights

Heir to District 50B

The Independent-Republican minority in the House grew by one member Feb. 5 with the election of Phil Heir of Blaine to fill the District 50B seat in Anoka County.

Heir, a senior systems analyst for the Department of Natural Resources, defeated DFLer Jim Nelson in the special election. Unofficial balloting results showed 3,426 votes cast with Heir receiving almost 54 percent of the vote.

The election was called after Rep. Joseph Quinn (DFL-Coon Rapids) was appointed to a district court judgeship by former Gov. Rudy Perpich.

Quinn defeated Heir in November to earn his fifth, but short-lived, term. Heir, who was sworn in Feb. 7 during a House session, also ran for the House in 1988.

DFLers in the House now hold a 79-54 margin over IRs.

Another special election is scheduled Feb. 12 in District 32B in southeastern Minnesota. DFLer Harlin Taylor, IR Gregory Davids, and Henry Zamarron of the Socialist Workers Party are vying for the House seat previously held by Elton Redalen of Fountain. The long-time IR legislator is the state's new commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

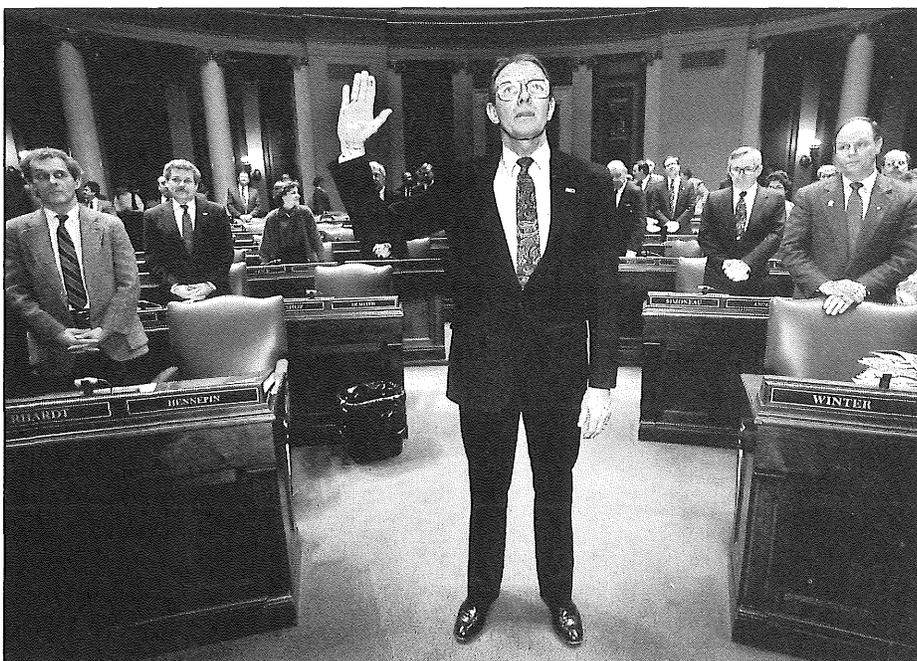
Wetlands bill on deck

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee expects to pass Rep. Willard Munger's (DFL-Duluth) wetlands bill when it meets Feb. 12, but the sweeping legislation has a long way to go before the full House considers it.

HF1, which proposes the Wetland Enhancement, Preservation, and Protection Act of 1991, received its first hearing Feb. 7 before the committee.

The bill calls for establishing rules that would ensure "no net loss" of wetlands in Minnesota. Recognizing that many of the state's remaining wetlands are on private land, the bill also would set a guideline for paying landowners for conserving them.

The bill has bipartisan support, but



Newly elected Rep. Phil Heir was sworn in to office by Speaker Robert Vanasek in the House chamber Feb. 7.

funding the package from a tight state budget will be a critical issue. "This bill has to be properly funded," Munger told the committee. "If this bill is not properly funded, it's not going to be worth our efforts."

Although environmentalists and some farmers generally agree about the need to preserve wetlands, they differ on technical points. Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), a co-author of HF1, told the committee that as a farmer he's nervous about some provisions of the bill. But, he says, the legislation is coming.

"I think the time is here, folks, when it isn't a matter of whether or not a no-net-loss piece of legislation will be passed," Kalis says, "it's in what form that it will be passed."

Natural resources specialists want a Minnesota wetlands bill passed before potentially wide-ranging federal regulations are adopted. "We need to get our oar in the water with the federal process very early on to tell them that we clearly know how to manage Minnesota's wetland resource," Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner Ron Nargang says.

Support for wetlands

Farmers will support a wetlands preservation bill as long as it allows them some leeway, Agriculture Commissioner Elton Redalen told a joint meeting of the Agriculture and the Environment and Natural Resources committees Feb. 5.

Farm and natural resources lobbyists were among the people who packed a State Office Building hearing room for the historic joint meeting, designed to educate legislators about wetlands.

Passage of a wetlands bill this session is seen as a priority among many legislators, as well as by the governor.

"I think environmentalists and farmers are one and the same," Redalen told the committees. "But perhaps the environmentalists don't realize that most farmers speak the same language."

Redalen says farmers see the importance of preserving wetlands for recharging Minnesota's groundwater and for controlling floods. But they want a wetlands bill that, among other concerns, gives them fair compensation for wetlands that are taken out of production. Farmers also want simple regulations,

lots of local control and special consideration of some wetlands for farming uses, such as raising wild rice.

While "the big, fundamental disagreements are behind us," passage of a wetlands bill will still require that many tough questions be answered, says Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Predicting two areas where farmers and environmentalists are liable to clash over wetlands, Dave Nomsen of the National Wildlife Federation said a bill should not allow exemptions based on cropping history or on size. Of an estimated 3 million wetlands in Minnesota and the Dakotas, Nomsen says 700,000 are less than one acre in size.

At least five wetlands-related bills have been introduced in the House this session.

Local government cuts

Still stinging from earlier bouts with the budget ax, local government officials say they've already done their share to help balance state finances.

Many local officials have already begun to work the Legislature in earnest, hoping to persuade lawmakers to derail anticipated reductions in state aids to local governments and cuts in property tax relief.

During recent hearings before the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, representatives of several constituent groups — cities, counties, townships, and metropolitan and regional organizations — have each said state officials are asking them to do more with less.

And although the governor's recommendations to head off an expected \$1.2 billion budget shortfall won't be released until Feb. 20, many representatives from local government say they stand to lose substantially more than the \$50 million cut they sustained this biennium.

The problem, however, is not limited to legislatively-mandated programs, says Vern Peterson of the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities. State agencies also require local governments to perform a vast array of services through administrative rules, he says.

Peterson, appearing before the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs

Committee Feb. 5, says paying for state-mandated programs has forced cities and counties to trim other services such as police, fire, and medical emergency assistance.

"It's gotten to the point over the last decade where we are going to have to start cutting into those things that you hold near and dear," Peterson says. "Mandates hurt those kinds of things."

Peterson says it often is difficult to put a specific price tag on the cost of state mandates or even calculate the actual number of statutes and rules affecting municipalities and other governments.

For example, he estimates the cost in attorney fees and staff time for a city to develop a local ordinance suggested in a solid waste bill now being considered in the Legislature would be between \$800 to \$2,000 in each municipality. But Peterson says it's almost impossible to determine how other state mandates — such as comparable worth regulations — have driven up local expenditures.

The price of state mandates, however, is not a problem entirely limited to local administrators.

Rep. Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville) says she has run into the same problem trying to determine the financial impact of acts approved by the Legislature.

She says there apparently just isn't a

reliable method for predicting what the financial impact will be of a particular law or laws.

"I am in doubt that any person carrying a bill . . . could do much more than make an educated guess of its impact," she says.

Waseca campus closing?

State lawmakers and University of Minnesota officials say they can peacefully resolve their differences over the proposed closing of its Waseca campus — but privately, both sides are expecting the plan to generate sparks for some time.

Rep. Dick Anderson (IR-Waseca) is criticizing "a rush to judgment" on the possible closing and says administrators are ignoring the university's land-grant mission by shutting down the 800-student facility.

Two resolutions are currently being considered in the House, both asking the University Board of Regents to postpone any decision on closing the campus.

But speaking Feb. 6 before the Education Committee's Higher Education Division, university spokeswoman Kathy O'Brien says that while any campus closing is difficult, the \$6.4 million used



Technical college students from around the state participated in a "Lobby Day" at the Capitol Feb. 6. The students met with lawmakers, attended committee hearings and listened to Lt. Gov. Joanell Dyrstad address the group during a rally in the Capitol rotunda.

annually to keep the Waseca facility open would be better spent elsewhere within the university system.

She says the cost of educating a single student at Waseca is almost double the cost at other campuses and notes that nearly three-quarters of its current student population could receive similar schooling at nearby technical colleges.

Anderson, however, says it is improper for university officials to think they can "abandon" Waseca's students and keep the money for other purposes. "I think we still have a strong obligation to those students," he told O'Brien. "I don't see how you can think that you can just take the money and run."

The decision to close the Waseca campus is part of a plan to reallocate nearly \$58 million in university funding to other parts of the institution. The university regents were to discuss the proposal during meetings this week. A final decision from the Board of Regents is expected March 8.

The plan also includes cutbacks in funding for the College of Education, and the Continuing Education and Extension program, eliminating a dental hygiene program at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, consolidating several degree programs throughout the system and streamlining portions of its central administration.

Most of the money saved through the reallocations would be diverted to strengthen undergraduate and graduate programs, particularly in the College of Liberal Arts and the Institute of Technology, which some say have been underfunded in recent years.

Anderson says he and other lawmakers do not want to intimidate university officials by threatening to withhold state funding if the Waseca facility is closed, but adds that such actions could occur.

Longer school year

A longer school year is the first step in the success for any plan of educational reform, says at least one Twin Cities-area school administrator.

Testifying Feb. 4 before the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee, South St. Paul Superintendent of Schools David Metzen told state

lawmakers that teachers and students simply need more time in the classroom than the current 180-day school year allows.

"We are trying to teach too much in too short of a time," says Metzen, adding that he would like to see a school calendar of at least 210 days.

In recent weeks, division members have heard a variety of proposals — ranging from reduced teacher-student ratios to more localized control of individual schools — to spark higher student achievement.

They've even heard testimony about offering monetary incentives and other perks to students. The "Renaissance" program, for example, uses contributions from private businesses and other incentives to encourage students to excel.

The program is under way in about 120 school districts throughout the state with encouraging results, says Luanna Hacker of Jostens Inc., one of the corporate sponsors of the program.

But as worthy as it or other incentive proposals are, Metzen says they likely will not succeed unless lawmakers move to lengthen the traditional nine-month school year.

The broad consensus behind educational reform provides "a golden opportunity to get things done," Metzen says, but adds policymakers must first define

Homelessness a paycheck away

The number of homeless people in America will rise to nearly 19 million — up from the current 3 million — by the turn of the century if current trends continue, says Sue Watlov-Phillips, president of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.

Testifying before the Housing Committee Feb. 4, Watlov-Phillips said that 14 million families in the United States are just one paycheck away from being homeless.

Homelessness, she says, "can happen to anyone — it's not an urban, rural, or suburban issue."

Contrary to the perception of some, families make up the majority of the homeless. Watlov-Phillips says 65 to 70 percent of people in emergency shelters

and transitional housing are families.

Although Minnesota is known as a leader in providing shelter for the homeless, more needs to be done, says Watlov-Phillips.

"We can certainly do much better than provide people a mat on a church basement floor in this state, and it's important that we do that," she says.

Watlov-Phillips says that one-fourth of the working population in Minnesota earns less than \$12,000 per year and half make less than \$22,000 per year.

"We need to create homes to match these incomes," she says, adding that homelessness is a manageable issue in Minnesota.

"This is not New York or Los Angeles . . . where there are thousands and thousands of people living on the streets," she says.

Farm loans

The outlook for Minnesota agriculture is "somewhat upbeat" compared to the crisis of the mid-1980s, but recent drops in the price of wheat and milk could force some farmers out of business, says the state director of the federal Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).

Russ Bjorhus, testifying Feb. 4 before the Agriculture Committee, said some farmers whose FmHA loans were restructured based on higher market prices could be in trouble. The price for milk, for example, has dropped more than 30 percent since December 1989.

"We are looking at about a third of our dairy farmers out there who are on the edge of financial trouble unless the dairy prices should improve," Bjorhus told the committee.

FmHA backs loans to farmers for buying land and operating their farms, as well as to purchase houses.

Bjorhus says his agency intends to look at loans more carefully, and adds that there are plans afoot that would require his agency to provide farm management training to all borrowers.

Minnesota has about 85,000 farms, but about 40,000 of these are classed as "hobby" farms or part-time operations.

Limits on detox releases

A Sunfish Lake homicide last July where a doctor was accused of murdering his wife has prompted a division of the Judiciary Committee to approve a bill that would place limits on how people on "emergency hold" at detox units can be released.

Rep. Art Seaberg (IR-Eagan) told the Criminal Justice Division Feb. 6 that his bill (HF98) would limit the courts from issuing such a release order during the 72-hour emergency holding period at treatment facilities, unless the court first holds a hearing on the matter.

This hearing would give the person being held, the head of the treatment facility, and other specified people the opportunity to be heard before a release is made. Current law does not require a hearing.

Dr. Douglas Simmons was taken to a Dakota County detox center by police last July, but was released within three hours after obtaining a court order.

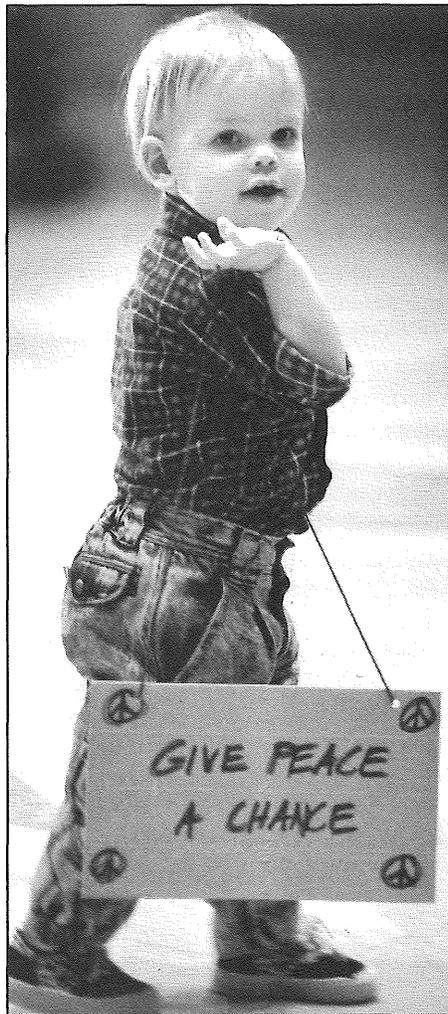
He was accused of killing his wife, Linda, in the presence of their two young children shortly after he was released. His blood-alcohol level was approximately 0.24 percent — more than twice the legal threshold for intoxication — when the incident occurred. Dr. Simmons has since died of an apparent suicide.

Joe Swanson, executive director of the Dakota County Receiving Center, an umbrella organization with the Dakota County Detoxification Center, says he favors the bill, adding that his facility is often forced to release people who are at risk of committing a crime.

Oftentimes, people are released before there is intervention and evaluation of their drinking patterns, he says.

Wayne Raske of the Department of Human Services told lawmakers that there are 42,000 detox admissions each year, 45 percent of which are admitted on emergency holds. About 600 of these people are released within 72 hours after a court order is obtained.

The Criminal Justice Division unanimously approved HF98 and referred it to the Judiciary Committee for further review.



Two-year-old Alex Klien of St. Paul carried a sign and paraded Feb. 5 in the Capitol rotunda with families that had gathered to promote a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf War.

Reinvest in Minnesota

Every working day for the past four years, an average of 290 acres of Minnesota land and water have been added to the state's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee learned Feb. 5.

But RIM could be threatened with red ink if more money is not appropriated by the Legislature, say backers of the popular program.

RIM, begun in 1986, offers financial incentives for private landowners to convert poor farmland into wildlife habitat. RIM also works to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat on public land.

The state's RIM fund received \$16 million in appropriations in 1987, but the funding level has decreased every

year since. Without new money, the fund could dip to just \$2.5 million by fiscal year 1993. That could put the brakes on such RIM efforts as the Critical Habitat Match, RIM Coordinator Jay Rendall told the committee.

The Critical Habitat Match takes private donations of land and cash and matches the donations with public money to improve fish and wildlife habitat, such as areas where bald eagles nest. But, Rendall says, the Critical Habitat Match already is running \$1.7 million behind private donations.

Since 1986, according to RIM's annual report, Minnesotans have pledged \$7.9 million in cash and land donations. Backed with state money, the donations have benefited more than 288,000 acres of land and water.

Medical futures

Minnesota's health care industry needs to keep up the high international profile it had under former Gov. Rudy Perpich if it is to sustain export sales that exceed \$87 million a year.

Tom Meskan, director of the Medical Alley Association, told lawmakers Feb. 5 that Canada, Japan, and Germany are currently the three largest customers for Minnesota companies that sell medical products and services abroad.

To aid the expansion of trade, Meskan urged the Economic Development Committee to ensure that the new administration continues to promote visits from foreign trade associations. While the visits may not result in direct trade immediately, Meskan says they do yield a positive, long-term public relations return.

"No matter what you may think of our previous governor and the success or failures of his policies, one thing he did do was put us on the map for foreign visitors," says Meskan.

Minnesota's reputation for having a "medical alley" is analogous to California's Silicon Valley near San Francisco: both states have a heavy concentration of a particular industry in a discrete geographic location, says Meskan.

The Medical Alley Association — made up of manufacturers of medical devices,

hospitals and clinics, insurance providers, and biotechnology businesses — estimates that more than 14 percent of Minnesota's workforce is employed in medical-related industry.

This is 30 percent higher than the national average for workers employed in health care, says Meskan.

Toxic offices

If you've complained about indoor air quality at your job, just visit the Ford Building on University Avenue in St. Paul.

The health of 86 state employees is adversely affected because they share the building, and toxic fumes, with the state print shop, says Stephen Kilgriff, a deputy with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Kilgriff told the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division Feb. 4 that poor air quality in the Ford Building hasn't been significantly improved despite a \$150,000 appropriation in 1989 to upgrade the building's ventilation.

Four employees of the Attorney General Office's law enforcement division who work in the building have since been transferred to other work sites under doctors' orders.

It appears the only solution to the problem is to have either the personnel from the Attorney General's Office or the Department of Administration's Print Communication Division move out of the building.

"What you're saying is that the air quality in the Ford Building stinks?" asked Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester).

The Ford Building will not be suitable for dual occupancy with the print shop under OSHA standards even when the ventilation overhaul is completed in March, says Kilgriff.

That's because of the difference in OSHA air quality rules for industrial workers and office personnel. Office workers may only be exposed to air that measures one-tenth the toxicity level of that inhaled by industrial workers, says Kilgriff. The levels are different because industrial workers tend to be younger and in better health than office workers.

Bishop suggested the Attorney

General's Office take its case back to the Department of Administration to see what can be done.

"What's the matter with the Attorney General's Office?" Bishop asked. "Why can't you get fired up as lawyers to protect your own employees?"

Abandoned wells

Minnesotans are making progress in sealing the estimated 1.5 million abandoned wells that pose a threat to groundwater, but they still have a long way to go.

Gary Englund, chief of water supply and well management for the Minnesota Department of Health, told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 5 that more wells have been sealed in the last two years than in the past 12.

That's partly because of a recently enacted disclosure law, which requires the seller of real estate to reveal to the buyer any abandoned wells on the property.

Unsealed, abandoned wells can pose a threat to drinking water because they can allow pollutants to seep into groundwater. About two-thirds of Minnesotans use groundwater.

Although the 1989 disclosure law was designed to identify abandoned wells, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) and other committee members are concerned that people aren't disclosing the wells because of the cost required to cap them.

Munger and Rep. Robert Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) asked the department to make recommendations about how the state should share the costs of capping the abandoned wells, which would probably be included in a bonding bill.

But given the current and projected budget shortfall, some legislators say it would be unlikely for a bonding bill to be approved this session. A total of \$530,000 was appropriated in the 1989 groundwater act to allow the state's Board of Water and Soil Resources to try a pilot cost-sharing program with several counties.

A total of 6,474 abandoned wells were sealed in Minnesota last year, according to the health department. Hennepin County, with 1,880 wells sealed, topped the list, followed by Ramsey, Stearns, and Anoka counties.

Happy campers?

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is promising more happy campers this year by improving a controversial state park reservation system that was adopted two years ago.

Bill Morrissey, director of DNR's parks and recreation division, told the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 4 that the department's contract with Mystics Corp. of California has been renegotiated.

The DNR hired Mystics two years ago to run the reservation system for the state's 65 parks. But the system was widely criticized because of problems with keeping reservations in order and the increased reservation fees campers had to pay.

Morrissey admits the problems with the system were caused by both his department and by Mystics. But he says things will get better: "We're not going to have a system that doesn't work. We're giving Mystics another chance. We're giving ourselves another chance."

Last year Mystics handled 45,000 reservations for Minnesota's state parks, 10,000 more than before the company was hired. The company derives its revenue by charging people an extra \$5 to reserve a state campground spot — over and above the regular DNR fee.

It currently costs \$8 per night for a basic camping spot at Minnesota state parks.

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A DNR business card promotes the camping reservation system.

Youth hostels

Cheap lodging for travelers, in the form of a youth hostel, should come to a northern Minnesota state park by this fall. But one state legislator says care must be taken not to upset private hotel and motel operators in the process.

A \$260,000 pilot project to open a hostel in Itasca State Park — about 25 miles southwest of Bemidji — is under way, the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee learned Feb. 4.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), working with the American Youth Hostel Association, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, will restore the park's historic former headquarters building. Up to 20 lodgers, each paying less than \$10 a night, will be able to stay in the hostel.

The DNR will study how the Itasca hostel works to see if similar hostels could be created in historic buildings in other state parks. Although called a "youth" hostel, it will be open to all age groups.

Rep. David Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors), chair of the committee, says he's troubled that owners of hotels, motels, and resorts near the youth hostels might feel they are being undercut by the state.

Bill Morrissey, director of the DNR's parks and recreation division, told Battaglia that after operating the Itasca hostel for a few years, a survey of local resorts, motels and hotels will be taken to learn if the hostel has had any impact on those businesses. The survey would be done before any other hostels are built in state parks.

Health care leeches?

Will people with high-cost health problems be attracted to Minnesota if the state establishes a state-managed health care plan?

That was a question posed by Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter) to Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin) as Ogren presented his universal health care access bill Feb. 5.

Speaking before the Health and Human Services Committee's Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee, Ogren says that even though the widest "panorama" of medical assistance options are available in Minnesota, the state has not seen an influx of people from surrounding states.

And neither has Canada, he adds, referring to Canada's health care system which has been hailed by some as a model for the industry.

"We have unconsciously structured a safety net relative to health care that says . . . 'If you work and do not have health care as a condition of employment, you are out in the cold,'" Ogren says. "If you choose not to work, you will have a higher standard of health care than countless numbers of working men and women here in Minnesota and throughout America."

But Ostrom says that a person with some assets "might have an incentive to get a job here and get their serious medical problem treated without drawing down their assets."

Ogren concedes that's conceivable, but unlikely.

"There would have to be a sufficient job market to reflect that," says Ogren. "In no way, shape or form would we be attracting those who currently don't work, those who would tend to leech off of society rather than blend into society in a genuine economic fashion."

Veterans home budget trimmed

Nearly a million dollars has been trimmed from the operating budget of the Silver Bay Veterans Home that is currently being renovated in northeastern Minnesota. But the administrator for the veterans home says the money's not gone forever.

The reduction was part of Gov. Arne Carlson's budget reduction package that was approved by the House and Senate in January.

However, these funds will be returned "when needed by the home," says the veterans home's administrator, Fred Janklow.

Janklow told lawmakers at a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees Feb. 4 that the funds weren't needed for this fiscal year,

and would not substantially affect the proposed opening day for the facility set for Sept. 1.

Groundbreaking for the future Luverne Veterans Home, which was authorized by the 1989 Legislature, could begin in three months. Federal funds in the amount of \$4.18 million have recently been secured for the project. This figure accounts for 65 per cent of the total building cost. The remaining 35 percent of the cost is to be made up of nonstate sources, including local governments, veterans organizations, and private businesses. The 84-bed facility is expected to take between 1-1/2 and two years to complete.

Committee Chair Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), recalling how difficult it was to approve bills authorizing the Silver Bay and Luverne homes, says more will be needed.

"I hope Minnesota will not stop with these two homes, or as our World War II veterans continue to age, we will be in serious trouble," he says.

Governmental reforms delayed?

There will be no sweeping reform of state government this legislative session, but there will be some modest streamlining, says an official from Gov. Arne Carlson's office.

Patsy Randell, Carlson's deputy chief of staff, told members of the Governmental Structures Division of the Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 4 that the office needs more time to examine the issue.

"We don't want to be hasty, and we need to be realistic," says Randell. "It's very difficult to deal with the enormity of the situation in this short time frame, so we have to be realistic and recognize that we can't do it all in these first few months as we put the budget together."

But she did tell lawmakers to expect some streamlining of state government. The specifics of those plans, however, won't be unveiled until after the governor's Feb. 20 budget proposal is released.

Tackling the budget before the proposed streamlining led some legislators to question whether the governor's office isn't going about the task backwards.

"Haven't we got the cart before the

horse here?" asked Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (IR-Princeton). "Shouldn't we streamline before we make budget allocations?"

The governor recently established two commissions to address the issue of government restructuring. The Commission on State and Local Government, headed by Lt. Gov. Joanell Dyrstad, will examine current mandates, some of which Randell says "make it very difficult for local units of government to do their job."

The Commission on Government Reform and Efficiency, headed by Administration Commissioner Dana Badgerow, will examine efficiency in delivery of services by state agencies.

Universal health insurance

Access to health care is a major problem in Minnesota, but researchers say solutions are achievable.

The Minnesota Health Care Access Commission, which was formed by the 1989 Legislature, presented its final report on health care access for Minnesotans to the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division Feb. 6. It was one of several committees where the report has been delivered.

The study found that 370,000 Minnesotans are uninsured for all or part of the year, and more than 1.25 million face conditions that make them highly susceptible to denial or cancellation of their insurance.

The commission recommends the development of a universal health care program to ensure health care for all Minnesotans, specifically those who are uninsured and underinsured.

"We see this program as a major advantage in terms of laying a base for controlling the costs of medical care and also for providing a way to insure that all Minnesotans get access to the basic health care services that they need," says Lois Quam, chair of the Minnesota Health Care Access Commission.

To do this, the commission recommends the development of a new agency — the Minnesota Department of Health Care Access — to consolidate most of the state's existing programs into one working unit over a four-year, two-stage period.

Gangbusters III

The Twin Cities are not in the same league as the Big Apple or the City of Angels, and that's the way Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III says he wants it.

Humphrey told the Judiciary Committee Feb. 1 that violence is marring the quality of life in Minnesota, but that the state's crime is far short of that experienced in other major urban areas such as New York and Los Angeles.

To keep it that way, Humphrey has proposed legislation to curb what he considers the two most serious threats to our way of life: casual drug use and gang violence.

Drug-busting

"It isn't minorities, blacks and young people that are financing that [business] — it's people like you and me in the suburbs and everywhere else that are buying this stuff," Humphrey says.

Humphrey says illicit drugs are a \$500 million business in Minnesota, adding that it's white collar, casual drug users who create the demand and fuel the violence associated with drug trafficking.

The most effective deterrent for this brand of criminal, he says, is to penalize their pocketbook and their dignity. Humphrey proposes that:

- the drivers' licenses of first-time offenders be revoked for six months;
- the state-issued professional licenses of second-time offenders be suspended; and
- that stiff, mandatory fines of between \$500 and \$3,000 be imposed on both first- and second-time offenders, the proceeds of which would be used to fund drug education and prevention programs.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) objected that license revocations might impede some offenders' ability to work.

Humphrey, however, says the extraordinary problem of drug abuse calls for equally dramatic measures.

"These users create the market. They are feeding the frenzy of violence

committed by drug gangs and dealers. At a minimum, they should lose their drivers' licenses," he says.

Gang-busting

A central piece of Humphrey's anti-gang initiative is the so-called Street Terrorism Act, which would make it a felony for a gang member to knowingly consort with others engaged in felonious activities.

"What I'm saying is, if you're a member of the gang and you've been actively involved with the gang, and you know the gang has been involved in felonious activity, including murder or whatever, that in itself would be a felony," says Humphrey.

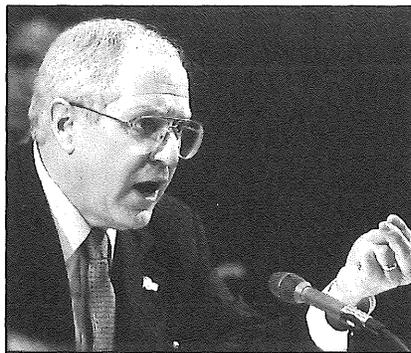
But Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) says such an act could trample on a person's basic constitutional liberty to mingle with whom they want.

And State Public Defender John Stuart also questioned the wisdom of Humphrey's proposal, saying that state public defenders' caseloads have already risen 50 percent since 1986. Stuart says it's irrational to create a whole new category of felonies when the Minnesota correctional system is already overloaded.

But Humphrey says something needs to be done about the escalating violence. He pointed to recent murder statistics as evidence: In 1989, there were five gang-related homicides in the Twin Cities. In 1990, that figure grew to 22. And currently, there are more than 3,000 known, active gang members in Minneapolis alone.

Other aspects of Humphrey's gang-busting plan include:

- expanding the concept of drug-free zones to include weapon-free zones, where penalties are heavier for violators;
- making it illegal for an identified gang member to carry a gun;
- creating a state level witness-protection program for those who turn state's evidence in gang and drug cases; and
- creating a statewide gang information system (criminal database) administered by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.



Attorney Gen. Hubert H. Humphrey III

Transportation tax increases

An ambitious study, designed to anticipate Minnesota's transportation needs into the next century, was presented to the Transportation Committee Feb. 6.

"We've got what we think is a road map for the next twenty years in terms of [transportation] policy and funding," says Tom Johnson, executive director of the Transportation Study Board.

Johnson says the state would need to increase transportation's current funding level by \$700 million a year for the next 20 years to achieve a "full-service" transportation system.

To maintain merely an acceptable level of service, where 75 percent of the state's projects and initiatives are funded, a \$400 million yearly funding increase would be required, says Johnson.

To raise the money, the report recommends that the state's complicated and ever-shifting formula for funding transportation be normalized.

Fifty percent of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, it says, should be *constitutionally* dedicated to transportation. Currently, Minnesota's Department of Transportation receives 30 percent of MVET monies. Other fundraising provisions include:

- raising fuel taxes by 4 cents per gallon in 1991;
- raising the minimum automobile license fee to \$50;
- increasing heavy truck user fees; and
- extending the state sales tax to automobile services (the money would then be dedicated to transportation needs).

Earning tax-exempt status

Are non-profit hospitals providing enough charity care to earn their tax-exempt status?

In Minnesota the answer would seem to be yes, but Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) wants to make sure.

Orenstein's measure would require hospitals to publicly file community service plans with the commissioner of health.

The idea, however, met with stiff opposition in the Standards and Regulations Subcommittee of the Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 6.

"In some areas of greater Minnesota, the issue is not the amount of charity that they provide; the issue is 'Will they be there to provide any health care?'" says Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona). "Quite frankly, we can't afford to lose any more hospitals."

The Council of Hospital Corporations expressed reservations with the bill, recommending that voluntary compliance be attempted before enforcing any requirements.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue estimates that the state would have collected \$97.4 million in sales and property taxes in 1990 from Minnesota hospitals if the institutions were not classified as tax-exempt.

Preemptive strike?

The health insurance industry is behind a bill that would guarantee group health insurance rates that could preempt parts of the proposed universal health care access plan, says Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin).

The measure (HF208) calls for a one-year transition period during which small employers could not be denied coverage by group health insurance plans.

Referred to as the "Small Employment Health Benefit Act of 1991," the measure is sponsored by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley). It was presented Feb. 7 to

the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee by Lois Wattman, legislative counsel for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The bill would apply to businesses with between two and 49 employees, which frequently don't offer health insurance to their employees because of the high cost.

In addition, health insurance premiums would have to stay within 30 percent of a health insurer's "community," or average rate for that group, and a reinsurance pool would be established to minimize risk to any one insurer. Both are limited versions of main components of the health care access plan which Ogren is authoring.

"All of a sudden the health insurance industry is here before us with this legislation, presumably to alleviate the plight of small employers in Minnesota," says Ogren. "Why wasn't it here in 1985 when the problem was immense and quite obviously growing? I wonder to what extent you are responding to the reality of the Health Care Access Commission and the reality of probable state intervention in the insurance community."

"I think we have been here," responds Wattman. "We view this as, hopefully, helping the Health Care Access Commission by reducing the number of people that are going to need a subsidized program through the state."



Can you type more than 240 words a minute? Phonetically speaking, Janet Shaddix Elling can. She demonstrated her talents as a court reporter before a House committee Feb. 6. The device uses sound keys instead of letter keys, allowing for "simultaneous translation." The sound keys are then translated into the proper spelling. Elling assisted a hearing-impaired member of the Attorney General's Office during testimony.

1991 House Leadership Series . . .

Despite skirmishes, Long loves the process

In the 1960s, Rep. Dee Long questioned authority. The one-time activist fought for civil rights and opposed the war in Vietnam. She looked at the Democrats and the Republicans, and found both parties lacking.

Today, she is a cornerstone of the "authority" she once questioned.

As House Majority leader, the Minneapolis DFLer is one of the most powerful people in state government. She is the tactician who keeps the caucus in line, and the person who often articulates the party's views on the House floor.

She's known as a tough fighter, and holds down one of the most partisan jobs in the most partisan of atmospheres. But colleagues in both the DFL and IR caucuses credit Long with keeping rancor to a minimum, and praise her energy, wit, and openness.

"I think you just have to be fair and try not to mislead people," Long says. "There are going to be honest differences of opinion. If there weren't, we'd only have one party in this state."

And that, of course, would take all of the fun out of politics.

"It is fun," she says. "I don't think in the entire time I've been in the Legislature I've seen the leadership allowing political differences to become personal differences."

Her ability to work with members of both parties may very well stem from her childhood, having come from a mixed political family. Her father frequently championed liberal causes while her mother often worked with grassroots Republican organizations.

There's no question there will be plenty of opportunities for Long to test her party negotiating skills this year. The DFL majorities in the House and the Senate must reach a budget agreement for the 1992-93 biennium with Independent-Republican Gov. Arne Carlson.

"So far, things have gone quite smoothly between us and the governor," she says. "I think it's a little difficult to predict whether this is going to continue, but I think we've gone a few extra miles for him and I hope he will reciprocate."

Despite her optimism, Long says she's



Majority Leader Dee Long

also bracing for some rocky periods: "If we get through this session with absolutely smooth relationships among all branches of government, I think it will surprise everyone."

Although much of her time is now spent running the House DFL Caucus, Long quickly established herself as one of the Legislature's strongest advocates for the environment following her election in 1978.

She worked for more than three years to gain passage of the state's "superfund" law, which is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites and dumps.

She is also well-known for her efforts to rejuvenate the public's trust in elected officials.

Long has chaired a House select committee on ethics and has been known to advise incoming members "to act as if whatever you're going to do will be on the front page of the paper tomorrow and you won't have a chance to respond."

Before being elected majority leader in June 1989, she served a stint as speaker pro tem of the House and later chaired the Taxes Committee, also one of the most important positions in state government.

"I haven't led a terribly planned life," the former psychology professor says of

her ascent through the party ranks. "My philosophy on that is if you set out at the age of 21 to achieve a certain goal, the likelihood of making it isn't that great and you're going to be disappointed."

And perhaps that's why she's hesitant to talk about future moves.

"I'm quite happy doing what I'm doing right now," she says. "It's challenging, it's stimulating. It can be a little frustrating, but sometimes it can just be a lot of fun."

— Dave Price

Looking back . . .

'Flexible sessions' called most radical change in history of Minnesota politics

Nearly 20 years ago, Minnesota voters approved a constitutional amendment that has been described as "the most radical change in the history of Minnesota politics."

Tired of meeting every other year and rushing through the state's business, the Minnesota Legislature placed a question on the 1972 ballot that asked voters whether the Legislature should be allowed to meet every year.

The voters approved the amendment by a 61.6 percent-to-38.4 percent margin, and 1972 has been characterized as a pivotal year in Minnesota state politics ever since.

But whether the change is good or bad is still subject to debate — just as it was nearly 20 years ago.

In 1972 most Minnesotans believed, as did people across the country, that the change was long overdue. Nationally, 21 states changed to an annual system between 1962 and 1972.

"The day is gone when you could go down to St. Paul and put 60 days in your back pocket every other year and kind of watchdog things and enjoy the process," said former Sen. Keith Hughes of St. Cloud, co-author of the flexible session bill.

Following the longest special session in history in 1971, legislators retired in droves from both the House and Senate. That was the year the Legislature met in special session for 159 days to pass what later became known as the "Minnesota Miracle." But the long hours, frenetic pace, and low pay (\$4,800) led many lawmakers to call it quits.

"I call 40 hours a week full-time, and I put that in by Wednesday noon in an average session," then-Sen. William Dosland of Moorhead said at the time.

A joint legislative committee appointed to study the issue of "flexible sessions" found that for more than 20 years the orderly completion of business "has been the single greatest problem of the Minnesota Legislature."

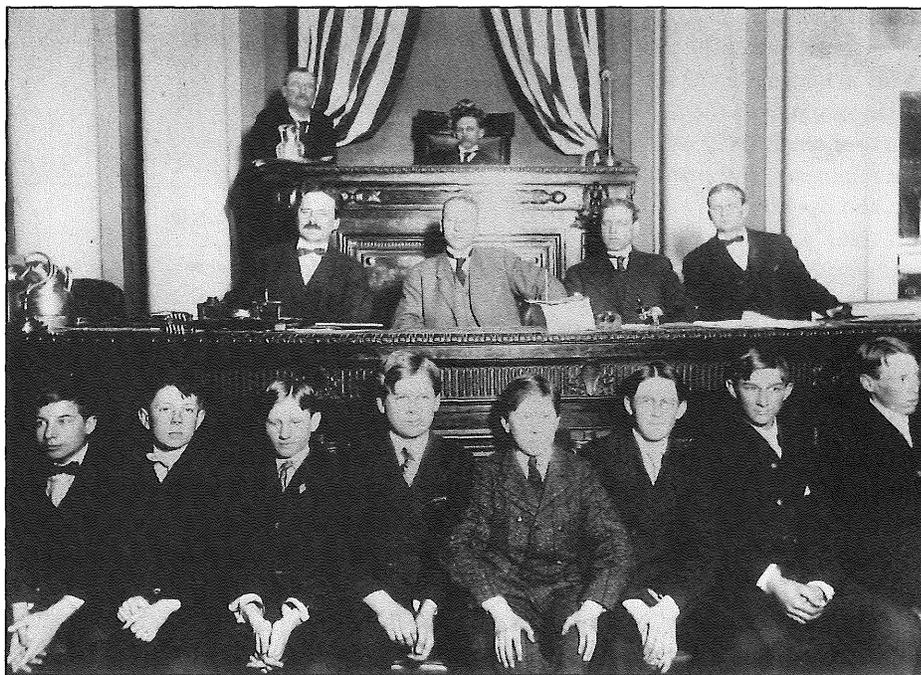
"The workload measured in the number of bills or complexity of problems has rapidly increased each session," concluded the study. "The constitutional time frame fails to keep pace."

The study also found that 1953 was the only year in the state's history that lawmakers adjourned on time. Increasingly, state legislatures across the country were being characterized as 19th century relics that were incapable of dealing with

And while it seems clear that the full-time legislator prophecy has some merit, some view the evolution as good.

"I always thought the opposite of professional was amateur, and I don't think anybody wants a group of amateurs making decisions for the state," said U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo (D-Minn), the state House minority leader in 1972 and later speaker of the House.

He says nothing but good has come



Speaker L.H. Johnson presides over the House, and a group of young-looking pages, in 1907.

the 20th century tasks before them.

Proponents of the amendment said annual sessions would allow for a more in-depth study of issues, and greatly curtail the reliance on lobbyists for information — data that could then be compiled more objectively by lawmakers and their support staff.

Opponents argued the annual meetings would create an expensive body of "professional legislators," and do away with citizen legislators which the biannual process nurtured.

from the shift to annual sessions. So, too, does Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), now serving his 35th year in the House.

"If you want to take care of the people back home, and take care of the state's business the way it should be taken care of, it's a full-time job," said Munger. "When you tried to cram everything into 90 days, the way it was when I first came here . . . it was absolutely ridiculous. You couldn't do it. . . I think it's [annual sessions] the best thing that ever happened."

And although former state Sen. Jack

Davies, now a Minnesota Court of Appeals judge, said the move to annual sessions was a good one, there were some drawbacks.

"It did become nearly impossible for us to maintain outside careers," said Davies, suggesting that it actually hurt the Legislature because it discouraged talented but busy people from running for office.

He called the shift to annual sessions "the most radical change in the history of Minnesota politics . . .

"Returning the next January was wonderful for the exchange of new ideas, and for a thorough examination of those ideas."

Although the legislative pace was perceived as hectic back in the early 1970s, it has become much more so lately. The 1989-90 Session produced a record 15,156 pages in the *Journal of the House* — more than double the 7,199 pages in the 1973-74 *Journal*.

But those who abhor the "full-time legislator" label can point to the dramatic increase since 1972 in the numbers of lawmakers who call themselves full-time.

According to Royce Hanson's *Tribune of the People*, only one House member listed "legislator" as an occupation up until 1975, when four did. That number has grown steadily over the past 15 years.

In 1991, 19 House members listed legislator as their sole occupation, eight listed it as their primary occupation while also citing a secondary job, and seven more listed it as a secondary occupation. Combined, these figures account for just over 25 percent of House membership.

Former U.S. and state representative Arlan Stangeland was one of only 11 dissenting votes on the flexible session bill when it was presented for final passage in the House.

"I didn't believe the change was necessary then, and I still don't," he said. "As long as we're allowed to be there, [in session], we'll find a reason to stay. It [the flexible session] has caused a move away from a citizen legislature, and toward a body of full-time, professional lawmakers."

The shift has caused some other changes that some may perceive as undesirable. Legislators' salaries have increased steadily, from about \$4,800 in

1972 to the current figure of \$27,979.

Likewise, the staff at the Legislature has increased. In 1972, there were only about 60 full-time House employees. Today, there are about 260.

But even Stangeland doesn't criticize the large staff increase. "Given the exponential increase of information, and the nature of today's complex issues, every one of those staff members is needed," he said.

While some look back to the biannual sessions with fondness, remembering the era as a more simple time, it could be argued that nothing has changed at all between then and now.

Indeed, an 1876 editorial in the *Chatfield Democrat* made the Legislature sound just as busy then as it is today.

"Important bills appear thick and fast, but of course needing such scrutiny as cannot be given. A member of standing is called upon every ten minutes . . . letters pouring in, even telegrams . . . all to be answered in a minute or two. Bills are being read, rolls called, members talking, and all working an average of eighteen hours a day. There is no wonder that strange laws are made."

— John T. Tschida

Time and Legislature at odds

The concept of time and the Minnesota Legislature have always been at odds.

To gain the upper hand, lawmakers have historically tinkered with the state Constitution to allow more time to complete their business, even going so far as to redefine a "legislative day."

When the state Constitution was adopted in 1857, no limit was placed on the number of days the Legislature could meet. Three years later, sessions were limited to 60 days. In 1877, lawmakers decided to meet every other year for 60 days. In 1888, the number of days was allowed to reach 90.

The length of sessions remained at a maximum of 90 days until 1962, when legislators placed the ceiling at 120 days. But 120 days then meant something completely different than 120 days today.

A day then was measured consecutively, meaning that the clock began ticking the moment the Legislature convened, excluding Sundays.

The adoption of the flexible session amendment in 1972 kept the 120-day limit and allowed that time to be spread over two years. But HF1 in 1973 redefined a legislative day.

It defined legislative day as just those days when either body meets in floor Session, and didn't include the days when only committees met.

So the clock now ticks only during floor sessions, giving the Legislature much more time to complete its business. Typically, early in a session, the House is called to order only twice a week.

It's also important to remember that the new 'flexible session' amendment didn't require that annual sessions be held; it simply allowed for their existence.

But there are some constraints on use of the 120 days. The Constitution also requires that the Legislature meet no later than the first Monday following the third Saturday in May.

That's the time the Legislature typically adjourns in the first year of the biennium; the time frame of the second year is constrained by the number of available "legislative days" left over from the first year and by the first-Monday-following-the-third-Saturday limit.

This "flexible" system is the only one like it in the country.

Thompson hopes to spur outstate economy

Rep. Loren P. Thompson (DFL-Waubun) used to market electronic optics for a defense industry company. These days he's running a busy resort complex on the White Earth Indian Reservation in western Minnesota.

But last November, he got himself another job: representing the people of District 10A, which includes parts of Becker and Otter Tail counties.

Thompson, who with his wife, Jane, in 1976 bought the Cedar Crest resort 30 miles north of Detroit Lakes, had just returned to Minnesota in 1986 when he was prodded into running for office by former state representative Janet Clark, a DFLer.

Thompson had left a job as a vice president with Boston-based Galileo Electrooptics Corp. to get more involved with the resort. But he soon found himself challenging Cal Larson for the District 10 Senate seat.

Thompson lost in the heavily IR district, but the contest whetted his appetite. He ran in 1988 for the District 10A seat and lost in a close race against Rep. Dennis Poppenhagen (IR-Detroit Lakes).

Last year the tide turned, and Thompson defeated Poppenhagen.

"I have never worked for anything so hard in my life," says Thompson, adding,



Loren P. Thompson

District 10A

Home: Waubun

Occupation: Resort operator

District traits: 10A, which is dotted with many lakes, is "agri-tourist" in nature and has a developing manufacturing and industrial base. Many tourists come from the Fargo area. The district voted for Bush-Quayle over Dukakis-Bentsen by a 56.4-percent-to-43.6 percent margin.

"I'm the first DFL representative to win Detroit Lakes."

Like most freshmen, he has spent most of his time learning the system. But, he adds, "I'm very excited about the potential."

Keeping in contact with constituents in his rural district, a three-hour drive from the Capitol, will be difficult, Thompson concedes. It's a logistical problem shared by many outstate representatives.

"It's a severe handicap," he says, referring to a continuing problem in outstate Minnesota. "Our constituents in rural Minnesota can't receive the same level of services as the metro [Twin Cities]."

Some people see Thompson as a political anomaly. He comes from the defense industry, traditionally one that's

tied more to Republican ideology, and now he's a small business owner. But he considers himself a "strong environmentalist," among other social concerns usually associated with the Democrats.

"I'm a fiscal conservative," Thompson says, "but when it comes to human issues, I'm a Democrat."

For his district, major concerns are economic development and the environment. Thompson's first choice for a committee assignment was the International Trade and Technology Division of the Economic Development Committee.

Using his background in the international marketing of defense-related products, Thompson says he wants to contribute "to expanding Minnesota's trade horizons."

It's a fact!

Ever get a tad queasy when climbing the oval staircase in the state Capitol? Ever feel like those stairs just aren't meant to hold too many people?

The staircase, designed by architect Cass Gilbert, was built on the "cantilever principle," a bold concept in Gilbert's day. The stairs are fastened on one end to a rigid vertical support inside the wall. Each stair literally hangs from the wall.

While some may prefer to hug the wall as they walk up or down the staircase, those more daring may peer over the handrail and have an unobstructed, and spectacular, view all the way down. Or up.



According to Capitol lore, when the Capitol Building opened at the turn of the century, people were wary about stepping onto a staircase with no visible means of support.

Newinski hopes to bridge partisanship

Rep. Dennis R. Newinski (IR-Maplewood) was active in politics for nearly 20 years before he decided to run for office. His involvement, however, was with the "other" party.

A DFLer until 1988, Newinski and his wife switched to the Independent-Republican Party in 1988.

"Our personal philosophies were more in line with the Republican Party," Newinski explains.

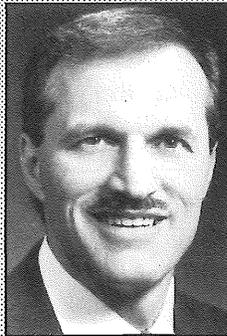
Newinski has definite ideas about the role of government. "Government has to facilitate and create an environment where people can develop to their full potential," he says. "I don't believe government should be in people's lives the way it is."

Soon after Newinski switched parties he found himself drafted as the District 54B IR candidate in 1988.

"As I was going through life, I never had ambition to be in elected office," Newinski says. He replaced the party's endorsed candidate, who had withdrawn from the race after receiving a job promotion.

With only 60 days to campaign, Newinski still ran an impressive race that year against incumbent Rep. Dick Kostohryz (DFL-North St. Paul), capturing 43 percent of the vote.

Keeping his campaign committee



Dennis R. Newinski

District 54B

Age: 47

Home: Maplewood

Occupation: Lead machinist

District traits: 54B, which includes North St. Paul and part of Maplewood, is heavily residential but includes significant commercial development. The district voted for Dukakis-Bentsen over Bush-Quayle by a 61.5-to-38.5 percent margin in 1988.

intact, Newinski mounted a new challenge in 1990 and managed to unseat the nine-term legislator by a 51.5 percent to 48.5 percent margin. Newinski credits his victory to hard work, plus the connections he has built up over the years volunteering for the Boy Scouts, the community theatre, and his church.

After touring the House following his victory, Newinski says he felt "the awesomeness" of responsibility: "I looked at it as a real honor because I really feel this is the greatest country on the earth."

His former life as a DFLer, Newinski believes, will help him work with his colleagues across the aisle.

"The barriers are broken down already," he says. "I'm not afraid to go over and talk to them."

As a 26-year employee of Northern

States Power Co., Newinski also has been involved with organized labor. He asked for, but lost, the AFL-CIO's endorsement in November's election. "As a Republican and being a member of labor, I hope I can help bridge the gap of working against each other," the lawmaker says.

In his district, Newinski says top concerns include education and taxes. "They're very fearful of funding during the shortfall," he says, referring to the predicted state budget crunch during the next biennium.

And like other representatives whose districts have experienced commercial-industrial development, Newinski isn't happy with the fiscal disparities law, which distributes tax proceeds from development-rich to development-poor communities in the Twin Cities.



Want to work for the state? You aren't alone. The Department of Employee Relations annually receives almost 120,000 job applications for classified positions, according to Deputy Commissioner Elaine Johnson. In an average year, only 2,000 of these people — about 1.6 percent — will become new state employees.

Free Parking at the Minnesota Zoological Garden is expected to draw even more visitors to the 500-acre Apple Valley site, says Kathryn Roberts, general director of the zoo. Return

visitors will also find a \$2 million coral reef exhibit in the works. Roberts told members of the Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 7 that a number of sharks and more than 2,500 tropical fish will be included in the display. The exhibit, scheduled for unveiling this May, was funded in part by private donations. The annual operating budget for the zoo is \$8.4 million, with over 25 percent of this state appropriation returned to the general fund through gate receipts.

A bill that would create a one-year window under which small businesses would be allowed to enroll in group health insurance plans didn't sit well with Rep. Gloria Segal (DFL-St. Louis Park) when it was revealed the proposal (HF208) excluded mental health services. "What this message says is: if you're

depressed, if you're manic depressive, if you're schizophrenic, you better walk in front of a car and get hit by a car because then your coverage is going to kick in," Segal told members of the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee on Feb. 7. "I find it disgusting and appalling that the health insurers in today's climate still don't recognize that people [with mental illness] have a legitimate illness and that they are entitled to go to a psychiatrist."

Health professionals would be required to report wounds they suspect were caused during the commission of a crime if a bill approved Feb. 6 by the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Division becomes law. The proposal (HF120) is sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth).

On the way . . .

Lambert brings eclectic background to Capitol

FACES
AT THE
CAPITOL

A visit to the Twin Cities while heading to California turned into a permanent change of address for LeClair "Lee" Lambert, who has the dual titles of Coordinator of Educational Programs and Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

But although his stop in St. Paul may have been by chance, Lambert seems tailor-made for the job of running the House's educational programs.

Watch Lambert excite students enrolled in his high school page and college intern programs, and it's clear he once worked as a teacher.

"He's one of the most intelligent guys I've ever met," says student Wayne Anderson of Anoka. "Lee is so organized, so diverse."

Lambert brings to life what, for many, is the most boring of topics: government. And perhaps that's because Lambert's life has been anything but boring.

"Eclectic background" is the phrase often used by people in describing Lambert, who was born in Florida and grew up on Long Island. He has bachelor's degrees in English literature and biology, and a master's in art history.

He attended Harvard University, Hampton University in Virginia, and the University of Munich in Germany. He taught at a school for American dependents in Libya.

He managed an African-American cultural center and museum in Minneapolis, and worked in the publishing business for Time Inc. and Holt-Rinehart-Winston. He also was an editor-writer for the National Foundation of the March of Dimes.

He even lived in Europe for two years, although he only intended to visit for three months. It was at one of his jobs in New York when wanderlust struck again.

"I was undecided about where to move," he says, explaining how he stopped in Minnesota to visit a friend while on his way to California.

"That was in mid-October of 1973," he says. "I never left."

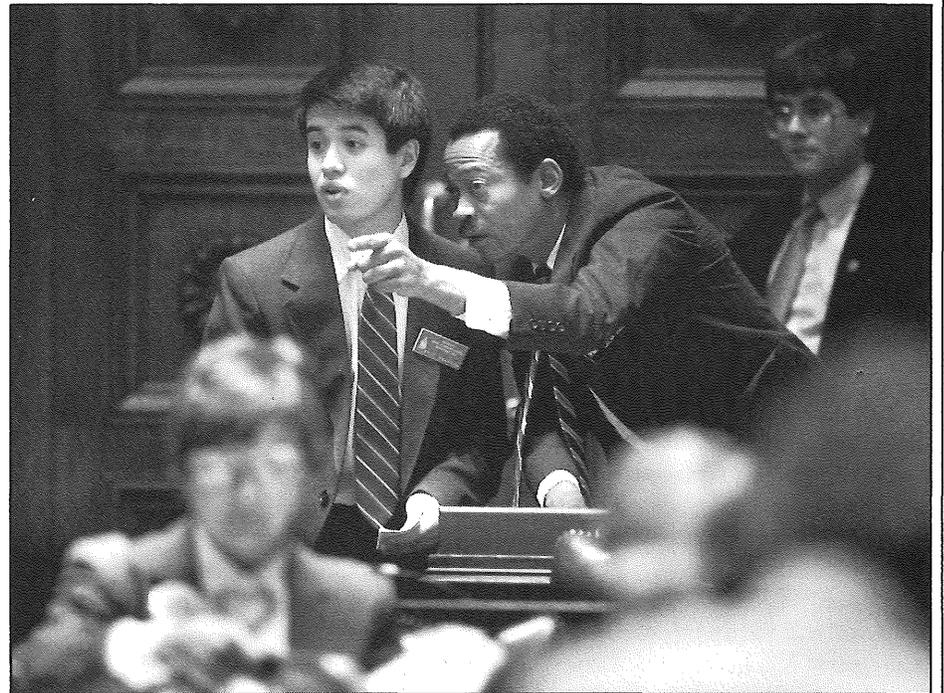
But he says it was while working a second time for the St. Paul Urban

League, and after the African-American museum closed in 1985, that he heard of employment opportunities with the House.

He applied for two jobs — one as a DFL caseworker and the other his current position — and chose the latter because

together," he says.

Adds student Marc Fredson of Esko, "It's been fun to see the inside workings of everything. You see the chamber and the gavel and all that business on TV, but you don't realize there are many, many people behind the scenes making



Lee Lambert, educational programs coordinator, directed a high school page on the floor of the House chamber.

it was broader in scope.

"I had been a teacher and I would still be working with young people," he says.

Each session since 1987, between 130 and 170 high school pages spend a week each at the Capitol learning firsthand about the legislative process. And about 35 or so college interns work each year under the program.

But about 500 students apply each year to enroll in the program, a testament to its popularity.

"It opened my eyes that the government is there for me," says student Anita Koosman of Appleton. "It's not so out of reach anymore."

Lambert says the program gives students a chance to see a side of the Legislature that can't be presented in the classroom.

"They see the process with the emphasis on the balance of metro and rural legislators, male and female, doing things

decisions — not just the few who are down on the floor."

Likewise, Lambert says he, too, has been intrigued by the process.

He says one of his chief concerns is "refining and reforming the basic goal to ensure that we better the human condition of all people."

—Nicole Debevec

Feb. 13, 1857

On this day, Isanti County, whose name is derived from the Izaty Indians, was established. Izaty was an ancient name for the Santee Indians, who were members of the Dakota nation.

Bill Introductions

HF0174-HF0263

Monday, Feb. 4

HF0174—Ozment (IR)

Judiciary

Disorderly conduct to include offensive, obscene, or abusive language.

HF0175—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education

Elementary school guidance counselors authorized for elementary schools.

HF0176—Bettermann (IR)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Flag desecration; memorializes Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF0177—Olsen, S. (IR)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Flag desecration; memorializes Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF0178—Kelso (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Abstracter liability insurance minimum increased.

HF0179—Kelso (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Dogs; greyhound races or training with live lure or bait prohibited.

HF0180—Solberg (DFL)

Judiciary

Medical personnel authorized to divulge certain information in criminal cases involving bodily harm.

HF0181—Sparby (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Petroleum tank release cleanup account reimbursement restricted.

HF0182—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medicare certification percentage requirement eliminated for nursing homes.

HF0183—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Penalty & medical assistance applicant deemed eligible for assistance if application is not processed within 45 days after submission.

HF0184—McEachern (DFL)

Education

Open enrollment deadlines changed.

HF0185—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Case management alternatives authorized for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.

HF0186—Orenstein (DFL)

Taxes

Wine sold for sacramental purposes exempted from taxation.

HF0187—Kahn (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland enhancement, preservation, and protection act of 1991 adopted.

HF0188—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland enhancement, preservation, and protection act of 1991 adopted.

HF0189—Winter (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Affirmative action plans to eliminate negative stereotypes of persons hired and promoted and to prohibit informing unsuccessful applicants of rejection due to affirmative action purposes.

HF0190—Swenson (IR)

Governmental Operations

St. Paul water utility employee authorized to purchase military and prior service credit in the public employees retirement association.

HF0191—Swenson (IR)

Judiciary

Driving while intoxicated; forfeiture of property provided.

HF0192—Jaros (DFL)

Transportation

Duluth transit authority authorized to continue transporting secondary school students.

HF0193—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

General assistance or supplemental aid negotiated agreement deadline delayed until March 1, 1991.

HF0194—Beard (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Absentee ballots prepared & delivered at least 40 days before an election.

HF0195—Beard (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

POW/MIA special investigation; memorializing Congress to continue funding.

HF0196—Beard (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

POW/MIA truth bill; memorializes Congress to enact the POW/MIA truth bill.

HF0197—Dawkins (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Birth records; eliminates restrictions on disclosing birth records of children born to unmarried women.

HF0198—O'Connor (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Health care plan for uninsured and underinsured established and money appropriated.

HF0199—Bauerly (DFL)

Education

Handicapped accessibility; school districts authorized to use health and safety revenue to make facilities accessible.

HF0200—Peterson (DFL)

Judiciary

Counties with only one chambered judge to retain the judicial position.

HF0201—Gutknecht (IR)

Judiciary

Media agencies provided access to information on juveniles involved in traffic accidents.

HF0202—Rukavina (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Public employees to include certain part-time employees.

HF0203—Sparby (DFL)

Transportation

State highways designated in wild, scenic, and recreational river corridors.

HF0204—McPherson (IR)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Legislative and executive service and pensions limited and constitutional amendment provided.

HF0205—Skoglund (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Military personnel not discriminated against in buying life insurance.

HF0206—Frederick (IR)

Agriculture

Board of regents memorialized to postpone its decision on whether to close the Waseca campus.

HF0207—Jefferson (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Occupational and professional boards created and regulated.

HF0208—Simoneau (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Small employer health benefit act of 1991 adopted.

Thursday, Feb. 7**HF0209—Jacobs (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

Telephone service subscribers allowed to proscribe commercial telephone calls.

HF0210—Uphus (IR)**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislative and constitutional officer salaries reduced ten percent.

HF0211—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Education**

High school league expenditures regulated.

HF0212—Rukavina (DFL)**Education**

Teachers; post-secondary teachers to teach a minimum of 12 credit hours per quarter.

HF0213—Cooper (DFL)**Agriculture**

Ethanol use promotion appropriated money.

HF0214—Cooper (DFL)**Agriculture**

Agricultural societies appropriated money.

HF0215—Weaver (IR)**Regulated Industries**

Telephone service subscribers allowed to proscribe commercial telephone calls.

HF0216—Gruenes (IR)**Health & Human Services**

Counties to downsize community intermediate care facilities and money appropriated.

HF0217—Carruthers (DFL)**Commerce**

Interior designers licensed and regulated and money appropriated.

HF0218—Bauerly (DFL)**Commerce**

Contractors, remodelers, and specialty contractors licensed and regulated and money appropriated.

HF0219—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Road maintenance vehicles purchased by towns exempted from motor vehicle excise tax.

HF0220—Schreiber (IR)**Taxes**

Capital equipment tax exemption extended to repair and storage equipment.

HF0221—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Taxes**

Replacement and storage equipment sales tax decreased.

HF0222—Krueger (DFL)**Economic Development**

International trade service centers established and money appropriated.

HF0223—Bertram (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Retirement benefits of judges reduced by half upon receipt of social security benefits.

HF0224—Kinkel (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Veterans of Iraq conflict to receive bonuses.

HF0225—Dorn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Mankato; survivors of deceased firefighter provided benefits.

HF0226—Dawkins (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Language translation services included as medical expense for workers' compensation.

HF0227—Cooper (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Physician loan forgiveness program modified and medical assistance reimbursement increased with money appropriated.

HF0228—Hasskamp (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Public waters along wooded areas protected by filter strips.

HF0229—Frederick (IR)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Bets in certain card games considered lawful.

HF0230—Waltman (IR)**Education**

Referendum authorized before school district consolidation.

HF0231—Waltman (IR)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Wabasha county not to pay certain reassessment costs.

HF0232—Koppendrayer (IR)**Taxes**

Isle exempted from certain tax increment financing provisions.

HF0233—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Patient rights include making advance declarations regarding mental health treatment.

HF0234—Dawkins (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Language translation services included as medical expense for workers' compensation.

HF0235—Cooper (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Emergency medical service projects provided grants.

HF0236—Solberg (DFL)**Judiciary**

Survey and inspection of land authorized before eminent domain proceedings begin.

HF0237—Lasley (DFL)**Transportation**

Roads; towns to receive notice of proposed use as temporary trunk highway detours or haul roads and restoration provided.

HF0238—Wejzman (DFL)**Commerce**

Credit card number not to be used for check cashing.

HF0239—Carruthers (DFL)**Judiciary**

Intentionally disarming of a peace officer provided penalty.

HF0240—Hausman (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Pension and retirement plans studied for portability and coordination.

HF0241—Welle (DFL)**Education**

Independent school district No. 345, New London-Spicer, capital loan approved.

HF0242—Welle (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Counties provided fiscal limitations for meeting social service mandates.

HF0243—Reding (DFL)**Transportation**

Service signs authorized along interstate highways.

HF0244—Murphy (DFL)**Transportation**

School bus traffic regulations provided.

HF0245—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Kittson and Marshall counties authorized to consolidate school districts.

HF0246—Tunheim (DFL)

Judiciary

Canadian consumption card allowed as proof of age for purchasing or consuming alcohol.

HF0247—Vellenga (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Optometrists certified to prescribe legend drugs.

HF0248—Lasley (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Anoka county authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF0249—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Education

School district authority repealed to transfer money from the general fund to the community service fund for certain TRA and FICA purposes.

HF0250—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Education

Independent school district No. 318, Grand Rapids, to recognize certain money for outcome-based learning programs.

HF0251—Solberg (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Congregate and home-delivered meals authorized supplemental funds with money appropriated.

HF0252—Brown (DFL)

Taxes

Seeds, trees, fertilizers, and herbicides purchased for use by farmers in the conservation reserve program exempted from sales tax.

HF0253—Vellenga (DFL)

Judiciary

Rebuttable presumption provided in referring certain juvenile offenders to adult court for criminal prosecution.

HF0254—Brown (DFL)

Taxes

Swift county authorized increased special levy for income maintenance and social service costs.

HF0255—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Convalescent and nursing care facilities to retain hospital-attached status for reimbursement for services.

HF0256—Reding (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Establish program for enhancement, preservation, and protection of wetlands within state.

HF0257—Pugh (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Establish program for enhancement, preservation, and protection of wetlands within state.

HF0258—Pugh (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Dakota county authorized mental health services delivery system pilot project with money appropriated.

HF0259—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education

Cooperation and combination revenue limit increased.

HF0260—Farrell (DFL)

Judiciary

Writ of certiorari in civil case provided security for costs.

HF0261—Begich (DFL)

Judiciary

Right to keep and bear arms not to be abridged.

HF0262—Pelowski (DFL)

Economic Development

Capital access program account funds used to pay appropriate claims.

HF0263—Begich (DFL)

Judiciary

Right to keep and bear arms not to be abridged.



Loss of campaign signs might be covered by homeowner's insurance, members of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee learned Feb. 6. Who cares? Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) for one. Several years ago, Jacobs told representatives of the St. Paul Companies that campaign signs stored in a friend's garage were destroyed by fire. He was told he couldn't recover on the \$1,000 loss. But St. Paul Company officials, who presented a primer on insurance to the committee, said Jacobs — or his campaign committee — should have collected.

Do you know?

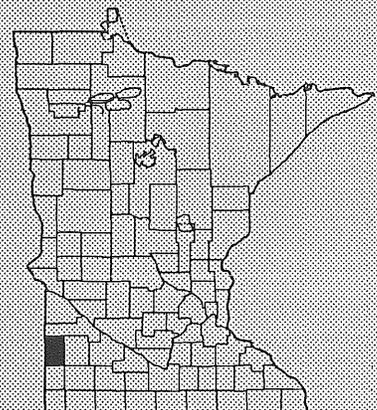
If Abraham Lincoln was such a beloved president, why did it take Minnesota four tries to name a county after him?

Four years *before* Lincoln was assassinated in Washington, D.C., the Legislature tried to break off the northeast corner of Renville County and rename it Lincoln County. The voters of Renville County, however, rejected the proposal in 1861.

Five years later, in 1866, the Legislature renamed Rock County to Lincoln, but Rock residents ignored the change. The Legislature tried again in 1870 to take a chunk of Renville County and name it for Lincoln, but the measure once again failed at the ballot box.

Finally, in 1873, by the slim majority of 36 voters, residents of Lyon County approved splitting off the western half of the county to form Lincoln County. Editorializing in favor of the split, *The Prairie Schooner* of Marshall, the new seat of Lyon County, chose to extol the practical benefits of the split rather than Lincoln the man:

"The division will result in a reduction of taxation, secure the better management of local interests and result in the convenience of the public generally."



Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 11-15, 1991

Committee Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public.

MONDAY, Feb. 11

8 a.m.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Conclusion of House Research report on student retention. Timely completion overview: Higher Education Coordinating Board and the higher education systems.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources studies: CO₂ study; and Grand Portage State Park.

Subcommittee on School Facilities/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Update: Cooperation and combination; Maximum Effort School Loan Program; and health and safety inspections.

8:30 a.m.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Department of Corrections: Review of population forecasts and building needs.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Agency overview: Department of Administration.

10 a.m.

Subcommittee on Data Privacy/ JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: Background on data privacy in Minnesota. Robert Tennessen, attorney and former state representative. Mark Anfinson, Minnesota Newspaper Association. House Research.

Subcommittee on Family Law/ JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF0078 (Solberg) Judicial administration fees and procedures changed.

Van Brostrum, court administrator, Lyon County. Bruce Ahlgren, court administrator, Carlton County. (Meeting will be brief; please be on time.)

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: Department of Administration: Technologies in telecommunications. Department of State Planning: Internationalization of telecommunications.

12:30 p.m.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Tour
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Tour of Saturn School, St. Paul. (Members are to meet in front of the State Office Building at 12:15 p.m. for transportation to the school. The division will return at 2 p.m.)

Banking Division/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

Agenda: Farm Credit Association, Larry Buegler; Farmers Home Administration, Russ Bjorhus; First Bank System, Cheryl Rantala; and Norwest Bank System, John Berg.

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Guiding principle presentations. Roger Head (Indian Affairs Council); Dr. Albert DeLeon (Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans). Tenant issues: Harold Turner (Legal Services Advocacy). Rural Minnesota: Kathy Kremer (SE Minnesota Housing Network Project). Possible sources of funding: Rep. Andy Dawkins and Kathy Novak, House Research.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joseph Begich

Agenda: Jane Brown, commissioner, Jobs & Training. John Lennes, commissioner, Labor & Industry.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

7 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Public hearing on the Waseca closing issue. HF0022 (Kalis) University of Minnesota Board of Regents memorialized to refrain from closing its Waseca campus.

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF0172 (Johnson, A.) Manufactured home park closure notice required and residents right to purchase provided.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12

8 a.m.

**Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Overview: Department of Commerce.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Reports on consumer information and teacher education, presented by Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the State University System.

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Tour

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Tour of Metro Region Department of Natural Resources Fish Hatchery.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Department of Human Services on AFDC standard of need study.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: Continuation: Use of Unclassified State Civil Service positions: Craig Ayers, assoc. vice chancellor for Labor Employee Relations, State University System. Bernadine Bryant, Director of Employee Relations, Community College System. Emil Jalonen, business representative, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees.

**Subcommittee on State Taxes
& Tax Laws/
TAXES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: Discussion of 1990 Federal Tax Legislation: OBRA.

8:15 a.m.

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Agency overview: State Auditor's Office.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF0104 (Milbert) Automatic garage door opening systems regulated and warning label required.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL
RESOURCES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF0001 (Munger) Wetland enhancement, preservation, and protection act of 1991. (continuation)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: Presentation of nursing home report.

12 noon

Legislative Water Commission

15 Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steve Morse

Agenda: State Planning and EQB/WRC presentation of the State Water Plan. Report by Department of Natural Resources on conversion of once-through cooling systems; 1991 legislation; wetlands legislation; and Groundwater Act implementation.

12:30 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

Agenda: Regional Development Commissions: Kevin Walli, Region 3; Randy Jargenson, Region 8; and Jack King, Region 9. URAP: Steve Reckers, State Planning; Lorrie Louder, Minneapolis; and Bonnie Balach, St. Paul.

Elections Division/

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Linda Scheid

Agenda: Ethical Practices Board, Doug Ewald, chair. Overview of the 1990 elections and the board's 1991 recommendations. Department of Revenue, John Haugen, attorney, Political Contribution Refund Program.

Veterans Affairs Division/

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: HF0059 (Garcia) State employees called to active duty as part of Operation Desert Shield to receive difference between active duty military pay and state employee pay and money appropriated.

HF0097 (Thompson) Persian Gulf; President and Congress to express Minnesota's support for troops.

2 p.m.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: AFDC Housing tour.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Game & Fish/
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL
RESOURCES**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Overview of the Fish and Wildlife Division of Department of Natural Resources: Roger Holmes, director, and section chiefs.

**Subcommittee on Civil Law/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF0081 (Orfield) Name change in mortgage satisfaction or release recital considered evidence. HF0089 (Welle) Punitive damages not to be collected if stolen property is recovered.

HF0148 (Dawkins) Uniform probate code small estate value increased to \$10,000.

REDISTRICTING

400S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: Task Force on Post Redistricting activity update: Tom Durand, Secretary of State's Office. Review schedule of outstate hearings. Review first draft of proposed standards: Mark Shepard, House Research.

3:30 p.m.

St Paul Delegation

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein
Agenda: Continuation of presentations from previous meeting.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13

7:45 a.m.

**Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
 APPROPRIATIONS**

World Trade Center, 3rd Floor
 Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: Minnesota World Trade Center.

8 a.m.

**Education Division/
 APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Library study: Higher Education Advisory Council. MINITEX overview: Higher Education Coordinating Board. Update on Library Committee report: State University System.

**Environment & Natural Resources
 Division/
 APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: LCMR budget hearings.

**Human Resources Division/
 APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of Health Care Access Commission report.

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern
Agenda: Outcome-based education and the Office of Educational Leadership.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: Overview: Department of Administration.

10 a.m.

**Higher Education Division/
 EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: Minnesota State University Student Association: Brief presentation on student concerns. The University of Minnesota: Presentation on student placements for certain two and four year degree programs. How many graduated, how many found jobs, how much it cost the system, and future placement outlook. State University System: Presentation on student placements for two and four degree programs. How many graduated, how many found jobs, how much it cost the system, and future placement outlook.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
 INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of property/casualty insurance overview from the Feb. 6 meeting (specifically covering auto/"no fault" insurance). Health insurance overview.

**Criminal Justice Division/
 JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Gangs.

12:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Agriculture Finance/
 AGRICULTURE**

300N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby
Agenda: Rural Finance Authority: Futures report, Andrew Walters, Gordon Stobb and Paul Sobocinski. Comments: Bill Greiner, director, Iowa Agriculture Development Authority.

ENERGY

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Presentation of legislative agendas: Energy Cents Coalition, Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy. Committee discussion about a resolution to Congress about federal low-income home assistance programs.

**Subcommittee on Data Privacy/
 JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers
Agenda: Background on data privacy in Minnesota. Joel Jamnik, Minnesota League of Cities. Thomas Deans, Minnesota School Board Association. Don Gemberling, Minnesota State Data Practices Division.

TRANSPORTATION

Tour
 Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Tour of the truck terminal in Roseville. The bus departs from the front of the State Office Building at 12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

**Education Finance Division/
 EDUCATION**

Tour
 Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson
Agenda: Division members are invited to tour the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley. (Members are asked to contact the chair if they wish to participate.)

Subcommittee on Standards & Regulations/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: HF0033 (Sviggum) Hospital payment rates and payment rate determinations appeals excluded from retroactive effect. (Note: This meeting will last only 1/2 hour.)

**Subcommittee on Redistricting/
Legislative Coordinating Commission**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

THURSDAY, Feb. 14

8 a.m.

**Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Center of Transportation, Richard Braun, director.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: University of Minnesota reallocations.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/APPROPRIATIONS
& State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. David Battaglia & Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: PlanGraphics GIS studies.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: Department of Administration: State buildings, lease or own issue.

**Subcommittee on State Taxes & Tax
Laws/TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: Department of Revenue overview: Study on Dissemination of Administrative Determinations; and study on Arbitration of Tax Disputes.

8:30 a.m.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
& Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Lee Greenfield & Ken Nelson

Agenda: Third party payment programs including Medical Assistance, Special Education; early childhood health screening.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: To be announced.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL
RESOURCES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF0018 (Anderson, R.) Establishing Glendalough state park. HF0128 (Reding) Water detention devices or practices required for developments covering more than one acre.

**Subcommittee on Health Care Access
& Delivery/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

Agenda: HF0130 (Jaros) Duluth seaway port authority employees extended coverage under the state employees insurance plan.

12:30 p.m.

**International Trade & Technology
Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: University of Minnesota technology transfer.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: George Andersen, director, Minnesota State Lottery. Richard Krueger, executive director, Minnesota Racing Commission.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Tour of the Metropolitan Sports Facility Commission offices.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

4 p.m.

**Permanent School Fund Advisory
Committee**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Land exchange proposals, part 2.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15

12:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Soil
& Water Resources/
AGRICULTURE**

City Council Chambers,

St. Cloud City Hall,

400 2nd St. S.

Chr. Rep. Jeff Bertram

Agenda: Public hearing concerning wetlands legislation.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: Orientation to judicial system for all new legislators. Chief Justice Sandy Keith, Minnesota Supreme Court; Chief Judge Wozniak, Minnesota Court of Appeals; Judge Lawrence Collins, chair, Conference of Chief Judges; Judge Thomas Howe, president-elect, Minnesota District Judges Association; Judge Kevin Burke, Minnesota Fourth Judicial District (Hennepin County); and Sue Dosal, state court administrator.

Minnesota House of Representatives
 Public Information Office
 175 State Office Building • St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
 (612) 296-2146 1-800-657-3550

Speaker of the House: Robert Vanasek
 Majority Leader: Dee Long
 Minority Leader: Terry Dempsey

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota agriculture in 1987

Number of farms	85,079
Leading cash crop	Corn
Number of cash grain farms	31,441
Number of dairy farms	14,334
Number of vegetable and melon farms	682
Number of farmland acres	26,573,813
Average size of farm	312 acres
Average age of farm operator	48.5 years
Value of agricultural products sold	\$5.7 billion
Value of hogs marketed in 1969	\$5.2 million
Value of hogs marketed in 1987	\$7.2 million
National ranking in sugar beet production	1st
National ranking in turkey production	2nd
National ranking in soybeans and hogs	3rd
National ranking in dairy production	4th

Source: 1991 Economic Report to the Governor

For general information, call:
House Information Office
 (612) 296-2146 or
 1-800-657-3550

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24-Hour Recorded Information

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