TAX COMMITTEE

The thirty-second meeting of the House Tax Committee was called to order by Chairman Gordon O. Voss at 8:10 a.m. on November 16, 1987 in Room E124 of the Alexandria Technical Institute. The clerk recorded the attendance. The following members were present:

Voss, Chair
Begich
Blatz
Brown
Dauner
Frerichs
Kelly
Long
Marsh
McKasy
McLaughlin
Minne
Nelson
Neuenschwander
Ogren
Onnen
Pauly
Peterson
Rest
Schreiber
Scheid
Skoglund
Sviggum
Valento
Vanasek
Welle
Wynia

The following members were excused:

Bennett
Dempsey
Himle
Jacobs
Ogren
Onnen
Pauly
Peterson
Rest
Scheid
Skoglund
Sviggum
Valento
Vanasek
Welle
Wynia
Jaros
Osthoff
Redalen

Chairman Voss announced the purpose of the meeting was to hear public testimony on all aspects of the Omnibus Tax Bill of 1987. The members of the committee introduced themselves to the audience and indicated their legislative districts. Voss announced the schedule of future meetings of the committee and described the handout prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee staff relating to the recent stock market downturn and its implications for the state revenue forecast.

Voss asked for comments from the audience. Mr. George Wynn of Wadena, Minnesota, testified in opposition to the tax on IRA contributions.

An unidentified person asked questions on the withdrawal of group health coverage from members residing in rural Minnesota. Representative Wynia responded to the questions.

Larry Gasparling, retired railroad employee, urged the legislators to consider several changes in budget priorities, organization, and efficiencies in state government. He expressed opposition to a state lottery, increased state spending, raises in legislative salaries and urged consolidation of schools and creative ways to streamline governmental services.

Hilda Betterman, an educator from Brandon, Minnesota, urged reinstatement of MVET funding and indicated the effects of the cuts on rural highway maintenance.

Dauphine Bakke, Alexandria, asked questions about bonding bills; i.e. what they contained and who was responsible for them. Her questions were answered by various members of the committee.

Lill Ortondahl, a nurse from Osakis, Minnesota, suggested several items to be included in the next bonding bill, including inter-active programs for the Alexandria area schools, computer technology courses, and staff and school sharing programs.

Bob Close, Real Estate Broker from Alexandria, discussed concerns with non-homestead rental property taxation issues.

Tony Schneider, retired banker from the Alexandria area, expressed opposition to recent bonding bills and state subsidized economic development.

Kayleen Kroneke, a teacher at the Alexandria ATI, indicated concerns with the bonding bills and retirement taxing issues.

Bob Filson, Administrator for the City of Mora, discussed a number of issues and provided the members with copies of three documents relating local government operating expenses.
and funding problems.

Representative Voss thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns with the Tax Committee members. Representative Welle moved approval of the minutes from the previous meeting as presented by the clerk. Motion carried.

Chairman Voss adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Gordon O. Voss, Chair

Eunice C. Groschen, Clerk