

RECESS

Mr. Moe, R.D. moved that the Senate do now recess subject to the call of the President. The motion prevailed.

After a brief recess, the President called the Senate to order.

CALL OF THE SENATE

Mr. Moe, R.D. imposed a call of the Senate. The Sergeant at Arms was instructed to bring in the absent members.

Without objection, the Senate reverted to the Orders of Business of Executive and Official Communications and Messages From the House.

EXECUTIVE AND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was received.

May 12, 1995

The Honorable Allan H. Spear
President of the Senate

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and I am returning Chapter 160, Senate File 1402/House File 1524, a bill that would establish a state employee suggestion program. The legislature has spent time and energy to present to me a bill that would put into Minnesota Statutes language that would mandate how an employee offers suggestions to her or his employer. This picayune bill is entirely unnecessary.

Since 1991, our administration has made it part of our mission to empower state employees. They have offered numerous insightful recommendations. For example, as a part of the CORE Commission in 1991 when we sought input on how employees - not just supervisors - could perform their duties more effectively and efficiently, we received a tremendous positive reaction. As a direct result of the over 1,000 individual responses, taxpayers have saved roughly \$18 million. This was done without legislation.

I am perfectly confident in the ability of state employees in the executive branch to continue to offer advice as to how state government can operate more efficiently and productively. It has been a policy of my administration to actively solicit employee input and involve them in the operation of their agencies. However, this legislation would require that suggestions go directly to legislative oversight committees, not the people responsible for responding and acting upon the suggestion in a timely fashion. To presume, as this bill does, that state employees are not capable of making even so much as a suggestion without following a step-by-step, inflexible formula, devised in St. Paul, is precisely the type of micro-management that is so frustrating to state employees. Even Rube Goldberg would have found this bewildering. I believe we should continue to empower employees, not restrain them further.

This bill is a solution in desperate search of a problem. Bills of this nature, mandating the exact steps as to how an employee makes a suggestion on how to improve service, are senseless. Minnesota taxpayers demand and deserve better.

Warmest regards,
Arne H. Carlson, Governor

Mr. Moe, R.D. moved that S.F. No. 1402 and the veto message thereon be laid on the table. The motion prevailed.