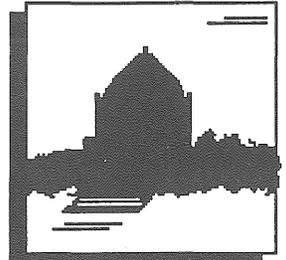


# MINI-SESSION REPORT

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER 23, 1987



## Metro Area

### Facts about cities, counties

- Twin Cities Metro Area population (April 1, 1985\*): 2,086,350 (an approximate increase of 100,000 since 1980)
- Metropolitan counties in order of population (1985\*):

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Hennepin   | 966,150 |
| Ramsey     | 468,870 |
| Dakota     | 220,680 |
| Anoka      | 215,550 |
| Washington | 124,630 |
| Scott      | 49,900  |
| Carver     | 40,570  |
- Approximately 87.1 percent of the region's population lived in Hennepin and Ramsey counties in 1950; approximately 69 percent lived there in 1985\*
- Fastest growing county in the region: Dakota, estimated 26,401 population (13.6 percent) increase between 1980-85
- Cities with largest population gains between 1980-85\*: Eagan, Eden Prairie, Plymouth, Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park, Coon Rapids, Blaine, Apple Valley, Burnsville

\* Data for 1980 drawn from 1980 census; population and related figures for 1985 are Council estimates

Source: *1985 Population Estimates and Trends in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area*, by Dorothy Oatman. Metropolitan Council Data-Log, Social and Demographic Report, Publication No. 620-86-062, May 1986

## INSIDE:

- Mini-Session highlights, committee action, photos
- Legislative Commissions--interim update



The Legislative Audit Commission, a panel of representatives and senators, hears status reports on program evaluations and financial audits at the October mini-session in St. Paul. (See Legislative Commissions, page 8)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Tax relief

The Taxes Committee held an open mike forum Oct. 14 to hear from citizens about the impacts of the 1987 Omnibus Tax bill.

While hundreds of Minnesotans telephoned or wrote letters to legislators about the cuts in their property tax relief checks, 84-year-old Violet Heidorn registered her complaints face to face with members of the Taxes Committee.

"When I received my renter's credit check, I was really shocked by what they took out of it," Heidorn told the committee. "I was suppose to get \$209. I got \$140. That's quite a cut," she says.

Heidorn and other interest groups are pressing legislators to restore property tax relief cuts and to reduce taxes.

"If there's a surplus, the first call on those dollars should be to undo the harm that was done last year," says Wayne Cox of Citizens for Tax Justice. The Legislature should restore the renters' credit cuts and remove the regressive portions of the sales tax extensions, he says.

Cox, in his closing remarks, suggested legislators rethink the calls on some of the surplus dollars.

Others who testified called on legislators to provide fair taxation for the elderly and to examine the property tax burden that some small resorts now face. Local government officials voiced opposition to the new three percent limit on property tax levies; a union representative spoke out against the taxing of pension income.

The Taxes Committee will continue hearings on the tax changes enacted in 1987.

## Adolescent Health Survey

Over 36,000 Minnesota public school students (grades 7-12) participated in the Adolescent Health Survey (AHS) during the 1986-87 school year. Survey results prompted discussion in two House committees during the October mini-session:

### Education concerns

Lack of information about young people's problems is a problem to those trying to assess threats to adolescent health, Lois Geer, director, Adolescent Health Program Database Project, told the Education Committee Oct. 14. So, with a federal government grant, the University of Minnesota Adolescent Health Program teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Health to pull together a system to collect and organize state data on adolescents.

The project's overall goal, according to Geer, is to provide data, both statewide and area-specific, to allow parents, educators, health planners, clergy, and policy makers to develop strategies to enhance adolescent health.

School districts, parents, and students could choose not to participate. But only about five percent of the people whom survey facilitators asked to participate said no.

AHS topics included: perceived health status, health care usage, mental health, nutrition, eating behavior, body image, sexual activity and sexual identity, drug and alcohol usage, delinquency, risk-taking behavior, worries and concerns, feelings about family life, relations with the adult world, and sources of help for problems.

The survey asked questions such as: How do you feel about going to school? During the last month, how much has your health worried or concerned you? How often do you use cigarettes (chewing tobacco, beer/wine, hard liquor, marijuana, look-alike drugs...) without a doctor telling

you to? Have you ever had sexual intercourse? How often do you wear a seatbelt when you drive or ride in a motor vehicle? How happy or satisfied or pleased have you been with your personal life during the past month?

The Education Committee received the project's preliminary report at this meeting. The committee plans to hold further hearings next year when policy conclusions become available.

### Health care concerns

The Physical/Mental Health Subcommittee of the Health and Human Services Committee, Oct. 16, heard testimony from Dr. Michael Resnick, director of Research for the University's Adolescent Health Program.

Resnick says, approximately 10 percent of the more than 36,000 students taking part in the Adolescent Health Survey indicated that they had tried suicide. Also, about 15 percent of the males surveyed and 26 percent of the females said they'd had thoughts of killing themselves in the previous month, says Resnick.

Dr. Paul Gunderson, director, Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, told the committee while suicide ranks as the third leading cause of death for adolescents nationally, it ranks second in Minnesota.

A "terrible stigma" keeps young people from seeking help for emotional problems, says Dr. John Eichten, director, Adolescent Psychology, Mercy Medical Center. He points out that a leg in a cast attracts sympathy and interest, while a return from psychiatric treatment gets embarrassed silence. Eichten says that we should applaud the fact that someone has identified a problem and sought help, and the school system should cultivate a positive response throughout the school system. Adults need to encourage and tell young people that it's OK to see a mental health care professional, he says.

Cultural sensitivity is crucial in the delivery of services, according to

Dr. Dave Sanders, unit coordinator, Child and Adolescent Services, Hennepin County Mental Health Center. He says many white service providers are not trained to work with non-white populations, and in fact, prefer to work with white middle class kids.

The subcommittee amended and recommended passage of HF1653 (Segal, DFL-St. Louis Park), a bill that would require the Department of Human Services, together with the Departments of Education and Health, to create a plan for a unified, accountable, comprehensive mental health services system for children. The Department of Human Services would report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 1988.

The bill will go to the full committee for further hearings.

## Interest buydown program

Assessment of the state-run interest buydown program the Legislature extended for one more year shows that, to date, over 4,000 borrowers have applied for the low-interest loans.

On Oct. 15, Commissioner of Commerce Mike Hatch, reported to the Agriculture Committee that the number of loan applications has dropped for various reasons; the average loan amount is about \$46,000; the average interest costs went down to about 6.85 percent; debt-to-asset ratios balanced out at about 72 percent; and about 300 lenders are taking part.

In addition to the application drop, Hatch says the encumbered amount for interest went down from an expected \$18 million to an actual \$6.2 million. And it looks like \$15 million will remain in the budget, he says.

Legislators say they would like to keep the money for other farm support programs. Some say they would like to extend the buydown program for another year.

Hatch will meet with legislators again in January to discuss buydown program effects on the farm economy.

## Environmental trust fund

"The air we breathe and the water we drink aren't luxuries that we can pay for when we have money and cut back on when we don't," says Pollution Control Agency Director Tom Kalitowski. He, and several others representing state departments, agencies, and citizen organizations concerned with the environment, testified in favor of creating an environmental trust fund, before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Oct. 15.

Chair Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) brought the proposed "Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund" idea to the committee. He suggests that the state set aside approximately \$100 million annually (one percent of the corporate and individual income tax and sales tax revenues the state collects, plus four cents of the current cigarette tax) to fund the proposal. When the trust fund balance exceeds \$1 billion, he says, its board of trustees would use interest the fund earns to pay for environmental programs.

Munger stressed that his proposal would authorize the trustees to spend trust fund money only on projects to protect, conserve, restore and enhance air, water, land, and other natural resources.

If the committee acts favorably on the bill during the next legislative session, and the entire Legislature approves it, the question would go to Minnesota voters in the form of a constitutional amendment.

## Work curfew

A bill that would set a work curfew for high school students in Minnesota may be back in the hands of the Legislature next session.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) is sponsoring a proposal that would prohibit students between ages 16 and 18 from working after 10 p.m. on school nights or before 5 a.m. on school days.

Trimble told a Labor-Management Relations Committee meeting Oct. 15 that he plans to introduce the proposal in the '88 session. "Students need to spend as much time as they can in school, but many are often forced to work until 12, 1, or 2 a.m. to keep their jobs. We need to look at whether the hours of students older than 15 should be restricted."

Chris Karschnia, a Harding High School student says some employers tell students who request to leave work early to "punch out and don't punch in again.

"I don't think students should be forced to work past 10 p.m. if they don't want to. When this happens, students don't get their homework done, they're tired the next day and don't participate in classes," she says.

Opponents argue that if a curfew is set, the burden would fall disproportionately on employers in outstate Minnesota where, in some cases, young students make up the only labor pool available to them. They also say that a curfew could decrease employment opportunities for minors, and if a problem exists, the school district, parents, and students ought to work it out.

Trimble's proposal, which has the support of the Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers, would not apply to weekend or summer jobs students may hold. It does, however, set a \$50 fine (as other child labor law violations do) for violators. The Appropriations Committee put a similar proposal on hold last session.

The Labor-Management Relations Committee will continue to hear public testimony on Trimble's proposal.

## Overtime regulation

Minnesota could become the first state in the nation to have a law on its books that would prohibit mandatory overtime.

At an Oct. 15 mini-session hearing of the Labor-Management Relations Committee, Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) unveiled a proposal that would limit the number of hours Minnesotans can work in a week. Trimble says he's sponsoring the bill to protect the rights of workers who don't work under a union contract.

Under the proposed bill, employers could not force any employee to work more than 40 hours in a work week. "Overtime is permitted if the employee agrees to work the extra hours, or if there are collective bargaining agreements between groups of workers and employers that specifically provide for such overtime," Trimble says.

According to witnesses who testified at the hearing, no other state has an overtime law. Most states, including Minnesota, have special rules for select occupations, they say.

"More often than not, employees want the overtime because of the increased pay," says Nancy Christenson from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "A law like this would have negative consequences for many employees and employers," she says.

Mary Absolon from the Minnesota Nurses Association, says the Association successfully negotiated some protection to nurses who refuse overtime work. She says mandatory overtime is a major issue in contract negotiations in Duluth hospitals.

Other provisions in the proposed bill would require rest breaks during the work day, a work curfew for high school students, and a study on the

effects of video display terminals on employees.

The Labor-Management Relations Committee will hear more testimony on the bill during the November mini-session.

## Living wills

When is it appropriate to end treatment for a terminally ill or critically injured patient? Who has the right to make such a decision—the patient, his or her family, or the physician?

A Judiciary subcommittee grappled with these questions throughout the 1987 Legislative Session, but came to no conclusion. So the full Judiciary Committee went to Rochester Oct. 13 for a day-long meeting to hear from Mayo Clinic medical personnel and area citizens on the topic of "living wills."

A House Research brief defines a living will as "a writing in which a competent individual expresses his or her wishes regarding the use of life sustaining procedures, in the event the individual is in a terminal condition and unable to communicate his or her wishes about treatment at that time."

As of 1986, 38 states and the District of Columbia have adopted laws governing living wills. The brief says that generally, these laws apply the conditions of a living will only to treatment for a terminally ill patient who isn't able to make decisions or communicate wishes about treatment. The laws allow only competent adults to draft a living will to address a future condition, and make the living will effective until the drafter revokes it.

Should a person at age 50 have to hold to a decision about "acceptable life" he or she made at age 18? asks psychiatrist Dr. Jarrett Richardson. He questions the need for legislating this issue. People often change their minds given new information and new situations, he says.

Laws are needed to ensure that patients receive necessary care, according to rehabilitation nurse Mary Cluff. She points out that a decision an individual makes in a living will may not be the same decision that person would make in a crisis. Cluff supports the right of incompetent patients to receive necessary care.

A living will is a useful tool to aid in communicating an individual's wishes and attitudes to his or her physician and family, says hematologist Dr. Dennis Gastineau. A nursing home medical director, Dr. Eric Tangelos, agrees, saying, "the more information available to the physician, the better." Generally, Tangelos favors the idea of living wills, but points out problems with defining terms, such as "incurable," "terminal" or "terminally ill," "too expensive," or "reasonable expectations."

The Judiciary Committee is considering two bills proposing to regulate living wills: HF304 (Sparby, DFL-Thief River Falls) and HF472 (Bishop, IR-Rochester). The committee plans to hold additional hearings in the next few months.

## Future mini-sessions:

Nov. 16-18 Alexandria

Jan. 13-15, 1988  
(place to be determined)

## COMMITTEE ACTION

### AGRICULTURE

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard an update from the Commissioner of Commerce on the interest buydown program and discussed the Department of Agriculture's legislative agenda for 1988. (See Highlight)

Dairy & Livestock Sub./Ag.

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Milk price stabilization board HF1000 (Krueger, DFL-Staples)—heard.

### APPROPRIATIONS

Ag., Transportation & Semi-State Div./Approps.

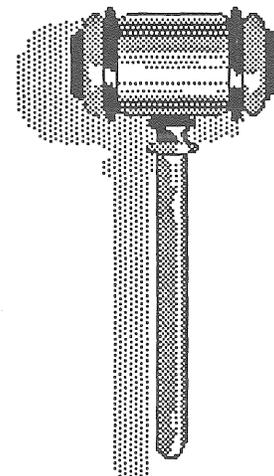
Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard an overview of the issues relating to the Department of Commerce regarding banking, insurance, and securities.

Education Div./Approps.

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Visited and heard a presentation at the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology.



**Health & Human Services Div./  
Approps.**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Heard a Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota presentation on rural health care.
- Toured the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center.

**State Departments Div./Approps.**  
Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard a status report on forming a Department of Administration Information Policy Office; discussed a proposed merger of the Department of Finance and the State Planning Agency.

**COMMERCE**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Heard testimony from the Association of Campground Operators on the charges for electricity in state-owned vs. private campgrounds; heard an overview on the University of Minnesota's Department of Tourism.

**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
& HOUSING**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Joint meeting with Future & Technology Committee
- Heard presentations on the Department of Trade and Economic Development's Office of Science and Technology and the Minnesota Technology Corridor Corporation.

**EDUCATION**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- School districts—traffic control HF1633 (Pelowski, DFL-Winona)—recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Transportation Committee.
- Heard overview of survey results of the University of Minnesota's and Department of Health's Adolescent Health Database Project. (See Highlight)

**Education Finance Div./Educ.**  
Tuesday, Oct. 13

- Toured the Faribault Residential Academics.

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard profiles of the Anoka, Burnsville, and Fridley school districts.

**School Facilities Subc./Educ.**  
Tuesday, Oct. 13

- Toured St. Paul and Minneapolis school facilities.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Discussed the concept of creating a state environmental and natural resources trust fund. (See Highlight)

**Fish & Game Subc./Env. & Nat. Res.**  
Friday, Oct. 16

- Discussed a proposed issuing fee for hunting and fishing stamps.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
& INSURANCE**

Monday, Oct. 12

- Heard a presentation—"Ethics in an Age of Change in Health Care" by Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota.

**FUTURE & TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Joint meeting with Economic Development & Housing Committee
- Heard presentations on the Department of Trade and Economic Development's Office of Science and Technology and the Minnesota Technology Corridor Corporation.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS &  
GAMING**

**Elections Subc./Gen. Leg., Vet.  
Affairs & Gaming**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Optical scan voting system HF756 (Sarna, DFL-Mpls)—heard.

- Heard an update on the optical scan experience in the Sept. 15 Primary Election; discussed a proposed amendment to HF756.

**GOVERNMENTAL  
OPERATIONS**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard overviews and discussed early retirement options, including Rule of 90.

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Discussed the University of Minnesota Advisory Task Force on Planning recommendation to eliminate the public health nursing program and cut back the baccalaureate (B.A.) nursing program.

**Physical/Mental Health Subc./  
Health & Human Serv.**

Friday, Oct. 16

- Mental health services for children—study HF1653 (Segal, DFL-St. Louis Park)—recommended to pass as amended. (See Highlight)

**Social Services Subc./  
Health & Human Serv.**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard Human Development Action Coalition (HUDAC) recommendations on long term solutions to hunger and homelessness in Ramsey County.

Joint meeting with Crime & Family Law Div./Judic.

- Reviewed child abuse issues with representatives from the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Governor's Task Force on Child Safety, and Parents Anonymous of Minnesota.

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Board of Minnesota Colleges—established HF1100 (Larsen, DFL-Ramsey)—heard.

Continued on page 8.

# Citizens testify at October mini-session



Kathy Mattner, a student in the U of M's public health nursing program, testifies before the Health and Human Services Committee opposing a U of M task force proposal to eliminate that program.

Moorhead farmer Bob Gee, Minnesota Dairy Products Association, speaks in favor of HF1000 (Krueger, DFL-Staples), a bill that would establish a milk price stabilization board, before the Dairy and Livestock Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee.



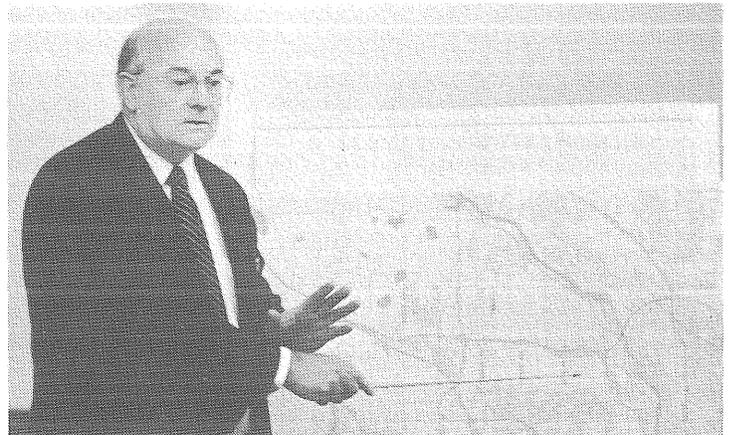
At a Crime and Family Law Division meeting, Laurel Nelson, Guardian Interlock Systems of Denver, describes a device her company makes to test the breath of drivers before they start their cars.



Dr. Del Ohrt, medical director, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota, and associates answer questions about the Health and Human Services Division of the Appropriations Committee's analysis and Medisgroup program before the Health and Human Services Division of the Appropriations Committee.



The Taxes Committee hears Violet Heidom talk about the difficulty she has in making ends meet since the renter's credit cutback. Morris Hammer, Minnesota Senior Federation, listens.

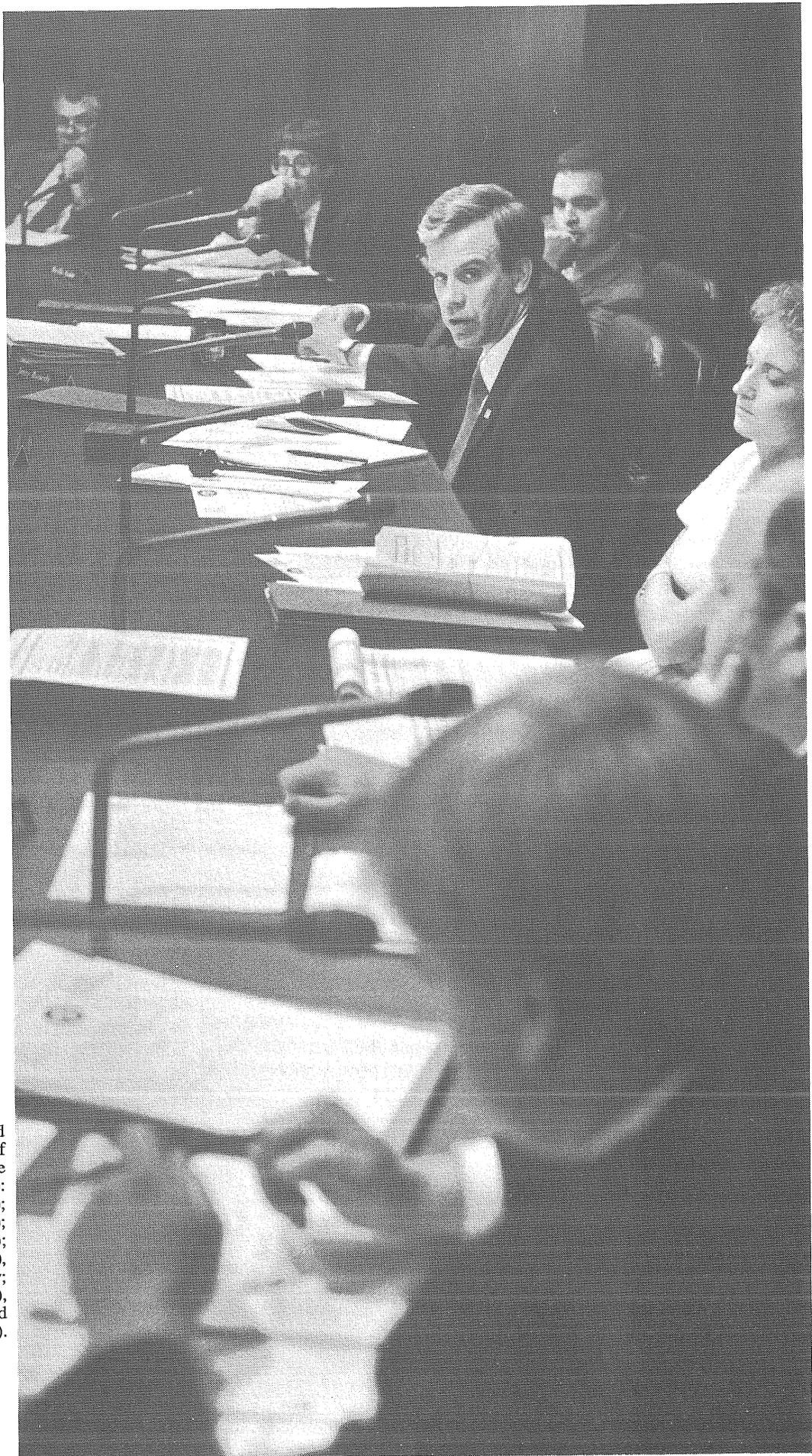


James Krautkremer, mayor of Brooklyn Park, points out the northern suburbs' need for proposed Highway 610. He spoke to the Transportation Subcommittee of the Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

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questions about their Small Area Appropriations Committee.



Members of the Dairy and Livestock Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee include (top to bottom): Rep. Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin); Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls); Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville); Rep. Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples), chair; Lill Pohlkamp, Secretary; Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), Agriculture Committee chair; and Rep. Bernie Omann (IR-St. Joseph).

Continued from page 5.

## JUDICIARY

Tuesday, Oct. 13

- Met in Rochester; heard House Research overview of proposed "Living Will" legislation, and testimony from Mayo Clinic staff and other interested individuals. (See Highlight)

**Crime & Family Law Div./Judic.**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Viewed and discussed demonstration of the Guardian Ignition Interlock System, a device which courts may require as a condition of probation for a driving-while-intoxicated (DWI) offender.

Joint meeting with Social Services Subc./Health & Human Serv.

- Reviewed child abuse issues with representatives from the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Governor's Task Force on Child Safety, and Parents Anonymous of Minnesota.

**Adoption & Birth Alternatives Subc./Crime & Family Law Div./Judic.**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Discussed constitutional implications of surrogate parenting, and whether, as a matter of public policy, the state should enforce surrogate contracts.

**Data Practices Subc./Judic.**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Heard testimony challenging the accuracy and completeness of government data.

**Sentencing Guidelines Subc./Judic.**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Reviewed history of and analyzed a growing deviation from sentencing guidelines.

**Status Offenders Subc./Judic.**

Friday, Oct. 16

- Heard public testimony on whether the juvenile justice system is adequately meeting the needs of status offenders.

## LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Discussed a proposal regulating hours of employment. (See Highlight)
- Heard public testimony on mandatory overtime, work curfews for high school students, unpaid lunch and rest breaks, and the effects of video display terminals on employees.

## LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, Oct. 15

- **Local government—regulation of state mandates**  
HF518 (Simoneau, DFL-Fridley)—heard; amended.
- **Town law enforcement**  
HF1659 (Murphy, DFL-Herantown)—heard; amended.

## METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

**Environment Subc./Metropolitan Affairs**

Friday, Oct. 16

- Heard presentations from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Council on air pollution in the metropolitan area and possible solutions to the problem.

**Government Structures Subc./Metropolitan Affairs**

Friday, Oct. 16

- Reviewed and discussed the Metropolitan Council's work program and budget.

**Transportation Subc./Metropolitan Affairs**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Heard informational background on proposed Highway 610.

## REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Thursday, Oct. 15

- **Universal telephone access—senior citizens**  
HF1687 (Jacobs, DFL-Coon Rapids)—heard.
- Heard public testimony on universal telephone access by persons 65 years and older.

## TAXES

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Heard public testimony on tax changes enacted in 1987. (See Highlight)

**Property Tax Div./Taxes**

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Had an informal round-table discussion with the Department of Revenue, Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers, and the Minnesota Association of County Officers.

**Public Finance Subc./Taxes**

Monday, Oct. 12

- Heard public testimony on the Federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 and its effect on local government.

## TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, Oct. 15

- Heard public testimony on a proposal providing for specific service signs relating to rural commercial businesses to be displayed along highways.

Friday, Oct. 16

- **Brakes on towed vehicles**  
HF1526 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—heard; amended.
- Heard public testimony on HF1526.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Friday, Oct. 16

- Heard presentations on housing alternatives for older people living on fixed incomes, a home equity conversion pilot program, innovative housing concepts, and altering state programs to provide affordable housing.



Legislators, in addition to their other duties as elected officials, work on commissions which study and report on areas of interest to both the House and the Senate.

The majority of members on legislative commissions must be legislators. The speaker of the House appoints House members. In the Senate, a subcommittee of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee selects senators to serve. Appointments are for two years.

Legislative commissions are ongoing, long term, and more permanent than study groups, task forces, and joint legislative committees. Laws regarding purposes and procedures differ for each commission.

Here are in-brief summaries of interim activities for 14 legislative commissions.

## Great Lakes Commission

**June** (Chicago, IL): held executive committee meeting; discussed budget and personnel issues; discussed provisions of the 1986 Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

**September** (Rosemead, IL): held executive committee meeting; reported results of a survey to determine use of commission-generated shipping data; chose a new commission logo; heard an update on annual meeting plans.

**October** (Toledo, OH): held annual meeting; accepted the Great Lakes Excursion Vessel study; approved reports and adopted resolutions on soil erosion, cargo preference, regulating Great Lakes water levels, and the Economic Analysis and Policy Task Force (topics and recommendations included: outdoor recreation, agricultural diversification, rural community economic development, regional steel policy, regional self-employment, and new business resources); discussed information on: the National Travel Survey, Marine Innovations Project, cabotage laws (U.S. vessels may dock only in U.S. ports), Canadian navigation cost recovery, non-federal costs associated with the 1986 Water

Resources Development Act, and the Regional Water Use Database Repository.

## Legislative Audit Commission

**July**: heard a status report from the legislative auditor and heard public testimony on the county state aid highway system.

**October**: heard a status report from the legislative auditor on program evaluations and financial audits; discussed and approved a motion that requires the legislative auditor to develop plans for a formal program evaluation of the Minnesota State High School League; heard a report on a recent audit of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

## Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

**June**: reviewed legislation that passed in the 1987 session; considered its summer hearing schedule; heard from the Department of Corrections on the Comprehensive Plan for Women Offenders.

**July**: discussed legislative proposals for 1988 and the commission's schedule for the balance of the interim.

**August** (Alexandria): held a public hearing to discuss issues relating to the economic status of women.

**September** (Marshall and Jackson): held a public hearing to discuss issues relating to the economic status of women.

**October** (Virginia and Eveleth): held a public hearing to discuss issues relating to the economic status of women.

## Legislative Commission on Employee Relations

**June**: appointed the executive director for the commission; reviewed 1987 laws relating to public employment, pay equity, salary increases for agency heads, and money for the salary supplement for state employees; discussed commission rules and authority; heard a Department of

Employee Relations (DOER) status report on the collective bargaining process and the plans covering unrepresented employees.

**July**: adopted commission rules; adopted a resolution ratifying the collective bargaining agreement between the state and AFSCME, Council #6, AFL-CIO; reviewed the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium personnel plan; discussed potential commission studies; heard a report on the state's group insurance program from DOER.

**August**: adopted ratification resolutions for collective bargaining agreements with the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, the Middle Management Association, the Minnesota Community College Faculty Association, and the Minnesota Government Engineers Council; reviewed and ratified agency head plans and DOER's Personnel Plan, Managers Plan, and Commissioners Plan; and discussed commission study issues.

**October**: adopted a resolution ratifying collective bargaining agreements with the instructional unit and the administrative unit of the State University System.

## Legislative Commission on Long-Term Health Care

**September**: elected new co-chairs; heard reports on: the Medicaid budget as it related to long-term care, nursing home rental reimbursement, Medicare reimbursement, the progress on nursing home therapies, the Department of Human Services' temporary role as administrator of the veterans' homes in Hastings and Minneapolis, and the Interagency Board; heard testimony by provider groups on nursing home therapy payments.

**Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources**

**June:** elected new officers; began the process of studying resource issues, trends and new ideas across Minnesota that will lead to commission recommendations for future funding following next spring's issue seminar; reviewed 1987 work programs; heard a presentation on Phase I of the STOKERMASTER project and approved the continuation of Phase II of the STOKERMASTER project; approved several recreation grants; recommended funding from the Federal Reimbursement Account for the Minnesota Science Museum's proposal to enhance the museum's "Our Minnesota" exhibit; heard a presentation on the LAWCON Administration project; approved a motion for a two percent cut across the board on LCMR programs.

**July:** toured metropolitan recreation sites, University of Minnesota research projects, and Historical Society projects; heard a proposal outline for a study by the Department of Trade and Economic Development on state and county parks in the seven-county metropolitan area; reviewed the Pollution Control Agency's (PCA) acid rain work program; reviewed and approved, for one year, the Nongame Wildlife/Minnesota Conservation Corps' work program and the Environmental Quality Board's local water planning work program.

**August:** toured various sites and projects relating to fisheries, forestry, public land management, and development in the lake regions; reviewed and approved the PCA's acid rain work program and budget; and toured government-private sector coordinated recreation projects along the north shore of Lake Superior.

**September:** toured agriculture and prairie wetland projects in North Central and Northwestern Minnesota; and toured water projects and the Mississippi River in Southeastern Minnesota.

**October:** discussed the future of minerals in Minnesota; approved the Minnesota Science Museum's work program; reviewed revisions to the Department of Natural Resources park bonding work program; and heard presentations on hunting on private lands.

**Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

**August:** heard reports from the State Board of Investment, local fund managers, and the commission actuary on pension plan funding; discussed and approved revisions to the commission's standards for actuarial work; and held informational sessions on Minnesota public pension plans: benefit plan coverage, pension plan investments, and pension plan administration with regard to board composition.

**September:** continued its informational sessions with a review of demographic characteristics by commission staff and the Wyatt Company; reviewed pension plan oversight.

**Legislative Commission on Public Education**

**June:** heard a presentation on the background and history of the management information systems, the status of the current system including reporting requirements, hardware and software, management, financing and governance, and a review of future needs and directions; discussed the Profiles of Accountability Project; heard an update on a study of special education funding, assessment, and quality of service, and an update on a special education study.

**October:** heard a staff presentation on the history of special education requirements, funding, and participation rates; heard an update on the Profiles of Accountability Project.

**Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules**

**June:** conducted a preliminary assessment about a complaint on the Department of Jobs and Training's (DJT) rules relating to sheltered workshop funding; heard staff reports on SF704 (Wegscheid, DFL-Apple Valley), a bill that would make changes to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA); HA25 (Rodosovich, DFL-Faribault), which would call for an APA study (referred the advisory bill to the Governmental Operations Committee); APA exemptions; 1987 rulemaking grants; and the commission's statutory authority to review rules.

**September:** adopted procedural rules for the commission; began an investigation into a complaint about the 5.33 percent rental factor in the nursing home property rental reimbursement formula contained in the Department of Human Services Permanent Rule 50; scheduled a public hearing on the rental formula for Oct. 29; heard a staff report on the status of the DJT funding formula for sheltered workshops (the commission took no further action on this issue).

**Legislative Commission on Waste Management**

**July:** elected new officers; heard and made recommendations on the Metropolitan Council's proposed budget and work program for expenditures from the Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Fund, and the Pollution Control Agency's (PCA) budget and work program for expenditures from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Fund; heard an update on Waste Management Board programs.

**September:** heard a presentation on the PCA's wastewater municipal needs and municipal project lists for the Wastewater Treatment Construction Grant Program.

**October:** held a round-table discussion on pertinent waste management issues and discussed a Citizens League report, "The New Weigh to Recycle."

## Legislative Coordinating Commission

**September:** approved appointments to the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy; amended and passed the LCC Legislative Plan for Employee Benefits; discussed personnel matters.

**Other activities:** approved appointments to the Reapportionment Oversight subcommittee; appointed another member to the Flexible Benefits subcommittee.

## Legislative Tax Study Commission

**August:** heard testimony from the Departments of Revenue and Finance on tax data resources and economic models; heard a Department of Revenue overview of the department's information resources; heard reports: "Data Elements in the Revenue Department Model in Tax Payable 1987," and "Statewide Comparison Jan. 12, 1987 Estimate and Final Amounts, Taxes Payable 1987"; heard a brief overview of forecasting data bases; Department of Finance discussed the correlation of Minnesota's economy as it tracks the national economy, and melding state and federal economic factors into the Department of Finance model to run income forecasts.

**September:** (Sept. 8) heard House Research Department (HRD) report on information/analysis resources related to state/local relations, and short-term and long-term projects HRD plans to have completed before the next legislative session. (Sept. 29) heard: Department of Revenue's review of the department's program of compliance; an overview of tax compliance enforcement, initiatives, and total reported collections through fiscal year 1987; reports on the objectives and functions of the Tax Compliance

Department, and initiatives the Legislature directed during the past legislative session.

## Mississippi Parkway Commission

**May (Dubuque, IA):** heard reports on the Great River Road photo contest, the need to gather support for Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor legislation, status of the Great River Road (including construction projects in Bemidji and Cass Lake, and Aitkin, Wright, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties); discussed Great River Road promotion activities and annual meeting status and plans.

**June (Minneapolis):** heard reports on the tri-state meeting; discussed concerns about the Heritage Corridor Policy Statement; reviewed plans for the annual meeting.

**July (St. Paul):** reviewed annual meeting program; heard an update on proposed Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor legislation, and the International Mississippi River marketing plan; elected new state officers; discussed the Kansai Tele-casting documentary on the Mississippi River.

**August (St. Paul):** held annual meeting; discussed proposed Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor legislation (introduced in August in the U.S. Congress); adopted a draft proposal for a five-year, \$180,000 international Mississippi River Marketing Program; heard panel discussion on opportunities for economic development, transportation, and tourism along the river, and "the Mississippi River in the Year 2010"; debated barge fleet on the river; discussed fund raising strategies for Mississippi River Valley historic preservation projects; revised bylaws; elected new officers.

## Transportation Finance Study Commission

**August:** elected co-chairs; discussed commission's purpose and possible directions for future meetings.

**September:** heard legislative auditor's report on the county state aid highway system; heard transit update from legislators, Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Arrowhead Transit (Duluth), and the Regional Transit Board.

**October:** heard House Research presentation and public testimony on funding and highway construction alternatives for years 1988-91.



### Mini-Session Report

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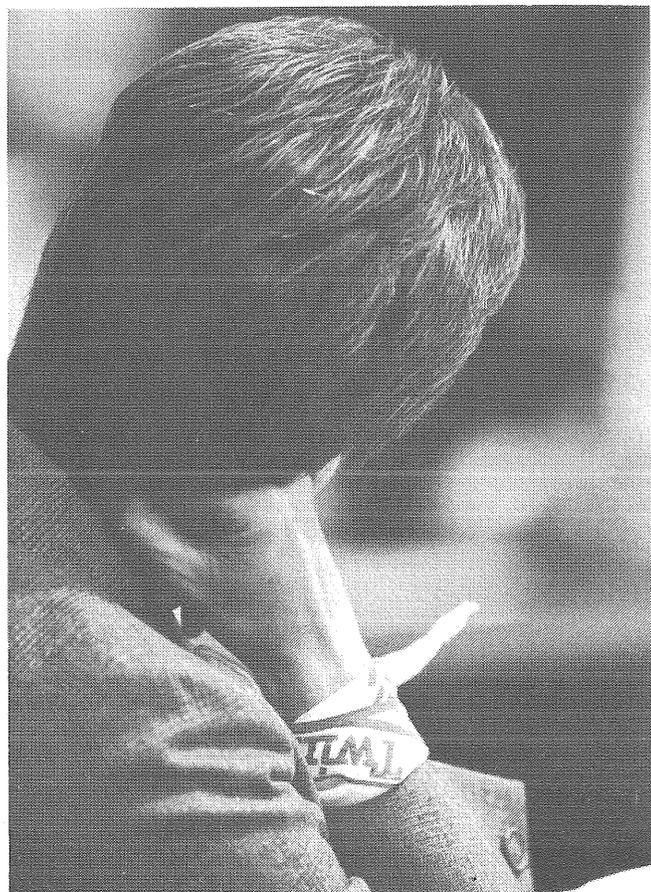
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Rep. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sports her Homer Hanky at a hearing during the October mini-session at the Capitol.

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