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MINI-SESSION REPORT

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Water still stands in many of the fields around St. Peter and New Ulm. Flooding was one of the main concerns of area residents during the Minnesota Valley Public Forum Sept. 20-22.

Minnesota Valley Public Forum . . .

House members 'get out and talk to real people'



Several first-term members were initially skeptical of the value of mini-sessions such as the Minnesota Valley Public Forum held in the New Ulm-St. Peter area Sept. 20-22, said House Speaker-designate Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). But not after attending the forum.

"I've had a number of first-term legislators who have never had this experience before come up to me . . . and say it's one of the best experiences they've had," said Anderson.

So concluded the 10th mini-session to be held outside the capital in St. Paul since the Minnesota House of Representatives took its legislative business on the road in 1987.

And if the success of past mini-sessions is any guide, there will be several, specific proposals enacted into law as a result — just as several measures were adopted following past mini-sessions.

"It helped us as representatives to plan and to prepare, and to hear concerns — concerns ranging all the way from nuclear power to walleye fishing to flood problems . . . and workers' compensation," said Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), the minority leader of the House.

As to be expected from a rural area, agricultural issues — and the effect of this summer's flooding — dominated the two-and-one-half days of meetings.

Beginning with a detailed briefing by the Minnesota Extension Service on the flood's effect on southern and southwestern Minnesota, about 95 of the House's 134 members were on hand for the forum to learn first-hand about the region's particular needs.

And aside from some of the more informational meetings held during the forum, there were some nuts-and-bolts discussions as well.

When Redwood Falls Superintendent Rick Ellingsworth had questions about a new state law that called for the reduction of elementary class sizes, members of the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division were able to quickly find the answers the superintendent needed.

For Anderson, one "pleasant surprise" came on a visit to two businesses in Sleepy Eye, Del Monte Foods USA and Advertising Unlimited Inc.

"We visited two successful, profitable businesses out in Sleepy Eye, and both told us workers' compensation costs were not a problem for them because they have strong in-house safety programs," he said. "These two statements are worth a ton of the talk we get from lobbyists up in St. Paul."

While disagreeing with the idea that workers' compensation costs are not a problem, Sviggum, and his party's floor leader, Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester), agreed that it's

beneficial to get outside St. Paul.

"These are good experiences because at the Capitol we spend an awful lot of time talking to special interests; it's really important for us to get out and talk to real people who are not lobbyists," said Gutknecht.

October mini-session

The next House of Representatives mini-session is planned for Oct. 27-29 in Fergus Falls and St. Cloud in west central and central Minnesota.

This mini-session, however, will be slightly different from earlier ones.

Two distinct, one-and-one-half-day sessions will be held in each of the two cities. The first will be held in Fergus Falls on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 27-28.

The second will be held later Thursday in St. Cloud and then conclude on Friday, Oct. 29. Separate town meetings are planned in both cities.

Call the House Public Information Office at (612) 296-2146 for more information.



Farm aid for flood victims

GAYLORD — Minnesota legislators should give additional aid to farmers who were ravaged by 1993's "flood of the century" — over and above what the federal government provides. And they should also consider emergency food shelf assistance for farmers this winter and allow them to defer their property tax payments.

Those were among the suggestions offered by farmers who attended a joint public hearing of three House committees: Agriculture, Commerce and Economic Development, and Environment and Natural Resources, Sept. 20 in Gaylord, Minn.

Grant Annexstad, a St. Peter farmer, offered lawmakers a formula for how a Minnesota program could bolster federal programs. For every 40-50 cents on the dollar the federal government has pledged in its disaster relief package for crop and property losses, the state could kick in an extra 10-15 cents, he said.

He and his family lost 15 percent of their corn and soybean crops because of flooding. "That took all the profit out of it," Annexstad said. An early frost — which has already occurred in some parts of the state — will only increase those losses, he added.

"Picture someone in the city working for nothing for one year," he said. "Then having to take out a home equity loan just to pay expenses."

He also suggested that the Legislature consider supporting emergency food assistance programs for farmers this winter. He said clergymen in south central Minnesota are already proposing food shelves for the hardest hit areas of the region.

Other suggestions for additional disaster relief came from local and Minnesota Extension Service officials. They included:

- Implement a one-time, across-the-board deferral of October-November property tax payments. This could be done by dipping into a portion of the state's \$400 million reserve fund.
- Help establish emergency work assistance programs for dislocated farmers and farm workers. One such regional project, the South Central Emergency Employment Project operating in nine south central Minnesota counties, is providing work at public sites for 150 farmers and seasonal farm workers in the nine counties, said the program's coordinator, Dana Melius. Many more farmers and farm workers are waiting to participate; even more will want to after harvest, Melius said.



People testified on the effects of the 1993 flood on farmers, small businesses, and the environment in southern Minnesota Sept. 20 in the Gaylord Middle School gym. Members of the Agriculture, Commerce and Economic Development, and Environment and Natural Resources committees sat on the panel.

- Streamline the disaster assistance application process. Governmental red tape has slowed relief, especially at the federal level.

Long-term flood damage

NEW ULM — For many people outside southern Minnesota, the Great Flood of 1993 was limited to dramatic television footage on the 10 o'clock news.

But several experts from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Extension Service warned lawmakers Sept. 20 in New Ulm, Minn., that the effects of the flood will linger far longer than the high water did.

"The actual flood is just the tip of the iceberg," said Richard Hemmingsen, an assistant to the vice president for the university's Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.

In contrast to the view that the flood was a quick blip on the TV screen, extension service experts say the flood is just one in a series of problems that have plagued Minnesota farmers since the early 1980s when poor crop prices began taking their toll.

Add to that the drought of 1988, and the extremely cool growing seasons of the past two years, and you have a rural area that is hurting financially, said Dary Talley, an extension educator in farm management from the University of Minnesota Southwest Experiment Station in Lamberton, Minn.

"There is an awful lot of stress on farm people," added Talley.

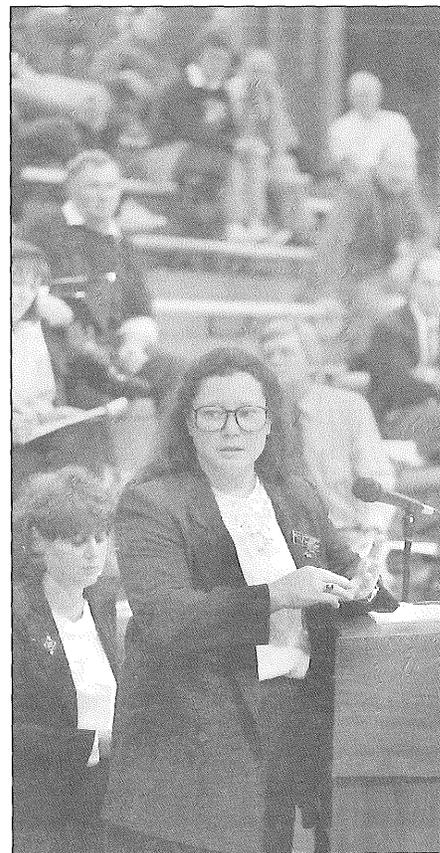
He estimated that about 70 percent of the farms in southwestern Minnesota lost, on average, \$50,000 in income as a result of the weather this year. All together, that translates into an estimated loss of \$35 million for the typical southwestern Minnesota county.

And Dave Huggins, a soil scientist at the Southwest Experiment Station, painted a

gloomy picture for next year as well. He said that soil in the area currently has seven inches of available moisture — even more than the normally wettest time of the year in June. That could lead to another late planting next spring because the fields may be too wet to enter with heavy machinery.

"It's going to give farmers trouble for some time to come," he said.

Talley said the flood, coupled with other



Diane McPherson, environmental services director for Nicollet County, testified before a joint hearing of three House committees at Gaylord Middle School Sept. 20 on the environmental effects of the 1993 flooding in Nicollet County.

problems on the farm in recent years, has caused some farmers to consider quitting the business.

"In the group are two young farmers in their early farming careers with about three years of farming experience, four farmers with 10 to 20 years of experience, and one with more than 20 years of experience," said Talley.

The fact that four of those families have children in public schools, and that each farmer spends about 63 percent of his/her income within 20 miles of the farm, could cause still more problems for rural Minnesota, he said.

Ethanol outlook

WINTHROP — This year's weather has been a disaster for Minnesota farmers. But the outlook for about 1,100 corn farmers could be brighter for next year.

By that time, it is hoped there will be at least two new ethanol plants in southern Minnesota, which will provide a ready market for those farmers' corn. Ethanol is an alcohol that can be derived from corn and is used as a fuel additive to reduce air pollution.

Combined, the two new plants are expected to produce 25 million gallons of ethanol each year, create more than 70 new jobs, and consume about 10 million bushels of corn a year.

Both of the proposed plants — and two others in the advanced planning stages — got a boost from a 1993 law that allows qualified Minnesota ethanol producers to receive up to \$500,000 in assistance through the Minne-

sota Department of Agriculture's Rural Finance Authority.

The heads of the two new plants commended the Legislature for its support of ethanol. Their testimony came before the House Agriculture Committee's Economic Development Subcommittee Sept. 22 in Winthrop, Minn.

But while they praised the Legislature for creating incentives for ethanol production, they criticized private lenders for their continued skepticism about financing such plants.

"The problem in Minnesota is not that the incentives are not there," said Bill Adcock, general manager of Heartland Corn Products of Winthrop. "The problem is that the lending community has a long memory — back to when ethanol plants were built with the wrong technology, a problem that doesn't exist today."

The \$17 million dry milling plant in Winthrop, cooperatively owned by 491 farmers and five area elevators, will produce 10 million gallons of ethanol per year from four million bushels of corn. It will provide about 35 jobs.

Adcock said he has secured financing for about half of the \$17 million project, but is still working to obtain the rest from private lenders. That could come in "days or weeks," he said.

Likewise, Alfred Voudrie commended the 1993 loan law. Voudrie is president of Commercial Funding Corporation, which is building Corn Plus Cooperative Inc. in Winnebago, Minn.

The dry milling plant, also a farmer-owned cooperative with almost 600 members, will produce 15 million gallons of ethanol per

year from six million bushels of corn. The \$24 million construction project, which is scheduled to open in May 1994, will provide about 25 to 40 jobs.

Reining in the hog law?

FAIRFAX — State lawmakers may be asked once again to amend Minnesota's already restrictive corporate farming law.

About 300 people crowded into the Fairfax Auditorium Sept. 22 to voice their concerns about several large hog-raising operations started by groups of producers under various business arrangements.

The issue centers on just how restrictive the law should be:

- Does the law prevent producers from meeting the competitive challenges of today's intensive swine production and management practices? or
- Does the law allow huge hog operations to displace smaller family farmers, posing a threat to the environment and property values.

The hearing before the Agriculture Committee's Economic Development Subcommittee Sept. 22 showed there was an abundance of opinions. Nearly everyone there was in favor of some form of change in the law.

Both Linden Olson of Worthington, Minn., and Maria Kohout of Olivia, Minn., are pork producers, but they line up on opposite sides of the issue.

Kohout favors making the "corporate farming law" more restrictive because she fears that nitrates from such large operations could contaminate groundwater and surface water. That's because the state's guidelines are "too lenient" on seepage from the new, high-tech earthenware manure basins used in such facilities, she said.

But Olson, who favors an easing of the law on corporate hog operations, said that argument doesn't work because "there is a greater chance of nitrates getting into groundwater from excess nitrogen applied to corn than there is from seepage from those basins."

Likewise, there were several other points on which people disagreed. The following three issues were among them:

- Does the corporate farming law really protect family farms as it was meant to?
- Should the law continue to limit to five the number of producers allowed to start cooperatives to raise hogs?
- Should breeding stock continue to be exempted from the law, since there are no ownership standards for slaughter and feeder animals from exempted breeding stock?



Carey Remus, a member of the board of directors for Heartland Corn Products, explained how some creative financing could bring an ethanol producing plant to the Winthrop area. Remus, who farms three miles northwest of Winthrop, testified before the Agriculture Subcommittee on Economic Development Sept. 22.

"The law simply is not working," said Olson, who favors striking the exemption on breeding stock and relaxing limits on the number of producers involved in cooperative hog setups.

Similarly, Kohout said she wants the question about ownership of breeding stock offspring addressed.

When the issue comes up for debate again in the 1994 Legislature, House members pledged to draft the best law possible. In the meantime, the subcommittee is scheduling more public hearings on corporate hog farming in Minnesota.

RDCs add spice to rural area

ST. PETER — Next month, a new business begins production in western Minnesota. Eventually, it will offer a full line of specialty seasonings to the food industry nationwide and promises jobs to at least eight rural Minnesotans.

All this after its owner had nearly given up hope of ever securing financing to again own his own business.

"None of this would have been possible" without the assistance of the Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission in the western part of the state, said business owner John Otteson. His comments were made before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Sept. 21 in St. Peter, Minn.

Otteson, a gourmet chef, is the owner of Buffalo Creek Specialties of Brownton, Minn. The company, set to begin production in early October, will produce a full line of 31 all-natural seasoning blends for the food industry. Besides using Minnesota grown agricultural products — such as dehydrated vegetable oil and flours milled in Minnesota — the company expects to supply a leading Minnesota pork processor with seasonings for its sausage operation.

Like the regional development commission that helped rebuild the tiny southwestern Minnesota town of Chandler that was ravaged by a tornado last summer, the Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission deserves much of the credit for breathing new life into Otteson's dream, he said.

The commission helped him draft a detailed business plan. That was instrumental in securing \$69,500 in public and private financing to cover his business start-up costs, he said. That total includes \$27,750 from a private bank, \$32,250 from the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Fund, and \$9,500 from the Minnesota Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute.



It was kitchen politics for Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) as Elaine Roiger stirred a glaze on the stove. She and her husband, Don, and neighbor Peg Sundell hosted the one-to-one get-together with a legislator at their home in New Ulm Sept. 21. "We hit it off well," said Wolf. "Both Don and my father were shoe salesmen, so we had something in common right off the bat. I enjoyed meeting and talking with the Roigers and their neighbor so much that I stayed over four hours."

Buffalo Creek Specialties Inc. is located in a building Otteson purchased for \$1 from the city of Brownton. The city had planned to tear it down until Otteson persuaded city officials to sell it to him. He has since improved the building, and it has recently been appraised at \$70,000, he said.

"This building has another life, just like my business," he said.



BUSINESS

Women in business

ST. PETER — Connie Timmerman of St. Peter, Minn., expanded her pet grooming business and because of the expense involved, hasn't been able to pay herself for years.

Timmerman testified in St. Peter at a Sept. 21 meeting of the Economic Equality Subcommittee of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, which focused on economic opportunities for women in outstate Minnesota.

In her effort to get financial help, Timmerman was told that she was "too much of a risk" by every bank she visited. She said that after being "shuffled" from system to system, she found that "people will give you information, but they don't help you."

Bobbie Guelbert, owner of a used bookstore in St. Peter, also has had trouble in obtaining a loan even though she has successfully operated several shops in other locations. She said that with two colleges in the area, the opportunity for her business to

succeed is very promising, but she doesn't have the money to capitalize on it.

Guelbert noted that there is help for people who have nothing, but for people who are struggling to build a business, who are trying to provide a service and a business, there is "nowhere to turn."

Edna Granlund of St. Peter supported Guelbert's testimony. She said that there is economic development money available, but it is given to people who are already viable. The new starters are not given the advantages of the "good old boys," she said.

Addressing another problem, Karen Wild, an independent contractor from Willmar, Minn., said that no one is dealing with women business owners who are suffering from sexual discrimination. After relating a personal experience with sexual harassment and her lengthy effort to get help, she asked House members to close the gap that excludes independent contractors from full protection under the sexual discrimination laws.

Timmerman complained of yet another kind of discrimination when she tried to apply for a government small business loan. Had she been a member of a minority race, she said, she may have had a better chance of getting a loan.

In answer to these calls for help, Becky Hall, a regional representative for southeastern Minnesota for the state Department of Trade and Economic Development, announced the recent establishment of the Office of Regional Initiatives in St. Paul. The priority of the office is to "coordinate efforts to provide help for businesses and communities," she said.

Linda Hachfeld, president of Appletree Press, Inc. in Mankato, Minn., urged legislators to support the appointment of a statewide women business council or a woman business advocate to: provide advocacy for women-owned businesses; offer leadership development, training, and technical assistance for existing and new businesses; coordinate organizations, agencies, businesses, and educational entities concerned with women's business issues; and enhance resources, services, and effectiveness of women entrepreneurs.

According to Hachfeld, one of every three small businesses is women-owned, and in the year 2000, it is projected that one out of every two small businesses will be women-owned.

The subcommittee, co-chaired by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) and Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), was formed last spring by Rep. John Sarna (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. The panel works with issues affecting women in the workplace.



CHILDREN

Home child care credit

ST. PETER — Families with children under the age of six who have one stay-at-home parent may be in line for a tax credit.

Legislators are currently working on a bill that would compensate families who have sacrificed additional income so that one parent can stay home. They invited input from area residents at a Sept. 21 hearing of the

Economic Equality Subcommittee of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee in St. Peter, Minn.

The home child care credit "may be an incentive for some parents to make a transition from two incomes to one in order to be available to their children during their primary years," said Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), co-chair of the subcommittee. The bill "recognizes the important role of parents in nurturing their young children. For example, families whose total income is less than \$30,000 would qualify for up to \$720 in a refundable credit," she said.

Several young mothers, many holding small children on their laps, testified in favor of the legislation.

Mary Crippen, a stay-at-home parent since the birth of her first child, cited research showing that children who bond with their parents during the first three years make the best progress in life.

In making her decision to stay home, Crippen, a former teacher of computer skills, said that there were "hundreds of people who could teach my classes, but only one person who could be a mother to our child."

But those who testified shared some frustrations as well.

Crippen was disturbed because current legislation encourages families "to separate, to go to work, to pay someone else to care for the children."

Also, it is difficult to make it on an income of less than \$30,000, she said.

Furthermore, she said she had given up some "marketability" as her skills, knowledge, and experience become more outdated each year she is away from the job.

Beth Horner of Plymouth, Minn., who also

left her job to care for her child, offered her comments to the subcommittee in a letter. She wrote, "... since I have chosen to give my son the very best upbringing I am capable of, I do not feel that I should be penalized by not receiving a tax credit for leaving a \$38,000-per-year job to stay home."

Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter), one of the sponsors of the bill, agreed. "The years of financial struggle is when children are young," and the time spent in raising children "receives no monetary reward, no recognition."

The original bill was heard, but not acted upon in the House Taxes Committee last session. Since then, Luther, Ostrom, and Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato), have been fine-tuning the bill, which will be formally introduced during the next legislative session.



EDUCATION

Struggling to survive

WINTHROP — Rural school educators told state lawmakers that their school districts still need more money and more flexibility to spend it.

Even though the Gibbon, Fairfax and Winthrop School District will receive an increase of \$180,000 in state funding in the 1993-94 school year, it is estimated that at least \$100,000 will have to be carved from its budget. And that's assuming that voters reapprove an existing excess levy referendum.

Carey Remus, school board chair, said that the school district has been working hard to control costs, but is still finding it hard to survive. A year ago the Gibbon, Fairfax, and Winthrop school districts consolidated into one school district. They made more than \$400,000 in cuts and eliminated a number of extra-curricular activities and programs. Remus said that the low student population of about 1,000 students hurts the bottom line.

"If we could get 50 more students, this place would run like a Cadillac [because of increased state funding]," he said.

The superintendents from the Gibbon, Fairfax and Winthrop School District, and the Nicollet School District, told members of the House Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division in Winthrop Sept. 21 that they would be better able to handle tight budgets if they had more flexibility in moving money from one fund to another.

For example, Larry Kauzlarich, superintendent of the Gibbon, Fairfax and Winthrop School District, said that he would rather put money slated for staff development into the



Shaun Simons, right, a practical nursing student at the South Central Technical College in North Mankato, hosted House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) Sept. 22 during lunch and on a tour of the campus.

general fund and use it to pay other bills.

But the rationale behind dedicating money to staff development is that it is considered key to improving education and critical to implementation of the graduation rule, said Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), division chair. The state's new graduation rule, which will apply to students entering high school in 1996, will require students to demonstrate certain knowledge and skills before graduating from high school.

Teacher salaries are another place where school districts said that they could use some help. Kauzlarich said that the recent raise negotiated by teachers in Minnetonka (9.6 percent increase in wages and benefits over the next two years) puts pressure on other school districts. He asked the committee if the Legislature could help school districts out by freezing teacher salaries.

"Can you help us in that way, or is it too touchy an issue?" he asked.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) responded that each school district has a different history of salary negotiations, and that it would be unfair to treat all teachers alike.

Schools and property taxes

MORGAN/WINTHROP — Rural school district administrators told state lawmakers that they're proud of the education they provide. But they expressed serious concern about the way the property tax system affects farmers in their communities.

"Just because you're little, doesn't mean you have to be educationally poor," William Bjorklund, superintendent of the Morgan and Franklin School District, told the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance

Division Sept. 22 in Morgan, Minn.

But while the schools may not feel that they are educationally poor, they often feel financially poor. And while they would like more money to run their districts, they are worried about the continued reliance on property taxes and the burden it places on local farmers.

Many of the school districts represented at the meetings of the division during the Minnesota Valley Public Forum said that they have little or no commercial development. So, it's up to homeowners and farmers to come up with the local share of education funding.

"Thank goodness we got some relief this year for the farmland," said Ron Klaven, superintendent of the Springfield School District.

The 1993 education finance law provides farmers with some tax relief by increasing the amount of farmland that is eligible for the most favorable tax rate of 0.45 percent.

Under the new law, a farmer won't have to deduct the value of the house, garage, and one acre of land from the first \$115,000 of agricultural land that can be taxed at the lowest rate. The law also includes a tax rate change for farms which have under 320 acres but are valued at over \$115,000.

But even with these changes, farmers devastated by this year's crop damage will find it hard to pay their property taxes, Randy Thalman, a farmer, told the division at its Sept. 21 meeting in Winthrop, Minn. He asked the division to reconsider how local communities should contribute to school finance.

Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), division chair, said that the Legislature has formed a task force on property taxes.

One of the proposals it is considering would link the payment of property taxes with a property owner's ability to pay.

Rural population declines

NEW ULM — The population of southwestern Minnesota counties will continue to decline, as it has since the 1940s or earlier, state demographer Tom Gillaspay told an audience in New Ulm, Minn., Sept. 20. The young will keep being attracted to the bright lights of the metropolitan area, and small towns may have to import labor to fill low-paying jobs. Older adults will continue to move from rural areas to cities that are large enough to have a doctor and a clinic.

But the population forecast is not as bleak as it might seem. "Just because you're losing population doesn't mean everything's falling apart," Gillaspay said. He noted that European countries, such as Germany, have managed to grow economically even as they lost population.

Gillaspay outlined the demographic trends to be expected in southwestern Minnesota from now until the year 2020.

Of all the northern-tier states from the East to West Coasts, Minnesota is the fastest growing, having experienced a 7.3 percent population increase in the last decade, Gillaspay said. But the population declines being experienced by many rural Minnesota counties reflect what's happening across the nation. "The nation as a whole is going through a middle-aging process," he said.

Both births and deaths are expected to decrease. From now until 2020, southwestern Minnesota will see sharp declines in the number of people between the ages of 5 and 15, although the next five to 10 years will see increases in the secondary school-age population, as the children of baby-boomers enter high school.

Southwestern Minnesota already has a large elderly population, with one in four or five residents being 65 or older. That proportion will stay the same or decline slightly by the year 2020, while the elderly population in the entire state will grow by two-thirds.

Asked by one southwestern Minnesota resident for advice on how to cope with a declining and aging population, Gillaspay suggested that communities should first think about what they want to be. A manufacturing center? A resort town that attracts families? Or older couples? "Then think about how you go about achieving that," he said.



Kelli Johnson, director of House Minority Caucus Research, holds the microphone for Larry Skramstad, St. Peter American Legion adjutant, at the Minnesota Valley Town Meeting in St. Peter Sept. 21. Skramstad asked members of the House if something could be done to help charitable gaming in the state.

Listening to the folks . . .

Flood relief, economic survival led town meeting topics

Earlier this year, plenty of people volunteered to sandbag the Minnesota River to keep flood waters back. But getting volunteers to dismantle the sandbag walls now that the danger has passed is not as easy a task.

Help is on the way, however. The state Department of Corrections will soon have low-risk offenders remove sandbags and pick tires out of the river.

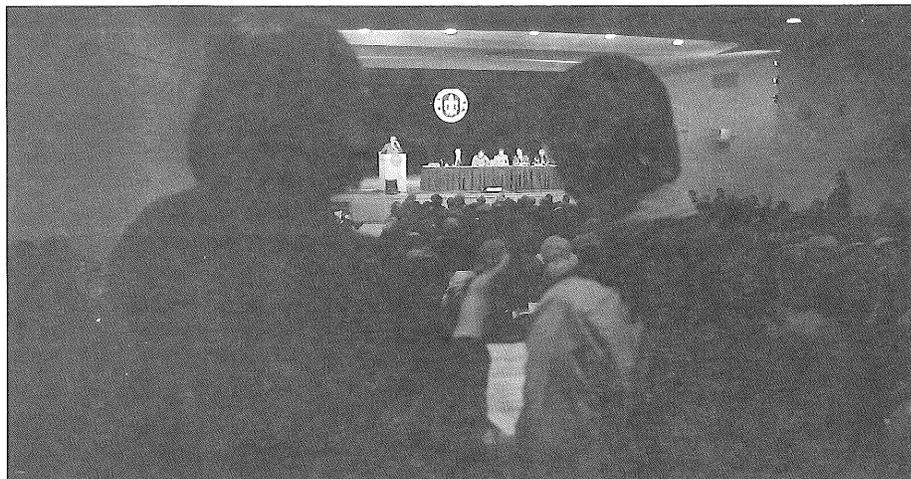
The explanation of the Department of Corrections' role in the cleanup was made by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and was in response to a boy's question during the "town meeting" at St. Peter High School Sept. 21.

The boy was one of about 250 people who traveled through a heavy thunderstorm to tell legislators what was on their minds.

Some corn growers requested property tax relief and other assistance to cope with the consequences of this year's flood. House Speaker-designate Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said legislators would be listening to recommendations on how to respond to the flood at several hearings at the State Capitol.

Environmental safety was another issue citizens wanted the Legislature to consider, and several people spoke of their concern about a proposal by Northern States Power Co. to store high-level radioactive nuclear waste at the Prairie Island nuclear facility.

Anderson said he hadn't decided how he would vote on the proposal. House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) said he would vote in favor of the proposal, based on the state's need for energy and the reassur-



St. Peter Police Chief Brad Kollmann voiced his opinions at the Minnesota Valley Town Meeting held in the St. Peter High School auditorium Sept. 21.

ance he got by reading an environmental impact statement on the project.

Restrictions on gambling were also a concern. An American Legion representative wanted to be able to use more of the proceeds from the Legion's charitable gaming operations to pay bills than the law presently allows. A small business owner in Rice County said his bar and grill business has gone down 25 percent since 1988, and he wanted the Legislature to reconsider a video lottery bill that failed in the 1993 session. Both Anderson and Sviggum said they were prepared to look at the issue again.

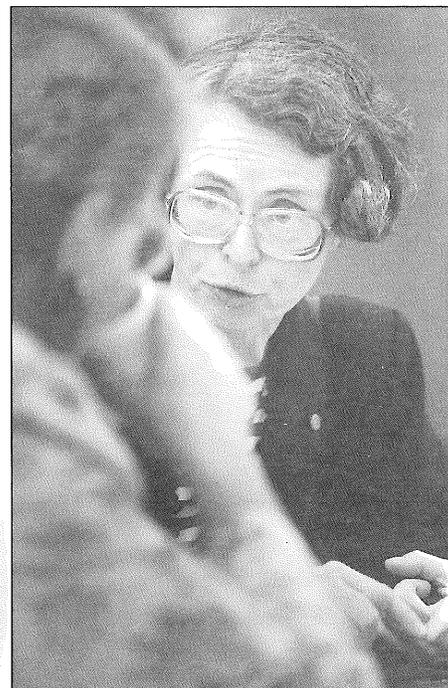
State mandates without funding brought a few complaints. "The impetus is to pass a law when there's an isolated incident," said St. Peter Police Chief Brad Kollmann. He also

complained that government aid grants tend to go to wealthier communities that can afford to employ a person trained to apply for grants and that can come up with matching funds. At the same time, Kollmann thanked legislators for local government aid. "Without it, government would collapse," he said.

One man in the audience spoke against term limitations. Sviggum said he thought the issue should go on the ballot. "In all 17 of the 17 states it's been brought forward in, *Continued on next page*



After the Minnesota Valley Town Meeting in the St. Peter High School auditorium, Jerry Lucas, left, of St. Peter, and Reps. Jerry Bauerly (DFL-Sauk Rapids) and Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington) discussed the pros and cons of a voucher system in education.



Rep. Katy Olson (DFL-Sherburn), left, and Mary Gover, a member of the St. Peter City Council, discuss taxes during a breakout group meeting following the town meeting Sept. 21.

Continued from page 7

people have voted for it," Sviggum said. Another member of the audience was concerned about whether outcome-based education accomplishes its purpose. "Isn't it better to teach [students] to master a subject than to pass some test?" he asked.

Meeting low-income housing needs, improving the quality of education through the use of educational vouchers, reducing waste from packaging, and the need for a ski safety act were among the other concerns raised by speakers who had a few minutes each to make their points.



ENVIRONMENT

Useful garbage

ST. PETER — If some new Minnesota businesses have their way, Sunday newspapers won't just accumulate on the dining room table; they may be used to make the table.

State lawmakers learned how three companies in southern Minnesota are using innovative technology and environmentally responsible processes to make useful products out of garbage. And some of these products could prove a boon to the rural economy.

Soybeans and recycled paper are the chief components of Environ, a product that has the look of granite and practical characteristics of wood. Donald Anderson, chief technical officer for Phenix Composites, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Sept. 21 in St. Peter, Minn., that Environ could have a significant impact on rural Minnesota by providing a major new market for soy flour.

Anderson said that Phenix Composites, of Mankato, set out to make an environmentally responsible product. The only net effluent from the manufacturing process is water vapor.

In addition to providing a new market for waste newspaper, Environ can be substituted for traditional wood products. And while it looks like stone, it can be worked with traditional woodworking tools.

Anderson told the committee that he is heading to New York to have his product evaluated for sale at Bloomingdale's department stores.

Stan Shetka, a professor at Gustavus Adolphus College, is also developing a product that uses waste paper. ShetkaBoard can be produced from all types of waste paper, including telephone books, glossy magazines, window envelopes, and post-consumer cardboard.

Because no binders or adhesives are used in the process of making ShetkaBoard, it is totally recyclable. In fact, Shetka said that any leftover ShetkaBoard be melted down and used to make new ShetkaBoard.

The Charles Lindbergh Fund is providing Shetka with a grant to design a house and furniture out of his product. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), chair of the committee, suggested that Shetka apply to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for additional research dollars.

The waste tire problem also is being tackled in southern Minnesota. Multi-Bloc Inc., a Mankato company, is using old tires to make a multi-purpose block that can be used as a barrier material.

David Gaines, marketing coordinator for Multi-Bloc, Inc., showed a video of how old tires are shredded and then pressed into building blocks. The company is installing a

retainer wall in Mankato made from the blocks. Among other uses, the blocks can be used for highway crash barriers and erosion control. Forty old tires go into making one 16-cubic-foot block.



GOVERNMENT

Preserving local history

ST. PETER — When J. Peter Koop Sr. first began the volunteer, door-to-door drive to raise money to help restore the old Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson, he met some opposition.

"Some of them [volunteers] just got kicked right off the porch," said Koop. Others suggested that the old courthouse, which was built in 1879, be torn down and a pole building be erected in its place.

Were it not for the Minnesota Historical Society's (MHS) grant-in-aid program, "we very definitely would not have been able to restore the old Sibley County Courthouse," said Koop.

Koop and several other supporters of the MHS program, which requires state funds to be matched by local sources to finance historical projects, voiced their unqualified support for the program before the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee Sept. 21 in St. Peter, Minn. The committee authorizes funds for the MHS and several other state and quasi-state agencies.

Koop said the availability of the grant-in-aid funds helped immeasurably in the fund-raising effort. Since 1985, about \$200,000 from a variety of sources has been spent to restore the courthouse, which was once the county seat.

But funds will likely be more difficult to raise now than when the old Sibley Courthouse campaign began, because funding for the MHS program has been drastically reduced in recent years. In 1991, the Legislature authorized \$446,000 for the program over two years, but the money was line-item vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson. In 1992, the Legislature restored \$100,000 of that funding.

Then, in 1993, the Legislature appropriated \$96,000 over two years — just 21.5 percent of what had been originally authorized two years earlier.

So what happened to the town of Henderson, one of Minnesota's earliest cities and a frontier metropolis that was once on an equal footing with St. Paul?

In 1915, a countywide election was held to move the county seat from Henderson to



During the Minnesota Valley Town Meeting in St. Peter Sept. 21, Judith Kemmett expressed her opinion about the need for alternatives to the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant.

nearby Gaylord. The Irish-Catholic community in Jessenland Township became the "swing vote" in the election. Community members felt "they were being treated very poorly" by Henderson's merchants, explained Koop.

Even though Gaylord, like Henderson, was more Protestant than Catholic, the Jessenland Township group voted in favor of the move. "They cut off their noses to spite their face," said Koop. "It was a much further trip for them, but they did it anyway."

The county seat moved to Gaylord the following year, and the old courthouse was later sold to the city of Henderson for \$1. In the intervening years, "there were large periods of total neglect," said Koop.

Now, the Sibley County Historical Society, of which Koop is president, is in the planning stages of converting the building's second floor into an interpretive center featuring Joseph Brown, one of Minnesota's most famous pioneers and the founder of Henderson.

Although much work remains on the interpretive center, Koop said the hardest work is over.

"Number one, we have a structure that is stable and historical," he said. "We could not have done that without the [MHS] seed money."

Communications revolution

NEW ULM — The development of sophisticated telecommunications devices may be viewed as so much gimmickry by some.

But to many in outstate Minnesota, the devices are seen as another tool to help rural areas — both economically and in the classroom.

Speaking to the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division Sept. 22, Blue Earth County Commissioner Keith Stoltzman asked members to visualize "students in small, rural communities taking classes in quantum physics, or whatever class they want, from any university in the world."

And through the use of telecommunications systems, Dale Arling Ericson is bringing that vision one step closer to reality in southeastern Minnesota.

Ericson directs a project called MinD-SET (Minnesota Delivery of Southeastern Technology), which is a 16-channel, two-way interactive television network with one classroom at each of six technical college sites and one state university site. It has the potential to expand classrooms at each site and to expand to other sites and cities.

MinD-SET evolved out of a group called Prairieland Partners made up of technical colleges, state universities, and community colleges in southeastern Minnesota. It serves basically southeastern and south central Minnesota with sites at Mankato State University; Minnesota Riverland Technical College (Austin, Faribault, Rochester, and Owatonna); and South Central Technical College (Albert Lea and Mankato).

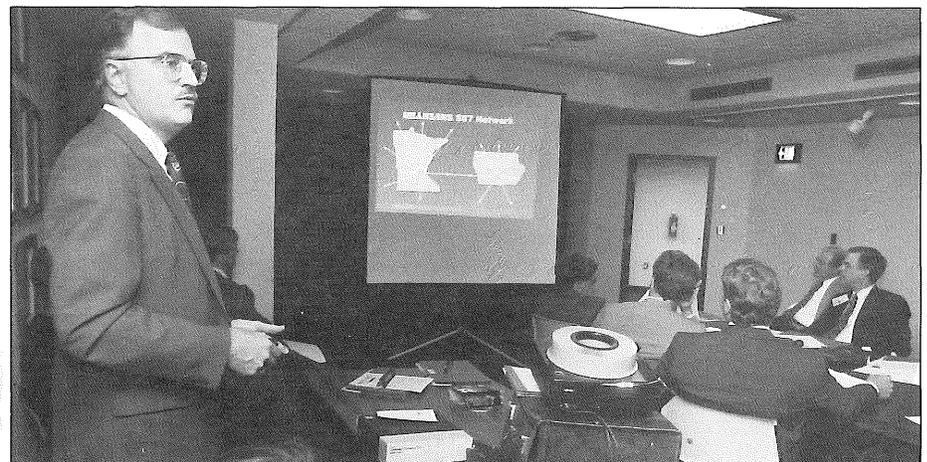
Some discussion focused on the implications of the communications revolution for consumers, and what effect that will have on rural areas.

Will such technology increase the distance between different groups in our society or provide greater opportunity for all? asked Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter).

Mike Rouleau, director of services, development, and planning for U.S. West, said he thought that everyone, regardless of economic status, would eventually have access to the same information through the use of centralized resources such as public libraries.

But Rep. Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples), division chair, said, "What I'm noticing in schools is that there is an increasing disparity among those who have computers at home and the advantage that brings when they get into the classroom."

Dave Kelley, president and CEO of MEANS, Inc. (Minnesota Equal Access Network Services) in Plymouth, said that new technologies usually end up in the metropolitan areas first, and often the rural areas don't have the same opportunity. He said his company, which is formed by independent telephone companies in Minnesota, is committed to providing equal access to state-of-the-art technologies to rural Minnesota.



Dave Kelley, president of MEANS, Inc., told members of the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee Sept. 22 about how his company created the second largest telecommunications marketplace in the state.

Reforming health care

NEW ULM — Southern Minnesotans in New Ulm, Minn., Sept. 21 expressed their concern about how new state cost management strategies will affect the quality of health care in rural Minnesota. Health care consumers, doctors, and hospital administrators questioned how the new plan would affect choice, ethics, and the survival of small-town hospitals.

They spoke to visiting state legislators and two state officials who are in charge of outlining the details of Minnesota's health care reform plan, which was passed by the state Legislature earlier this year. The new legislation strongly encourages health care providers to organize into new types of health plans known as integrated service networks or ISNs, which are loosely modeled on present-day health maintenance organizations such as Medica and Group Health.

Providers who do not voluntarily join ISNs will be subject to more state regulation than they previously have been, with tighter controls on spending and patient fees. The new plan is expected to slow the rate of inflation on health care costs by providing incentives to hospitals, clinics, and doctors to choose the least costly, yet still effective treatment for patients.

Some of the people who attended the meeting at Sioux Valley Hospital were concerned that the new ISNs would limit their choice of physicians. Michael Scandrett, executive director of the Minnesota Health Care Commission, said that consumers will initially choose either to join an ISN or a fee-for-service plan. If they join an ISN, they will

have lower costs and more limited choices. If they choose fee-for-service, they will have more choices and higher costs.

Another concern was the new plan's potential impact on medical ethics. One Mankato doctor, Betsy Siitari, noted that medical technology has advanced much faster than society's ability to cope with the ethical issues the technology raises. She noted that some surgical interventions that prolong the lives of those over 65 in the United States are not funded under government-controlled medical plans such as England's.

One consumer had personal concerns that tighter cost controls might exclude patients who are being treated under the present system. "What we've done here is gone from being a society to an economy," said Carol Strenge of Klossner. She is worried about how favorably the new state system will regard treatment for her teenaged son, who suffered a severe spinal cord injury and is facing an estimated \$750,000-a-year medical cost for his lifetime. "Where's the incentive to keep that child alive?" she asked.

But one New Ulm doctor, Laurel Gamm, welcomed the state reforms. She said doctors already face tough ethical choices every day under the current system, which leaves thousands of Minnesotans uninsured. For instance, a patient may reject the most effective treatment for a disease because he or she cannot afford it, leaving the doctor to recommend a less costly treatment that is also less effective, Gamm said.

State health care officials, working with expert advisors, have until mid-January to establish the rules under which ISNs can form. ISNs can come into existence beginning July 1, 1994. Dave Haugen, coordinator of special projects at the state Department of Health, told the audience that final decisions on how ISNs can be organized and how they will operate have not been made, and the ideas and advice of those who will be affected by the changes will be taken into account as the state comes up with its guidelines.

The definition of an ISN will be flexible, so the way individual ISNs are organized can be tailored to meet the diverse needs of each Minnesota community, Scandrett said. The state Department of Health will offer technical help to providers planning to form an ISN to help them cope with and prepare for the financial risk involved.

Touring St. Peter RTC

ST. PETER — Visiting legislators got a closer look at the challenges facing staff who work with some of Minnesota's most psychologically troubled residents at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center Sept. 21.

Clients at the treatment center include "psychopathic personalities," who are predominantly criminal offenders considered too dangerous to be released into the community after they finish serving their prison sentences; the mentally ill and dangerous, who may be a danger to others or themselves; and psychogeriatric patients, whose behavior is too difficult to be handled at typical nursing homes, as well as mentally ill people who are not dangerous.

The Regional Treatment Center (RTC) also houses the developmentally disabled whose mental retardation is complicated by additional physical and/or mental disabilities which makes them unlikely candidates to be moved into community-based settings. Another division of the RTC treats patients who have chemical dependency problems, most of which involve alcohol.

"We do have life-threatening situations," said Bill Pedersen, chief executive officer of the St. Peter RTC, as he asked for the legislators' support and understanding.

One of the toughest challenges the St. Peter RTC is facing is the housing and treatment of psychopathic personalities. Although these residents are legally defined as "vulnerable adults," they exhibit predatory behavior and need to be kept separate from the more

vulnerable mentally ill and dangerous residents, Pedersen said.

"I don't need to tell you these are hardened criminals, for the most part," Pedersen told legislators. A new security fence is being built around Shantz Hall, where the psychopathic personalities determined to be of lesser risk are housed. Another 22-bed unit for psychopathic personalities is contained within the Minnesota Security Hospital, which sits at the top of the hill of the 722-acre campus. That facility is so secure that even an internal courtyard is topped with a metal grid that obscures patients' view of the sky.

In the past few years, an old law that allows psychopathic personalities to be committed after serving their prison sentences has come into more frequent use, resulting in a burgeoning population of psychopathic personalities at St. Peter. Sixty people have been committed under the law, with every month bringing, on average, two more commitments. In the 1970s, there was only one commitment a year under the law, Pedersen said.

Last session, legislators voted to build a 100-bed facility for psychopathic personalities in Moose Lake, but the St. Peter RTC still may be needed to house the overflow if the population exceeds 100.

The 1992 and 1993 Legislatures authorized a total of \$8.5 million in bonding for a new 50-bed facility at the St. Peter RTC. That building will house either psychopathic personalities or the mentally ill and dangerous, depending on the need.



Larry TeBrake, right, program director of the Minnesota Security Hospital on the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center campus, explained to members the usefulness of shock treatments in combating depression in patients. Left to right: Rep. Arlon Lindner (IR-Corcoran), House staff member Vic Thorstenson, Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), and Rep. Brian Bergson (DFL-Osseo).



HUMAN SERVICES

Helping kids at school

LE SUEUR — If children are to be helped, it would be best for that help to come early, before they have failed in school or fallen into any of the categories where help is urgently needed. That was the belief behind many of the statements educators, social workers, and parents made to legislators who visited Park Elementary School in Le Sueur, Minn., Sept. 22.

The legislators represented three committees: the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division, and the Health and Human Services Committee's Health and Housing Division, and Human Services Division.

Recognition that a child's scholastic

achievement is linked to his or her social and economic well-being has led the state and counties to move toward collaborative services for children. This means putting more social workers and health professionals in the schools, and a less fragmented delivery of social services.

But there are some hindrances to delivering those collaborative services that need to be studied. For one, data privacy laws often make it difficult for programs and institutions to share information that would help them help children, said Dennis McCoy, who is human services director for Blue Earth County.

"Data privacy laws are disastrous, quite frankly," said McCoy. "People have to bend the law to accomplish what is good for people."

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (IR-Princeton) was sympathetic, saying he learned soon after becoming a legislator that trying to help constituents who asked him to straighten out a problem was difficult because of data privacy. Social service providers would say, "I'm sorry. I can't tell you anything about this," Koppendrayner said.

Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul) said that because the data privacy law is complicated, it's easier for workers to say they can't share information than to determine exactly what they can and cannot legally disclose. On the other hand, some parents may not want others to know that their children qualify for Head Start because it reveals too much about their family's economic condition.

Because of a combination of state mandates and growing need, the social services staff for Le Sueur County has almost doubled

in 10 years, to 22 people, while the county population has remained the same, said Barbara Droher, human services director for Le Sueur County.

Droher worked previously in Oakland, Calif., and noted that more moralistic judgments are made in rural Minnesota. Cases that would not have been accepted for referral in Oakland are accepted here, a difference that Droher blamed on laws that are too broadly written. "People here say that kids should be placed [in foster care] because the mother has too many boyfriends," Droher said.

One parent pleaded with legislators to make sure that children with learning difficulties learn to read before their failure to do so results in loss of self-esteem. Vellenga said she was concerned that some special education funding is being drained to pay for repeated assessments of children.

Vellenga said she would prefer that more special education funding be spent for educating children, rather than on such things as multiple assessments.

Do you know?

Visitors to last week's Minnesota Valley Public Forum may have noticed the larger-than-average width of Minnesota Avenue in St. Peter, the main thoroughfare through which US 169 passes.

Although most are familiar with the story of how territorial legislator Jolly Joe Rolette absconded with the bill that would have moved the Capitol to St. Peter, few are aware of just how ready St. Peter was to become the new capital.

Not only did it lay out a grandiose main drag — 120 feet wide from storefront to storefront — but city leaders also actually built a new Capitol building.

The 1857 bill calling for the removal of the Capitol to St. Peter contained a clause requiring the St. Peter Co. (which was behind the establishment of the city of St. Peter) to donate land and \$100,000 for the new Capitol's construction.

Although the bill was never officially approved, the St. Peter Co. went ahead with its plans anyway. It authorized the construction of a Capitol building of wood for \$5,000. When the effort to make St. Peter the capital appeared doomed forever, the building served as the Nicollet County Courthouse until 1881.

That structure has since been demolished, but Minnesota Avenue remains one of the widest small-town streets in the state.



TAXES

Looking for government aid

ST. PETER — Owatonna Mayor Wayne Klinkhammer was explaining his city's increasing tax burden Sept. 21 when he got an introduction into the rough-and-tumble world of competing interests that are the norm at the state Capitol.

As Klinkhammer, with the aid of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota's Tim Flaherty,



The Property Tax Reform Task Force spent the morning of Sept. 21 touring the New Ulm-St. Peter area talking with business people, homeowners, and farmers. Members visited the Nicollet farm of Howard and Jane Swenson, where conversation centered on the effects of property taxes on farm operations.

outlined how recent law changes have resulted in reduced state aid for some outstate cities and increased aid for richer suburbs, Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) took issue with their arithmetic.

"It's real easy, Mr. Mayor, to beat up on the town of Wayzata," said Abrams, who represents Wayzata. "[But] I do think we have to start from some form of factual basis."

The exchange before the Property Tax Reform Task Force helps illustrate the dilemma lawmakers often find themselves in. On one side was Klinkhammer and other outstate city officials, who argued that their share of the local government aid pie has dwindled since 1989.

On the other, are suburban communities that have long argued that they are the state's property tax cash cows — the victims of both high values and a three-tiered property tax system (that was scaled back to two tiers in 1992).

Although Klinkhammer and several other city officials said they didn't want their gain to come at the expense of other cities, it's inevitable that a tinker with a formula here will lead to a ripple somewhere else.

But regardless of just where the money for increased local aid comes from, Klinkhammer and other city officials from southern Minnesota were largely in agreement.

"This whole issue is not real complicated," said Klinkhammer. "We can't survive. The property tax wealth simply isn't there."

Mary Gover, a St. Peter city councilwoman and former school board member, said city funding should be weaned entirely from property taxes. In its place, essential city services should be funded with "the income tax primarily and the sales tax secondarily," she said, adding that people from St. Peter frequently shop in the Twin Cities.

Others who testified at the hearing echoed



Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), left, and Rep. Steve Kelly (DFL-Hopkins), right, two of the co-chairs of the Property Tax Reform Task Force, talked with Ruth Larson in her St. Peter home about property taxes and fixed incomes.

a consistent theme: Reduce taxes to help a depressed outstate region survive.

Larry Kean, who operates Kean's Home Center in New Ulm, said his property taxes have increased 140 percent since 1978 — far outpacing the price increase for the cost of carpet during that time.

"My income has fallen for three years in a row," he said, adding that his two full-time employees haven't had raises for two years.

Madison Lake Mayor Jerry Groebner, who also sells insurance and owns a small newspaper and rental property, said the property taxes on a \$22,000 home (non-homesteaded) are nearly \$800 per year, which translates to about \$63 per month for renters.

"The renter is also getting zapped by these high taxes," he said.

And finally, Jerry Underwood of Mankato's Hubbard Milling, which makes pet food and other products, said Minnesota property taxes

are a "great deal higher" in Minnesota than in any of the 14 states in which his company owns property.

"It's a deterrent to us to look at the state of Minnesota as a place to expand in," he said.

TRANSPORTATION

Rural transit needs

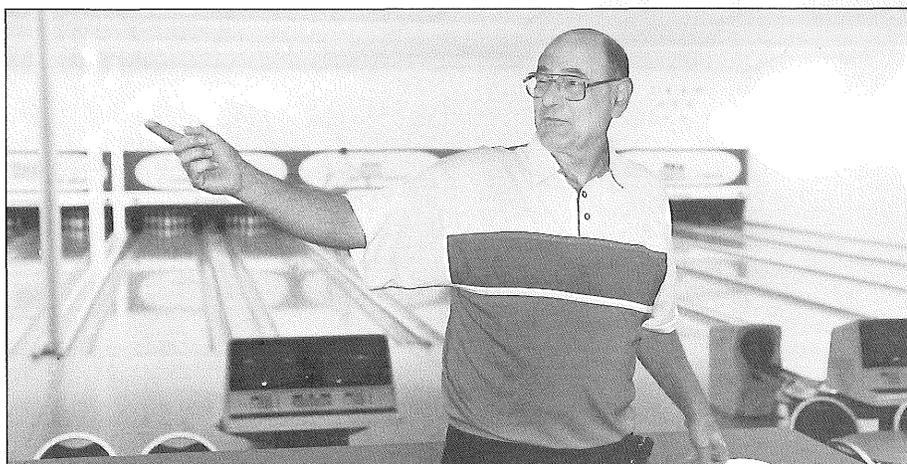
LE SUEUR — The need for regular medical treatments isn't the only crisis facing three rural Le Sueur County residents. So is a convenient, cost-effective way of getting themselves from their homes to distant health care facilities.

For these patients, their medical equipment is at a Burnsville, Minn., hospital where they receive kidney dialysis three times a week. Their only means of transportation to that hospital, which is about 45 miles away is a loosely knit system of volunteer drivers.

That's partly because these patients can't drive themselves and aren't yet eligible for public medical assistance to help pay for the trips. But it's also because Le Sueur County lacks a developed public transit system such as the one operated by its largest city, Le Sueur.

So Barbara Droher, Le Sueur County human services director, told the House Transportation and Transit Committee at a public hearing Sept. 21 in Le Sueur.

"We have a great need for a rural transportation system supported by state and federal funds," Droher said. "Our county is very rural, like some of those in southwestern



In New Ulm, the Property Tax Reform Task Force heard the concerns of Joel Albright, owner of Concordia Lanes, who pointed out some of the new features in his bowling alley that make it one of the top five in the state.

It's a fact!

Along with the first freestanding carillon clock in North America and the peacock inhabited Biergartens (beer gardens) of the August Schell Brewing Co., New Ulm, Minn., also boasts the most homogenous ethnic population of any community in the United States in the 1980's. (This according to an analysis of the 1980 U.S. census data by geographers James P. Allen and Eugene Turner of California State University, Northridge.)

Based on comparisons of three sets of ethnic groupings, New Ulm is the least ethnically diverse of the 6,000 cities and counties analyzed, ranking behind such places as Spencer, Iowa, and Beatrice, Neb.

New Ulm's strong German heritage is largely responsible for the homogeneity of its population — its original settlers came from Ulm, a town located in the Wurtemberg region of Germany. Seventy-seven percent of the 13,755 New Ulm residents claimed either single or mixed German ancestry on the 1980 census, while just more than 7 percent claimed "Irish or other ancestry," the next largest ethnic group represented.

Despite the old world German nimbus threading the city — it's home to a 102-foot-tall monument to Hermann the Cheruscan, responsible for ending Roman oppression of the Germans in A.D. 9 — New Ulm is home to people of varying ethnicity. Those seeking a more ethnically iridescent environment, however, should head to the San Francisco Bay area, Honolulu, Hawaii, or Immokalee, Fla.

Sources: *Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine*, May 1990; *Star Tribune*, Sept. 1, 1988; *New Ulm Journal*, Sept. 2, 1988.



House Speaker-designate Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), *left center*, talked with the local press at South Central Technical College in North Mankato Sept. 22. He said that the Minnesota Valley Public Forum was a success and that the response at the community meetings was good. Also present were House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), *left*, House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), *right center*, and Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester), assistant minority leader, *right*.

Minnesota. It has dropped in population since the last census."

Le Sueur County hopes to find answers to its transportation dilemma soon. The county may seek a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) start-up grant for a new transit program. Such a program would likely expand the system currently operating in the city of Le Sueur — a blend of public transportation and privately contracted services — into a countywide program to better serve rural residents, said Droher.

Meantime, situations like the one in Le Sueur County may exist in many more counties in south central Minnesota, said Mark Scheidel, a planner with the Mankato-based Region Nine Development Commission.

"The perceived need [for a rural transportation system] may even be greater than we think it is," he said.

That's why Scheidel urged the committee to support a push for a more comprehensive, statewide assessment of the needs for a rural transit program. An earlier MnDOT survey showed there were gaps in public transit service like those found in Le Sueur County, Scheidel said. But no one is sure how wide those gaps are, he added.

"It is kind of ironic," observed Rep. Marvin Dauner (DFL-Hawley), who lives near Moorhead in northwestern Minnesota. "Where I live, there's no public transportation [system] for seniors. But there is a privately subsidized one. That's to the casino at Mahnomen, and [it] pays you \$15."

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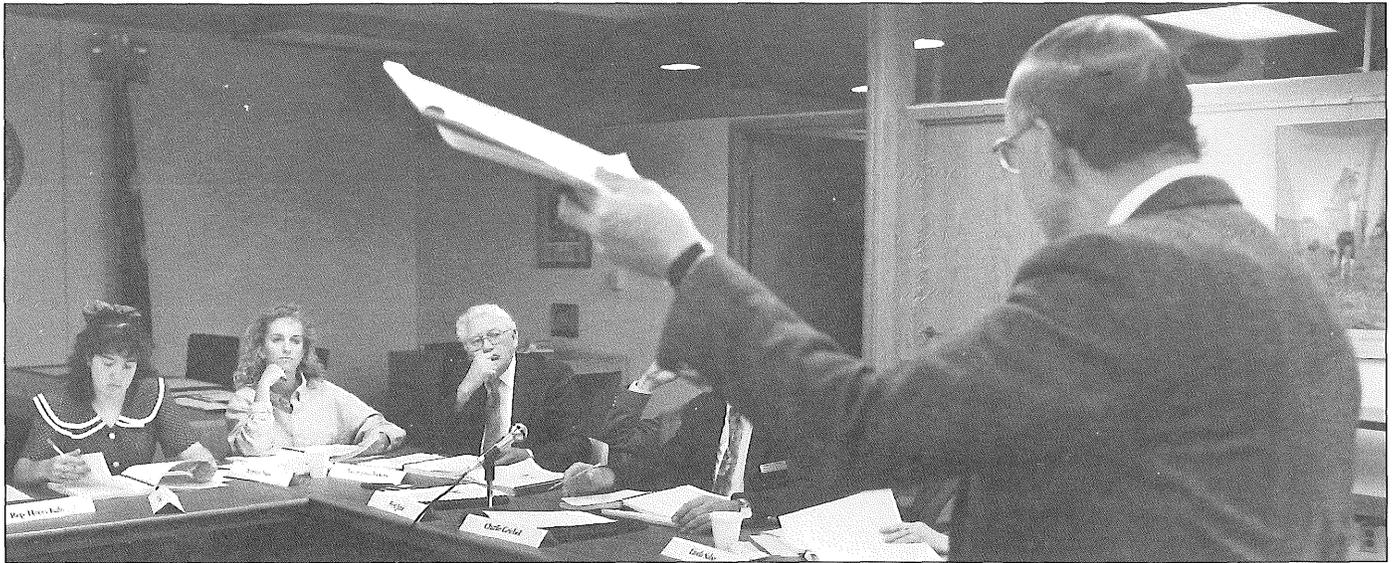
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Local residents were members of a citizen panel to deal with issues facing the state. They heard pros and cons of various proposals, set targets and priorities, and offered recommendations to the House of Representatives. The session with the Capital Investment Committee took place in New Ulm Sept. 22.

'Citizen jury' given a chance to decide state's needs

After four-and-a-half hours of wrangling over capital budget priorities, no member of a 10-person citizen jury said they'd like to be a legislator and have such responsibility full time.

The citizen jury was organized by the House Capital Investment Committee as an exercise in democratic decision making. The session took place in New Ulm Sept. 22.

"We're trying to give you people a feel of what we really go through [when negotiating a bonding bill]," Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), division chair, told members of the jury.

The jury was composed of volunteers representing diverse interests, including a single

mother, high school student, teacher, newspaper editor, and farmer. They were given the charge of deciding how much the state should spend on the 1994 state bonding bill and how it should be allotted.

Given a choice of funding capital projects at \$300 million, \$400 million, or \$500 million — with \$400 million being the high end amount that could be funded without the need for new taxes or large cuts in other areas — the jury voted to work with just \$300 million. Charlie Griebel, a Brown County commissioner, explained that the low figure reflected concern about the economy and effects of the flood.

While jury members role-played their parts as legislators, the legislators acted as agency heads and got an opportunity to lobby jury members. They took advantage of the chance to serve as advocates rather than arbiters, and made the jury consider the possible negative effects of seemingly creative solutions.

When one jury member suggested using available trunk highway money to make repairs to the Transportation Building at the Capitol complex in St. Paul, Rep. Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples) reminded him that it would mean cutting back roadway projects.

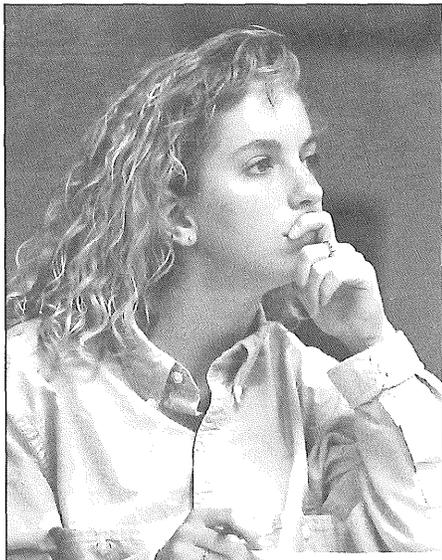
And it didn't take long for jury members to start sounding and acting like legislators. They asked a lot of questions, negotiated compromises, and wished that they had more money to spend. They also pushed hard for their favorite projects.

When Griebel proposed and won funding

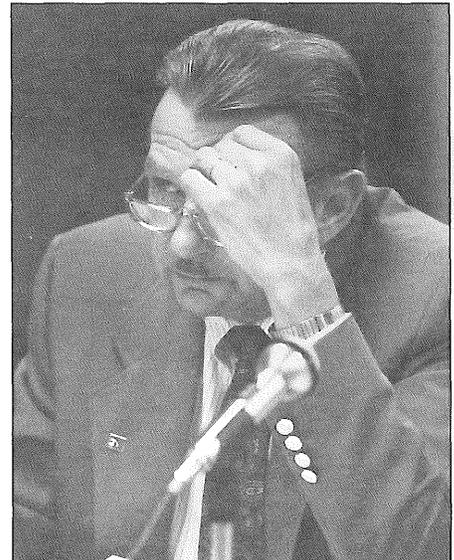
approval for a new project he added to give county jails an extra \$5 million, Kalis congratulated him on being a good politician. "He cut out a lot of projects, came in under budget, but made sure of one thing — that he got his own project."

After going nearly two hours over their self-imposed deadline for making their recommendations, the jury decided to call it quits. They had allocated about \$140 million of their total of \$300 million and still had a number of agency requests to consider.

"Now when you hear criticism of the Legislature meeting until 12 at night, you'll know why," said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey).



Citizen panel member Rebecca Ninke of St. Peter.



Citizen panel member Fred Jumi of New Ulm.



Streams of people passed by the House/Senate exhibit, which was located in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair. The variety of activities in the booth attracted attention and persuaded many to participate.

1993 Minnesota State Fair

Public opinion poll draws thousands of fairgoers

More than 7,000 fairgoers registered their opinions at the House and Senate exhibits during the Minnesota State Fair Aug. 26 - Sept. 6.

Nearly three-quarters of those polled — 74.7 percent — said they would support a constitutional amendment calling for term limits for legislators and constitutional officers. Slightly more, 75.8 percent, said all motorcyclists should be required to wear helmets.

And more people than not said they would pay more for a gallon of milk provided all of

the additional money goes to Minnesota dairy farmers.

The 12-question unofficial public opinion poll was developed jointly by the House and the Senate with input from legislators and staff from both bodies. The questions centered on state policy issues that may appear before the Legislature during the upcoming session.

Besides the opinion poll, fairgoers were able to take the computerized five-part Minnesota Government Quiz, which included a new section on the history of some of the state's laws. Some scored high, but those who felt they didn't do well were encouraged to pick up literature from the House Public Information Office.

Another computer game allowed people to look up the names of their counties to discover how the counties got their names.

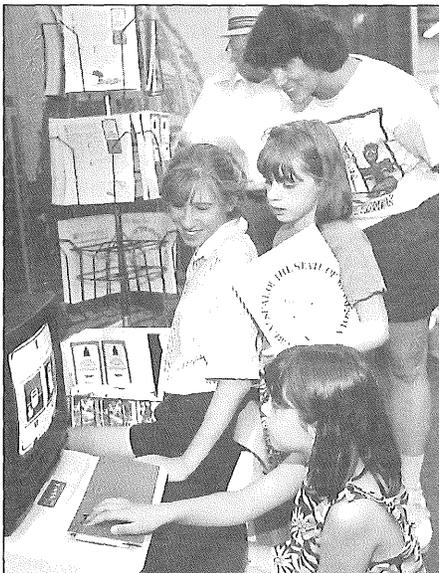
Children were not forgotten either. The computerized Minnesota State Symbols Game offered them a chance to select the correct state symbol, ranging from the loon (official state bird) to wild rice (state grain).

Colorful district maps gave people the opportunity to determine in which legislative district they live.

Finally, fairgoers were able to discuss their concerns with legislators. Forty-four out of 134 House members volunteered to spend at least two hours during the 12-day fair, meeting, greeting, and talking with anyone who stopped by the exhibit. One member, Rep. Marc Asch (DFL-North Oaks) enjoyed it so much that he came back three times.

Member volunteers

Marc Asch (DFL-North Oaks)
 Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon)
 Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island)
 Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings)
 John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)
 Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester)
 Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield)
 Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
 Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby)
 Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea)
 Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul)
 Gene Hugoson (IR-Granada)
 Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris)
 Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
 Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)
 Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)
 Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins)
 Stephanie Klinzing (DFL-Elk River)
 Richard Krueger (DFL-Staples)
 Harold Lasley (DFL-Cambridge)
 Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley)
 Arlon Lindner (IR-Corcoran)
 Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington)
 Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul)
 Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)
 Carol Molnau (IR-Chaska)
 Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville)
 Darrel Mosel (DFL-Gaylord)
 Robert Ness (IR-Dassel)
 Mark Olson (IR-Big Lake)
 Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul)
 Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter)
 Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount)
 Walter Perl (DFL-Woodbury)
 Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)
 Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope)
 Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park)
 Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault)
 Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington)
 Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township)
 Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)
 Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake)
 Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls)
 Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)



The Minnesota State Symbols Game challenged children as well as adults, who often coached from behind.

Opinion poll results

The 12-question House/Senate unofficial opinion poll familiarized the more than 7,000 fairgoers who took the poll with some of the issues that have been or may be dealt with during the 1993-94 legislative session. Here are the results:

1) Should state education dollars be given directly to parents so they can choose which school — public or private — that their child will attend?

Yes: 2,538 36.1%
 No: 4,077 58.0%
 Unsure/No opinion: 416 5.9%

2) Should city and county governments be given more autonomy to spend locally and raise taxes locally to support themselves?

Yes: 4,020 57.6%
 No: 2,195 31.4%
 Unsure/No opinion: 769 11.0%

3) Would you support a constitutional amendment calling for term limits for legislators and constitutional officers (such as the governor and the attorney general)?

Yes: 5,232 74.7%
 No: 1,455 20.8%
 Unsure/No opinion: 320 4.5%

4) Should suburban governments be required to allow additional low-income housing or face a reduction in their state aid if they don't?

Yes: 3,106 44.6%
 No: 3,059 43.9%
 Unsure/No opinion: 799 11.5%

5) Under current law, motorcyclists under 18 must wear a helmet. Should all motorcyclists be required to wear a helmet?

Yes: 5,301 75.8%
 No: 1,462 20.9%
 Unsure/No opinion: 235 3.3%

6) If more state funds are needed to deal with crime, should this money be spent on additional prison space or on crime prevention programs?

Prison space: 1,612 23.4%
 Crime prevention programs: 4,186 60.6%
 I don't believe additional state funds should be spent on either: 764 11.1%
 Unsure/No opinion: 339 4.9%

7) Would you be willing to pay more for a gallon of milk if you could be sure that the additional amount went entirely to the dairy farmers of Minnesota? If yes, how much?

I'd pay an additional 10 cents: 2,332 33.0%
 I'd pay an additional 25 cents: 1,161 16.5%
 I'd pay an additional 50 cents: 386 5.5%
 I'd pay an additional \$1: 172 2.4%
 No, I wouldn't pay more: 2,344 33.2%
 Unsure/No opinion: 661 9.4%



People marked their answers to the opinion poll on a ballot, then slipped them into an optic scanner to be tabulated.

8) Since 1988, the state gas tax has been 20 cents per gallon. Would you support an increase in the state tax on gasoline?

Yes, if some of the tax is used for mass transit and light rail transit (which would require a constitutional amendment): 2,631 38.4%
 Yes, if the tax is used only to build and maintain Minnesota highways, as is the current practice: 1,332 19.4%
 No, I don't support a gas tax increase: 2,699 39.4%
 Unsure/No opinion: 194 2.8%

9) If you were to decide the future of gambling in Minnesota, how would you vote?

Immediately eliminate all forms of gambling: 1,749 25.6%
 Retain existing gambling, but prohibit gambling expansion: 2,197 32.2%
 Allow bars and restaurants to institute certain forms of casino-style gambling such as video lottery: 1,181 17.3%
 Begin a slow phase-out of all gambling: 1,377 20.2%
 Unsure/No opinion: 320 4.7%

10) The Minnesota Legislature must decide if Northern States Power Co. (NSP) can build a radioactive waste storage facility at its Prairie Island nuclear power plant near Red Wing, Minn. Available storage space for spent radioactive fuel will run out in 1995. Should NSP be allowed to

construct the new storage facility?

Yes: 3,037 44.4%
 No: 2,767 40.5%
 Unsure/No opinion: 1,031 15.1%

11) Should the Legislature approve a negotiated settlement with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to resolve disputed hunting and fishing rights under the Treaty of 1837 or should the courts decide the matter?

Approve the negotiated settlement: 3,755 55.5%
 Seek a court decision: 2,148 31.7%
 Undecided/No opinion: 866 12.8%

12) Currently, Minnesota is attempting to extend health care benefits to more residents, at significant cost to the state. Please check up to two options that would best control health care costs and/or provide funding for expanding access.

Do not attempt to provide health insurance for all Minnesotans: 2,093 19.2%
 Freeze or control the salaries of health care professionals: 1,948 17.9%
 Require employers to provide health insurance: 2,803 25.8%
 Raise income taxes: 639 5.9%
 Raise taxes on hospitals, doctors and insurance companies: 1,302 12.0%
 Lower the basic benefit package offered to program participants: 2,084 19.2%

Minnesota House of Representatives 1993-94

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
45A Abrams, Ron-IR	209	9934	47A Luther, Darlene-DFL	525	3751
10A Anderson, Bob-DFL	437	4946	50B Lynch, Teresa-IR	295	5369
3A Anderson, Irv-DFL	463	4936	37B Macklin, Bill-IR	317	6926
53B Asch, Marc-DFL	507	7153	40A Mahon, Mark P.-DFL	401	7158
6A Battaglia, David-DFL	377	2190	65B Mariani, Carlos-DFL	303	9714
17B Bauerly, Gerald J. "Jerry"-DFL	409	5377	55B McCollum, Betty-DFL	501	1188
57B Beard, Pat-DFL	565	3135	54A McGuire, Mary Jo-DFL	567	4342
48A Bergson, Brian-DFL	449	5513	39B Milbert, Bob-DFL	579	4192
14B Bertram, Jeff-DFL	571	4373	35A Molnau, Carol-IR	221	8872
10B Bettermann, Hilda-IR	243	4317	36B Morrison, Connie-IR	251	4212
30B Bishop, Dave-IR	309	0573	23B Mosel, Darrel-DFL	521	8634
40B Blatz, Kathleen A.-IR	281	4218	7A Munger, Willard-DFL	479	4282
13A Brown, Chuck-DFL	597	4929	8A Murphy, Mary-DFL	389	2676
25A Brown, Kay-DFL	551	4229	56B Neary, Pamela-DFL	429	4244
46B Carlson, Lyndon R.-DFL	379	4255	11A Nelson, Sydney G.-DFL	527	4293
47B Carruthers, Phil-DFL	459	3709	20A Ness, Robert-IR	335	4344
61A Clark, Karen-DFL	503	0294	2B Olson, Edgar-DFL	517	4265
38A Commers, Tim-IR	215	3533	22B Olson, Katy-DFL	553	5373
15B Cooper, Roger-DFL	545	4346	19A Olson, Mark-IR	201	4237
9B Dauner, Marvin-DFL	581	6829	20B Onnen, Tony-IR	277	1534
31B Davids, Gregory M.-IR	331	9278	16A Opatz, Joe-DFL	423	6612
65A Dawkins, Andy-DFL	371	5158	64B Orenstein, Howard-DFL	529	4199
14A Dehler, Steve-IR	223	7808	60B Orfield, Myron-DFL	413	9281
51A Delmont, Mike-DFL	307	4226	66A Osthoff, Tom-DFL	585	4224
29A Dempsey, Jerry-IR	241	8635	24B Ostrom, Don-DFL	369	7065
24A Dorn, John-DFL	533	3248	37A Ozment, Dennis-IR	287	4306
42A Erhardt, Ron-IR	239	4363	42B Pauly, Sidney-IR	273	7449
52B Evans, Geri-DFL	557	0141	38B Pawlenty, Tim-IR	231	4128
67A Farrell, Jim-DFL	353	4277	32A Pelowski, Gene, Jr.-DFL	531	8637
1B Finseth, Tim-IR	253	9918	57A Perlit, Walter E.-DFL	359	7807
31A Frerichs, Don L.-IR	247	4378	13B Peterson, Doug-DFL	523	4228
63B Garcia, Edwina-DFL	411	5375	39A Pugh, Thomas-DFL	583	6828
21A Girard, Jim-IR	213	5374	27B Reding, Leo J.-DFL	537	4193
9A Goodno, Kevin-IR	327	5515	46A Rest, Ann H.-DFL	443	4176
62A Greenfield, Lee-DFL	375	0173	44B Rhodes, Jim-IR	313	9889
54B Greiling, Mindy-DFL	393	5387	58A Rice, James I.-DFL	381	4262
16B Gruenes, Dave-IR	203	6316	25B Rodosovich, Peter-DFL	445	8237
30A Gutknecht, Gil-IR	261	9249	5A Rukavina, Tom-DFL	473	0170
12A Hasskamp, Kris-DFL	451	4333	59A Sarna, John J.-DFL	563	4219
27A Haukoos, Bob-IR	291	8216	41A Seagren, Alice-IR	321	7803
66B Hausman, Alice-DFL	403	3824	50A Sekhon, Kathleen-DFL	593	2439
56A Holsten, Mark-IR	315	3018	52A Simoneau, Wayne-DFL	365	4331
26A Hugoson, Gene-IR	217	3240	62B Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes"-DFL	477	4330
6B Huntley, Thomas-DFL	387	2228	34A Smith, Steven-IR	311	9188
49B Jacobs, Joel-DFL	485	4231	3B Solberg, Loren-DFL	343	2365
7B Jaros, Mike-DFL	559	4246	55A Stanius, Brad-IR	259	5363
58B Jefferson, Richard H.-DFL	577	8659	21B Steensma, Andy-DFL	471	4336
18B Jennings, Loren-DFL	349	0518	28B Sviggum, Steven A.-IR	267	2273
48B Johnson, Alice M.-DFL	539	5510	51B Swenson, Doug-IR	255	4124
4A Johnson, Bob-DFL	345	5516	5B Tomassoni, David-DFL	569	0172
32B Johnson, Virgil J.-IR	207	1069	36A Tompkins, Eileen-IR	245	5506
59B Kahn, Phyllis-DFL	367	4257	67B Trimble, Steve-DFL	491	4201
26B Kalis, Henry J.-DFL	543	4240	1A Tunheim, Jim-DFL	351	9635
44A Kelley, Steve-DFL	417	3964	34B Van Dellen, H. Todd-IR	279	5511
35B Kelso, Becky-DFL	415	1072	64A Vellenga, Kathleen-DFL	509	8799
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"-DFL	453	2451	23A Vickerman, Barb-IR	211	9303
19B Klinzing, Stephanie-DFL	549	5063	63A Wagenius, Jean-DFL	439	4200
43B Knickerbocker, Jerry-IR	283	4315	29B Waltman, Bob-IR	289	9236
17A Koppendrayner, LeRoy-IR	233	6746	49A Weaver, Charlie-IR	237	1729
53A Krinkie, Phil-IR	323	2907	61B Wejcman, Linda-DFL	431	7152
11B Krueger, Richard "Rick"-DFL	357	3201	15A Welle, Alan W.-DFL	591	6206
18A Lasley, Harold-DFL	433	5364	12B Wenzel, Stephen G.-DFL	487	4247
45B Leppik, Peggy-IR	225	7026	22A Winter, Ted-DFL	407	5505
2A Lieder, Bernie-DFL	515	5091	41B Wolf, Ken-IR	329	5185
33B Limmer, Warren-IR	301	5502	28A Worke, Gary D.-IR	229	5368
33A Lindner, Arlon-IR	227	7806	43A Workman, Tom-IR	337	5066
60A Long, Dee-DFL	575	0171			
8B Lourey, Becky-DFL	421	4308			

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1993-94

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
19 Adkins, Betty A.-DFL	309 Cap.	5981	3 Lessard, Bob-DFL	111 Cap.	4136
66 Anderson, Ellen R.-DFL	G-27 Cap.	5537	47 Luther, William P.-DFL	205 Cap.	8869
26 Beckman, Tracy L.-DFL	301 Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John-DFL	G-9 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger, William V., Jr.-IR	113 SOB	5975	33 McGowan, Patrick D.-IR	129 SOB	2159
31 Benson, Duane D.-IR	119 SOB	3903	49 Merriam, Gene-DFL	122 Cap.	4154
16 Benson, Joanne E.-IR	153 SOB	6455	39 Metzner, James P.-DFL	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A.-DFL	328 Cap.	5094	2 Moe, Roger D.-DFL	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda-DFL	G-9 Cap.	4261	44 Mondale, Ted A.-DFL	309 Cap.	7-8065
14 Bertram, Joe, Sr.-DFL	323 Cap.	2084	32 Morse, Steven-DFL	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don-DFL	G-24 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve L.-DFL	226 Cap.	4264
55 Chandler, Kevin M.-DFL	111 Cap.	9307	25 Neuville, Thomas M.-IR	123 SOB	1279
8 Chmielewski, Florian W.-DFL	325 Cap.	4182	52 Novak, Steven G.-DFL	322 Cap.	4334
64 Cohen, Richard J.-DFL	317 Cap.	5931	43 Oliver, Edward C.-IR	121 SOB	4837
28 Day, Dick-IR	105 SOB	9457	34 Olson, Gen-IR	131 SOB	1282
20 Dille, Steve-IR	103 SOB	4131	65 Pappas, Sandra L.-DFL	G-27 Cap.	1802
4 Finn, Harold R. "Skip"-DFL	306 Cap.	6128	37 Pariseau, Pat-IR	109 SOB	5252
62 Flynn, Carol-DFL	G-29 Cap.	4274	27 Piper, Pat-DFL	G-9 Cap.	9248
23 Frederickson, Dennis R.-IR	139 SOB	8138	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J.-DFL	235 Cap.	7809
50 Hanson, Paula E.-DFL	328 Cap.	3219	57 Price, Leonard R.-DFL	235 Cap.	7-8060
24 Hotfingier, John C.-DFL	G-29 Cap.	6153	63 Ranum, Jane B.-DFL	325 Cap.	7-8061
5 Janezich, Jerry R.-DFL	328 Cap.	8017	46 Reichgott, Ember D.-DFL	306 Cap.	2889
15 Johnson, Dean E.-IR	147 SOB	3826	40 Riveness, Phil J.-DFL	317 Cap.	7-8062
6 Johnson, Douglas J.-DFL	205 Cap.	8881	45 Robertson, Martha R.-IR	125 SOB	4314
18 Johnson, Janet B.-DFL	322 Cap.	5419	53 Runbeck, Linda-IR	107 SOB	1253
35 Johnson, Terry D.-IR	117 SOB	4123	11 Sams, Dallas C.-DFL	G-9 Cap.	7-8063
67 Kelly, Randy C.-DFL	122 Cap.	5285	12 Samuelson, Don-DFL	124 Cap.	4875
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M.-IR	143 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G.-DFL	303 Cap.	4188
36 Knutson, David L.-IR	133 SOB	4120	60 Spear, Allan H.-DFL	G-27 Cap.	4191
51 Krentz, Jane-DFL	235 Cap.	7061	17 Stevens, Dan-IR	127 SOB	8075
58 Kroening, Carl W.-DFL	124 Cap.	4302	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A.-DFL	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W.-IR	141 SOB	4351	42 Terwilliger, Roy W.-IR	115 SOB	6238
9 Langseth, Keith-DFL	G-24 Cap.	3205	22 Vickeimer, Jim-DFL	226 Cap.	5650
10 Larson, Cal-IR	145 SOB	5655	38 Wiener, Deanna-DFL	303 Cap.	7-8073
21 Lesevski, Arlene J.-IR	135 SOB	4125			

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Tim Finseth-IR Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Alan W. Welle-DFL B • Roger Cooper-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-IR	29 A • Jerry Dempsey-IR B • Bob Walman-IR Sen. Steve L. Murphy-DFL	43 A • Tom Workman-IR B • Jerry Knickerbocker-IR Sen. Edward C. Oliver-IR	57 A • Walter E. Peit-DFL B • Pat Beard-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
2 A • Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Joe Opatz-DFL B • Dave Gruenes-IR Sen. Joanne E. Benson-IR	30 A • Gil Guknecht-IR B • Dave Guknecht-IR Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-IR	44 A • Steve Kelley-DFL B • Jim Rhodes-IR Sen. Ted A. Mondale-DFL	58 A • James I. Rice-DFL B • Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Carl W. Kroening-DFL
3 A • Irv Anderson-DFL B • Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • LeRoy Koppendruyer-IR B • Gerald J. "Jerry" Bauerly-DFL Sen. Don Stevens-IR	31 A • Don L. Fierichs-IR B • Gregory M. Davids-IR Sen. Duane D. Benson-IR	45 A • Ron Abrams-IR B • Peggy Leppir-IR Sen. Martha R. Robertson-IR	59 A • John J. Sarna-DFL B • Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Bob Johnson-DFL B • Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkal-DFL Sen. Harold R. "Skip" Finn-DFL	18 A • Harold Lasley-DFL B • Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Gene, Jr. Pelowski-DFL B • Virgil J. Johnson-IR Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember D. Reichgott-DFL	60 A • Dee Long-DFL B • Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Tom Rukavina-DFL B • David Tamassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Mark Olson-IR B • Stephanie Klinzing-DFL Sen. Betty A. Adkins-DFL	33 A • Arlon Lindner-IR B • Warren Limmer-IR Sen. Patrick D. McGowan-IR	47 A • Darlene Luther-DFL B • Phil Caruthers-DFL Sen. William P. Luther-DFL	61 A • Karen Clark-DFL B • Linda Wejman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • David Battaglia-DFL B • Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Robert Ness-IR B • Tony Onnen-IR Sen. Steve Dille-IR	34 A • Steven Smith-IR B • H. Todd Van Deilen-IR Sen. Gen Olson-IR	48 A • Brian Bergson-DFL B • Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Willard Munger-DFL B • Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Jim Girard-IR B • Andy Sloensma-DFL Sen. Arlene J. Lesevski-IR	35 A • Carol Malnou-IR B • Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Terry D. Johnson-IR	49 A • Charlie Weaver-IR B • Joel Jacobs-DFL Sen. Gene Merriam-DFL	63 A • Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Mary Murphy-DFL B • Becky Lauey-DFL Sen. Florian W. Chmielewski-DFL	22 A • Ted Winter-DFL B • Katy Olson-DFL Sen. Jim Vickeimer-DFL	36 A • Eileen Tompkins-IR B • Connie Morrison-IR Sen. David L. Knutson-IR	50 A • Kathleen Sekhon-DFL B • Teresa Lynch-IR Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Kathleen Vellengo-DFL B • Howard Orenstein-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Kevin Goodno-IR B • Marvin Dauner-DFL Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Barb Vickeimer-IR B • Darrel Mosef-DFL Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-IR	37 A • Dennis Ozment-IR B • Bill MacKlin-IR Sen. Pat Pariseau-IR	51 A • Mike Delmont-DFL B • Doug Swenson-IR Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Bob Anderson-DFL B • Hilda Bethermann-IR Sen. Cal Larson-IR	24 A • John Dorn-DFL B • Don Ostrom-DFL Sen. John C. Hotfingier-DFL	38 A • Tim Commers-IR B • Tim Povenly-IR Sen. Deanna Wejman-DFL	52 A • Wayne Simoneau-DFL B • Gene Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Sydney G. Nelson-DFL B • Richard "Rick" Krueger-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Kay Brown-DFL B • Peter Radosovich-DFL Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-IR	39 A • Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzner-DFL	53 A • Phil Krinkie-IR B • Marc Asch-DFL Sen. Linda Runbeck-IR	67 A • Jim Farel-DFL B • Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Gene Hugoson-IR B • Henry J. Kalls-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Kathleen A. Blatz-IR Sen. Phil J. Riveness-DFL	54 A • Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Mindy Gielling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
13 A • Chuck Brown-DFL B • Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-DFL	27 A • Bob Haukoos-IR B • Leo J. Reding-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Alice Seagren-IR B • Ken Wolf-IR Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-IR	55 A • Brad R. Stanius-IR B • Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Kevin M. Chandler-DFL	
14 A • Steve Dehler-IR B • Jeff Bertram-DFL Sen. Joe Bertram Sr.-DFL	28 A • Gary D. Woke-IR B • Steven A. Svigum-IR Sen. Dick Day-IR	42 A • Ron Erhardt-IR B • Sidney Pauly-IR Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-IR	56 A • Mark Holsten-IR B • Pamela Neary-DFL Sen. Gary W. Laidig-IR	

Unofficial list as of September 29, 1993

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Governor

ARNE CARLSON (IR)
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(612) 296-3391
1 (800) 657-3717

Lieutenant Governor

JOANELL DYRSTAD (IR)
Room 130
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(612) 296-3391

Secretary of State

JOAN ANDERSON GROWE (DFL)
Room 180
State Office Building
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-3266
Election Division: 296-2805
Open Appointments: 297-5845
Business Information: 296-2803
UCC: 296-2434

State Auditor

MARK DAYTON (DFL)
525 Park St.
Suite 400
St. Paul 55103
(612) 296-2551

State Treasurer

MICHAEL A. McGRATH (DFL)
303 State Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-7091

Attorney General

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY III (DFL)
Room 102
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St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-6196
Consumer Division: 296-3353
1 (800) 657-3787

Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)

85 State Office Building 297-3697

LCC Central Accounting

198 State Office Building 296-8890

Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)

198 State Office Building 296-0099

Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee

51 State Office Building 296-0098

Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)

Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-2438

Audit Commission Office of Legislative Auditor

First Floor, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-4708

Legislative Commission on Children, Youth & Their Families

85 State Office Building 296-8590

Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

85 State Office Building 296-8590

Toll-free number 1-800-652-9747

Legislative Commission on Employee Relations (LCER)

85 State Office Building 296-2963

Legislative Commission on Health Care Access

375 State Office Building 296-0173

G-9 Capitol 296-4261

Legislative Commission on Long Term Health Care

445 State Office Building 296-8237

G-9 Capitol 296-4261

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

65 State Office Building 296-2406

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

55 State Office Building 296-2750

Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy

60 State Office Building 296-0134

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR)

55 State Office Building 296-1143

Legislative Commission on Waste Management (LCWM)

85 State Office Building 297-3604

Legislative Water Commission

Third Floor, South Wing, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 297-7905

Great Lakes Commission 218-727-8525

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

P.O. Box 441, Highway 53

Eveleth 55734 218-749-7721

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Pioneer Building, Suite 1513

336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101 224-9903

Task Force on Minerals

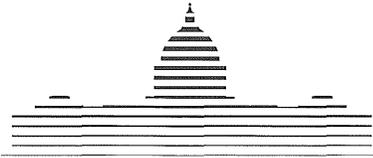
570 State Office Building 296-4288

State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning

G-24 State Capitol 296-3205

MINNESOTA STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Education	296-6104
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
Para-mutuel Racing Division	341-7555
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Jobs and Training	296-3644
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	296-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
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House Information	296-2146



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Speaker of the House-designate: Irv Anderson
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers
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MINNESOTA INDEX

People per square kilometer in Brown County, 1990	17.1
Hennepin County, 1990	716
Nicollet County, 1990	24
Ramsey County, 1990	1,202.4
Estimated percentage population change in Minnesota, 1990-2020	+15.5
For Southwestern Minnesota, 1990-2020	-5.0
Rank of the South Central Minnesota region in pig population in the state as a whole	1
Approximate pig to person ratio in Minnesota	2:1
Approximate pig to person ratio in South Central Minnesota region	8:1
Average weekly wage in Hennepin and Ramsey counties	\$537.40
In Brown and Nicollet counties	\$365.70
Average weekly wage for an insurance agent in Minnesota	\$577.40
For a crop farmer	\$280.95
Amount of beer distributed annually statewide by the August Schell Brewery (in barrels)	30,000
Number distributed within 60-mile radius of New Ulm	7,500
Estimated number of people attending Heritagefest in New Ulm, July 1993 ...	40,000
Number of teepees at the Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Encampment in St. Peter, September 1993	8
Number of wagon trains	1
Cost of median-valued home in Minnetonka	\$120,000
In St. Peter	\$62,500
Population of St. Peter, 1990	9,481
Total number of people employed, St. Peter	10,194
Number employed by St. Peter Regional Treatment Center	910
By Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter	591
By Cargill, Inc., St. Peter (primary product: seed corn)	14
Population of New Ulm, 1990	13,132
Total number of people employed, New Ulm	12,153
Number employed by 3M Electrical Product Inc., New Ulm	790
By Associated Milk Producers, New Ulm	142
Amount of farm land in Brown and Nicollet counties, 1987 (in acres)	586,000
In Hennepin and Ramsey counties, 1987	93,000
Average gross farm income for a farm in Southwestern Minnesota	\$302,000
Amount remaining for living expenses	\$27,000

Sources: *Minnesota Employment and Wages by Economic Region and County*, Second Quarter 1992, Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training; *1993 County and City Extra Annual Metro, City and County Data Book*; Nicollet County Historical Society; August Schell Brewery; Community Profile, St. Peter and New Ulm, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development; Minnesota Extension Service, Southwest Minnesota; Heritagefest, Inc.; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.



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