Interim Report

This issue features a photo story on the Minnesota House of Representatives Information Exhibit at the State Fair, and the meeting schedule for the upcoming mini-session in the cities of Winona and Rochester, Sept. 13-16.

What is a mini-session?

A mini-session is a concentrated series of committee meetings held during the interim (the time between the two regular sessions of the biennium). During mini-sessions, representatives may study proposed legislation, conduct public hearings, and make formal recommendations on bills.

The Minnesota House of Representatives has scheduled three such sessions this year: Winona and Rochester (Sept. 13-16); Worthington (Oct. 18-20); and Moorhead (Nov. 15-17). In past years, the House has held mini-sessions in Alexandria, Eveleth, Mankato, and St. Paul.

Meetings away from the Capitol help bring state government to residents who otherwise may not have the chance participate in the process. Topics for mini-sessions vary, but usually include concerns of local residents. When legislators are not in committee meetings, they often tour surrounding areas, participate in community activities, and meet with local residents.

The Legislature has held mini-sessions since 1972 when voters approved the flexible sessions constitutional amendment. The amendment marked the third time voters extended the length of legislative sessions. It allows the Legislature to meet each year from January to May for 120 legislative days over the biennium (two-year period). Lawmakers, however, may continue committee work during the recess with the same power to make recommendations on bills that they have during a legislative session.

Mini-Session Schedule

Sept. 13 - 16, 1989 • Winona and Rochester

12:45 p.m.

EDUCATION

College of St. Teresa, Lourdes Hall, North Lounge
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern
Agenda: State math and science high school.

RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

Winona State University, Kryzsko Commons, Purple Room 106
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh
Agenda: Annandale decision (data privacy).

For the 16th consecutive year, the Minnesota House of Representatives went to the State Fair. At the information exhibit in the Education Building, fairgoers could visit with House members and staff, get answers to questions about state government, and pick up materials about the Legislature and the legislative process. (See photo story on page 3.)

WINONA

Wednesday, Sept. 13

10:00 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

Lewiston High School Gymnasium, Lewiston
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel
Agenda: Vertical integration (stockyards) bill and briefing on agricultural property taxes.
More than 500,000 fairgoers, all ages included, visited the Minnesota House of Representatives Information Exhibit in the Education Building during the State Fair. Some stopped to glance at legislative district maps with lawmakers' photos to find out who represents them at the State Capitol. Others took a four-part quiz on Macintosh computers to test their knowledge of state government. Children who played the State Symbols Game discovered that the loon is Minnesota's official state bird, and milk, the state drink.

The annual unofficial opinion poll asked fairgoers questions on several unresolved issues and gave them a chance to cast their ballots on an Optech III-P optical scanning machine, which some Minnesotans used for the first time in the 1988 general election.

Many visitors stopped to chat with state representatives and almost 10,000 picked up visor caps adorned with the State Capitol dome. The visors gave fairgoers a chance to take the dome home!
1989 State Fair
Unofficial Opinion Poll

The Minnesota House of Representatives information exhibit gave more than 9,000 fairgoers the chance to express their opinions on five current issues using an Optech III-P electronic scanning machine.

Total ballots cast: 9,478*

Should the Minnesota Legislature:
1) ... restrict the number of hours that high school students may work during a school week (from Sunday through Thursday)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,635</td>
<td>3,724</td>
<td>9,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
<td>(40%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) ... adopt a statewide comprehensive recycling program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,683</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>9,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>(93%)</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) ... require employers to provide advance notice of plant closings?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,670</td>
<td>1,644</td>
<td>9,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>(82%)</td>
<td>(18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) ... permit cities throughout Minnesota to have gambling parlors that televise races originating from Canterbury Downs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,964</td>
<td>6,348</td>
<td>9,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>(32%)</td>
<td>(68%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5) ... require the state to subsidize (partially pay for) health insurance for uninsured people?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,147</td>
<td>4,091</td>
<td>9,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>(56%)</td>
<td>(44%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Questions left unanswered account for discrepancies in totals.
"Yes, wild rice really is the state grain!"

House members at the fair

- Doug Carlson (IR-Sandstone)
- Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island)
- Terry Dempsey (IR-New Ulm)
- Steve Dille (IR-Dassel)
- Marcel Frederick (IR-Mankato)
- Dean Hartle (IR-Owatonna)
- Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Croby)
- Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea)
- Gene Hugoson (IR-Granada)
- Richard H. Jefferson (DFL-Minneapolis)
- Alice M. Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
- Virgil J. Johnson (IR-Caledonia)
- Henry J. Kalls (DFL-Watertown)
- Harold Lasley (DFL-Cambridge)
- Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover)
- K.J. McDonald (IR-Watertown)
- Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)
- Harriet McPherson (IR-Stillwater)
- Robert P. Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul)
- Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville)
- Claire Nelson (DFL-Barrett)
- Paul Anders Ogren (DFL-Aitkin)
- Sally Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park)
- Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul)
- Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter)
- Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona)
- Jerome 'JP' Peterson (DFL-Princeton)
- Thomas W. Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)
- Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope)
- Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault)
- Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia)
- Linda Runbeck (IR-Circle Pines)
- Gary Schafer (IR-Gibbon)
- Arthur W. Seaberg (IR-Eagan)
- Gloria Segal (DFL-St. Louis Park)
- Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)
- Loren A. Solberg (DFL-Bovey)
- Brad Stanius (IR-White Bear Lake)
- Don Valento (IR-Little Canada)
- Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin)
- Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)

"Discover your government I.Q.!!"
(continued from page 2)

Friday, Sept. 15

8:00 a.m.
OPEN TOUR
Agenda: Tour College of St. Teresa and Winona Technical College Aviation Training Center.

9:00 a.m.
JOINT MEETING: AGRICULTURE and ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
Preston and Lanesboro
Chrs. Reps. Steve Wenzel and Willard Munger
Agenda: Tour - Preston Tire Recycling, composting, sink holes, and Forest Resource Center.

APPROPRIATIONS/ Health & Human Services Division
Byron State-Operated Community Facility, Byron
Ch. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Tour of Byron State-Operated Community Facility (SOCs) for the Developmentally Disabled.
(Members only)

JUDICIARY/Civil Law Subcommittee
Winona State University, Kryzsko Commons, Purple Room 106
Ch. Rep. Howard Orenstein
Agenda: Pro bono work.

ROCHESTER

1:45 p.m.
AGRICULTURE/ Grasshopper Control Subcommittee
Rochester Community College, Coffman Room
Ch. Rep. Wally Sparby
Agenda: Recommendations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ International Trade & Technology Division
Rochester Technical College, Room 3-109
Ch. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: Trade promotion for small- and medium-sized businesses.

10:00 a.m.

APPROPRIATIONS/ Education Division
Rochester Community College, Coffman Room
Ch. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Background information from all postsecondary systems operating in Rochester; tour of community college and technical college bonding requests.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES
Rochester Community College, Room U241
Ch. Rep. Joel Jacobs
Agenda: Service area boundaries.

TAXES/Property Tax Subcommittee
Rochester Community College, Room U262
Ch. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: Tax increment financing.

Thanks, readers!

We appreciate your calls, letters, questions
The term ‘session’

In the Legislature, the word “session” has several meanings:

- **Session:** the biennial (two-year) period during which the Legislature meets, e.g., the 76th Session.

- **Daily session:** a meeting of the House or Senate in their respective chambers. Many people use the term “daily session” interchangeably with “legislative day.”

- **Joint session:** meeting of the House and Senate together, same as joint convention.

- **Mini-session:** a concentrated series of committee meetings held in the interim during which lawmakers may consider proposed legislation and recommend action on bills.

- **Regular session:** the annual meeting of the Legislature between the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January (1989 session: Jan. 3), and the first Monday after the third Saturday in May (1989 session: May 22).

- **Special or extra session:** a session held after the expiration of 120 legislative days in a biennium or after the date the law prescribes for annual adjournment. Only the governor may call the Legislature into special (or extra) session. But the governor may not dictate the matters the Legislature will consider, nor the length of the special session.

Sparks flew in the House Chamber Aug. 22, but not because of a proposed tax plan. Jerry Rock, an employee of Peoples Electric Co., cut electrical conduit during demolition of the Chamber. Workers are remodeling the House Chamber during the interim. Target date for completion is Feb. 12, 1990, when the House reconvenes for the second half of the regular legislative session.
Government is for everyone...
Be a part of it

For information on:
- who your representative is
  - legislators' districts, addresses, phone numbers
  - bill status
  - committee meeting schedules
  - committee action
  - and other questions about state government

Contact the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550
FAX: (612) 296-1563

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(612) 296-6646

For up-to-date committee meeting times and agendas, call:
House Calls (612) 296-9283

For Hearing Impaired
Electronic communication for hearing impaired persons. To ask questions or leave messages, call:
TDD Line (612) 296-9896