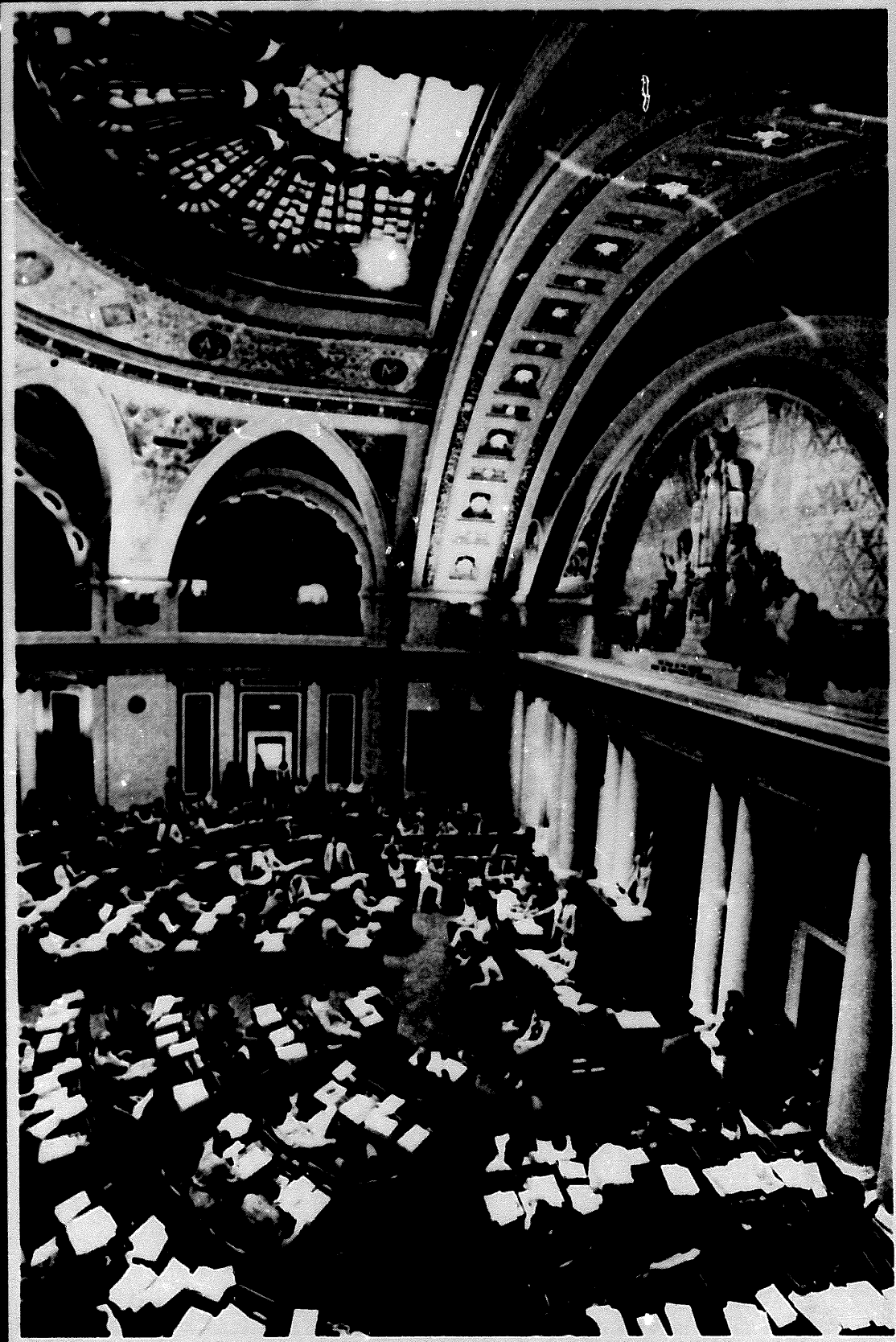


SESSION '75

P85



Minnesota
House of
Representatives



an inside
view

cover story
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SESSION '79

Minnesota House of Representatives

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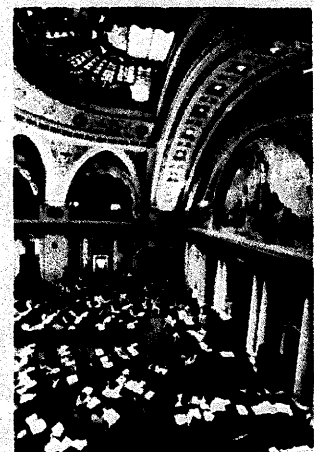
From . . . "Very, very excellent! . . . from Northfield, "I *really* enjoy these publications . . . from St. Cloud: "Sincere thanks for this service." . . . from Minne . . . "Keep sending. It's great!" . . . from city councilman, East Grand Forks . . . appreciate getting the House *Weekly Wrap-Up*." . . . from city clerk, Altura, "It is a great benefit to the city in these changing times." . . . from American Association of Retired Persons, Minneapolis, "You are to be congratulated upon such an excellent publication (*Wrap-Up*) many thanks for a very meaningful service." . . . from Minneapolis, "Please continue your service—it's invaluable for keeping in touch with the Legislature." . . . from St. Paul: "Your issue on energy was terrific." . . . from Clarkfield: "I am a teacher and I like to clip and use in class a number of things from your magazines. Please keep them coming." . . . from Arlington: "I have in previous years been receiving the *Weekly Wrap-Up*." . . . I am most appreciative of the work the staff does in preparation of this material." . . . from Hibbing, "I really enjoy getting the *Wrap-Up*." . . . from St. Paul, "I do a great deal of community work . . . a capsule report of activities of the House of Representatives is a great help to me and the people I contact." . . . from Mankato: "Thanks for your good service. I appreciate this information on what is going on in the Legislature." . . . from Minnesota Geological Survey director: " . . . I greatly admire the succinct and lucid way you manage to deal with a wide variety of subjects under severe time constraints" . . . from the office of the governor: " . . . excellent work you are doing in writing the *Weekly Wrap-Up* . . . provides an accurate and comprehensive review of committee actions taken by the House. Keep up the good work!" . . . from the office of Vice-President Mondale . . . "One of the most informative publications we receive. We refer to it often."

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Photos by Tom Olmscheid.

science & technology project



Last session, and during the interim, we began introducing the behind-the-scenes people who make up the supportive staff legislators rely on to provide information to them and to the public. We began with the office of the chief clerk and its departments. We moved to the House research department, the legislative library, and the revisor's office. John Malinka, in this issue, talks about the Science and Technology Project (S&T). Malinka is director of (S&T) which provides technical informational aid to legislators in their planning and decision-making. (See *Interim* May/June/July, 1978 for coverage of the S&T study on solid and hazardous waste.)

In 1976, the Minnesota Legislature, with a 50 percent grant from the National Science Foundation, established a non-partisan research office to provide scientific and technical information and analysis to legislators and committees. The Science and Technology Project answers questions in written responses to inquiries, produces research reports, develops workshops or seminars, and presents committee testimony. Project director John Malinka describes the project.

"Any state government trying to make decisions is involved more and more with technical information whether it's to decide about high voltage transmission lines, solar heating or what to do with solid waste. If they neglect the technical side of it, they may get good political decisions; but in the long run, their decisions will suffer."

Inquiry Responses

During the legislative session, the project responds to many inquiries which usually range from one to three pages. Depending on the complexity of questions the legislators ask, it may take from three days to two weeks for an answer.

"Simple questions may be researched over the telephone with a fairly technical brief compiled in a few days. However, a complicated topic, such as evolution, when you don't know what resource is telling you the truth, requires a lot of reading."

Many technical questions relate to bills, but some originate from the public through their legislators.

"One of our first inquiries was about direct reduction of iron ore in Minnesota and was initiated by some people to find

out whether the value of iron ore could be increased."

Inquiries can be about anything from fuel economy for autos and trucks, sludge disposal alternatives, 3.2 beer, chiropractic practice, microwaves, solar technology to radioactive waste.

Research Reports

The project does lengthy studies during the interim only, which encompass broader topics of interest and require approval of the Science and Technology subcommittee. Five senators and five representatives serve on this subcommittee. Research reports cost \$2,000 to



John Malinka

\$5,000, each, and usually University of Minnesota graduate students, or project staff, write the reports.

Some of the completed studies include weather modification, Dutch elm disposal, the use of deicing salt in Minnesota, solar equipment and cloud seeding.

Workshops or Seminars

Workshops go on during the interim because of the legislators' busy schedules during the session. Although the S&T project held three workshops in 1977, a recent survey of legislators' interests will generate upcoming events.

"Out of fourteen topics, the legislators selected energy conservation as their top interest, then solar energy and solid waste. We wondered about which legislators chose energy conservation, because we did a lot on energy. So we checked to see how many were freshman legislators; many weren't.

Committee Testimony

"A year ago, our committee had a retreat away from the Capitol to talk about the project and the direction we should go. We found out then more legislators wanted us to spend more effort directly communicating with committees since that is where the bills come from. So, we have been giving more testimony this year."

Problems

The staff is small, three employees, so not all requests for technical information get a prompt answer. Out of 201 Minnesota legislators, 130 have used the office project at one time or another, whether initiating studies, making inquiries, or attending their workshops. "We've been criticized for trying to get good information with a little budget. Most of our studies are subsidized with a variety of resources, while, on the open market, expensive consultants compete for time on our studies. It is good in conserving taxpayers dollars, but it is bad from the standpoint of keeping goodwill with the consultants and sometimes producing a poorly written document."

Breaking down technical language is a frustrating problem.

"We delivered a testimony to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee last year on high voltage transmission lines. Some people said that it was just what they needed, and others said they felt they were back in school because of too much technology."

"I don't think language is the problem. Nobody said the presentation was too difficult but it was too comprehensive. I don't know how to deal with that—you have 201 personalities and we are bound to be criticized by some."

"But to dilute our work too much would not be a fair test of a science and technology organization."

Project Purpose

- to provide technical and scientific information and analysis for the Legislature
- involve the scientific and technical community in legislative issues and develop a continuing communication between experts within that community and decision makers
- enable a more comfortable discussion of technical parameters as they relate to specific legislative issues
- perform and use technical studies and technology assessments in order to forecast potential impacts (especially the unintended or indirect) when new technology appears or technology changes

— Maggie Gardner

Session '79

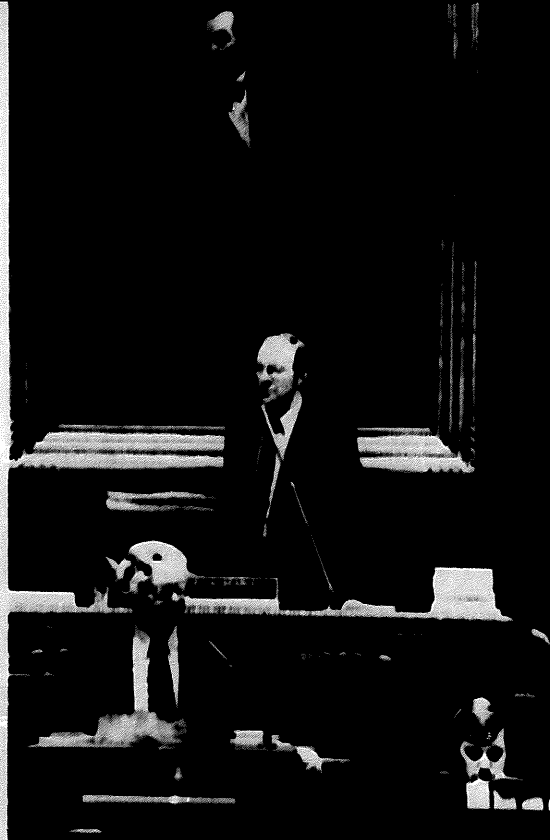
the leadership

On Tuesday, January 2, the 71st session of the Minnesota Legislature began. In the House, the elections of November, 1978 split the membership: 67 Democratic-Farmer-Laborites and 67 Independent Republicans. A series of meetings between the leaders of both parties negotiated an agreement that organized the House, without a majority, for the 1979-1980 session. In this issue, *Session* introduces the leaders, the committee chairman, and some of the problems and proposed solutions they'll be working on.

Speaker, and presiding officer of the House, is Rep. Rod Searle, an Independent Republican, who is serving his 12th term as a representative from Waseca, Minnesota. On the Democratic-Farmer-Labor side, Rep. Irvin N. Anderson, from International Falls, in his eighth term, is DFL House Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration. Rep. Harry Sieben, Jr., (DFL) from Hastings, serving his fifth term, is House floor leader. Rep. Gerald Knickerbocker of Hopkins, a fourth term legislator, is IR floor leader.



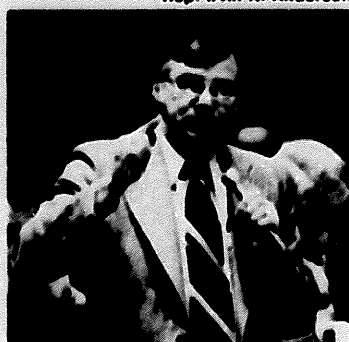
Rep. Irvin N. Anderson



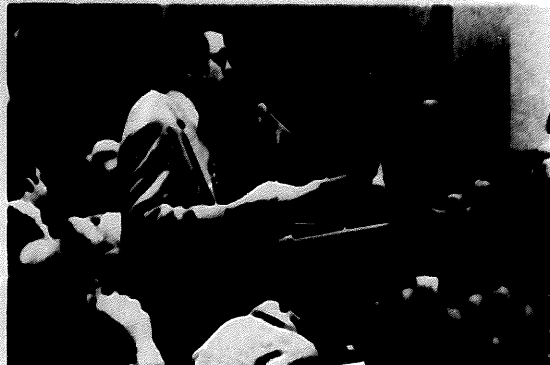
Speaker Rod Searle



Rep. Gerald C. Knickerbocker



Rep. Harry Sieben Jr.



Money is the issue in 1979—where it will come from and where it will go. It's the job of the Legislature to decide.

The first year of the biennium is always the budget year. Anyone attending committee meetings, or reading the summaries of meetings in the House *Weekly Wrap-Up*, during the beginning weeks of this session, has learned a lot about state government.

The governor has presented his budget recommendations. Other constitutional officers and people from every state department, or semi-state department, and agencies—the schools, the arts, the social services—have come before committees. They explained what they do and what their needs are—giving legislators background information—and presenting their budgets.

An inside view

This issue of *SESSION* for 1979 1) offers a glimpse at a behind-the-scenes service for legislators as they deal with the scientific and technological issues, 2) introduces the leaders, 3) highlights the committees and divisions that face the money decisions—Appropriations and Taxes—and others that have statewide effects—Agriculture, Labor-Management, and Education, 4) presents committee chairman and their comments about the work ahead—the money and people issues in their committees, 5) visits the nuclear energy plant at Monticello with the Energy and Utilities

Committee, 6) briefly reviews commission reports, 7) visits with Minnesota's folklorist, a position the Legislature created to preserve some of Minnesota's colorful heritage, 8) gives an *Almanac* word picture of a folklore event—the Viola Gopher Count Festival, 9) on the final page, lists the sources of information the Legislature makes available to the public, and 10) for help in following this historic session, a brief review of the process:

Bill Introductions

When a legislator (the author) introduces a bill in the House, it gets a House File number (HF2642, for example) and its first reading. (The Minnesota Constitution requires three readings for all bills, on three separate days). The Speaker refers the bill to an appropriate standing committee.

Committee action

All committee meetings are open to the public. It's at the committee level that people give their opinions. They testify at committee meetings at the invitation of the chairman, or they call the chairman and ask to speak before the committee. Subcommittees, and full committees, often travel to communities in the state to see the people and places proposed laws will affect. (see Monticello, page 14) Committees do not pass bills; they make recommendations. A committee may recommend a bill to pass in its original form, recommend it to pass after amendment by the committee, or make no recommendation, in which case a bill may die when the session ends.

General Orders

After acting on a bill, the committee sends a report to the House, stating its actions and recommendations. After the House adopts the committee's report, the bill has its second reading and goes on to General Orders of the Day. Legis-

lators, acting as the Committee of the Whole, discuss bills on General Orders. They may debate the issues, adopt amendments, present arguments on the bills, and they may vote to recommend a bill to pass, recommend postponement, or recommend further committee action.

Calendar

Bills the Committee of the Whole recommends to pass go onto the calendar. At this point, a bill has its third reading. Amendments to the bill must have the unanimous consent of the entire body, and legislators vote on it for the final time. By committee recommendation, non-controversial bills can by-pass General Orders and go directly onto a "Consent Calendar." They usually pass without debate. Every bill requires a majority vote of the full membership of the House and Senate to pass.

Conference committees

When the House and the Senate both pass the same version of a bill, that bill goes to the governor for his approval or disapproval. If the House and Senate do not agree, a conference committee consisting of an equal number of senators and representatives meets to reach an agreement. If both bodies then pass the bill in compromise form, it goes to the governor.

Governor

When a bill arrives at the governor's office, he may sign it, and the bill becomes law. He may veto it (return it, with a "veto message"), stating his objections to the body where it originated (House or Senate), or he may pocket veto the bill (after final adjournment of the Legislature). The governor may use his right to line veto parts of appropriations bills. If he does not sign or veto a bill, within three days after receiving it, while the Legislature is in session, the bill becomes law.

... an inside view

committees — chairman
issues — people

Agriculture



"I think that Minnesota has been ahead of most other states in promoting our own products, and we are going to beef it up some more."

Rep. George Mann, chairman.

Scheduled meetings for the Agriculture Committee began with appearances before the committee of people from the Department of Agriculture with that department's legislative proposals. Committee members have since reviewed what they hope to accomplish this session, and they've been hearing from the farm organizations.

Agriculture: a wide range of concerns

Organizations that speak for farmers in the state pointed out a wide range of concerns the agricultural community has. They've talked to the committee about workers compensation, school foundation aid formulas, and eminent domain. They're asking for a clearer definition of the term, "agricultural lands," in dealing with the trespass laws.

The committee has heard the concerns of cooperatives in the state and a bill proposing the labeling of chickens, HF91, that Rep. Bernard

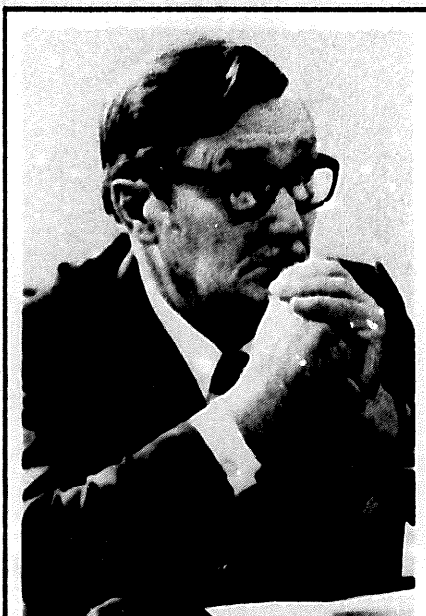
Brinkman (DFL—Richmond) has introduced. The bill would require retailers to label fryers they sell in Minnesota, so buyers will know what state the poultry comes from. The states of Washington and Oregon have such labeling laws.

Minnesota logo

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture would like to develop a Minnesota logo, for use on a voluntary basis, to label Minnesota grown, processed, and marketed products.

Rep. Glen Anderson, DFL, Bellingham, is sponsoring HF373, a bill that would establish the logo. The bill asks for \$7,000 for the Department of Agriculture to design and print it and to pay the cost for holding hearings to establish the rules for its use. The logo would be an additional marking and wouldn't replace any other labeling. Some people who like the idea of a state logo don't support the individual labeling of chickens.





George L. Mann (DFL) - Chr.
Committee information 296-4293
Henry J. Kalis (DFL) - Vice-Chr.
Subcommittees:
Programs and policies - Bruce (Buzz)
Anderson, Chairman
Products and marketing - Richard
J. Welch, Chairman

Cooperatives

The committee has recommended to pass a resolution to support the continued use and growth of cooperatives and to oppose any efforts that would weaken the Capper-Volstead Act which Congress passed in 1922. That act exempts farm coops from antitrust laws and makes it possible for them to organize.

The National Commission for the Review of Anti-Trust Laws and Procedures is recommending changes in the Capper-Volstead Act. Farm organizations and cooperatives are supporting the resolution, because they feel rules and regulations governing coops are adequate. They say the Capper-Volstead Act doesn't give coops unfair advantage, but that it allows farmers to join together for self-help. They don't want it weakened.

Product promotion

Rep. Kenneth McDonald, IR, Watertown, has a bill in the House, HF256, that would allow for promotion of agricultural products by the Department of Agriculture through advertising, for promotional councils encouraging production in the state

of commodities Minnesota doesn't produce now, for developing international markets, and for studying the use of gasahol.

The bill asks for an appropriation, so the committee sent it to subcommittee for study and development of set dollar figures for the new proposals.

Swine research

A bill that would give the University of Minnesota \$300,000 for a swine research program at the College of Veterinary Medicine got a recommendation to pass and went on to the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Henry Kalis, DFL, Bellingham, is sponsoring the bill.

People in favor of the bill say Minnesota is the third largest state in swine production and doesn't spend a proportionate percentage of money on swine research.

Spokesman for the College of Veterinary Medicine said research would help in the control of diseases that often are a factor in limiting pork production.

Gasahol

On March 14, the committee heard HF8 and referred it to the subcommittee on Agriculture Programs and Policies. This bill would reduce the tax on grain alcohol gasoline and create the Minnesota Agricultural Products Utilization Board to develop and promote alcohol gasoline.

People testifying at the meeting said tests and studies point to the eventual use of grain alcohol gasoline as a way of making the United States less dependent on other countries for energy supplies.

Rep. Dave Fjoslien (IR—Brandon) sponsor of HF8, says Brazil, which produces little organic oil, will be using a 100 percent alcohol blend by 1990.

Field corn testing

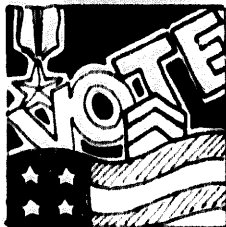
fees/farmland preservation

The committee recommended to pass HF768 (Ludeman, IR—Tracy), a bill that would cover several areas relating to the Department of Agriculture and would increase the registration fee for a seed corn variety from \$15.00 to \$17.50 and increase the annual payment to the agricultural experimental station for the seed corn testing program from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

"Open land in Minnesota is disappearing," Representative John Clawson, DFL, Center City, told the committee when he presented HF569. Clawson says, since 1950, 2.9 million acres of land have gone out of production for development of shopping centers, housing, warehouses, and factories. HF569 would allow farmers to take part in agricultural land preservation and claim tax credits for doing so.

Chairman Mann said HF569 will go to a subcommittee, and that the committee would probably study land preservation during the 1979 interim.

General Legislation and Veterans Affairs



Subcommittees:

General Law and Veterans Affairs -
Lyndon R. Carlson, Chairman
Elections/Campaign Practices -
C. Thomas Osthoff, Chairman

"We will try to put together a package to blend previous laws concerning veterans with the Vietnam veteran, so we can give the Vietnam veteran rights to deal with the special problems they have," Chairman Swanson said. Several bills relating to the Vietnam veteran are in the committee.

In addition to veterans' issues the committee studies laws on elections, financial disclosure, public financing, the ethics laws, and general issues that are not under the jurisdiction of other committees.

Swanson said the committee will look into "the whole area of reapportionment. As we near the next election, we will need to deal with an increased number of bills that affect the reapportionment commission."

The committee is also studying the State Fair Board case concerning their relationship with Royal American Shows. "There are implications of wrongdoings in Minnesota, and we will go into that carefully," Swanson said.



James C. Swanson - (DFL) - Chr.
Committee Information ... 296-4884
Lyndon R. Carlson - (DFL) -
Vice-Chairman

Health & Welfare



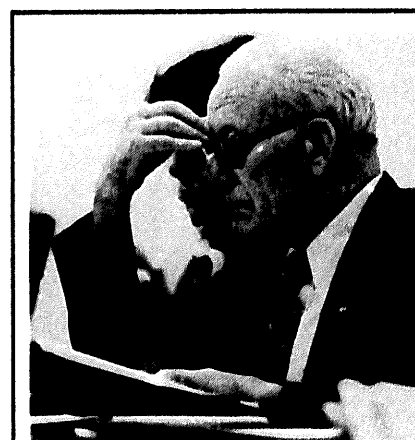
Subcommittees:

Health Services - O. J. Heinitz, Chairman
Social Services - Gilbert D. Esau,
Chairman

The Health and Welfare Committee handles issues involving the quality and delivery of health care and social services. The Department of Health and the Department of Public Welfare report to this committee.

This session, day care facility permits and fees, subsidies to adopt certain children, Community Social Service fund allocations, family planning funds, abortion policies for HMO's have been part of the committee's discussion.

Chairman Niehaus (IR-Sauk Centre) said there will be special emphasis on legislation on home health care for the elderly and revision of Rule 49. Rule 49 relates to nursing home regulations. "With home health care, if one member of a couple becomes sick and needs attention, a nurse could go to the home to care for the patient, instead of forcing the couple to go to a nursing home," Niehaus said.



Joseph T. Niehaus (IR) - Chr.
Committee Information ... 296-8826
John R. Kaley (IR) - Vice-Chairman

Commerce, Economic Development & Housing



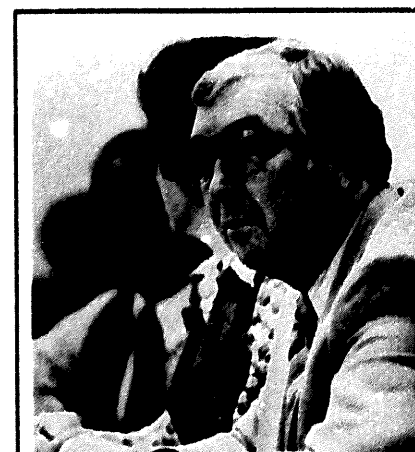
Subcommittees:

Business/Job Development -
Douglas R. Ewald, Chairman
Tourism/Consumer Protection -
Bob Anderson, Chairman

Keeping business in Minnesota, protecting the consumer, and regulating commerce are the major concerns of the committee. Among other issues, this year, the committee will look at liquor legislation, revolving charge accounts, and housing bills.

"If businesses move out, we need to find out why they're leaving. The question is, how can we entice businesses to come into Minnesota and stay here?" Chairman Biersdorf said.

Issues receiving favorable committee action include: 1) exempting management consultant firms from regulation as employment agencies, 2) requiring general contractors to pay subcontractors, if the general contractor receives partial payments for completed work, 3) requiring gas stations, that have both full-service and self-service pumps, to have an attendant to help the handicapped at self-service pumps, 4) allowing professional corporations to have officers that aren't members of the profession.



John S. Biersdorf (IR) - Chr.
Committee Information ... 296-6970
Douglas R. Ewald (IR) - Vice-Chairman



Rep. Fred C. Norton

Appropriations



Fred C. Norton (DFL) - Chr.

Committee Information ... 296-2080
Gordon O. Voss (DFL) - Vice-Chairman

Divisions:

Education
Health, Welfare and Corrections
Semi-State
State Departments

"Because of the emphasis on tax relief, this year, it appears there will be few new programs, if any," Representative Fred Norton (DFL - St. Paul) chairman. The Appropriations Committee reviews all budget requests from state departments, Education, Health Welfare and Corrections, and semi-state agencies. It has four major divisions to handle the workload and make recommendations as to how the state will spend its money.

Chairmen explained their divisions' responsibilities, gave examples of what they work on, and made some comments ...

Semi-State Division

A major issue here concerns state support of the Arts Board. "The Arts Board is in a similar position as other states' arts agencies at a time when the demand for many human services is decreasing and demand for arts services is escalating," said Chairman Dean (IR-Mpls.).

He said other questions are whether

or not the Minnesota Science Museum should be separate from the Historical Society as the governor has recommended, and to what extent should the state support public broadcasting?

Rep. C. Thomas Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) has introduced HF560 to appropriate funds for the Science Museum of Minnesota to become a separate entity, no longer a part of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The governor is proposing \$400,000 over the next biennium for public television, while public television is proposing legislation for an additional \$600,000 in the form of a block grant—\$100,000 each for six stations.

Semi-state departments are those that need state money but are not totally dependent on the state for their funding. Fourteen such agencies this division works with besides the Arts Board and the Historical Society, include: Academy of Science, County Attorney's Council, Disabled American Veterans, Great Lakes Commission, Horticultural Society, Humane Society, Minnesota/Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, Safety Council, Southern Minnesota River Basin Board, Uniform Laws Commission, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Voyageurs National Park Advisory Committee.

State Departments Division

Budgets for the governor, the lieutenant governor, the Legislature, the constitutional officers, and all state departments, 42 state agencies and departments, come through this division—from agriculture to the zoological gardens ...

Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture operates its program in

three major areas: 1) Development and protection of agricultural resources, 2) Food and family farm protection, and 3) General support. Commissioners from the department explained the three major areas at their March 1 appearance before the division and presented the department's budget request for the 1980-1981 biennium—\$54,778,300.

They said the department directs its service to producers, retailers, and consumers. It promotes the development of agricultural and food industries, including the investigation of marketing conditions.

Zoological Gardens. Edward Kohn, general director of the zoological gardens, appeared at two sessions of the division, on March 7, to report where the zoo stands on attendance, further development, and expenses.

Kohn said the zoo is 40 percent short of being self-sufficient. He said the zoo realized 58 percent of the revenue necessary for operation during the first year, and he sees a goal of 62 percent self-sufficiency by 1981 as realistic. The governor has set 70 percent as a 1981 goal.

The zoo has had its one millionth visitor, and Kohn expects that 30 percent of the state population, or 1.2 million people, will visit the zoo during the next year. In the first academic school year, 110,000 students came, and during January and February 55,000 people toured the "all season" zoo.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Transportation (DOT). Alphabetically, these two departments, along with many others, come between the Department of Agriculture and the zoo. About them, Chairman Anderson says, "Although reviews of almost all



Rep. William D. Dean

state department budgets are lengthy, we find the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation, with their far-reaching responsibilities, take the longest."

Education Division

This division recommends budgets for the University of Minnesota, state universities, community colleges, the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).

Erickson said that the University of Minnesota budget requires the majority of discussion because of the complexity of the institution, and "The University of Minnesota is

concerned with what their final budget might be, more so than other systems this time, because there are more variances between their request and what the governor recommended."

School district's requests for appropriations go through this division, too, such as HF197 (Mehrkens, IR-Red Wing) which asks for money to construct an energy education center in Independent School District 256, Red Wing.

Health, Welfare and Corrections Division

One of the major bills for this session in this division is HF149 (Pehler, DFL-St. Cloud) which would appropriate money to continue certain emergency shelter and support services programs for battered women, the chairman said.

"We have discovered a far greater need for shelters than we ever anticipated," said Forsythe. "For every individual they can take into one of the facilities for battered women, we have five to six women who are turned away because there just isn't room."

The division has heard from all the health-related services and boards—what they do—and what they feel they need in the way of money to get the job done. Members have gone over budgets from the Department of Public Welfare, the Corrections Department, and other people-services that are the responsibilities of these departments.

Division recommendations will go to the full Appropriations Committee and to the full House as the money decisions move through the legislative process.

Education Division

Wendell O. Erickson (IR) - Chairman

Information . . . 296-4336

William D. Dean (IR) - Vice-Chairman

Health, Welfare Corrections Division

Mary M. Forsythe (IR) - Chairman

Information . . . 296-8970

Al W. Wieser, Jr. (IR) - Vice-Chairman

Semi-State Division

William D. Dean (IR) - Chairman

Information . . . 296-4337

Tony E. Stadum (IR) - Vice-Chairman

State Departments Division

Delbert F. Anderson (IR) - Chairman

Information . . . 296-3908

Gary W. Laidig (IR) - Vice-Chairman



Rep. Delbert F. Anderson



Rep. Wendell O. Erickson



Rep. Mary M. Forsythe



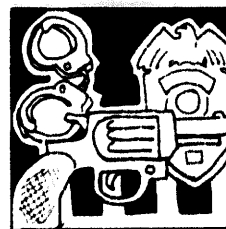
Robert L. Pavlak (IR) - Chr.
Committee Information . . . 296-9468
Gary W. Laidig (IR) - Vice-Chairman

"It's difficult to get a handle on problems involved in juvenile crime", Chairman Robert Pavlak (IR-West St. Paul) said, "but bills concerning juvenile delinquency will have top priority."

One of the major bills before the Criminal Justice Committee is the Omnibus Crime Bill of 1979. According to Rep. William Crandall (IR-Mpls.), chief author, the bill would define degrees of assault to provide for prosecution of child abusers under third degree assault; provide that prosecutors need not prove coercion in criminal sexual assault cases, if the child is under 13 years old. The bill would allow minimum penalties for cases involving a dangerous weapon, and it deals with kidnapping, arson, vandalism, statements, and venue regulations.

Other issues are legislation to prevent detrimental relationships involving children (juvenile prostitution legislation); prohibiting obscene movies at drive-in theatres; licensing for part-time peace officers; police liability in domestic abuse cases; and programs for the violent spouse in domestic abuse cases.

Criminal Justice



Subcommittees:

Juvenile/Criminal/Law/Procedures -
Glen A. Sherwood, Chairman
Criminal Justice Law Enforcement/
Corrections-Gary W. Laidig, Chairman



Ray W. Farley (DFL) - Chr.
Committee Information . . . 296-4265
Ted Jude (DFL) - Vice-Chairman

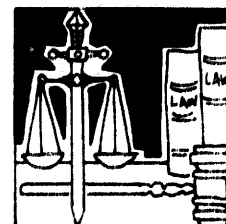
Legislation relating to the courts, Minnesota's legal system and civil law go to this committee. This session, the committee is considering technical revisions to no-fault divorce laws, judicial intervention in domestic abuse cases, juvenile court referees, and reapportionment.

In the early days of the session, Chairman Farley, in an interview said, "We are one of the few committees already working. We've already passed through our committee the District of Columbia amendment to the United States Constitution."

HF3 (Wynia, DFL-St. Paul) ratifying a proposed United States Constitutional Amendment to give District of Columbia residents the right to representation in the United States Congress passed the full House on March 8.

Other committee issues include: clarifying the no-fault divorce laws, real estate laws, and corporate laws, and Farley said, "It may simply be a tax question, but we would like to take a look at areas of inheritance tax aspects in our state."

Judiciary



Subcommittees:

Judicial Administration - Michael
Sieben, Chairman
Judiciary Law Reform-Tom Stoa,
Chairman



Stanley J. Fudro (DFL) - Chr.
Committee Information . . . 296-4371
John J. Sarna (DFL) - Vice-Chairman

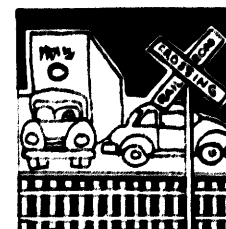
"Raising money for the construction of highways, bridges, and roads is usually controversial, because we don't know what source we are going to use to raise funds," Chairman Fudro said.

People from counties have come in to talk to the committee about problems with the county road system, the cost to highway departments, about bridge replacement; the use of federal funds.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner has told the committee, "Transportation is about a billion-dollar-a-year business." He said the budget DOT sent to the governor's office is within the governor's guidelines, with a few exceptions, but the budget will not take care of DOT's needs. Bills to help with Minnesota's railroads' problems, ad valorem taxes, a resolution to support the use of federal funds for the Milwaukee Road, and the motorcycle helmet law have been through the committee.

Other issues relate to aeronautics, pollution control bills, waterways, vehicle, and pedestrian safety.

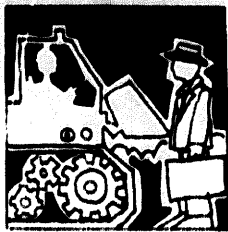
Transportation



Subcommittees:

Bridges and Highways - Raymond
J. Kempe, Chairman
Safety and General Transportation -
Shirley A. Hokanson, Chairman

Labor- Management Relations



Subcommittees:

Negotiations / General Labor -
Mary Murphy, Chairman
Worker's Compensation - Joseph R.
Begich, Chairman

Labor-Management Relations began its schedule of meetings with information gathering hearings. Labor, business, state, and education organizations presented their organizational goals and legislative programs. Representatives came from the AFL/CIO, the Teamsters, Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry (MACI), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME-lobbying/ bargaining organization for public employees) United Transportation Union, teachers' groups, school principals, League of Minnesota Cities, and Communications Workers of America. The chief negotiator for the State of Minnesota represented the Personnel Commission.

The attorney for the Association of Forensic Scientists, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, appeared before the committee to talk about the association's current strike against the state of Minnesota. He said, "Our quarrel with the state is that the state is taking the position that the settlement that AFSCME makes in one bargaining situation ought to be the same settlement with each and every other bargaining unit . . . It totally frustrates the system of collective bargaining." Meantime, he said, "Evidence that ought to be getting analyzed is not getting analyzed . . . In many cases, it can wait; in many it can't."

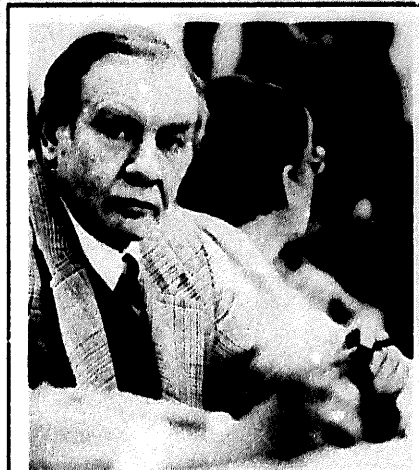
At the beginning of the session, Chairman Rice said this committee would attempt to establish full employment and economic equity in Minnesota through the Full Employment and Balanced Growth

Act of 1979. "The governor has to submit a plan to the Legislature reviewing what employment potentials we have under the act," Rice said. "The principal beneficiaries of this would be women and minorities."

The committee heard a bill, on several occasions, that Rep. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.) sponsored that would require the governor to submit a plan providing information and recommendations to assist the Legislature in establishing full employment and economic equity in Minnesota, but it failed in committee, on March 5, on a 10-10 vote.

Legislation the committee recommended to pass was a bill prohibiting mandatory retirement, amending Minnesota law to conform with the federal mandatory retirement act—and a bill which would prevent an employee who does not live in the state, and who travels to other states, from filing a workers compensation claim under Minnesota law.

Rice said, "This change is to prevent Minnesota law covering, for example, a salesman from 3M who lives permanently in Connecticut and



James I. Rice (DFL) - Chr.

Committee Information . . . 296-4262
Norman R. Pahl (DFL) - Vice-Chr.

travels in New England, but was hired in Minnesota . . . His claim would simply be determined under the law of the state of his actual employment . . . No employee would lose the right to make a workers compensation claim under this bill."



NUCLEAR ENERGY

There are 63 nuclear plants in the United States, but the nuclear industry has proposed constructing 800 to 1,000 plants in the next 25 years.



Nuclear energy: problem or solution?

"One accident from a nuclear power plant could kill as many as 45,000 people, cause \$17 billion in property damage and contaminate an area the size of Pennsylvania," the Union of Concerned Scientists UCS reported in their five-year study of hazards of nuclear power programs.

Minnesota has three nuclear power plants. After reviewing the UCS study, the Energy and Utilities Committee toured the Northern States Power (NSP) plant in Monticello on February 13. Strict security was evident at Monticello. All 19 legislators had to fill out security forms giving specific information about themselves, show

proof of identification, and submit to a thorough search before going on the tour.

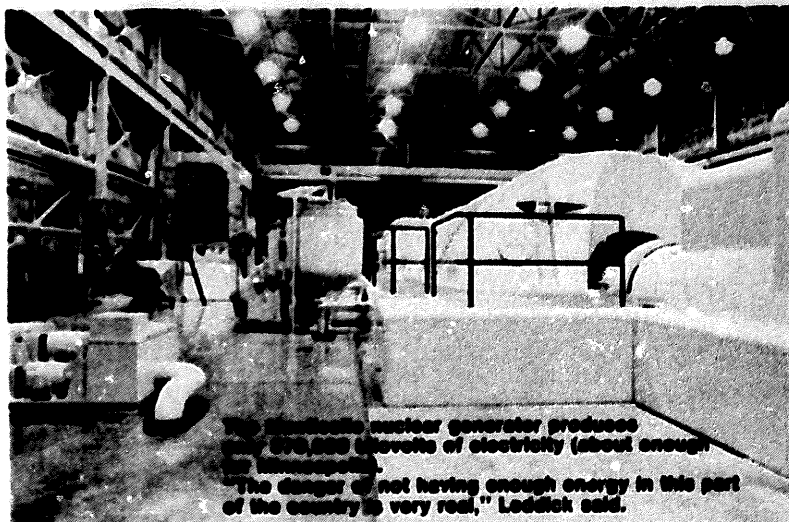
Mike Leddick, NSP manager of nuclear plant projects, gave an introduction: "NSP furnishes 60 percent of the electrical energy to the Twin Cities and suburbs. Of that, 44 percent is from nuclear energy."

According to Leddick, nuclear power plants are advantageous, because they are less expensive to operate than other energy producers such as coal, and they require refueling only once a year.

Nuclear energy: radioactive waste and safety

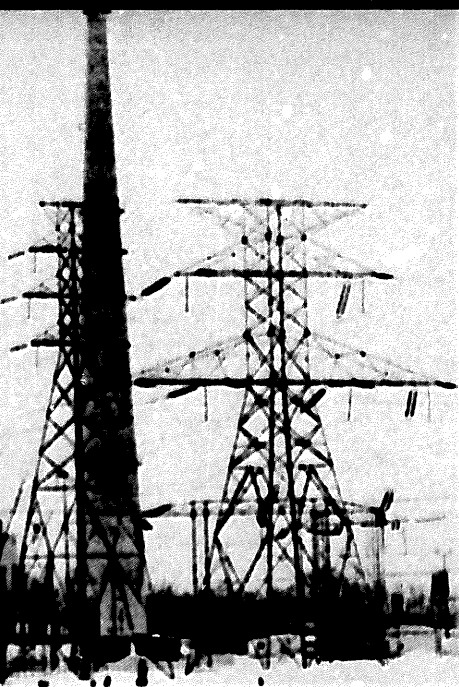
Nuclear power comes from nuclear fission which produces spent fuel, a high level

radioactive waste. At Monticello, this solidified waste rests under 30-40 inches of water, inside metal casts. One cast holds 18 fuel assemblies, each 12 feet long and five-by-five inches square. In one year, the plant produces six casts of



The Monticello nuclear generator produces 670,000 kilowatts of electricity (about enough for Minneapolis).
"The danger of not having enough energy in this part of the country is very real," Leddick said.





waste. This type of waste takes 800 years to decay to a safe level of radioactivity. During the tour, NSP representatives stressed the safety of the plant because of its backup systems. The UCS study disagreed: "The basic safety system in nuclear

plants designed to prevent accidents, known as the Emergency Core Cooling System, (ECCS) has never actually been tested under realistic accident conditions."

Federal law requires the storage of high-level waste at nuclear plants, rather than transporting it to a reprocessing center, because "President Carter fears proliferation—that it will fall into the wrong hands," according to Leddick.

Nuclear waste contains plutonium, a by-product of commercial reactors, that could go into the making of atomic bombs.

Leddick pointed to the larger scale of nuclear use by the United States military. "The ratio of military to commercial nuclear waste is 100 to one, and military waste is in liquid form which does not decay."

Nuclear waste: What's in it?

Another concern is the makeup of nuclear waste. What's in it? "We aren't sure whether spent fuel is high level waste or contains high level waste," said Leddick.

Currently, there are 63 nuclear plants in the United States, but the nuclear

industry has proposed constructing 500 to 1,000 plants in the next 25 years.

"Utilities would be deep into nuclear power if not for institutional and political problems," said Leddick.

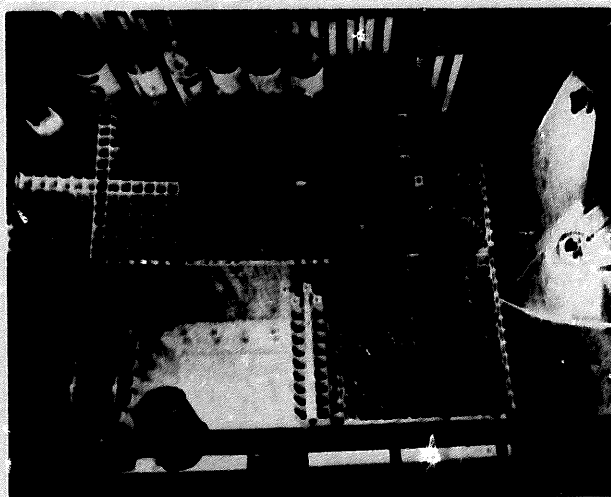
Fortune Magazine, March 26, 1979, in the second of four articles on nuclear waste, says, "Even some opponents of fission power agree that radioactive wastes can be interred safely. The main obstacles are not technical but political."

Rep. Todd Otis (DFL-Mpls.) has introduced a bill in the House banning nuclear power plant construction until the state has

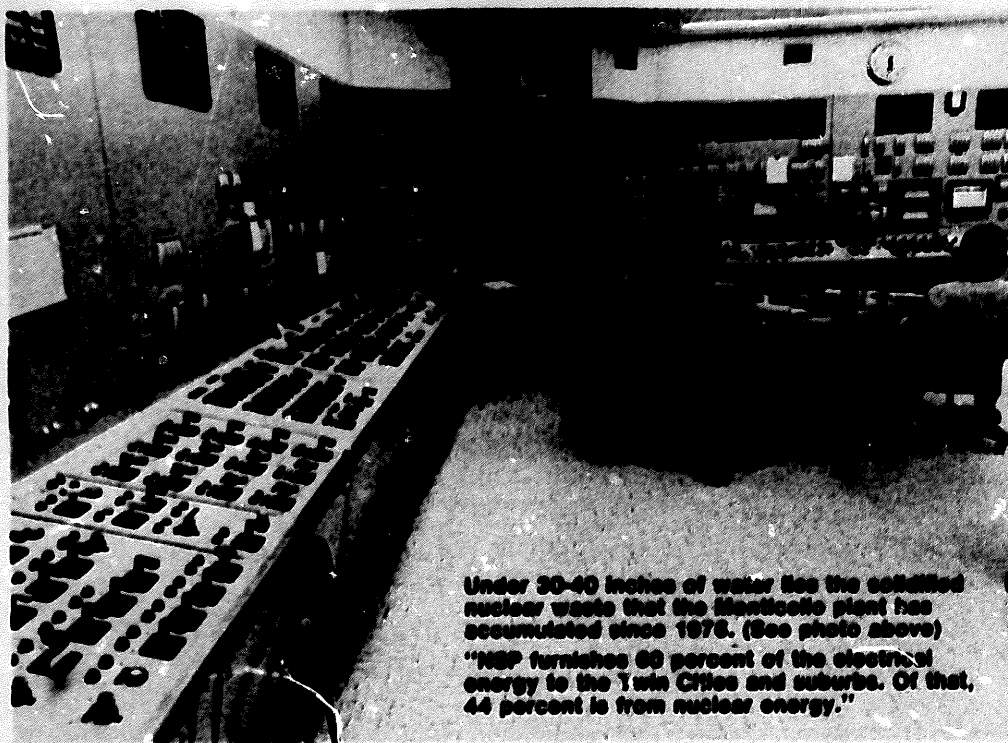
solved the problem of how to dispose of nuclear waste.

The legislators must decide what neither the utilities or scientists know: How hazardous is nuclear waste?

— Lesa Alexander



After reviewing the opponents' nuclear plant study, the Energy and Utilities Committee found NSP's plants in Minnesota



Under 30-40 inches of water lies the solidified nuclear waste that the Monticello plant has accumulated since 1976. (See photo above)

"NSP furnishes 60 percent of the electrical energy to the Twin Cities and suburbs. Of that, 44 percent is from nuclear energy."

Taxes



The Tax Committee makes recommendations for policy decisions on Minnesota's tax structure. It hears bills relating to income, sales, property, corporate, railroad, highway fuel, taconite, inheritance, and other taxes; and each session, puts together an omnibus tax bill, incorporating many changes in the tax laws.

It has heard Governor Quie's proposal which grants over \$400 million in income tax relief. At a March 29 hearing, Chairman Harry Sieben, Jr. (DFL-Hastings) said he believes the Legislature should also provide some property tax relief because of the predicted increase of those taxes.

On April 3, the committee heard Sieben's proposal which grants approximately \$175 million in property tax relief. That proposal would increase the homestead credit through which the state provides funds to cut homeowner property taxes. At present, a home owner gets a credit equal to 45 percent of his taxes, with a maximum credit of \$325. Sieben's proposal would increase that credit to 60 percent, with a maximum of \$650.

Another change would be to increase the homestead base from \$21,000 to \$30,000, giving homes and farms a lower assessed value than they would otherwise have. The proposal would also increase the percentage of "rent constituting property tax", for property tax refund purposes, from 22 to 25 percent.

A bill repealing the stadium liquor tax was one of the first the committee heard this session. After two weeks of public hearings, the committee voted favorably on the bill and sent it to the floor of the House. On April 2, the committee also heard a bill which would adopt all of the federal changes affecting Minnesota income taxes. One of the major changes in that bill, which would cost the state

approximately \$25 million, would be to allow a 60 percent (now 50 percent) deduction on long-term capital gains.

Division I

For the first time in legislative history, the House Tax Committee has two divisions. The negotiated agreement that organized the House created the two divisions.

Division I deals with income, sales, gas, motor vehicle, and inheritance taxes. It has heard and recommended passage of HF19 (Faricy, DFL-St. Paul) which would adopt all the federal changes to Minnesota income tax laws.

The division has approved four bills which are part of the governor's tax relief program.

They include:

HF412 (Halberg, IR-Burnsville)—would increase the pension income exclusion from \$7,200 to \$12,000 and eliminate the existing offsets. According to committee testimony, this proposal would eliminate the tax on pensions for approximately 90 percent of the pensioners.

HF426 (Faricy, DFL-St. Paul)—would cut an individual's income taxes by the amount they have increased over the last three years, because of inflation, by expanding the various tax brackets by 24 percent.

HF476 (Peterson, IR-Bloomington)—would adopt an indexing formula for the tax structure to alter tax brackets every year by the rate of inflation, providing \$50 million in tax relief.

HF469 (Crandall, IR-Mpls.)—would raise the eligibility ceilings for low income taxpayers under the low income credit law which allows those persons with certain incomes to receive a credit equal to their tax liability.

Division II

Division II handles all legislation dealing with property taxes, gross earnings taxes, assessment procedures, and municipal aids.

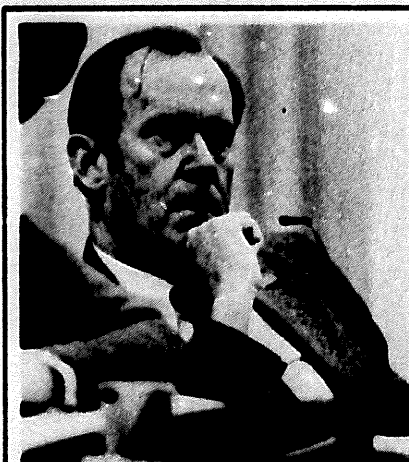
After five hearings, the division approved a bill providing for an ad valorem tax (property) on railroads in lieu of the gross earnings tax. The legislation is necessary because of action by Congress in 1976 which gave states three years to end discriminatory practices of taxation on railroads. That act prohibited states from taxing railroads at a higher rate than they impose on other businesses and industries.

The division is considering bills dealing with the 3cc property classification which allows a special tax break for the handicapped. (Members discuss taxes in "Members Comment" page 20)



Harry Sieben, Jr. (DFL) - Chr. Taxes

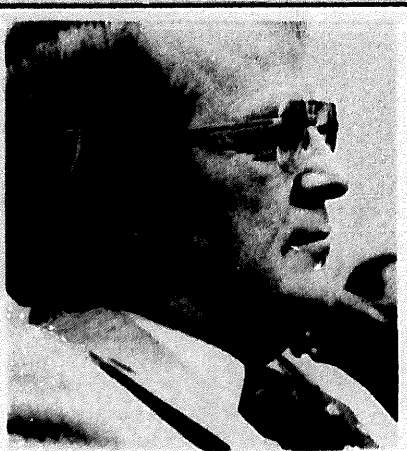
Committee Information ... 296-5068
John D. Tomlinson (DFL) - Vice-Chr.



Robert L. Searies (IR) - Chr. - Div. I
Division Information ... 296-3448
Jim Evans (IR) - Vice Chr.

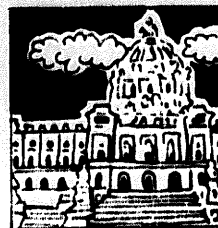


Adolph L. Kvam (IR) - Chr. - Div. II
Division Information ... 296-4344
Terry M. Dempsey (IR) - Vice-Chr.



Stanley Enebo (DFL) - Chr.
Committee Information 296-4274
Al W. Patton (DFL) - Vice-Chr.

Governmental Operations



Subcommittees:
Personnel - Leo G. Adams, Chairman
Administration/Structures - Carl W. Kroening, Chairman

"Next to taxes, workers compensation will probably be the number one issue this session," Chairman Enebo said. "Pensions are another top issue before the Legislature."

In addition to these two major issues the committee reviews government reorganization, such as creating or abolishing state departments, and reviews salaries of government executives. Building code regulations and qualifications, and licensing and regulation of certain occupations also go to this committee for legislative action.

This session, the committee has dealt with several transfers of state lands to other parties, payments of state or local public contracts (HF361, Sieben, H., DFL-Hastings) and the fiscal impact of state laws on local governments (HF484, Clawson, DFL-Center City).



Ray O. Pleasant (IR) - Chr.
Committee Information 296-4316
David O. Fjorsten (IR) - Vice-Chr.

Local and Urban Affairs



Subcommittees:
Social/Economic/Physical - William Schreiber, Chairman
Gov. Admin. and Structures - David O. Fjorsten, Chairman

Minnesota has 440 school districts, 263 special districts, 1,792 townships, 87 counties, and 855 cities that must come to the Legislature to solve certain problems. This committee hears bills that concern these local units of government.

This session, the committee will consider problems with municipal aid distribution, the shade tree disease control program, compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act.

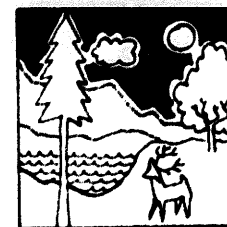
"Hazardous waste will also be of substantial importance throughout the state," Chairman Pleasant said, "and we will be involved with the Downtown People Mover in St. Paul—reviewing what part, if any, the Legislature has to play—what the economic impact to the state is going to be in both the short run and long run."

The Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) presented the \$90 million Downtown People Mover project to the committee. Federal money funds 80 percent of the project. Ten percent would come from the city of St. Paul. The commission is requesting the remaining 10 percent from the state.



Willard M. Munger (DFL) - Chr.
Committee Information 296-4282
Richard J. Kostohryz (DFL) - Vice-Chr.

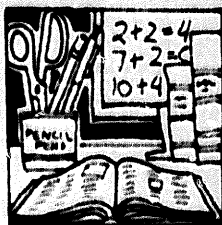
Environment & Natural Resources



Air and water pollution, waste disposal, game and fish, wildlife, forestry, mining and mineral rights are among the Environment and Natural Resources concerns. "Our biggest concern is to keep good environmental laws on the books," Chairman Munger (DFL-Duluth) said. "We will also come up with a committee bill dealing with the issues involved in Uranium mining exploration."

The committee recommended passage of the trespass bill, HF60, (Weiser, IR-LaCrescent), which defines agricultural land for trespass purposes. Other bills getting committee approval would: restrict eminent domain for taconite companies, HF31 (Begich, DFL-Eveleth); remove certain lands from two state parks, HF235 (Battaglia, DFL-Two Harbors); provide for mandatory deposits on beverage containers, HF189 (Dean, IR-Mpls). The mandatory deposit bill went to the House floor where members sent it, for further study, to the Labor-Management Committee.

Education



Committee Information . . . 296-4270
 Divisions:
 Higher Education
 Division Information . . . 296-7152
 School Aids
 Division Information . . . 296-7175



April 18, the House passed HF455 (Reps. Carl Johnson, DFL-St. Peter and John Weaver, IR-Anoka) which would allow sex-restricted membership on school athletic teams. A school district offering only one team in a sport, under this bill, would allow girls to cross over, but not boys. Companion bill SF526, on April 27, was in Senate Education Committee.

The Education Committee, with two divisions, deals with legislation that takes care of the state's educational system—primary and secondary schools, special services, vocational education, and transportation aids. "Our most important action will be on school aids, the selection of regents to the University of Minnesota, student discipline, and the needs of gifted students," Chairman Carl Johnson said.

Meeting regularly since Jan. 22, the committee has heard from educational organizations, such as the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA), the Minnesota Education Association (MEA), and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers (MFT). Each group described their organization's goals and relationship with the Legislature.

The Council on Quality of Education (CQE) reviewed the Childhood and Family Education Policy Study for the division. In 1974, the Legislature gave CQE the responsibility for this study. It's been in a pilot status since, and according to a CQE spokesman, the Council is looking

for a decision on the program from the 1979 Legislature.

Part of this committee's workload is legislation to allow school districts to make pairing agreements with neighboring districts, sharing facilities as enrollments go down. Johnson commented, "In the pairing bills, certain school districts would be allowed to cooperate with each other. We have to decide whether to expand it statewide or move the deadline date."

Equal opportunities in athletics for males and females, the creation of an industrial arts specialist in the Department of Education, financing of public education, are examples of other legislation, but all education concerns will move through the committee and its divisions before the House takes final action.

Higher Education Division

This division works on the legislation that governs Minnesota's higher education services, i.e., the University of Minnesota, the State University System, and Area Vocational/Technical Institutions (AVTIs).

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has been before the division as division members study the functions that affect the total higher education picture in Minnesota. HECB evaluates post-secondary education in the state, collects enrollment data, continually reviews post-secondary education programs, and administers reciprocity and financial aid programs.

Clyde C. Ingle, executive director of the HECB, told the committee the Minnesota financial aid system is a sophisticated and outstanding one in the U.S. Ingle said Minnesota's financial assistance to students comes from 38 percent federal funds, 36 percent state, 15 percent institutional matching funds, and 11 percent commercial lending.

University of Minnesota President Peter McGrath, and Chancellor Hays of the State University System have appeared before the committee to present the projected needs of the institutions they represent.

McGrath said the Twin Cities Campus of the U of M has one of the largest enrollments in the nation. The State University System includes seven regional state universities. Community colleges, AVTIs and private colleges complete the state's postsecondary system.

Other division activity included meeting with the Senate Education Committee to review nominees for the University Board of Regents; recommending a resolution to negotiate an equitable interstate post-secondary education tuition

(reciprocity) agreement with Wisconsin; studying, and then recommending or rejecting, legislative proposals, such as, a bill to allow alcohol in college dorms.

School Aids Division

Chairman Willis Eken (DFL-Twin Valley), early in the session, told the division, "We will get a number of bills relating to school aids, but I would like to see the division put together an omnibus school aids bill as it has in past sessions."

The division has been working on that Omnibus School Aids Bill, article by article, incorporating into it, other proposed legislation covering such issues as tuition charges at AVTI's, veterans' tuition exemptions, special education procedures, programs for the gifted and talented, and dropout prevention.

The school aids formula is a concern of this division, and Eken said, "We are collecting data that will be helpful in getting a handle on what areas are disqualifying in the formula. In my opinion, this is the first time we have gotten a feel for that."

Eken requested Howard Casmey, commissioner of education, to give a review of the 842 Finance Project, a federally supported study of the present funding system for elementary and secondary education. Casmey said the study has been in progress for over a year, and as soon as final recommendations are ready, the Department of Education would present them to the Legislature.

"The study found the foundation

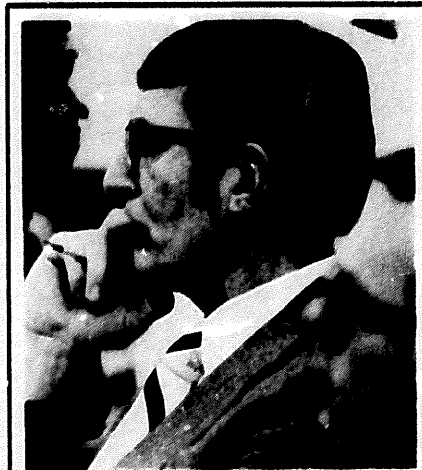
formula itself should be looked at. Some of the things within the formula that should be looked at were the possibility of a sparsity aid, staffing and staffing characteristics, declining enrollment, and management monitoring profiles. Personally, I think that we have derived more good data from this 842 study than the state has ever had," said Casmey.



Education:
Carl M. Johnson (DFL), Chr.
Ken G. Nelson (DFL), Vice-Chr.



School Aids:
Willis R. Eken (DFL), Chr.
Bob McEachern (DFL), Vice-Chr.



Higher Education:
Kenneth P. Zubay (IR), Chr.
John A. Ainley (IR), Vice-Chr.

comment

Members responded to questions about taxes. Do they prefer rebates or indexing as methods of returning the surplus to the taxpayers? Do they agree, or disagree with the governor's tax proposals? Where should the tax cuts come from, and what are the chief tax concerns of their constituents?

— Maggie Gardner

Kenneth McDonald (IR — Watertown)

"I'm in favor of some tax cuts taking place this session, and they should provide relief mainly to the middle income wage earner. I think the surplus should be used to retire debts and index the income tax rates.

"I think the spreading of the tax brackets is very important. We'd like the indexing to wipe out the devastating effects of inflation. I also favor a constitutional amendment in Minnesota to limit the amount of taxes that the government can collect.

"I see the three main concerns as being the high income tax, the inflationary factor, and the property tax. I favor the state putting all the pressure we can on the federal government to balance its budget and lower the federal income tax.

Jim Evans (IR — Detroit Lakes)

"I'm in favor of tax cuts. I like Governor Quie's proposal. He has a great deal of emphasis on income tax reductions, which is fine, but we can't ignore the problems we're going to have with property taxes. I expect out of this Legislature we might come up with an acceptable compromise between income tax and property tax reductions.

"The tax cut programs have run into some problems because of some serious financial problems with the teachers retirement act. I think that we'll have to be very careful that we don't adversely affect our bond rating by getting too far into debt with our retirement program. We want to keep our credit rating in the state good.

"The state has been the beneficiary of inflation. I look at the state surplus as ill-gotten funds. We have to reduce the size of the money pipeline into St. Paul. By doing that, I don't feel we should be sending back a check (as we would with a rebate). I think we should be trying to cure the problem rather than the symptoms.

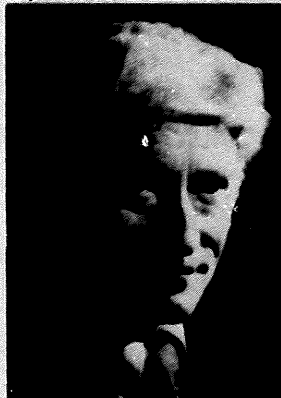
"The area that I represent in west central Minnesota has a great deal of concern with some legislation that was passed two years ago dealing with people who have businesses in other states. In Minnesota, starting this year, people who have investments in other states can take business losses only up to the amount of their gains.

"For instance, if a farmer who farms both in Minnesota and North Dakota has adverse luck one year in North Dakota, he cannot take credit for those losses on his Minnesota tax returns.

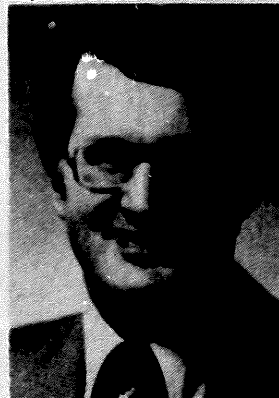
"I also have a group of local businessmen in my area who have intense investments in a fast food industry in states west of Minnesota — Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona. They are also concerned about this legislation.

"I would like to see a bill passed allowing people who collect state sales tax to get reimbursement for their administrative and bookkeeping costs, up to 5 percent of what they collect.

Rep. Kenneth J. McDonald



Rep. Jim Evans



Rep. John D. Tomlinson



Rep. Mary Murphy



There are 46 states that have sales tax, and over half of those states provide compensation to permit holders. I think this would be a great help to the business climate in Minnesota and help out those who are doing the state's work.

"I'm interested in seeing that we enact a fair tax program that reduces the amount of taxes. Minnesota is a high tax state, but I don't think we have to be. There are ways to reduce our spending, and it needs to start right here in St. Paul with the Legislature."

**John Tomlinson
(DFL — St. Paul)**

"There's about \$600 million available for tax cuts. Everybody seems to agree on that figure. It's more a question of how to divide it up. As compared to the governor's proposal, I would divide it up differently by having about \$100 million more in property tax relief.

"I would also put some money into simplifying the income tax. After those two things, there is still a lot of money available for income tax cuts. I'd also do that part of it differently. I would index for inflation, but I think that the most accurate correction for inflation is to index, not only the brackets, but also the personal credits, such as the homemaker credit and the standard deduction.

"Whatever is done to reduce taxes in 1979, I think it can be given back in the form of limiting the state payroll withholding for one month, so that the money gets back to people as early as possible. It's similar to the rebate, but it returns the money more in proportion to what people are paying in.

"Property taxes are the main concern of my constituents, then income taxes. Quie's original plan had very little on property taxes, so I would like to increase the part of the program about property taxes by a considerable amount."

**Mary Murphy
(DFL — Hermantown)**

"I think the past campaign indicated that there had to be tax cuts. The surplus that we have shows that the state is collecting more taxes than it should. I'm very much opposed to raising local property taxes.

"At this point, I'm undecided about the rebate; I tend to favor a more permanent tax cut program. However, the indication I've been getting from people, through a questionnaire in my column and the local newspapers, is that they favor an immediate rebate.

"I'm pleased with Governor Quie's emphasis on education, particularly the elementary and secondary levels. I hoped he would have said something more about the 'sparsity formula' and declining enrollment. Also, his proposal didn't say much about higher education.

"I think one of the things about higher education that we definitely have to maintain is state grants and aids for post-secondary students. This is a program we've worked hard to establish, and as the cost of education rises, it becomes more important.

"Another thing I'm pleased about, since it particularly affects my district, is the Governor's recommendation of \$1.5 million as the state's share of the cost to intensify timber management in the counties surrounding the BWCA.

"People just feel they pay too much income and property taxes. Inflation is hitting hard. They want more buying power. If we cut taxes, especially for the middle class, as well as the lower income groups, they would have more buying power."

Joseph Begich (DFL — Eveleth)

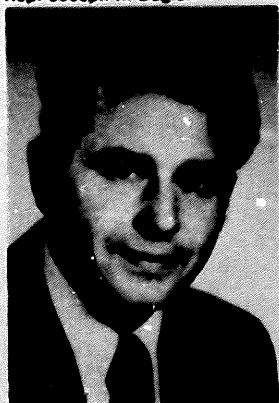
"I'm in favor of tax cuts and I'm in favor of giving the \$75 rebate back, immediately. I'm also in favor of indexing and reducing taxes especially for income brackets below \$30,000.

"I agree with reducing the taxes for small corporations (from Gov. Quie's tax proposal) but the definition between large and small is not very clear. It looks as if four percent of the companies in Minnesota will be receiving the biggest share of the tax break. This is where I disagree. I think more tax relief should go towards the smaller corporations.

"My constituents are concerned primarily about property taxes, especially in view of the recent court decision (limiting market values). We have more older homes than new (in our district). Our homes have just been reappraised, and some of the market values are very high; but we could adjust to them by reaching this high level over a four-year period. Now, they're concerned about getting one large increase. Property taxes and income taxes are the main problem, especially for the \$12,000-\$30,000 tax bracket.

"I think the efforts we have made in the last four years towards reducing the property taxes were the right direction to go. I think we should continue in this direction along with reducing the income tax."

Rep. Joseph R. Begich



Rep. William Schreiber



Rep. Steven G. Novak



Rep. Kathleen A. Blatz



**William Schreiber
(IR — Brooklyn Park)**

"I'm supportive of the governor's program to reduce income tax and index tax rates to the cost of living. I'd like to look upon the recent court decision (limiting market value) as an opportunity for the Legislature to change our property tax system in Minnesota and to build in some incentive for rehabilitation, and improvements to property, without having property taxes going up. "I'm in favor of providing permanent tax cuts, instead, or rebates. Throughout the campaign, people were expressing their tax concerns. The high tax rate in Minnesota is eliminating the incentive to work overtime or to work a second job. It is taking the incentive away from trying to get ahead in life. We heard that expressed by people from all walks of life, whether they were blue collar or white collar workers.

"This legislative session may be known as the tax session. It's, perhaps, going to be the most thoughtful tax program that has been developed in the state in a long time."

**Steven Novak
(DFL — New Brighton)**

"I think it's important that we do something substantial in the area of property tax. There are a couple of different routes we could go. We could either take the second half of California's Proposition 13 and go to a maximum one percent of estimated market value, so that, if you had a \$60,000 house, your tax would be \$600. Or we could raise the maximum homestead credit from \$325 to \$475, which would cost the state between \$110 and \$120 million. That would help reduce the impact of the increased cost to the state that will come next year if we pass Quie's program without anything to balance it.

"Another option would be to shift the circuit breaker from a one-shot payment in the fall and move it to the state income tax in the form of a credit. This would cost about \$84 million.

"I think the governor's program is extremely weak in the area of property tax. I also don't think the 10 percent income tax reduction is really a cut. Rather, it's an indexing concept which expands the tax brackets. People will still move up and pay more taxes, but they'll do it at a slower rate than they do today.

"I support the proposal to reduce the tax from 12 percent to six percent on the first \$25,000 of corporate income. I feel this will substantially help small businesses. I don't support the proposal for an overall reduction from 12 percent to 10 percent for all the rest of the corporations in the state. What that does is give about 1/3 of the business tax relief to four percent of the companies statewide.

"The state surplus has come about over the years for basically two reasons: the progressive income tax structure and the impact of inflation. What we've done for the past two sessions is give the surplus back in the form of property tax relief, or expanded school aids.

"I haven't made up my mind about the rebate yet, but I probably wouldn't be voting for the one passed out by the Senate. I think it should have a much heavier rebate to the tax family and a much lower dependent rebate. For instance, \$200 to the tax family, and \$25 per dependent, versus the \$75 per dependent, so that when you're dealing with single wage earners, or married couples that file as a single unit, it would give it back to them in a better proportion to how they contributed to the surplus.

"As people make more money and see their net income rise they don't want to be punished by an inflation in the income tax. I think some modification of the index brackets are in order. I'm not convinced that the numbers that Quie has picked to fill out his program are the most rational way to approach it.

"I think the property tax is still the most regressive tax. I believe we have to simplify our approach to the pension tax. I think there are about four main categories of possible tax relief — property tax, pension tax, income tax, small corporation tax. But I see property taxes as being the main tax concern of the future."

**Kathleen Blatz
(IR — Bloomington)**

"I'm very much in favor of tax cuts. The people have spoken about that. I support Governor Quie's indexing proposal. I think it addresses itself to inflation which I feel is the number one problem today. It would give people back what inflation has taken away. It doesn't favor any single class of people.

"I don't think that a rebate is the way to go. I think that it's a flash in the pan, and I haven't seen support for it among the people. I think we should give the surplus back through indexing and also through financing our plans for education. We should be very cautious never to build up a surplus like this again. I feel that it's legal robbery.

"We need a tax cut for small businesses. For many young people, trying to start a business now just isn't worth it unless they have some tax breaks.


"I'd like to see more attention given to solar energy and other alternative energy sources. I think this is going to be one of our biggest problems in the future.

"I feel right now that one of my major tasks as a legislator is to try and keep spending down, and taxes in line with the spending.

"I think the governor has a fantastic budget. It's a good time in our economic history to have come up with this budget. I hope it flies."

commissions

... House members serve on commissions which meet during the interim and during the session—here is a capsule review of some of their activities ... **Council on the Economic Status of Women** listed publications of the Council, discussed special projects, reviewed budget for 1979 ... on March 1, the **Legislative Audit Commission** announced the creation of a subcommittee on Policy and Legislation relating to the evaluation the Commission is completing on: chemical dependency programs, nursing home rates, and the Public Service Commission ... The **Joint Legislative Committee on Solid and Hazardous Waste** set goals to reduce waste amounts, separate and pre-treat waste at point of generation, and recovery of materials and energy from solid and hazardous wastes ... The **Southern Minnesota River Basin Board** is working on two studies: 1) \$1 million Southern Minnesota Corps-soil Conservation Service, and 2) Minnesota Rivers Basin and Southeast Minnesota Tributaries ... In January '79 ... **Tax Study Commission** recommended to legislators ways to simplify Minnesota Income Tax ... **Legislative Coordinating Commission** reviewed areas of salary review, personnel, and the fiscal period of '80-81 ... **Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission** encourages legislators to support and endorse watercraft noise abatement legislation ... **St. Paul Downtown People Mover (DPM)** reports that DPM will reduce traffic congestion, be accessible to the handicapped, is climate controlled, will increase employment, and will be in operation by 1983 ... During this session, the **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirements** is to address topics of pension reform, teacher retirement, firefighters and police funds, adjusting contribution rates of employees and employers, eliminating deficit ... The function of the **Minnesota Parkway Commission** is to preserve, promote, protect, and develop the Great River Roads. The Legislature has appropriated \$22.5 million to carry out these responsibilities ... The **Great Lakes Commission** is part of an eight-state compact organization, the state Legislature established to work with the Great Lakes states towards water, industries, and commerce development. Other concerns are environmental control, water quality, economics and shoreline erosion ... Duties of the **Citizens' Committee on Voyageurs National Park (VNP)** is to conduct meetings and research into all matters that relate to VNP, make recommendations to national park services and other state and federal agencies, VNP goals are: water levels, wilderness review, highways/access, tourist promotion/economic development air/water pollution/peripheral development, land acquisition ... **MN Indian Affairs Intertribal Board** objectives are: to communicate, arbitrate, clarify, recommend, elect, assist, act as a liaison between local and state government and the Legislature, secretary of state, tribal governments and Indian Advisory Council, to educate community groups, state agencies, and departments in matters that concern the Native American ... The **Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)** is accountable, by statute, for the administration, service and funding of programs relative to Taconite Area and Environmental Protection (TAEPP). Funded programs are: Taconite Protection, ranging from public loss to mineland reclamation, and human rehabilitation and tourism as a form of economic development.



What brings you to the Capitol?

— Maggie Gardner

Any inside view has to include people. They come to the Capitol daily—to attend meetings, to express opinions, or to protest, support, or try to influence a decision by the Legislature. Some come to admire the art and architecture of the building—to take guided tours the Historical Society offers each day.

From time to time, we asked them, "What brings you to the Capitol today?"

In the photo above, for two young visitors, a historic staircase provides a place to rest and wait for their mother after a tour of the Capitol. They liked "t'c pictures best of all."

Capitol architect Cass Gilbert designed the staircase that winds its way from the ground floor to the third floor at the north end of the building. Supports are within the wall, so the stairs appear to literally hang free of any support, giving an unobstructed sense of design to a functional staircase—a new architectural technique at the turn of the century.

On an action-packed day, people crowded into hearing rooms in the State Office Building when the motorcycle helmet bill was before the Transportation Committee. The bill would have required motorcyclists to wear helmets when riding their cycles on public roads. The committee voted not to recommend it to pass.

A St. Paul resident in the crowd said, "I came mostly to show my support for the rest of the riders. Myself, I wear a helmet, but obviously, we shouldn't be forced into it. It seems unfair to strictly enforce this regulation when they don't with so many others. For instance, checking exhaust emissions on automobiles, the wearing of seat belts, headlights, tire tread depths, things of that nature. We're being singled out."

A woman from New Hope agreed, "I came because I don't want to ride with a helmet. This is my second year of riding. I didn't ride with a helmet last year and don't want to use one this year."

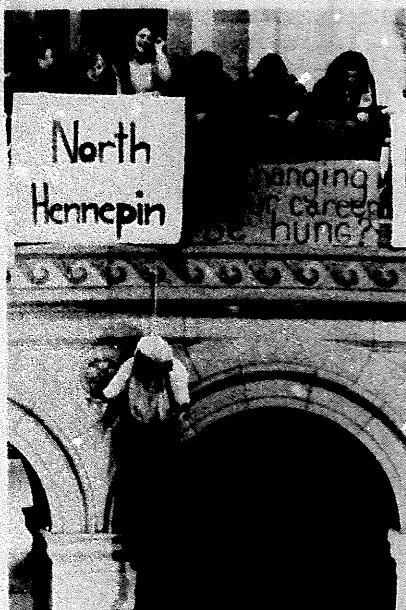
Another man said, "I just come to listen to the hearings."

A Mankato State University student said, "I came to observe the House and Senate... talk to any representatives that have something to do with the special project I'm working on for my political science class."

"I'm an intern here with Rep. Jim Evans," Mark Lokowich, from Roseville, said. "I got the internship through school. I'm interested in this issue right now (the helmet bill). I'm a motorcycle rider. I do wear my helmet all the time, but I do think it should be a choice."

Medical and law enforcement people, who supported the bill, said serious and fatal injuries in cycle accidents had increased since the 1978 repeal of the law requiring helmets.





Demonstrations

In the rotunda, on the main floor of the Capitol, students protested the disruption of school schedules and plans during the community college teachers' strike.

Elliot Rothenberg (IR-St. Louis Park), a first-term legislator, said, "I have no objections to demonstrations, myself, but I think legislators are more influenced by their constituents. For example, several students and faculty members did contact me regarding the strike. I think this approach of contacting their representatives is far more effective than demonstrating. People have a right to demonstrate... and they do have an impact in the sense of bringing the problem to the attention of the public."

Captain Clarence Olson of the Capitol Security Guard, responsible for safeguarding the Capitol Complex, told us, "We require demonstrators to get a permit that spells out what they can and can't do. Generally, they are restricted to an area such as the rotunda or the front steps; no signs with sticks or other material that could be dangerous inside the building; no disruptive behavior such as screaming or that type of thing. Fortunately, we have had no real problem. People have been very cooperative, including the students. They were very cooperative; they just wanted their cause to be known and figured this was the way to do it."



CPR — difference between life and death

Rep. Robert Reif (IR-White Bear Lake), a medical doctor serving his first term in the House, offered CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) classes to House employees.

In February, pages and permanent employees in the Capitol attended the class. In April, caucus secretaries, and other interested individuals who work in the State Office Building, got their training.

"There now is a cadre of people in both buildings trained in CPR," Reif said.

The training, which Reif termed, "a basic life support," teaches ordinary citizens a method to revive a person whose heart has stopped.

Victims of heart attack, drowning, or severe shock (i.e. electrical shock) often respond to CPR. Dr. Reif says it's important to have as many people as possible with CPR training, because "The first few minutes are so very important in any instance of heart stoppage."

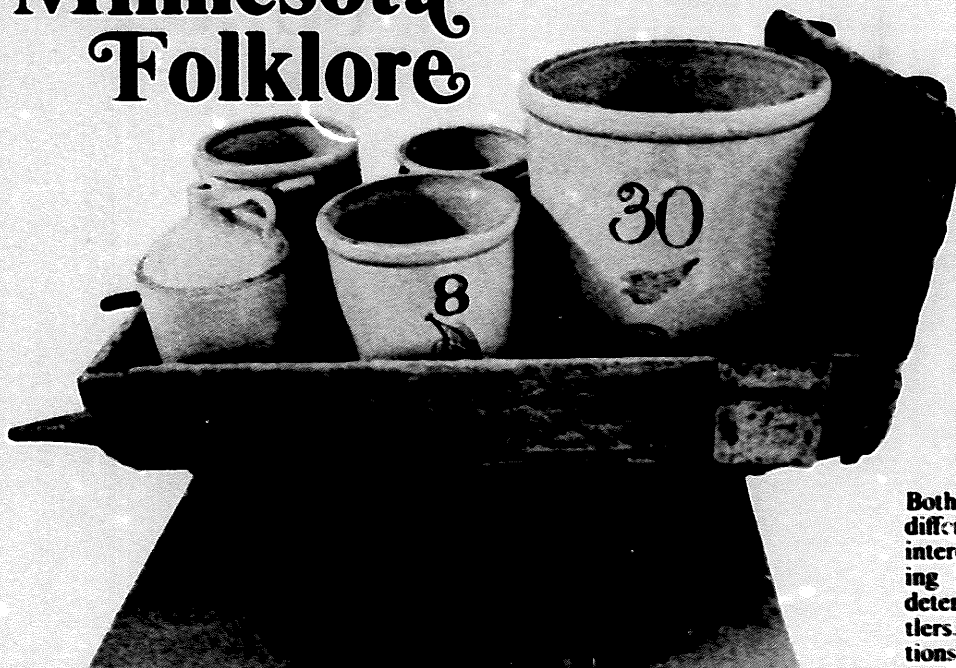
In training, individuals learn to recognize the problem, check the pulse, open airways, breath into the victim's airways to get oxygen into the blood, and to pump on the chest to start the heart.

"In many instances, this training can mean the difference between life and death," said Reif.

Rep. Bob Reif demonstrates CPR



Minnesota Folklore



Ellen Stekert

Although folklore has existed throughout Minnesota history, it wasn't until April, 1976, that the State Legislature established Minnesota's first Folklife Center. The bill created the center to preserve and present Minnesota folklife and appointed a state folklorist under the Historical Society.

"One of the reasons I'm here is the richness of this state. It is incredibly rich in folklore and nothing has been done here," said Ellen Stekert, state folklorist, who is a native New Yorker.

The center, with a staff of five, has spent its first three years educating the public about what folklore is and compiling a bibliography of folklore publications.

"We have been trying to educate people that part of their lives that they take for granted is, indeed, an extremely valuable and interesting part of their lives and one that could be looked at very carefully to help solve community problems," said Stekert.

Folklore is evident in everyone, whether

it is in artistic, or in expressive behavior, such as face-to-face communication.

"The thing behind all this face-to-face interaction is the fact you are brought up in a group, or several very complex groups, such as a religious or ethnic group; and all those groups effect how you react to certain situations," said Stekert. "As you go outside your perimeter of all those groups you are used to, you begin discovering that there are other assumptions in the world."

Folklore is evident in how you make a quilt or bookshelf and why you set your Christmas table a certain way. Other examples of folklore are evident in building designs, tombstones or graffiti.

A major problem facing folklorists is destroying myths of what folklore is.

"Folklorists are not just concerned with Indians, pioneers, and that which is cute and quaint, but are interested in what is going on out in the streets," said William Moore, Folklife Center associate director.

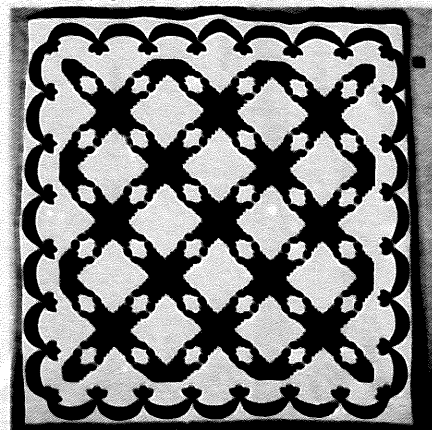
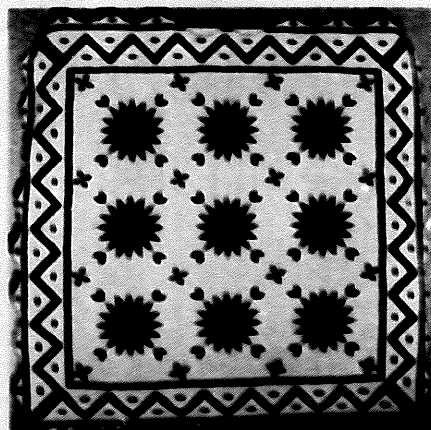
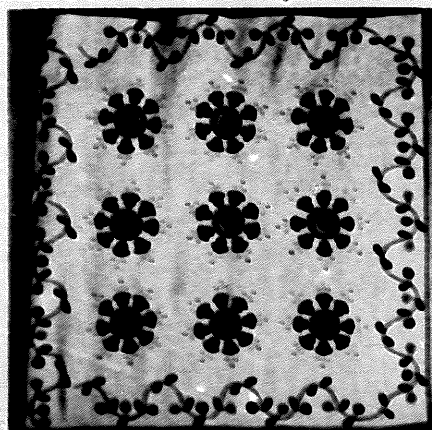
Both Moore and Stekert specialize in different folklore studies. Moore is interested in material culture. By studying Minnesota farm layouts, he can determine the nationality of its first settlers. Stekert works with health, corrections and law enforcement.

One of Stekert's studies dealt with the high rate of infant mortality of a group of Detroit women.

"Although the pregnant women were concerned with prenatal care, they were not using free prenatal clinics; but after looking at their folklore, their reasons were discovered," said Stekert. "The women were encased in urban folklore, and all wanted to move back to the mountains for old medicine folkways."

Studies of this type, with suggestions for use of their findings, have to reach a group that can evaluate and understand the underlying reasons for certain behavior. For instance, some nurses training requires folklore courses so that when they go into a region, they will understand what the population believes and what opposition they will confront.

Currently, the center is developing curriculum for all school levels in folklore. The combination of history, anthropology, and behavioral sciences in folklore, can be an important tool in solving current-day problems. — Lesa Alexander



In 1874, the Viola Gopher Count one-day festival began because of the township's problem with gophers. Viola's young men hunted the gophers, and the township honored, at a picnic, those who presented the most gopher feet at the end of the festive day.

Although the community solved the gopher problem, the June festival became a tradition with added events. It's an authentic folk festival with a wealth of behind-the-scenes traditions, such as the way hunters trapped gophers, and the family rivalry in parade float competition.

"This year will be our 105th Annual Celebration and will be held on June 21st. It is always the third Thursday in June each year. Gopher Count is the second largest, continuous annual event in the United States! The running of the 105th annual Kentucky Derby precedes our event by one month. The Viola Township Board pays bounty on gophers caught and the Viola Gopher Count Assn. plans and carries out the annual celebration, not in observance of dead gophers, but rather for the purpose of friendship and gathering together of old friends and relatives for a day of fun." Terence Yuel, president, Viola Gopher Count Assn., 1979

Not all of Minnesota's 300 festivals, that go on during the summer months, originated because of an environmental problem. Many festivals stress ethnic costumes, foods and dances — Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Polish, Czechoslovakian, German, Irish, and Native American. Some celebrate historical events or people.

A Duluth festival relives the landing of Daniel Graysolan Seuer de Lhut over 300 years ago. Other regions mark the deeds of Sinclair Lewis, Paul Bunyan, and Jesse James.

Winter, midsummer, and springtime awakening festivities observe the changing seasons. On the Iron Range, for 50 years, during the first weekend of February, the Laskiainen Festival has attracted Finnish-Americans to celebrate the gradual lengthening of days. Laskiainen translates, "sliding downhill", and includes the traditional event of vipu-kelkka, or "swivel sled." The festival events represent Finnish culture and traditions that are distinctly "Iron Range."

Religious beliefs inspire festivals. Lucia Day, on December 13, is a Swedish-Catholic celebration of Sankta Lucia, a virgin martyr. During the traditional ceremony, a young girl, resplendent in a long white gown, wearing a red sash and a crown of candles, has the honor of representing the "light" Lucia brought to others.

Cloquet and Stillwater's Lumberjack Days, and agricultural county fairs in the state, reflect the importance of regional occupations.

Over the years, dances, food, art shows, and athletic events remain the center attraction of festivals; but the people who celebrate play an important role in defining the interaction of past and present folklore. — Lesa Alexander

almanac



SESSION '79

Minnesota House of Representatives

Publication of House Information Office

Rm 8 • State Capitol

St. Paul, Minnesota • 55155 • (612) 296-2146

Issues have been moving along, and the status of bills probably has changed since **SESSION** went to press. For update on information, call the Information Office (612) 296-2146.



Where to get information

Office of the Chief Clerk

(Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk)

The full membership of the House elects the Chief Clerk. He is the administrative officer and unofficial parliamentarian and is responsible for the functions of several departments within the Chief Clerk's Office.

Front Office

One of these departments is the front desk, in the office, right next to the chamber on the second floor of the Capitol Building.

Here, people pick up the daily and weekly schedules of House committee meetings. They can get answers to their questions about proceedings in the House and other general information from employees staffing the front desk. Copies of General Orders, the calendar for the day's House action, bills, resolutions and the *'Journal of the House'*, the official daily record of legislative action, are available.

Room 211 (612) 296-2314

Index Department

A computerized index follows each bill, recording its status as it makes its way through the Legislature.

The Index Department staff also assists the public, giving people proper file numbers of bills they're interested in, authors names, committee assignments of the various bills, etc., and helping them to use the CRT (Cathode Ray Tube). This is a television-screen-like device people can use to "call up" and view index information. For example:

—Authors lists: lists, by individual representatives' names, all bills members have sponsored in the current session.

—Topical lists: all bills under a given topic, i.e., environment, taxes, education, etc. (175 topics).

—Committee lists: listing of bills in each committee.

—Statute information: list by statute number of all bills affecting a particular statute(s).

Room 211 (612) 296-6646

Legislative Information Office

This office supplies the public with:

Session Publications: *Weekly Wrap-up*

— lists committee meetings, agendas for upcoming week, bill introductions, bills the governor has signed; summarizes committee meetings, House action. *Session* — magazine on the legislative process and people participating in the process.

Interim publications: *Interim* magazine; follows interim activity in the House; reviews committee activity and special studies. *This Week in the Minnesota House* — lists interim committee meeting agendas; summarizes meetings.

Directories: Membership Directory — lists House and Senate members and committees. Official Directory — lists members, committees, offices, employees, rules for the House and Senate. Telephone Directory — lists members and staff.

Informational Brochures: *How a Bill Becomes a Law*, *Today in the Minnesota House* (daily committee meeting agendas during the session), *Road to Minnesota Laws* (cartoon version of how a bill becomes law, for the younger set), *Joey's Visit* (coloring book for the very young), *Citizen's Participation Quiz* (includes legislative district maps), *Three Branches of Government* (wall chart showing the structure of state government).

General Information: Office staff

answers questions such as: Who is my representative? What district do I live in? and directs people to other information sources.

Special Projects: Public information display in the State Departments Building on the State Fairgrounds; Essay Contest for junior high students on "There Ought to be a Law" Media Day for the press.

Room 8 (612) 296-2146

Office of Educational Services

On request from a representative, or a group leader, this office will schedule and arrange visits and seminars which highlight the work of the House and its members.

The office takes reservations for school groups (including teachers and post-secondary students) for clubs, special interest groups, out-of-state visitors and foreign guests.

For further information about this office and its services, call (612) 296-8081.

In the Senate

Secretary of the Senate's Office and Senate Index, on second floor of the Capitol, provide the same services as the Front Office/Chief Clerk's Office and the Index Department in the House.

Room 231 (612) 296-2887

Senate Public Information Office, Room B-29 in the Capitol basement, provides similar services in the Senate as the House Information Office does in the House.

(612) 296-0504

Committee Information

Both the House and Senate provide 24-hour telephone lines for committee meeting schedules (time, place and agenda).

Senate line: 296-8088

House line: 296-9283