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MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session

Vol 4 No 1

January, 1977



DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, and that you will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which you have just been elected to the best of your judgment and ability.
SO HELP YOU GOD?



Session '77

"It is my duty today, as secretary of state to call the Minnesota House of Representatives to order," the honorable Joan Grove announced at 12 noon on Tuesday, Jan. 4 in the State Capitol Building in St. Paul. The 1977-78 legislative session began.

Rep. Bernard J. Brinkman (D-Richmond), clerk pro tem, called the roll. Before District Judge John C. Lindstrom, former House member, 134 members-elect swore to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which they have just been elected to the best of their judgment and ability.

Rep. Irvin N. Anderson (D-Int'l Falls), House majority leader, nominated Martin O. Sabo (D-Mpls.) for Speaker of the House. Rep. Henry Savelkoul (IR-Albert Lea), House minority leader, nominated Rep. Rodney Searle (IR-Waseca).

After a roll call vote electing him for his third term, Sabo took his place in the speaker's chair.

The House voted unanimously to elect Edward A. Burdick chief clerk of the House. Burdick has been chief clerk since the 1967 session and an employee of the House since 1941.

Following election of assistants to the chief clerk, postmaster, assistant sergeants-at-arms, and index clerk, and a temporary recess, members selected their seats in the House Chamber. The House then adjourned until Jan. 17.

Issues surfacing for the new session

Legislators have begun working on the issues that will be a part of the '77 session through bills and resolutions they are introducing in the House.

Irvin N. Anderson, (D-Int'l Falls), majority leader, has moved to get the timber wolf off the protected "endangered" species list. Some other states share the problem of this predator and the destruction of livestock.

Anderson has introduced —

- a resolution urging the U.S.

secretary of the interior to promptly declassify the eastern timber wolf and return management control to state government.

- a resolution asking Minnesota's commissioner of natural resources to take steps to regain state control of the predator.

Anderson plans a third piece of legislation — a bill to allow payment to property owners for losses they suffer as a result of wolf attacks on livestock.

Anderson said, "The losses simply cannot be allowed to continue. I feel that since government regulation prevents the taking of the predator, government should provide the financial protection rather than leaving the burden on innocent victims of these losses."

First House Bill of session '77

Rep. Paul McCarron (D) who represents District 46A, Spring Lake Park, Fridley, and Mounds View introduced the first bill of the '77 session. It deals with delivery of social services.

Student Section



The Minnesota House of Representatives each session gives a number of students a chance to work with the legislature. Some intern with individual representatives, some in research offices, the House Information Office, or with committee staff persons.

Liz Newberry, a sophomore at Macalester, is interning this session with Rep. Mike Sieben (D-Newport). She is originally from Oak Park, Ill. She will be working fulltime until spring term and part-time until the end of the session.

Liz interned in the Illinois State Legislature. She noted some differences in the Minnesota and Illinois legislatures.

"In Illinois," she said, "representatives have more funds to use. They maintain an office at the Capitol and an office in their home districts.

"Also, bills are read out loud in their entirety on the floor of the House for their first reading."

In Minnesota a bill's introduction serves as its first reading. The House Journal publishes its number and title the day of the bill's introduction.

As part of her assignment, Liz has written press releases about a reapportionment bill, a new home warranty bill, and a bill which proposes new voluntary state minimum reading standards.

"I have also been helping with a survey which will be sent to constituents to

find out their views on issues before the legislature this session," Liz said.

As a political science major, she feels the internship is helping her to understand classes she has had in legislative behavior and how it fits in with the actual working of state government.

Rep. Peggy Byrne (D-St. Paul) also has an intern working with her, Michael LeGrand. He began his internship in mid-November and will continue through mid-March. His main responsibility he said is that of "office manager" for Byrne.

He helps with constituent services by answering phone and mail requests for information, takes notes on meetings and does research on bills.

Mike is a senior in marketing from Moorhead State University and would like to be a lobbyist. He said, "The internship program is a unique experience in dealing with people. Learning about politics and the legislature is important in any field. I enjoy working for Rep. Byrne, because she is open-minded about government and issues. She has let me do the kind of work which is most useful to me."

Julie Roles, intern program coordinator, arranges weekly intern briefings. They allow interns to talk with people who are involved in different areas of government.

Mike said, "These briefings and the intern orientation program have helped us learn about the inside workings of government, and give us a chance to talk with other interns about what they are doing."

IQ

Legislative Terms

1. The term yield means:
 - a. Delaying a bill scheduled for action by the House.
 - b. A member surrenders the floor temporarily to another member to hear a question.
 - c. Intermission in a daily session.
2. The term bill status means:
 - a. The numerical listing of a House File.
 - b. The number of "aye" votes a bill receives on final passage.
 - c. Where a bill is in the legislative process.
3. A call of the House means:
 - a. A condition which requires all members not excused as absent to come to the chamber to vote on the issue before the House.
 - b. Reconsideration of an issue.
 - c. A special House session requested by the speaker.
4. The term division means:
 - a. The process of putting amendments into a bill.
 - b. A committee sub-unit which deals with a specific issue.
 - c. A request that members stand for a vote count.
5. The term title means:
 - a. A statement of the contents of a bill and section of the law it affects.
 - b. A bill's House File number.
 - c. The enacting clause of a bill.
6. The term interim means:
 - a. Termination of consideration on a bill.
 - b. The time between adjournment "sine die" (final adjournment for the biennium-two-year-session) and the convening of a new legislature for a new biennium. "Sine die" means "without a day."
 - c. Replacing a House File with a Senate File.

Power Line

For a full day, Wednesday, Jan. 12, people from Stearns and adjacent counties had the attention of legislative leaders as they spoke out on their concerns about the planned power line that will cross some farmland.

The legislators boarded a bus for St. Cloud at 8 a.m. in front of the State Capitol in St. Paul as people began gathering in the St. Cloud armory.

Speaker of the House Martin O. Sabo (D-Mpls.), Majority Leader Irvin N. Anderson (D-Int'l Falls), Assistant Minority Leader Rodney N. Searle (R-Waseca), Chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Willard Munger (D-Duluth), Rep. Al Patton (D-Sartell), Rep. Glen Sherwood (D-Pine River), and Rep. Wes Skoglund (D-Mpls.) serve with members of the Senate and the lieutenant governor on the special joint subcommittee to look into the power line dispute.

Other area representatives attending the meeting included Rep. David Fjoslien (R-Brandon), Rep. Joseph Niehaus (R-Sauk Centre), and Rep. James Pehler (D-St. Cloud).



Farmers and their wives said they fear bad effects on environment, land, and health in the "corridor" area directly under the lines.

Some told of "shocks" when operating equipment under power lines. Others question the danger of ozones in the electrical field in and around the corridor.

People who stepped to the microphone in favor of plans for the power line talked about the need for added power for farm industries in the state.

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Representatives of the power company reviewed reasons for taking the line across Stearns County and disputed some of the claims about the destruction of the environment and the danger to the people living in the corridor.

Sen. Gerald Willett (D-Mill Road), chairman, said the committee will study the transcript of the taped testimony of over 200 persons and hold future hearings at the State Capitol.

Minnesota Horizons



"What will Minnesota be like in the future? What kind of state will we live in? How do we get there from here?"

House and Senate members met in a special joint meetings of the legislature at the St. Paul Vocational Institute on two separate days in the week of Jan. 10 to get information that may help answer those questions.

The 1973 Minnesota Legislature established the Commission on Minnesota's Future to follow growth trends, to look at alternative ways to take care of future needs.

In 1975 the commission worked with the Minnesota Planning Agency and the state legislature to put together a "Minnesota Horizons" meeting for lawmakers to look at where the state is; where it's going. The meetings this year made up "Horizons II."

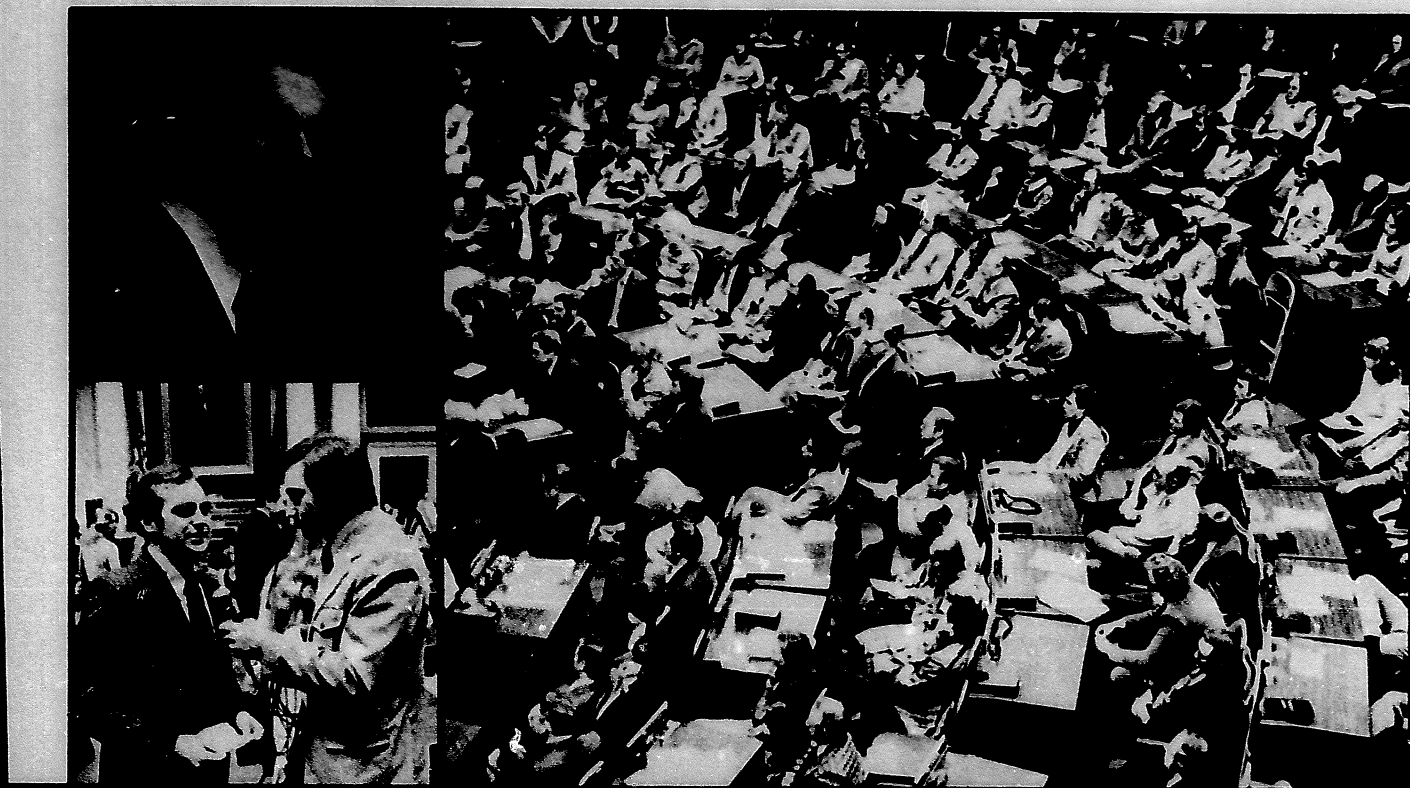
Rep. Rod Searle (R-Waseca), assistant minority leader, said, "As one who was instrumental in helping put together the first Horizons, I am delighted the leadership continued it.

"These meetings are a forward step in the indoctrination of new members

into the basics of what we have to know about our state in order to make new decisions.

"It's important to give as many tools as possible to the new members — to put some meaning into words like "demographics," terms like "population shifts" and what they mean in the way of tax structures.

"The information helps when members are working with the pushes and pulls, the stresses and strains of forming legislation that has to serve so many people."



Begins

McCarron said, "It is a reflection of a philosophy, a belief that policymaking decisions on social services ought to be made by elected officials on the local level.

"The bill restructures present methods so a great deal of the decisions on the distribution of social services would be in the hands of county commissioners.

"The needs of people in Koochiching and Morrison Counties are clearly not the same as those of the people using social services in Hennepin County.

"We firmly believe that local elected officials are better equipped to recognize individual needs and problems and to operate our welfare system accordingly. We intend to document this in hearings before several committees in the legislature.

Other bills — other issues

Rep. Dave Cummiskey (D-Mankato) in H.F. 28 is asking for a toll-free line into legislators so outstate residents can call their representatives, an advantage metropolitan people now have.

Rep. David Fjoslien (IR-Brandon) has introduced H.F. 14, proposing the restriction of construction of electric transmission lines to certain areas.

Rep. Randy Kelly (D-St. Paul) sponsors H.F. 32 which would outlaw the installation and use of radar detection devices, the so-called "fuzz buster."

Rep. Mary Forsythe (IR-Edina) is asking the legislature to approve H.F. 46, an environment bill that calls for tax exemptions on property that will provide for solar heating and cooling of buildings.

Two bills that would provide for special elections to fill vacancies that may occur in a U.S. Senate seat are in the House General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee.

They are H.F. 17 (Skoglund, D-Mpls.) and H.F. 52 (Knickerbocker, IR-Hopkins).

Governor cites House member in State of State message

"We should have listened to one man 20 years ago warning us about giving

Reserve Mining a license to begin dumping taconite tailings into Lake Superior. That one man is sitting in the House today, Rep. Willard Munger of Duluth." You were right, Willard," Gov. Rudy Perpich said when he talked about environment in his State of the State message to a joint session of the Minnesota House and Senate on Jan. 5, the second day of session '77.

Munger (D-Duluth) heads the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

In talking about the needs of the state, from energy to a federally funded unemployment relief program, Perpich pointed up Minnesota's people.

"The people of this state are an inexhaustible source of faith and optimism, pride and high expectations," he said.

"They know Minnesota is not perfect. But they think we do better than just about anybody else," was part of his message. He ended with, "The real resource of this successful society is our people — and the Minnesota spirit they have produced."

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Legislative Information Office / Official Newsletter

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Standing Committee Schedule	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:00 am to 9:45 am	Appropriations Rm. 57 Education Rm. 81 Governmental Operations Rm. 83	Appropriations Rm. 57 Taxes Rm. 81 Governmental Operations Rm. 83	Appropriations Rm. 57 Education Rm. 81 Governmental Operations Rm. 83	Appropriations Rm. 57 Taxes Rm. 81 Governmental Operations Rm. 83
10:00 am to 11:45 am	Criminal Justice Rm. 81 Local/Urban Affairs Rm. 83	Commerce/Economic Development Rm. 81 Environment/Natural Resources Rm. 83 Health/Welfare Rm. 57	Agriculture Rm. 57 Criminal Justice Rm. 81 Local/Urban Affairs Rm. 83	Commerce/Economic Development Rm. 81 Environment/Natural Resources Rm. 83 Health/Welfare Rm. 57
12 noon to 1:45 pm	Transportation Rm. 83 Labor-Management Relations Rm. 81	Higher Education Rm. 22 Local/Urban Affairs Rm. 83	Financial Institutions Insurance Rm. 81 Transportation Rm. 83	General Legislation Veteran's Affairs Rm. 81

Government IQ Answers (From Page 5)

- b. A member surrenders the floor temporarily to another member to hear a question.
- c. A bill's status is where it is in the legislative process, i.e., in committee, on the floor of the House, or in the Senate.
- a. A call of the House is a condition the House places on itself which requires all members the speaker has not excused as absent to vote on an issue; prevents members from leaving the floor and requires the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring absent members to the Chamber.
- c. A division of the House is a request that members stand for a vote count.
- a. A bill title is the concise statement of the contents of a bill and the sections of the law it affects.
- b. The time between adjournment "sine die" (final adjournment for the biennium-two-year-session) and the convening of a new legislature for a new biennium. "Sine die" means "without a day."

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