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Minnesota House

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SESSION

January, 1978

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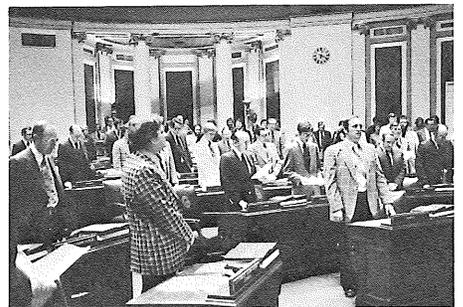
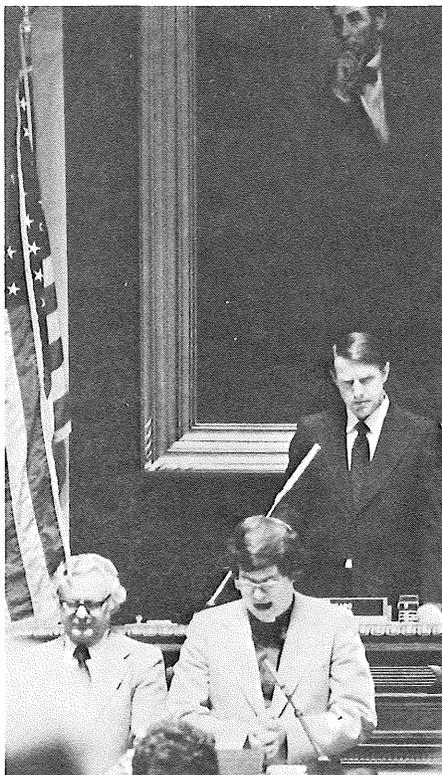
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Comments
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Minnesota says goodbye p. 8

Minnesota House of Representatives January 17 SESSION 1978



The Minnesota House dedicated its first meeting of the 1978 session to the memory of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey. The Minneapolis Central High School choir, in the gallery above the chamber, with Bea Speed as director, sang four selections and led House members in the singing of "America the Beautiful." Reps. Arlene Lehto (DFL-Duluth), Mary Forsythe (IR-Edina), James Rice (DFL-Mpls.), Majority Leader Irvin Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), and Minority Leader Henry Savelkoul (IR-Albert Lea) gave brief spoken tributes to the late senator.



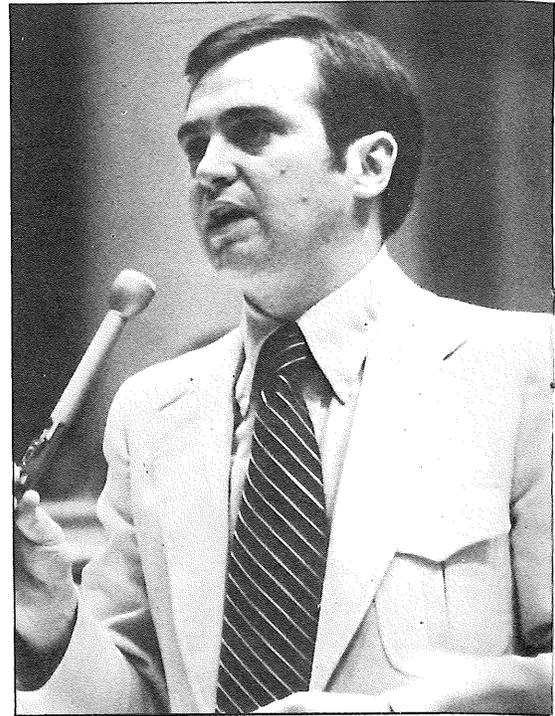
Leadership Comments

Minority Leader Henry Savelkoul

Rep. Savelkoul (IR-Albert Lea), said legislation he expects to come up includes election revisions, tax relief, and ban-the-can. He also hopes it is a short session.

Savelkoul, commenting on how he prepares for session, says his is a dual role when preparing for session, getting ready as the minority caucus leader and as a representative for his district.

Caucus preparation for a session consists of providing help for members of the caucus, making sure they are aware of the services available, and checking on possible legislation the members are going to bring up, Savelkoul explained.

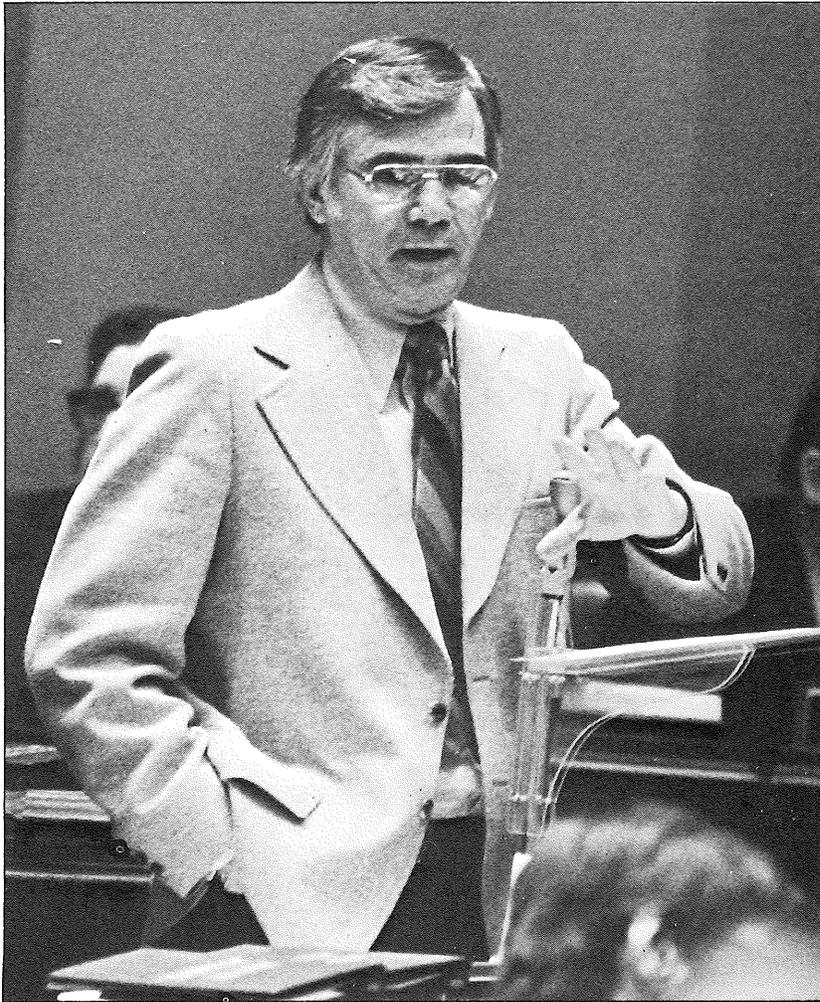


For his district work, he meets with groups, holds press conferences, prepares bills, and establishes county relationships.

“There will be several important financial issues to deal with this session: the state capital budget, or building program; legislation on the court decision on public funding and campaign regulations; tax increment funding; taxation of power plants; tax and fiscal policy for the balance of this biennium and the next biennium.”

**Martin Olav Sabo
Speaker of the House**





Majority Leader Irvin Anderson

What exactly is going to be the major thrust of the 1978 session? What bills need to pass?

"I can't exactly say what bills absolutely have to be passed. We closed the 1977 session with a number of bills pending and on which we will take action.

"One bill which has received a considerable amount of publicity and support from the governor's office is a bill that deals with income tax revisions. The governor proposes certain income tax relief to certain categories of income taxpayers."

How much surplus will be available for a tax cut?

"At this time, the governor has proposed a tax relief program that in-

volves something like 50 million dollars. That's a preliminary assessment. But I hesitate to specify an amount. Most legislative leaders are hesitant to specify a certain amount.

"One of the reasons is we don't know the forecasts. We'd like to wait until the last possible moment to get the latest figures that are available if there is going to be any surplus."

What are other major issues?

"The question on the election of a United States senator — now that there is a vacancy — who will fill that vacancy? At the present time, the governor is required by statute to make an appointment. There's been some discussion criticism around the state of the present system. I'm certain

we are going to have to look at that and hopefully address it.

"We have a bill on general orders that deals with ban-the-can. That issue has moved out of standing committees of both the House and the Senate and is lying on general orders calendar.

It is a very controversial issue. Neither body is absolutely certain that the issue will pass and so we are looking at a number of possibilities there. Maybe not pure ban-the-can as the general public knows it, but a number of revisions of that one."

What legislation will you introduce?

"I have a bill that deals with well drillers. It addresses a question that is current up in northern Minnesota. And hopefully, we will get that bill through both the House and Senate this legislative session.

"It's a measure that simply requires licensed operators to be present at any site where a well is being drilled. At the present time, a licensed operator need only to own the rig and he can hire anyone he wishes to operate this rig for him.

"In a number of instances, dry wells have been drilled, wells have been drilled inefficiently and without too much knowledge as to what they were doing. So we think that if there's a licensed operator present at the time the well is being drilled, that it is going to bring about a more efficient system of the drilling of wells in the state of Minnesota."

How long do you expect the legislative session to be?

"I think all the legislators coming back have one thought in mind. They want to do a very efficient job. They want to do an in-depth study of the issues we are going to deal with and make sure what we do is correct.

"I don't think they are so interested in the numbers of bills that we pass, but rather the quality of the bills we pass. At the same time, we want to address the major issues before the state and then adjourn. We are all hopeful that we will have completed our business by April 1."

Committee Chairmen Comment

... on upcoming issues



Rep. George Mann (center), Rep. R. Lemke (left), Rep. R. Jensen.



Rep. Donald Samuelson

Rep. A. J. Eckstein

Rep. Ray Faricy

Rep. Tony Eckstein —
(DFL-New Ulm)

Semi-state Division/Appropriations

“Since the legislature acts on most of the big appropriations bills during the first year of the session, we aren’t anticipating a big schedule for this year.

“The Semi-state Division will look at two issues which are the Historical Society’s proposal for the Hill House and the Agriculture Interpretive Center.”

Rep. James Rice — (DFL-Mpls.)

General Legislation & Veterans Affairs

“Basically, I’m expecting the committee will have heavy activity in the elections field.

“I think the major consideration will be the law on the public financing of elections. Some changes are necessary



Rep. Harry Sieben Jr.

because of the federal court decision which struck down provisions of the law as unconstitutional.

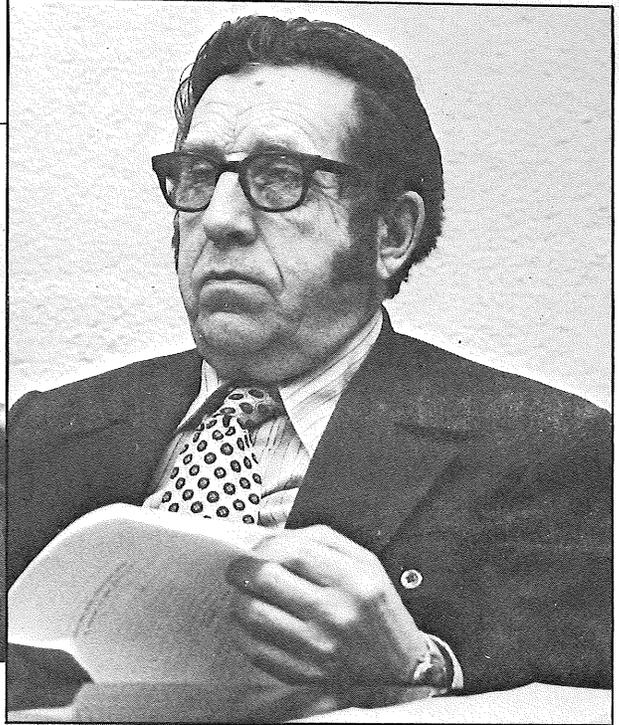
“We will probably be doing some work on the uniform elections day law.



Rep. Carl Johnson



Rep. Willard Munger



Rep. Stanley Fudro

Rep. James Rice

Also, I'm waiting to see what we get back from the Senate on the bill relating to special elections for U.S. senators at the time of seat vacancy.

"We are caught up on our veteran's bill except for a new proposal which would classify veterans' records as private."

**Rep. Ray Faricy — (DFL-St. Paul)
Education Division/Appropriations**

The Education Division's first business is to fulfill the capital requests from the higher educational institutions such as the building requests from the University system and the other schools that

Faricy's division reviewed over the interim.

HF484 (Hanson, DFL-St Paul) is the "one bill out of all those floating around that I'd really like to see," Faricy said. "That bill calls for special education programs for the gifted five percent of Minnesota youngsters similar to St. Paul Central High School's Quest program."

"I like to go into session without too fixed a game plan. I would like to stay really flexible, particularly if we do find that the tax surplus is sufficient to address other issues . . ."

"I like to go into session without too fixed a game plan . . . to stay really flexible."

Faricy

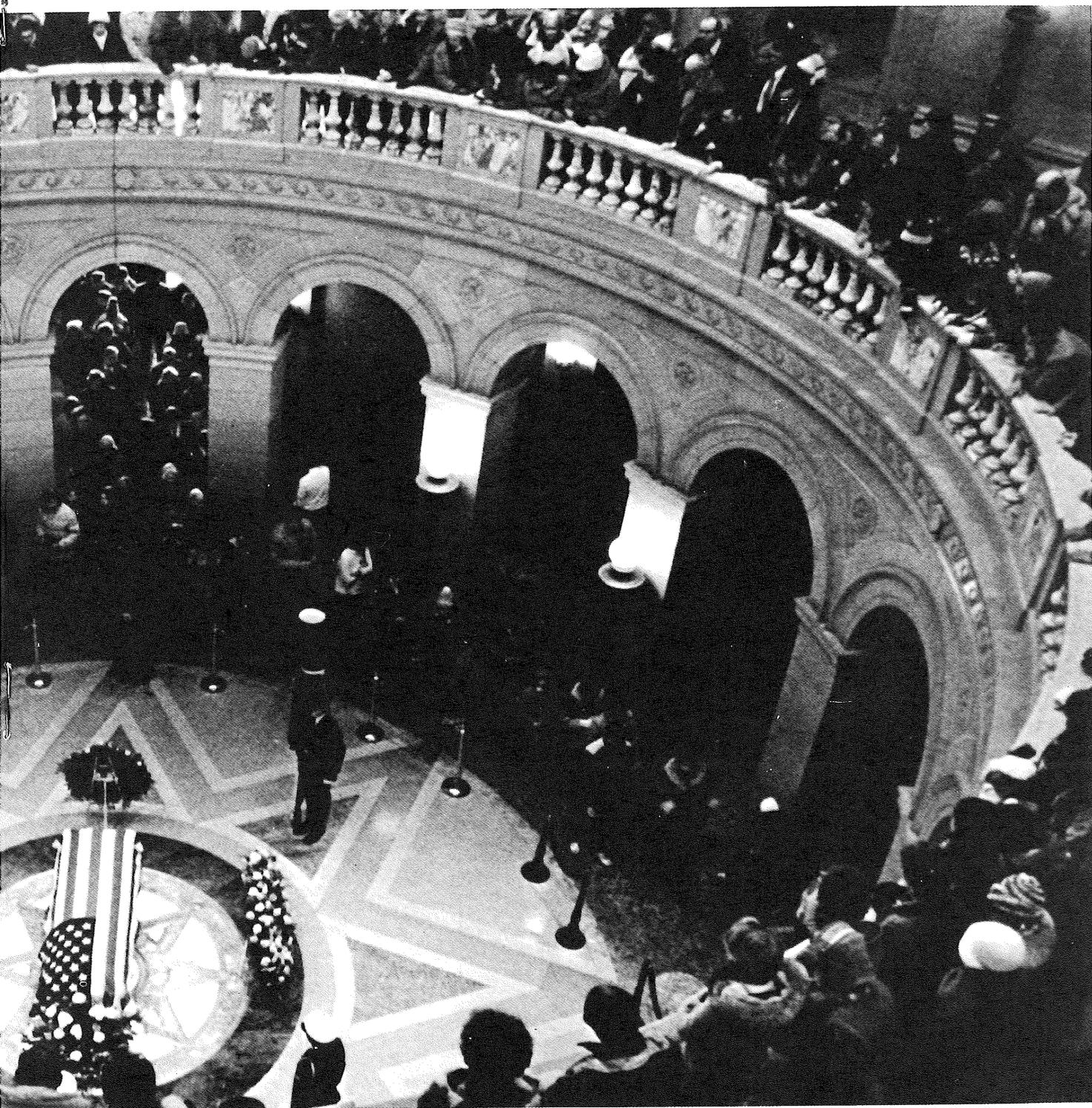


Minnesota say



vs goodbye

Hubert Horatio Humphrey 1911-1978



“I expect this year will be a cleanup session”

Munger

Rep. William Kelly — (DFL-East Grand Forks) Taxes

Tax increment financing, gross earnings tax on utilities, conformance of federal and state tax laws on corporations, changes relative to tax exempt property, and a possible tax cut were some of the issues talked about.

“We passed tax increment financing last session. Hopefully, the Senate will do the same and we can go to conference soon.”

On gross earnings tax on utilities, Kelly said, “There’s strong evidence that current taxation of utilities, particularly large generating facilities, distorts distribution of school aids and local tax efforts. The committee is considering a gross earnings tax on the generating facilities of large public utilities.”

“The committee plans to look at conforming Minnesota’s corporate tax laws with changes the federal government made in their corporate laws. We, and the business community, have an interest in that.

“We’ve had an ongoing study on tax exempt property in the state. We’d like to consider whether or not we should bring greater uniformity to the application of the laws as they relate to tax exempt property.

“On the question of a possible tax cut, I’m not optimistic at all. The income tax has been a main source of revenue for the state. It has allowed us to provide property tax relief, to direct aid to individuals, to provide monies to local governments and monies for our school aid formula.

“We have to be very cautious about what we do to it, particularly because the amount of money available is not very great.

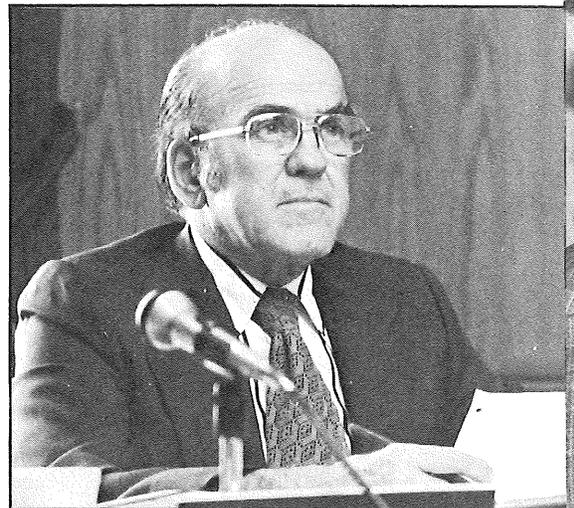
“How do people want to use that money available? It’s responsible state government to have one to two percent, certainly, in reserve. I think being fiscally responsible is keeping some money on hand and using it wisely.

“I certainly am going to be having hearings on the revenues, actual and projected, for the state of Minnesota.”

Rep. Harry Sieben Jr. — (DFL-Hastings) Governmental Operations

“The committee will be working on several issues this session. There are a couple of matters relating to the courts which will probably come up. There is the issue of public records and privacy.

Rep. William Kelly



Rep. Peter Fugina

And the committee will look at the state personnel system (Civil Service) and the policies, procedures, and practices of the system.

“We may be looking into worker’s compensation. Rep. Steve Wenzel’s (DFL-Little Falls) subcommittee has been working on this during the interim. We’re not sure, however, what specific legislation relating to worker’s compensation may emerge.

“There are also some retirement bills the committee will hear.” Peace officers and fire fighters pension funds are an issue.

“There are at least two issues that will probably come to Governmental Operations from other committees. One is child protection legislation which is in the Health and Welfare Committee. Rep. Shirley Hokanson’s subcommittee has worked on this during the interim. The other is the reorganization of the economic development department which is in the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.”

Rep. Carl Johnson — (DFL-St. Peter) Education

“We are looking forward to dealing with two subcommittee reports — one regarding minimal competency and testing and the other relating to the unmandating of some programs or at least wiping out language. That needs to be done.”

Johnson also said there would be a parochial aid bill coming out of the

committee, raising the per pupil aid from the present figure of eight dollars to approximately fifteen.

"The changes we made in vocational education have caused some concern. I think public hearings are going on right now. We want to review what we did there to see if any changes are needed. We look for a pretty quiet session."

**Rep. Peter Fugina — (DFL-Virginia)
Higher Education**

Some of the activity coming up in Higher Education this session includes HF496 (Voss, D-Blaine) which would make the University of Minnesota regents subject to statutory law.

HF1323 and HF1325 would define and specify the Higher Education Coordinating Board's requirements for reporting of private college registration information. The legislation would also exempt religious schools such as seminaries from having to disclose this information.

Another bill would require private colleges to offer time payment of tuition.

Other bills not yet introduced include adding a student member to the Community College Board and developing a model for curriculum study that would include review of current educational programs.

**Rep. George Mann — (DFL-Windom)
Agriculture**

One of the first things the Agriculture Committee will hear is a bill to relocate the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, possibly to the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. The subcommittee has been studying it all summer and Rep. Mann expects that they will be making a recommendation.

Another early issue will be increased federal support for farm prices.

"There has also been talk of a graduated land tax to help preserve the smaller farm and discourage large tracts of farm land. And the use of gasohol, a gasoline and agriculturally derived alcohol mixture is under investigation and will probably be before the committee, too."



Rep. Fred Norton

**Rep. Walter Hanson — (DFL-St. Paul)
Commerce/Economic Development**

"There are a number of issues coming before the committee this session. One is: What we are going to do with the utilities as regards to energy costs? Should we mandate to the public service commission some changes in the way customers are billed?"

"We are in the process now of putting together some legislation working with the new coalition that was formed from the Senior Federation.

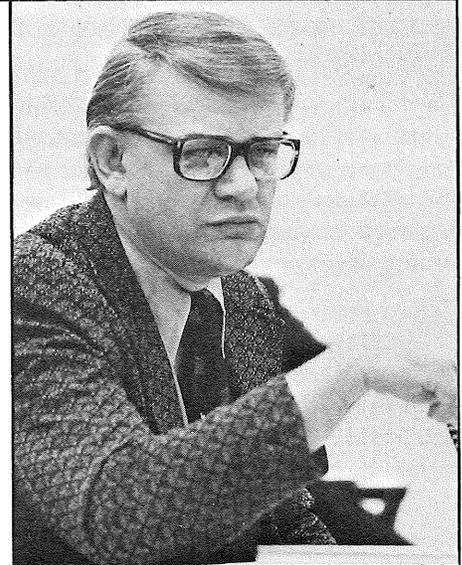
"The committee will also hear a report from the legislative audit commission in regards to the liquor industry and how a 1973 law outlawing the exclusive distribution of liquor brands has affected it. If some action is called for, I am sure we will be taking it up."

The committee plans to hear bills relating to the transfer of charitable trusts, the licensure of auto insurance adjusters, and the revocation of the authority of a certain telephone company, according to Hanson.

**Rep. Fred Norton — (DFL-St. Paul)
Appropriations — State Department
Division & Appropriations**

"The principal thing that we will be considering is a building program which all of the divisions of the Appropriations Committee have been working on since last session and we'll be putting together a building bill, a composite from the work of those divisions, probably in early February.

"There are a number of other bills, like the Cambridge hospital supplement that



Rep. Walter Hanson

will undoubtedly be coming before Rep. Samuelson's division (Health, Welfare and Corrections) and then the full committee.

"We also have a new special subcommittee to consider chaired by Rep. John Corbid (DFL-Oklee) that relates to federal funding, the intricacies of that and the federal/state relations."

Rep. Donald M. Moe —
(DFL-St. Paul)

Crime Prevention and Corrections

"The committee will be working on legislation relating to drunken driving (DWI) which one of the subcommittees studied during the interim.

"We will also look into several bills from the department of corrections. One of these bills deals with crime victims. It would set up a penalty assessment program at the county level. Persons convicted of crimes would pay an assessment fee of \$10. The money would go into a fund for use in crime victim programs. The state department of corrections would administer the program, but the funds would remain at the county level.

"We have another proposal which would provide for special prosecutors in organized crime and multi-jurisdictional crime cases. These prosecutors would operate in a several county area.

"Then, there is always sentencing. We haven't resolved the sentencing issue. I don't expect sentencing legislation will come through the committee again this year, since we passed the bill last spring.

"In the area of juvenile prostitution, the senators are proposing a bill which would require the BCA (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) to use some of its funds for juvenile prostitution. We may be looking at this proposal. There could be some statutory changes in the criminal code in regard to prostitution. The full committee will study these if the Juvenile Justice subcommittee recommends changes.

"Other than the proposals I mentioned, there will be some smaller bills, but overall we worked on most of the big issues last session."

Rep. Stanley Enebo — (DFL-Mpls.)
Labor-Management Relations

Chairman Stanley Enebo expects several major bills to go through the Labor Management Relations Committee this session.

Enebo and Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (D-New Hope) are sponsoring a resolution urging the passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill in U.S. Con-



Rep. Thomas Berg

gress which "would improve employment in America to the point where almost everybody would be fully employed."

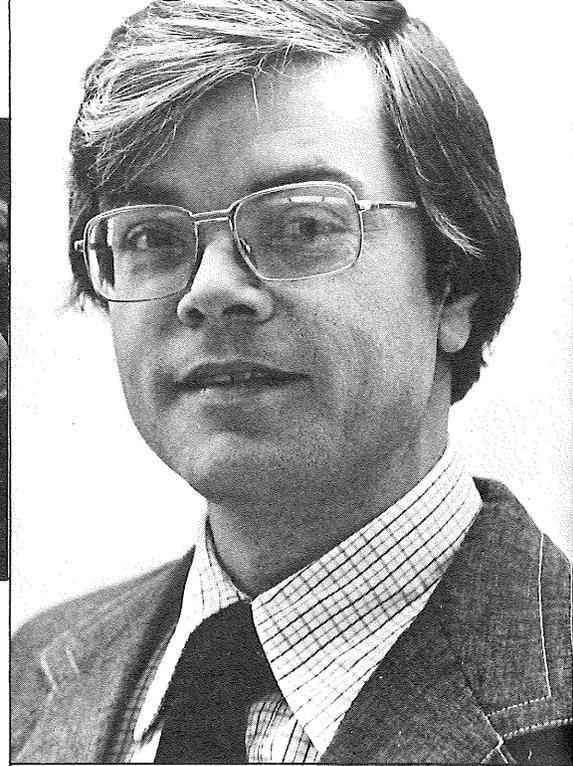
The committee will also hear a new bill prohibiting mandatory retirement ages. The legislature has heard similar bills before but this is the first time that the public and the private sector have appeared on the same bill.

Enebo said the bill is patterned after a new California law. The bill would permit employees to stay on their same jobs if they are capable of performing their duties.

Rep. Donald Samuelson —
(DFL-Brainerd)
Health, Welfare and Corrections
Division/Appropriations

"My division has been working very hard this past summer on the proposed building suggestions for the state institutions. We toured all of the state hospitals, reviewed their requests, toured the corrections institutions to take a look at what their needs may be. It will be our prime responsibility to put together a building proposal for welfare and corrections during this session of the legislature. Requests are quite heavy, they amount to some \$25 million. How we sort this out will be anybody's guess.

"The abortion question could wind up in our committee. There could be a bill, several bills before the legislature asking that the state not fund abortions through the medical assistance division of welfare . . . I would judge that we would get them one way or another."



Rep. Donald M. Moe

Rep. Tom Berg — (DFL-Mpls.)
Local &/Urban Affairs

Municipal finances will be of concern to the Local Urban Affairs Committee this session. The committee which held interim hearings on the subject plans to look at "their method of reporting the fiscal condition of local units of government."

"We are looking at legislation to require all units to report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles."

The committee also plans to review the use of the paratransit program.

Rep. Willard Munger — (DFL-Duluth)
Environment and Natural Resources

Rep. Willard Munger said "The committee covered most of the noteworthy issues during the 1977 session. I expect this year will be a cleanup session with emphasis on less major and local bills.

"We put our effort into the controversial issues last year. These included the powerline bill and the omnibus energy bill. There may be some modifications in the energy bill this year. The committee will look at several department bills.

"During the interim the subcommittees worked on the trespass bill which has a good chance of passage, and the watercraft safety bill which may have a little trouble, but we hope it will pass."

**Rep. Jim Swanson — (DFL-Richfield)
Health and Welfare**

"The big emotional issue, of course, is going to be the abortion bill . . . You can't please anybody on that, absolutely no one. Fifty percent are one way, fifty percent are the other. It's just a standoff, you try to do what's right, and both sides are probably wrong.

"There are a number of things our subcommittees have been working on that we are going to try and look at through certificate of need."

Certificate of need legislation aims at holding down health costs by requiring doctors and clinics, and private practitioners to file for a certificate of need before they may purchase high-priced equipment, Swanson said.

"The chiropractors have requested a hearing to give testimony on a bill regulating licensing for chiropractors. That's kind of an emotional issue too.

"We are trying to address the problem of child protection . . . trying to do something to both protect the child and prevent the situations that lead to child abuse."

**Rep. Stanley Fudro — (DFL-Mpls.)
Transportation**

The committee will act on:

- Rep. St. Onge's bill which would permit advertising signs for food, lodging, and recreation facilities along the highways.
- Rep. Peter Fugina's bill which would authorize the county board to act as a town board in an unorganized township in providing cartways to access public roads.
- Rep. Tom Berkelman's bill which would require wheelchair securement devices in vehicles transporting wheelchairs.

"There are some small bills with minor changes. These include a bill relating to the Great River Road, number changes on some routes, and definition changes in the moped legislation, Fudro said.

"We don't expect the motorcycle helmet law to come up again because we just don't have the statistics. The committee may do some work on van-



Rep. James Swanson



Rep. Stanley Enebo

dalism and public safety, but we don't expect a bill this time around." The committee may work on pollution control and the effects of road salt on ground and surface water.

Also, the department will report on the bridge program and what they are doing with railroad contracts.

**Rep. Bernard Brinkman —
(DFL-Richmond)**

Financial Institutions/Insurance

"There are two bills which the committee heard during the interim. One prohibits automobile insurers from basing automobile cost partially or wholly on age, length of driving experience, or academic achievement of the insured.

"The other bill would make redlining in the sale of homeowner's insurance an unfair trade practice. Redlining is selling homeowners' insurance to residents of a Minnesota town or city and then refusing to sell equivalent coverage to another resident of that

town or city solely because of the location of the home.

"We're going to have four department bills from the insurance commissioner. One is the specialty line bill. The commissioner has absolutely no control over what we term short lines. The bill would give the commissioner more control over specialty companies."

"We're going to have some banking legislation. In my opinion, branch banking won't come up because we're going to have to leave detached facility work for awhile and see how this works out. Detached facility gives every bank legally two more facilities and we've got to see if there's a need for more branches."

Brinkman talked about legislation which has passed the Senate and is awaiting hearings in the House. One would give savings and loan associations the same rights as any bank and allow local municipalities to deposit in their organizations.

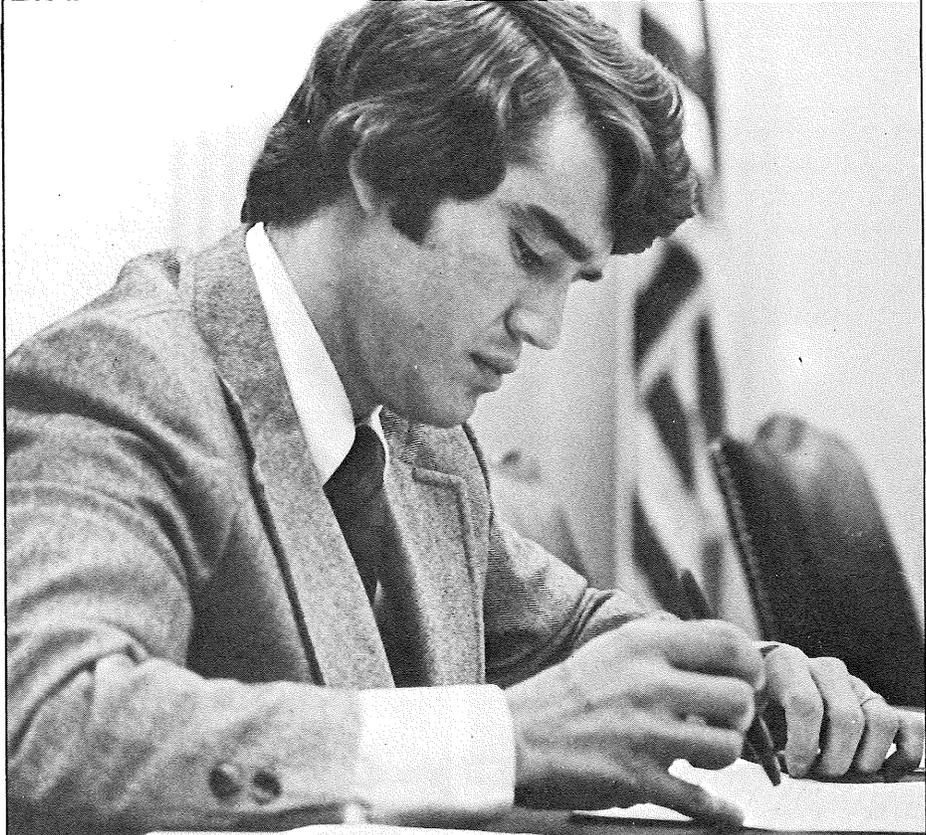
"We have several advisory bills coming up. One is a proposal to study discrimination in insurance, particularly against females. The author of the proposal, Rep. Ann Wynia (D-St. Paul) has told me there are many types of insurance a female cannot buy. We're going to take a hard look at that."



Rep. Bernard Brinkman

Members Comment

**... IR's talk
about getting ready
for the session,
about issues**



Rep. Gary Laidig

issues. There are always the high visibility issues such as abortion, ERA, underground office building, and a tax cut. I'll not simply be here to listen to it all, but I'll be a part of how issues are decided."

Laidig said the legislature should decide the abortion issue and end the stadium issue. "We should also determine how to help the farmers market their products." He would like to have a number of things accomplished in the committees he serves on.

"In Appropriations, determine where we're going to have taxes cut. Unlike the federal government, we do not print money, so if we give a tax cut we have to cut spending.

"In Criminal Justice, we have got to clean up juvenile prostitution and get an understanding of why young women get involved and how to help them.

"We should look at the new prison which is being built, and make sure things are going well in construction and if it's the kind of facility we need.

"In Higher Education, we should review the reciprocity program for Wisconsin and Minnesota students, and look at a new way of providing for state scholarships and grants-in-aid."

Gary Laidig — (Stillwater)

"I held a number of public meetings this summer in my 14 municipalities in preparation for the session. I contacted the local elected officials, and held my meetings the same night as the town board met, so I could meet with the town people. I'll be sending a letter out to elected officials telling them if they have legislation they would like to see passed, to contact me," said Rep. Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater).

"I have a lot of ideas I'd like to work on, and I did some research on those

Rep. Elton Radalen — (Fountain)

This is Elton Radalen's (IR-Fountain) first legislative session.

"Starting in the second half of the biennium may be a disadvantage, not having the chance to indicate which committees I'd like to be on. But I'm happy with Speaker Sabo putting me on Health and Welfare, Education, and Higher Education.

"The other problem about starting in the second half is really not knowing some of the bills that didn't pass the first half of the session. I'm going to have to do more homework to familiarize myself with some of the legislation.

"So it probably is a disadvantage, but I'm willing to learn and willing to work. I think I can overcome the problems and be an effective legislator.

"I'm trying to acquaint myself with the problems of not only individuals, but those of special interest groups who play a very important part in the legislative process."

Radalen wants to work on the tax cut, farm problems concerning continuous acquisition of farm land by the department of natural resources, and the abandonment of rail lines.

Rep. Tony Onnen — (Cokato)

Rep. Onnen didn't take part in the first half of the biennium. He became a representative during the interim as the result of a special election in District 22B.

"This session I'm coming in with great anticipation of learning, because that's really what it's about. I know that, for me, the case of having to catch up is because I'm unfamiliar with legislation that may be very common knowledge to others. I guess I just have to work a little harder."

"I guess the most important thing is to communicate with the people to find out what the concerns are. This gives me a chance to find out how government affects the people in the district. I try to familiarize myself with what I feel should be changed in the laws and pursue those changes so that I can be more knowledgeable."

"There's a need for legislation in the areas of tax relief, health care, and workers' compensation. "I believe that our law has to change to reduce the amount of tax burden that we are placing on the public tax payer.

"Another need is in health care. Especially looking at the rights of the elderly — their right to stay in their own homes. This is one area where I'd like to see some legislation and research done."

Rep. Tony Onnen



Onnen said workers' compensation is a frustrating problem. "What we want is to provide prompt assistance to help the disabled workers until they are able to get back on the job. But we must consider consumers, because they are the ones who have to pay."

Rep. Richard Wigley — (Lake Crystal)

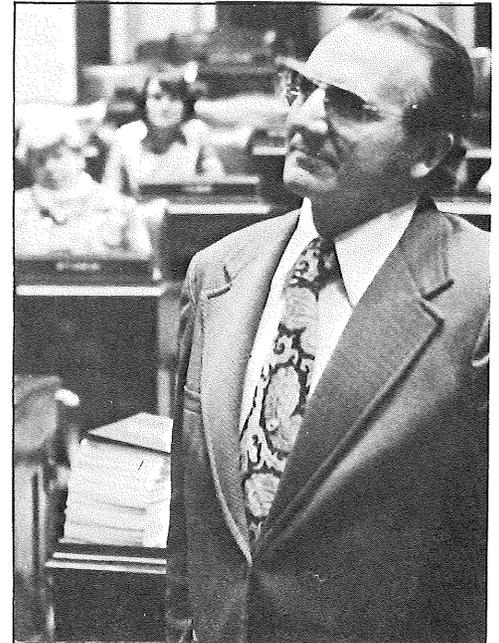
"Being a legislator is a year round thing now. You're used to meetings, you're always ready to meet, so it's not that much different getting ready for a session."

"You're in contact with other legislators year around. We don't have to get psyched up for a biennial session like we used to six years ago before we had annual sessions."

Wigley, who serves on the Health and Welfare Committee, said committee interim activity was in the areas of group homes, community homes, and chemical dependency.

"There are bills pending that have been carried over from last session. Some were in conference committees and some in the Senate. This is the reason we started annual sessions, to complete the uncompleted business."

Rep. Richard Wigley



Rep. Elton Redalen

Wigley would like to see legislation concerning tax relief, cemeteries, and the energy shortage.

"I have a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to loiter in cemeteries after hours, and I'd like to see something done in the development of gasohol as a motor fuel. We continually hear about the shortage of energy, but state and federal agencies aren't coping with the problem and making a real effort to find alternative sources."

"I guess the most important thing is to communicate with the people."

Onnen

Minnesota House of Representatives

SESSION

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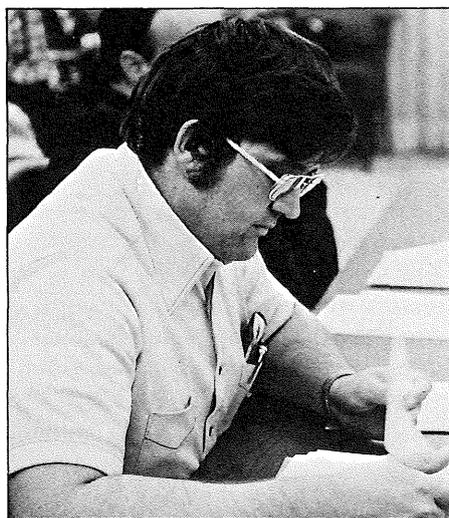
Public Information Overview Committee

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Valley), C. Thomas Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul),
and James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud)

Rep. Kenneth J. McDonald — (Watertown)

“There are a number of bills that were worked on during the interim. One deals with child abuse, and another deals with relocating the department of agriculture. There’s a need for a new State Office Building to house the department of natural resources and the pollution control agency.

Rep. Kenneth McDonald



Rep. Gaylin Den Ouden

“There are three major areas that need correction through legislation. One is public financing of campaigns. Two, I hope to see a tax cut and a comparative cut in state spending, and three, a provision to provide for election of Senate vacancies.

“In agriculture, I want to see us create an Agriculture Energy Conversion Commission that would mainly provide guaranteed loans to farmers who would convert manure to methane gas.

“In the Governmental Operations Committee, I want to see improvement in the worker’s compensation dilemma. I want to see fair public financing come out of the General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee on which I serve.”

Rep. Gaylin Den Ouden — (Prinsburg)

Rep. Den Ouden started his legislative role in March of 1977. “I was elected fairly well into the session, far enough so that they were going full steam when I got here, so I had a lot of catching up to do — real fast,” he said.

“I asked a lot of questions. People were very helpful. I enjoyed trying to find out what was going on. It’s about all I did for the first few weeks.

“This session, I’m getting my files ready. I’m trying to get my mail answered so I don’t start out behind schedule. I also sent out a questionnaire. The answers to the questions plus my constituents’ comments have given me direction on how I will vote on controversial issues.”

Den Ouden said he would like to see legislation concerning parental consent for abortions, identification of dental materials, elimination of outdated, mandated school regulations, and cleaning up of the worker’s compensation bill that passed last session.



Interviews of the IR members by Val Schroeder, junior from the U of M, interning in the House Information Office.