

## Rep. Joel Jacobs retires from House

Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) resigned from the House of Representatives March 5 when he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Jacobs, who was first elected to the House in 1972, was in his 12th term. He chaired the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

The governor has called an April 4 special election to fill the vacated seat in District 49B. If necessary, a special primary election will be held March 21.

In valedictory remarks at the close of the

House floor session March 2, Jacobs said he was moving to the PUC "with mixed emotions. I have always loved this body like my family."

Jacobs praised the "absolutely superb" House staff members, and thanked fellow lawmakers.

"I've really enjoyed working with you. This is a great place, a great body. It's true we have differences of opinion, but nevertheless we are friends and continue to be friends."

The five-member PUC regulates the prices and services of telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) on March 7 appointed Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) to take Jacobs' position as chair of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

Trimble is a teacher who was elected to the House in 1986. This will be his first time as a committee chair.

Anderson said that Trimble's "familiarity with energy issues and his ability to promote healthy discussion and consensus-building will make him an excellent chairman."