

Five members to retire

Five more members of the House of Representatives have announced their retirement as state representatives. Most, however, will still be working in committee meetings, helping constituents, and returning to the Capitol until their successors take office.

The retiring representatives here are in addition to Rep. Robert Bell (Roseville) and Rep. John Salchert (Minneapolis) who announced their retirements earlier. These seven members represent a total of 88 years of service to the state while in the House of Representatives.



August B. "Augie" Mueller

(Arlington) who has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 1941 is retiring. He said his time spent in the legislature has been "a tremendous education for me" and, he added, "after 34 years, you get a little tired too." Rep. Mueller said he plans to travel, perhaps visit relatives in Germany. Rep. Mueller was chairman of the House Highways Committee (now Transportation Committee) for five sessions. He highlighted his career for his work in legislation dealing with the betterment of agriculture in the state and for better roads for year-round use. No member of the present legislature has served longer than Rep. Mueller, however. Rep. Aubrey Dirlam (Redwood Falls) has also served since 1941.



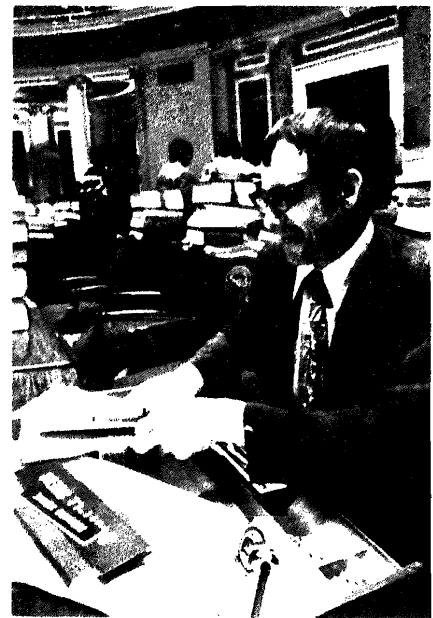
Helen McMillan (Austin), has announced her retirement after 12 years with the House of Representatives. She said the work is "seemingly getting harder all the time" and has decided, "I want some time to relax for a while and come home." Rep. McMillan said she has no specific plans yet but wants to "get acquainted with the community again and then see where I can be of help." Rep. McMillan was the only woman in the state's 201 membership Legislature during the 1967, 1969, and 1971 sessions. During her time in the House, she has served on every committee except Judiciary and it is believed she is the only woman in the nation to have chaired a Crime Prevention and Corrections Committee, which she did during the 1973-74 session. Rep. McMillan says she takes pride in that she stayed around long enough while other women were encouraged to run and get elected. There are now six women serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Robert Johnson (St. Paul) is retiring from District 63B because of the "tremendous amount of time" has to be away from other business, the practice of law, and work on the farm. Rep. Johnson was elected to the House in 1962 and served as Assistant Minority leader during the 1973-74 session. He said his leaving politics is not because of money but that "first and foremost I am a lawyer and not a professional legislator."



Harry Peterson (Madison) will retire as state representative from District 20A to return to farm work and become the director of two cooperatives. Rep. Peterson has served in the House since 1964 and was chairman of the Committee on Local Government for the 1973-74 session. He said he will "take it easier" but still plans to stay involved in politics and community affairs.



Richard Menke (Prior Lake) cleaned out his desk in the House chambers following adjournment of the 68th session. Menke was appointed to the Scott County Court by Gov. Wendell Anderson April 8. Rep. Menke said that the point is being reached where there is "just not enough time" for a person to do the best job possible as a legislator, and the necessary work at home. Rep. Menke, representing District 36B, was elected to the House in 1970 and re-elected in 1972.

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SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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