

Male legislators won't go slack on pantsuit 'rules'

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The men will wear the pants in the Minnesota Legislature, the women employees have either been specifically told or quietly given the word. 1-21-1971

In the House, Conservative Majority Leader Ernest Lindstrom has told women employees that he does not encourage the wearing of pantsuits.

"One of the small pleasures in life is for a man to look at a woman's legs," Lindstrom said, smiling. "But more importantly, as far as the pub-

PANTS AND THE LEGISLATURE
Turn to Page 3A

PANTS AND THE LEGISLATURE

Continued From Page One

lic is concerned," pantsuits do not fit the "image" of the House.

He said there is no "hard and fast rule" banning pantsuits and no woman would lose her job if she wore one.

"Utterly ridiculous" retorted Rep. Helen McMillan, Austin DFLer and the only woman legislator.

She said she considered wearing a pantsuit on the floor of the House in protest.

"I don't understand it," she said. She said there was "no complaint at all" from the men in the last session when mini-skirts were at their peak.

In the Senate, the style of dress for women is supposed to be "traditional, decorous and stylish but never extreme," Senate Secretary George Goodwin said.

He would not specifically say that this means pant suits are excluded but he intimated they would be frowned upon.

~~Gov. Wendell Anderson's office~~

was asked whether pant suits are banned or frowned upon there.

A governor's aide answered, "Hell, no. The governor's wife wears pant suits."

Secretary of State Arlen Erdahl sent a memo to his office staff on pantsuits, saying, "If they fit you, they're fitting for this office."

"However, I do discourage kilts for the male employees—at least until warmer weather is heralded by the return of the first robin."