

REPORT OF INTERIM COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Members
of the House of Representatives
of the 1949 Legislature
of the State of Minnesota

The committee appointed pursuant to House Resolution No. 25 which was appointed for the purpose of contracting for an improved public address system for the House chamber, air conditioning equipment for the House chamber and for the general improvement of the chamber used by the House of Representatives and the committee rooms, met and organized and elected the following officers: Representative Lawrence M. Hall, chairman; Representative George R. Matchan, secretary.

The committee met and consulted with the custodian of the Capitol and engineers and architects from the department of administration.

The custodian of the Capitol and the department of administration were instructed to obtain costs for enlarging and remodeling House committee rooms together with adequate provision for air conditioning of the rooms so remodeled. At the same time the matter of air conditioning the House chamber was discussed with the architects from the department of administration and a subcommittee was appointed to confer with the state department of health relative to the advisability and practicability of air conditioning the House chamber.

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The committee heard from various interested people who outlined suggestions for improving the House chamber and the committee rooms together with estimated costs of the projected improvements. All of the people who were heard indicated that physical changes of the building were difficult to make and extremely expensive for obtaining the desired improvement. In view of the shortages of certain materials that were necessary to complete improvements and because of the apparent high cost of these improvements the committee decided to refrain from entering into any agreement pertaining to the remodeling or relocation of committee rooms and providing for air conditioning in the committee rooms or the House chamber itself.

The committee did, however, advise the Capitol custodian, the director of administration and the public examiner that the facilities of the House Appropriations Committee were inadequate and after an inspection of the Capitol building the committee was of the opinion that Rooms 108 and 109 would more fully and adequately serve the needs of the House Appropriations Committee and advised the custodian and the public examiner to vacate these premises and make them available for use by the House Appropriations Committee at the commencement of the 1949 session of the Legislature. Pursuant to the negotiations of the committee these rooms were vacated and made available for the House Appropriations Committee.

A study of the public address equipment of the House chamber indicated that with certain improvements in the system the efficacy of the system could be improved. Engineers appear-

ing before the committee indicated that there were two noticeable defects in the present system. The first had to do largely with the antiquated equipment which was in use and they suggested that this equipment be replaced with modern loud speaking equipment with new loud speakers placed in uniform locations about the House chamber. The engineers advised the committee that it would cost \$3651.01 to make the recommended changes in the loud speaking equipment. The committee authorized Lewis W. Smith to proceed with the work designed to improve and correct the loud speaking system in accordance with the estimate he presented to the committee. This work has been completed at a total cost of \$3500.26 and included completely new mechanical equipment together with new microphones and new loud speakers placed in the House chamber. Tests have indicated that the equipment which has been installed is working in a satisfactory manner and this committee recommends that Lewis W. Smith be paid the sum of \$3500.26 for the work performed by him and for the material he furnished in connection with the reconversion of the speaking system.

In addition to changes in the physical equipment of the loud speaking system the engineers recommended to the committee the installation of carpeting in the House chamber for the purpose of improving the acoustics of that room and the committee, acting upon the suggestion of the engineers, obtained estimates from various firms as to the cost of carpeting the House chamber which are covered in detail in the portion of the report dealing with carpeting.

CARPETING

The committee solicited bids on carpeting for the House retiring room and the House chamber. At least four different firms submitted bids on carpeting and made suggestions for the installation of carpeting in the retiring room, the House chamber, the speaker's office and the corridors.

Boutell Bros. of Minneapolis employed the services of an artist to design carpeting which would be peculiarly adaptable to the retiring room and the House chamber. Sketches prepared by this artist were presented to the committee and embodied a motif in the design which incorporated the leaves of the trees shown on the frieze of the House retiring room. The carpeting designed for the House chamber was original and, the committee felt, particularly appropriate. The committee was advised that it would cost approximately \$28,000 to carpet the retiring room, the speaker's office, the rules committee, the corridors and the House chamber with carpeting of a quality shown to the committee and containing the design prepared particularly for use in the Capitol. After some deliberation the committee was of the opinion that it would be unwise for the members of the committee to undertake expenditure of so large a sum of money and, although expressing the feeling that this carpeting was sorely needed to improve the acoustics in the House chamber and the general appearance of the area occupied by the House of Representatives, agreed to refer the whole matter to the coming session of the Legislature for approval or rejection.

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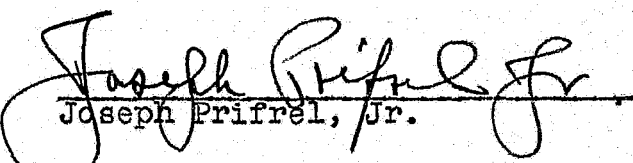
The committee recommends, in conformity with the recommendations of the engineers and architects with whom they consulted, that some action be taken to carpet the House chamber, the retiring room, speaker's office, rules committee and the corridors and that a new committee be appointed to select and continue the work undertaken by this committee.

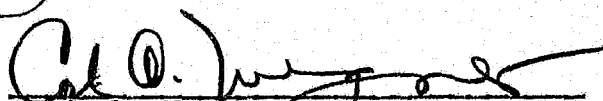
This committee further recommends that a new committee be appointed for the purpose of gathering further information on remodeling and improvement of the committee rooms and providing air conditioning for the committee rooms and the House chamber. A study of these matters will take considerable time and while the committee feels that these improvements are necessary they were unable to gather sufficient information to make a recommendation at this time and therefore request that further study be made of these problems.

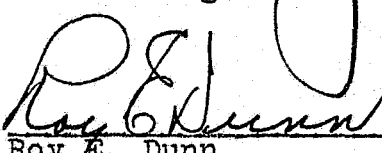
Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence M. Hall, Chairman


George R. Matchan, Secretary


Joseph Prifrel, Jr.

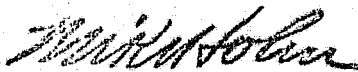

Carl O. Wegner


Roy E. Dunn

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Secretary of State.

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Dated: March 15, 1949