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*John*  
*2/1/51*  
Report of Select Committee

REPORT OF INTERIM COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Members  
of the House of Representatives  
of the 1951 Legislature  
of the State of Minnesota

The committee appointed pursuant to House Resolution No. 31 which was appointed for the purpose of studying and contracting for needed improvements to the air conditioning and other facilities with a view to increased efficiency of the House Chamber, House Retiring Room and House Committeerooms, met and organized and elected the following officers: Representative George R. Matchan, chairman; Representative Joseph Prifrel, Jr., secretary.

The committee met and consulted with the custodian of the Capitol and engineers from the department of administration as well as members of the purchasing division in the issuance of specifications for bids on materials.

A survey by the committee indicated that carpeting in the House Chamber was important to the improvement of the accoustics of the room; that carpeting and draperies in the House Retiring Room were worn and outmoded and in need of replacement and that considerable new equipment was necessary in the lavatory adjacent to the House Retiring Room.

After careful study of the quality, weight and design best adapted for this purpose, the committee solicited bids on carpeting for the House Chamber, House Retiring Room, Speaker's Office, Rules Committee-room and nearby halls. With the cooperation of the state purchasing department, specifications for bids were prepared and sent to 29 carpeting companies in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Mankato. Bids were received

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from five of these companies, the lowest of which was \$6,000 from the Fine Rug and Carpet Company of St. Paul to whom the contract was accordingly allowed. In addition to the yardage included in the contract, the committee ordered an additional 10 yards of each of the two patterns chosen to be used for repair in each room and held in reserve for that purpose.

Again with the cooperation of the state purchasing department, the committee studied samples and designs for draperies in the Retiring Room and ordered from William P. Graffunder and Son, decorators, draperies of antique gold velvet for the three windows in this room at a total cost of \$1167.60.

Repairs were made and new equipment installed in the lavatory adjacent to the House Retiring Room at a cost of \$676.60 for plumbing fixtures ordered from the Goodin Company. Workmen for this installation were provided by the custodian of the Capitol.

The Committee investigated the air conditioning unit in the Capitol Building and found that the ducts throughout the entire Capitol, State Office Building and Historical Building are filled with dust, some of which are filled two-thirds of their height with dust and operating at only about one-third of their capacity. All automatic controls have been removed from all equipment. The committee was informed that the system now in use in the buildings compares favorably with the systems being put into public buildings throughout the country today even though this system was installed perhaps 50 years ago. An engineer consulting with the committee advised that if the ducts were cleaned once and cleaned well, and the automatic controls replaced, there would be sufficient air coming in to change the air in a room four times in an hour. The automatic control

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would regulate and speed up the change of air if more people were in a room.

The cost of cleaning out the air ducts in the Capitol, Office Building and Historical Building was estimated to the committee to be \$50,000 for the three buildings and \$25,000 for the Capitol alone.

A subcommittee was appointed to appear before the Legislative Emergency Committee to report their findings and make a request for funds to proceed with the cleaning of the air ducts in the three buildings. They returned to the committee with the report that it was the conclusion of the Legislative Emergency Committee that it would be advisable to clean and repair the system in the entire set of Capitol buildings at one time rather than in ght legislative wings only and that the cost of the project was such that it warranted the study and consideration of the appropriations committees during regular session of the Legislature.

After some deliberation the committee was of the opinion that it would be unwise for the members of the committee to undertake to contract for the expenditure of so large a sum of money, and although expressing the feeling that cleaning and repair of the ventilating and air conditioning system is sorely needed, agreed to refer the matter to the 1951 session of the Legislature for approval or rejection.

The committee recommends, in conformity with the recommendations of the engineers with whom they consulted, that some action be taken to provide for the restoration of the efficiency of the ventilat-

ing system to its full and adequate capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

George R. Matchan  
George R. Matchan, Chairman

Joseph Prifrel, Jr.  
Joseph Prifrel, Jr., Secretary

Louis W. Hill, Jr.  
Louis W. Hill, Jr.

Roy L. Voxland  
Roy L. Voxland

Roy E. Dunn  
Roy E. Dunn

Dated: April 2, 1951

Mr. Prifrel moved that the foregoing <sup>report</sup> ~~motion~~ be adopted.

Which motion prevailed and the report  
~~was~~ was adopted.

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED  
MAY 2 - 1951

Mike Tolson  
Secretary of State

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