

SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 2 No. 1

January 27, 1975

House Information Office/Official Newsletter



All 134 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives were sworn into office January 7. For 52 members, it was the first official day in office as state representatives.

House members sworn in; 69th Session convenes

Members-elect of the Minnesota House of Representatives assembled in the House Chambers January 7 for the opening day of the 69th session of the Legislature.

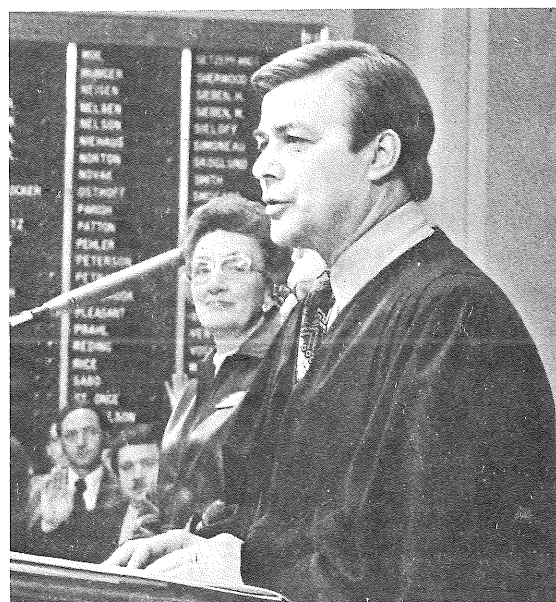
At 12 noon, Secretary of State Joan Grove called the House to order and appointed Rep. Bernard Brinkman of Richmond as Clerk pro tempore. A call of the roll by district was taken and all 134 districts were represented.

The Honorable Raymond Pavlak, judge in the First Judicial District, then administered the oath of office to the 134 members of the 1975-76 House of Representatives.

The first business of the day was to officially choose a speaker for the House. Traditionally, each caucus nominates a person for the position of speaker. With the Democratic majority of 103 to 31 for the Independent-Republican caucus, the DFL candidate was assured of the job.

After several nominating speeches, including supportive speeches by the minority leadership, Rep. Martin Olav Sabo of Minneapolis, was elected Speaker of the House by a vote of 134 to 0. The unanimous election is believed to be unprecedented in the state's history.

The House adopted temporary rules and resolutions regarding business of the House. Chief Clerk Edward Burdick was again chosen to be chief administrative officer for the House. Permanent rules were adopted by the House January 20.



Former state representative Raymond Pavlak, now a judge in the First Judicial District, administered the oath of office to the House members as Betty Hayenga, first assistant chief clerk for the House, looks on. Justice Pavlak served in the House from 1964 to 1974 and was appointed judge by the governor last fall.

Leaders for the 69th Session

Speaker of the House

Martin Olav Sabo, 36, Minneapolis, served as Speaker of the House during the 1973-74 session, and was House DFL Minority Leader for the 1969 and 1971 sessions. He has served continuously in the House since 1961, and his district 57B, is in south Minneapolis. Sabo is also chairman of the House Steering Committee and is currently chairman of the Joint Coordinating Committee.

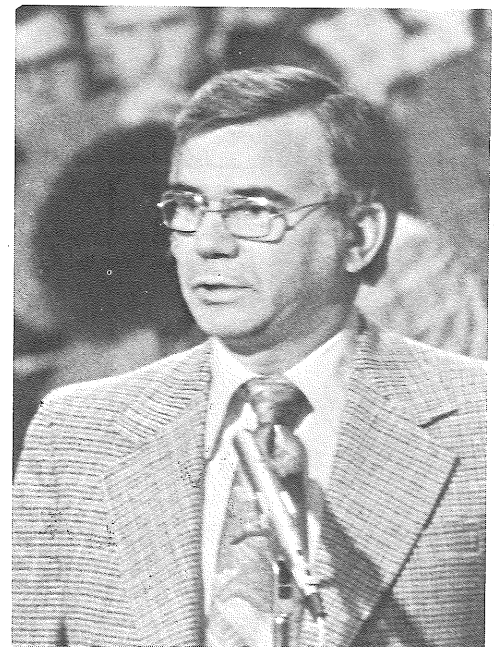


Majority Leader

Irvin Anderson, 52, International Falls, was reelected by the DFL majority caucus to be their chief spokesman on the House floor. He is leader of the 103 member DFL caucus, and also chairman of the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Anderson was first elected to the House in 1964 and represents District 3A, which includes Koochiching, and parts of Beltrami, and Itasca counties.

Minority Leader

Henry Savelkoul, 34, Albert Lea, was elected Minority Leader by the 31 member Independent-Republican caucus. He replaces Aubrey Dirlam who did not seek reelection last fall. Savelkoul acts as chief spokesman for the caucus on the House floor. He was first elected to the House in 1968, and represents District 31A, which includes parts of Freeborn and Mower counties.



Property tax relief proposed in House committee

Ron Rainey, executive secretary of the Tax Study Commission, presented information on the Governor's proposed circuit breaker for property taxes to the House Tax Committee at its January 23 meeting.

According to Rainey, the circuit breaker plan will give help to lower income homeowners who have been hurt by rising property taxes. Rainey said, the property tax is a regressive tax and those with lower incomes pay a greater percentage of their incomes than those with higher incomes. This is especially true with the elderly with some paying as much as 50 percent of their incomes for property taxes.

Rainey told the lawmakers that under the proposed circuit breaker plan, all homeowners will pay at least 1.5 percent of their federally adjusted gross income for

property taxes. If their property taxes (which are determined by the value of their property and mill levies) are in excess of 1.5 percent of their income, the state will refund the homeowner to a maximum of

\$425 for those under 65 and \$625 for those over 65 years of age.

Renters will also get relief in rent credit under the proposed circuit breaker plan, according to Rainey.

Community based health care urged

Establishing new community based facilities for the mentally retarded and ill was one of the recommendations the State Department of Welfare brought before the House Appropriations Committee at its January 20 meeting.

Loring McAllister, assistant commissioner, told the lawmakers that the Welfare Department would like to establish a minimum population base so there are less people in each facility than are now in state institutions.

When questioned as to the change from state hospitals, McAllister told the members, "we believe that a community based system of care is superior to an institutional system of care. It is a better way to care for people."

According to McAllister, other recommendations included: developing a firm policy in establishing the community based facilities; carefully assessing and subsidizing the Human Services Act; making available up to \$51 million for the care of the mentally retarded.

State crime commissions report to committee

The House Crime Prevention and Corrections Committee met January 20, and received testimony from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), the Governor's Crime Commission and the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparation Board.

Chairman Donald M. Moe (D-St. Paul) asked Harold Higgins of the BCA to give an overview of the operations of his agency.

The BCA is a state agency designed to coordinate and assist law enforcement across the state. Higgins said the bureau operates in two main areas, investigative service and special scientific assistance.

In the area of investigative service, the bureau assists in criminal apprehension, provides evidential material to attorneys and assists in drug-related crimes.

Chairman Moe asked Higgins to make available to the committee written statements making clear what authority evaluates the BCA and what connection the bureau has with the CIA.

A representative of the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparations Board testified on the progress and developments made in the recently formed board.

Last July, Minnesota joined 12 other

states around the nation in making reparations to victims of violent crime. After six months of operation, the board has received 92 claims for reparations, 66 of which were accepted. A total of \$126,915 was paid to the accepted claims. Victims of rape, arson, assault, and mugging were some of the recipients of reparations, as were dependents of homicide victims.

Any innocent victim of a violent crime against his or her person, or the dependent or legal representative of a victim is eligible for reparations under the act.

The maximum reparation available is \$10,000, with \$100 deductible.

The board stressed that claimants must report the crime to proper law enforcement agencies within five days of the offense. To be eligible for the program, all claimants must cooperate fully with the enforcement agencies.

The committee also heard Robert Crew from the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control report on the nature and developments in the commission.

Crew stated that the commission is one of 55 across the nation (one in each state and

territory) designed to assist the state in reducing crime. He said the commission is not a law enforcement agency, nor does it have authority to make demands on any group or individual.

The commission's success is based on research and identification of problems in the criminal justice system, Crew said. The commission can also award monies to encourage improvements in local crime prevention and justice facilities.

The commission receives money from the federal government based on the state's population. The money is allocated to two areas: \$1.1 million in planning funds, designed to implement the overall operation of the commission and nine criminal justice coordinating councils around the state, and \$9.9 million in "action funds" to be spent by local governments to upgrade their criminal justice operations.

To receive an action grant, local governments (or citizens with backing of their local governments) must apply to the commission in the summer or early fall, enabling the commission to include the proposals in the yearly budgetary plan.

House committee to scrutinize money requests

Members of the House Appropriations Committee will have to scrutinize every request for money that comes before them, according to Chairman Fred Norton (D-St. Paul).

Appropriation committee members met for the first time January 13 to hear Norton urge them to carefully examine any and all requests because the \$400 million surplus in the state treasury will not last forever.

Members also heard from former state representative E. W. Quirin, now an assistant state highway commissioner, who told the lawmakers that they should probably consider a gasoline tax increase, perhaps two cents a gallon. Quirin said it is estimated that each penny of gasoline tax increases raises about \$20 million a year, with \$12.5 million for the state and the balance for other levels of government.

Inadequate bonding power, inflation, reduced gasoline tax revenues because of reduced gasoline consumption, an increased work load, and improved maintenance have all contributed to an unhappy financial picture for the Highway Department, Quirin told the committee.

State correctional institutions reported on select committee

Richard Connor, chairperson of the Select Committee, reported the Select Committee's findings to the House Appropriations Committee January 21.

The Select Committee, established by the 1973-74 Legislature to review the roles of all Minnesota correctional institutions and determine which of these institutions should be retained, cited in their report:

*The Dept. of Corrections should develop a plan that will lead toward a goal of small specialized secure State facilities (five or six) for a total of 500 to 600 inmates;

*transition to these institutions will allow the closing of most institutions as they now exist by the 1980's;

*Stillwater prison would be shut down first; hopefully by June 30, 1977;

*authority for operating the State Security

Hospital should be transferred to the State Dept. of Corrections from the Dept. of Public Welfare.

*Dept. of Corrections should close the present State Security Hospital (St. Peter) and determine a new location;

*Institution closings should take into careful consideration the economic impact on the affected communities, especially affected employees.

Kenneth F. Schoen, commissioner of the Dept. of Corrections, also speaking to the committee, told the lawmakers that he has not commented on the proposal to close the (Stillwater) prison but will do so next month. However, he said the needed repairs to the prison would be about \$9 million and added that the department will continue, in any case, to operate a maximum security facility.

Higher Education discusses new AVTI

Henry Tweeten of the State Board of Education spoke to the committee on a proposal to construct a new vocational school in Minneapolis, with special emphasis on programs for the disabled.

The assistant commissioner presented a history of Area Vocational Technical

Institutes (AVTIs) in the state, their funding patterns and annual reports.

The proposed AVTI would join 34 others now in operation around the state with a total enrollment of 25,000. AVTIs are funded by the federal government and governed by the school districts in which they are located.

New Local and Urban Affairs holds first meeting

Members of the newly created Local and Urban Affairs Committee heard from a number of speakers on the history of local and urban governmental entities in the committee's first meeting of the 1975-76 session.

Chairman Tom Berg (D-Mpls.) told the members that a brief history of local and urban governmental units would give them the background they need to evaluate upcoming legislation concerning those units.

Gary Currie, research analyst from House Research, gave a brief history of township government and the Joint Powers Act.

Municipalities and how they function was next discussed by Orville Peterson, former director of the Minnesota League of Municipalities.

Another speaker was Howard Kaibel of the Minnesota Municipal Commission who spoke about the Municipal Commission, a commission created in 1959 by the Legislature to decide whether an area should be allowed to incorporate as a municipality and to provide for the adjustment of municipal boundaries.

Other speakers included Tom Todd, research analyst from House Research, who discussed the Metropolitan Council and Special Districts; John Joyt, Professor in School of Agriculture and Applied Economics, and Jim Solem, Minn. State Planning Agency, who spoke about the

Minnesota Regional Development Commissions.

Dr. Robert Barrett, who spoke to the members about counties, told the committee that the legislature should develop a standard plan for county government with the

option for individual differences for each county.

The Local Urban Affairs Committee was formed from the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs, City Government, and Local Government Committees of the 1973-74 session.

Metropolitan Transit Commission presents revenue alternatives

Doug Kelm, Metropolitan Transit Commission Director, speaking to the House Local and Urban Affairs Committee, reviewed alternatives for raising an estimated \$6.5 million in new revenue for 1975 and \$11.9 million for 1976.

The committee, meeting January 22, heard a number of alternatives, which, according to Kelm, are needed to cover inflationary increases in operating costs and to finance proposed bus service expansion.

Kelm told the lawmakers that much of the extra money needed is for a \$109-million program of service expansions authorized by the 1974 legislature.

Some of the transit revenue alternatives include: increase the base fare by five cents, from 30 to 35 cents; repeal the 50-cent ceiling

on fares which goes into effect, by action of the 1974 legislature, Jan. 30; repeal the free fare provision during off peak hours for persons under 18, which also will take effect Jan. 30; increase bus surcharge by five cents.

Four major tax sources could be used to fund MTC operations, according to Kelm. These include: establishing a 0.2 percent sales tax in the Metropolitan area; implementing a one mill tax on a kilowatt hour-six of seven dollars a year for an average household; implementing an income surtax — a "surtax" of two percent in the Metropolitan area would yield approximately \$8.1 million; establishing a payroll tax — 0.5 percent on employers' payrolls would raise \$8.2 million in the seven county area.

House looks at State's Horizons

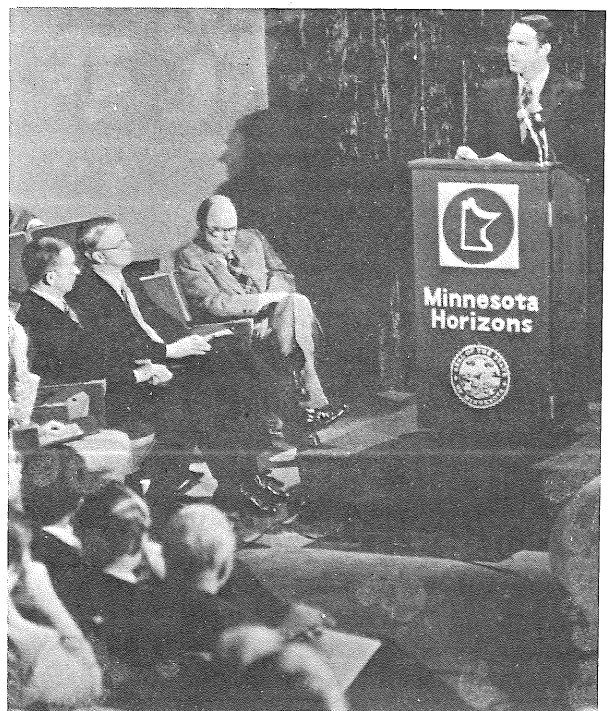
The Minnesota Horizons Seminar, held January 14, 15, and 16, provided legislators with a unique opportunity to look at where Minnesota has been, where it is now, and where it is heading.

Members of the House and Senate and their staff were given expert information about such crucial areas as population, natural resources, energy, agriculture, and industry.

The three day conference was sponsored by the House of Representatives, the Senate, the State Planning Agency, and the Commission on Minnesota's Future. Public television stations throughout the state carried the seminars with live and delayed broadcasts.



The series of lectures were well attended by legislators each day. Here, House Republicans listen to one of the many speakers. They are left to right, Reps. Joe T. Niehaus (Sauk Centre), Ralph Jopp (Mayer), Don Friedrich (Rochester), J. R. "Dick" Kaley (Rochester), and Ken Zubay (Rochester).



House Speaker Martin Sabo gives closing remarks to seminar participants. Other speakers included, seated, left to right, Ray Lappegard, former commissioner of Highways, Gerald Christianson, director of State Planning, and Jim Solem, director of Local and Urban Affairs for State Planning.

Computerized index system provides instant bill status

A computerized index system that will provide legislators, staff, and the public with instant bill status is ready for use in the House of Representatives Index Department.

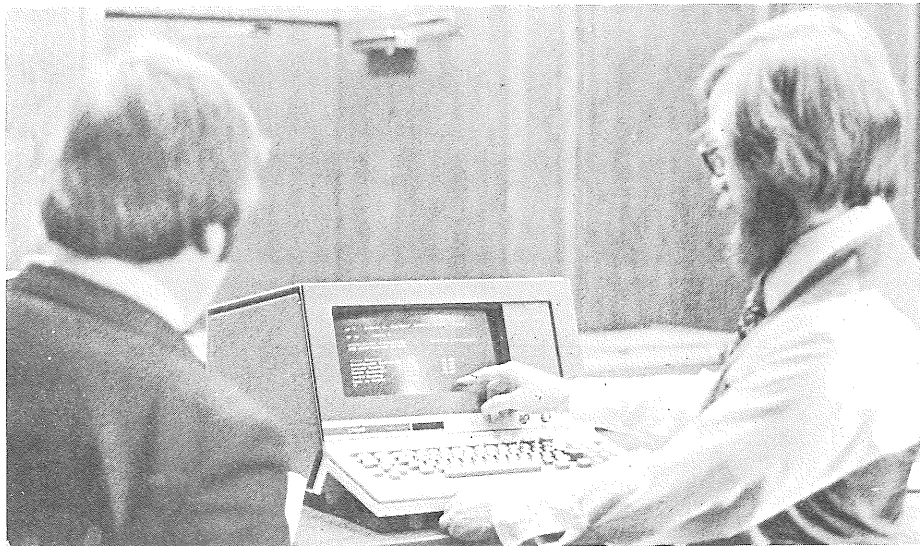
By using one of 11 computer terminals in the Capitol or State Office Building, a person can find out with the push of a button the status of any House bill at any stage of the legislative process.

Two terminals for public use are located in the Index Department in Room 210 of the Capitol.

Bill status information stored in the computer can be retrieved through four categories, the House File number, author's index, topical index, and committee index.

The computerized index system is being used in several states, but, according to Steve Fischer, index clerk, Minnesota is the only state to provide information equipment directly to the public.

Fischer said the computer not only offers immediate retrieval of information stored, but "under optimum conditions,



Index Clerk Steve Fischer, right, explains the computerized index system to Lowell Malcolm, Hennepin County Legislative Liaison. There are two computer terminals for public use in the Index Department, Room 210 of the Capitol.

we can enter current information into the memory bank 10 seconds after it is official."

In addition to saving time and providing a convenient method for finding a bill's status, the computer system is already saving over \$1,600 a month in printing costs.

Until this year the Index Department

used weekly printouts to provide a cross index of all bills. The paper printouts were costly and often outdated within a week, Fischer said. While providing immediate electronic retrieval of specific information, the news system will still allow for a printout of any information and the department will print a status of all bills at the end of the session.

House adopts new method for presenting possible laws

A new way of presenting ideas for possible legislation has been adopted by the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Under the experimental system, a member can draft an informal bill, called a House Advisory Bill (H.A.B.), which is essentially a suggestion to a committee for a proposed bill.

Each H.A.B. is introduced in the same manner as a House File, given a H.A.B. number, and assigned to a committee for study. If the committee feels the idea merits legislative consideration, a formal House File will be drawn up.

The H.A.B. may be referred to another committee at the request of the committee receiving the bill. If the committee does have a formal bill drawn up, the resulting House File will be considered as a committee bill.

Unlike House Files, which are drafted by the Revisor of Statutes Office, a House Advisory Bill is written up by the representative presenting the idea. It is typed on peach colored stock to distinguish it from other official House papers. Each member of the House can introduce or co-author no more than five H.A.B.s during the 69th session. This limits the possible number of H.A.B.s that can be introduced during the 1975-76 biennium to 670. There is no limit on the number of House Files one member can introduce each session.

As of January 27, one House Advisory Bill had been introduced. Rep. Neil Haugerud authored H.A. 1, which provides an idea for regulating interagency land transfers.

New environmental laws considered

The House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources met January 21 to discuss major considerations of the committee for the legislative session.

On the development of copper nickel mining in northeast Minnesota, Chairman Willard Munger (D-Duluth) said, "We must see to it that we have a clean operation. We can't afford a second mistake in Minnesota — first mistake was dumping 67,000 tons of taconite into Lake Superior."

Munger said the committee will take up environmental rights for labor, legislation dealing with solid waste, fish & wild life, a comprehensive land use bill, conservation of energy, commenting that "The committee deals with everything from wolf tracks to nuclear power."

Munger appointed subcommittees on environmental protection, conservation, recreation and open space.

House honors former representative Cina

Former state representative Fred Cina was honored by the Minnesota House with the designation of January 25, 1975, as Fred A. Cina Recognition Day.

House Resolution No. 1 was adopted by the House January 20 and cited Cina for his service as a state legislator from 1947 to 1967. During his 20 years of service in the House, Cina was Minority Leader and Majority Leader, and was chairman of the Rules Committee for four sessions.

Chairman names members to School Aids Division

House Education Committee Chairman Carl Johnson has named members to the School Aids Division of the committee.

Rep. Joseph Graba (D-Wadena) was appointed chairman of the division by Speaker Martin Sabo. The newly created division will study legislation dealing with school aids formulas throughout the state.

Members of the School Aids Division are Reps. Salisbury Adams (R-Wayzata), Tom Berg (D-Mpls.), Gilbert Esau (R-Mountain Lake), Carl Johnson (D-St. Peter), Richard Kostohryz (D-North St. Paul), Bob McEachern (D-St. Michael), Bruce Vento (D-St. Paul), and Russell Stanton (D-Arco), vice-chairman.

Labor-Management Committee lists goals for session

Chairman Stanley Enebo (D-Mpls.) opened the January 21 meeting listing several goals of the committee, including help for the unemployed, elimination of age discrimination, investigation of lost employee benefits due to company mergers and a review and improvement of laws passed last year.

Bud Malone, commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry, described the operations of the department and added that no major legislation will be introduced unless they receive adequate staff and funds to make the laws work.

Commissioner Emmet Cushing of the

Department of Employer Services stated his operations and offered a proposal to improve the benefit level for unemployment and workmen's compensation.

Dave Rose, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, said he hopes to see the state's minimum wage increase to the level of that of the federal government. Harry Peterson, from the Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry, told the lawmakers he would like to see legislation which will maintain a good job climate for Minnesota.

Representatives of the MEA and FTA stated concerns over Minnesota's present arbitration policies.

Committee reviews new University law school

Members of the Education Division of Appropriations met January 15 to review the schematic plans for the new law school building at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus.

According to Minnesota law, the Legislature must approve the schematic plans before the University can develop working drawings and bid documents for the law school building.

The 1973-74 Legislature approved a \$10 million appropriation for a new building, but this figure has escalated to over \$11 million because of inflation according to

James Brinkerhoff, University Vice-President for Finance, Planning, and Operations.

Chairman Howard Smith (D-Crosby) told members of the committee and officials of the University that before the division can approve the schematic plans, it must know who will pay for this additional cost of \$1 million.

The division will meet again with the University officials on the new law school building, but no meeting has yet been scheduled.

Youth take over legislature

High school students from throughout Minnesota gathered at the state Capitol January 10 and 11 for the 21st annual Youth in Government Model Legislature.

More than 300 students from various YMCA regions acted as legislators and legislative leaders and elected statewide officers, such as governor. For the first time in the YMCA program, this year 18 youths acted as Justices and officials of the Supreme Court.

The model legislators met in committees, and held session in the House and Senate Chambers. They prepared and debated bills much like the way they are presented through formal procedures of the House and Senate.

House members who acted as advisors for the Youth in Government legislative committees were Reps. Bruce Vento (D-St. Paul), Arne Carlson (R-Mpls.), Donald Moe (D-St. Paul), Linda Berglin (D-Mpls.), Tad Jude (D-Mounds), Mary Forsythe (R-Edina), and Jerry Knickerbocker (R-Hopkins).

The model youth governor Joan Peterson signed bills passed by both Houses. The bills would:

- *require the registration of pistols; prohibit the sale or transfer to or carrying of by certain persons;

- *ban copper-nickel mining in Minnesota until environmental impact statements have been completed.

- *maintains personal privacy of a victim of a sexual assault by making prior sexual experience not admissible as evidence until approval of judge.

- *repeal state law governing sexual intercourse between consenting adults.

- *establish two mobile health units which will regularly serve the smaller Indian reservations of the state.

- *require all bills brought before the Legislature to contain a fiscal impact statement.

- *Introduction of high pressure sodium lamps to Minnesota highways.

- *Prohibit smoking in buildings which do not have proper ventilation and/or filtration systems.

Health Department officials appear before committee

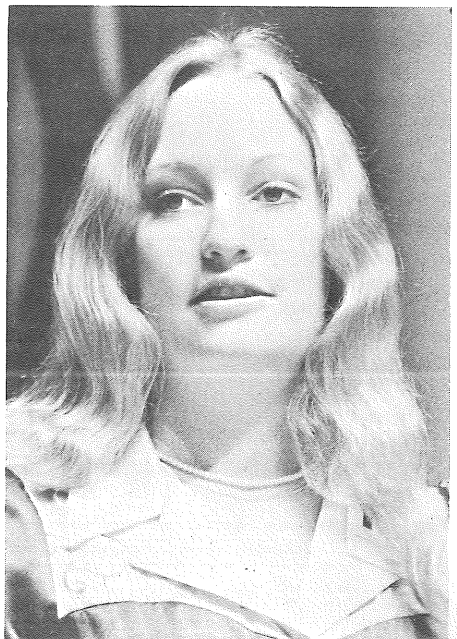
The first meeting of the Health and Welfare committee opened January 21 with an in-depth presentation by Health Department officials. Rep. James Swanson (D-Richfield), chairman of the 27-member committee indicated that some basic insights would be necessary, as two-thirds of the members were new to the committee.

Dr. Warren Lawson, executive director of the Minnesota Department of Health, addressed the committee and said he saw overseeing the quality of health care throughout the state as the main duty of the department.

Lawson drew a distinction between health care and medical care, stating that medical care is really treatment of sickness. Health care, he said, is not synonymous to disease treatment, it is preventative.

He added that of the \$100 billion spent in the U.S. annually for "health care" less than five percent is spent on preventive medicine.

Lawson challenged the committee to seek major changes in the department of health by developing a strong local structure for health services, and transferring locally oriented duties to those units.



Joan Peterson, a Winona High School senior, was elected Youth Governor by the YMCA Youth in Government participants. She addressed a joint convention of the youth Legislature and signed several bills into "Law".



Chief Clerk Edward Burdick (left) is sworn in for another term by House Speaker Martin Sabo. Burdick was given unanimous approval by House members. Burdick was first employed by the Minnesota House in 1941 and was first elected Chief Clerk in 1967. He is past president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries.



Secretary of State Joan Anderson Grove presided over the House until the members officially elected a speaker. Mrs. Grove served as a state representative for two years before being elected secretary of state last fall.

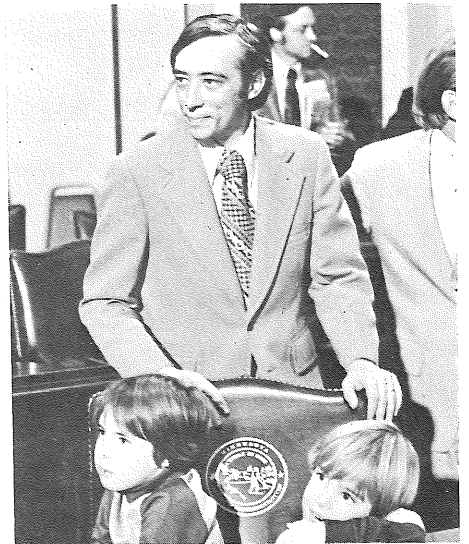


Opening day

Opening day of the Minnesota Legislature is not for members only. Family, friends, press, and dignitaries joined members for the crowded and official first day ceremony on January 7.

Rep. Linda Berglin (D-Mpls.), at left, used the desk in the House Chambers to her advantage to shoot pictures of the opening day scenes.

At right, Rep. James Pehler (D-St. Cloud), is joined at his desk by his sons Karl and Jamey.



General Legislation Veterans Affairs topics considered

Campaign reform, implications of the change in Veterans Day, reform in voters registration, recodifying Minnesota election laws, and establishing a presidential preference primary in Minnesota are just a few of the subjects that the committee on General Legislation and Veterans Affairs will consider this session, according to its chairman, Rep. Bruce Vento (D-St. Paul).

The committee met January 15, for the first time this session to hear Chairman Vento briefly discuss what the committee plans to consider this session and also to decide on subcommittee assignments. Chairman Vento told members that they will have a choice of three subject areas; elections, veterans affairs, and general legislation, to concentrate on within the committee.

Judiciary chairman names subcommittees

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard Parish (D-Golden Valley), has announced subcommittees for the 1975 session. They are:

*Subcommittee on Commercial and Family Law, Rep. Neil Dieterich (D-St. Paul), Chairman.

*Subcommittee on Probate and Real Estate, Rep. John C. Lindstrom (D-Willmar), chairman.

*Revisor's subcommittee, Rep. Frank Knoll, (D-Mpls.), Chairman.

In addition, Rep. Parish will chair a Subcommittee on Courts. Chairman Parish discussed procedural rules for the committee and said the committee will work on the problems with the probate bill that became law during the 1973-74 session to make it a useable piece of legislation.

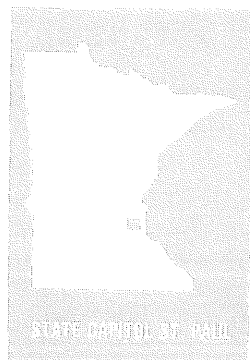
Governmental Operations plans objectives

The Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Harry Sieben, Jr., (D-Hastings) discussed the objectives of their committee for 1975-76 at a January 9 organizational meeting.

Sieben announced that during the coming legislative session, the committee will probably have a similar division structure to that of the 1973-74 session: Public and

Private Employees; Government Structures; Government Administration; and Pensions and Retirements.

Sieben said there may be some changes in titles and duties, but responsibilities will be substantially the same in 1975, with each committee member serving on at least one division.



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MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Information Office/Official Newsletter

Room 8, State Capitol

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House High School Page Program underway

Thirteen high school students from all parts of Minnesota took part in the first week of the House of Representatives High School Page Program, January 13-17. "When you visit the State Capitol for a week, you learn that passing a bill is much more complicated than the seven steps we learned in our civics classes," a student from a farm community said.

Students met with Speaker of the House Martin O. Sabo, leaders of the Republican caucus, and with their state representative during their first week with the House of Representatives.

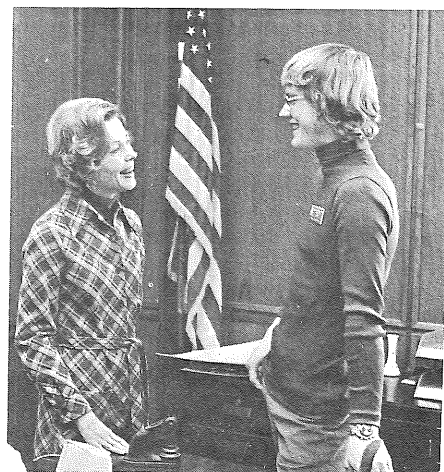
The High School Pages met Secretary of State Joan Grove and Attorney General Warren Spannaus, and toured their offices. They also attended a House committee meeting, toured the state government complex, visited the State Historical Society, and acted as pages during a House session.

Students were in the House Chamber when Governor Wendell R. Anderson delivered his annual Budget Address to a joint convention of the House and Senate on Thursday, January 16.

High School Pages also attended the Minnesota Horizons seminar, a series of lectures on Minnesota's future, sponsored by the House of Representatives and Senate, the Commission on Minnesota's Future, and the State Planning Agency.

At an evaluation session at the end of the week, students commented on the program. "I liked working in the House Chamber best," said one student, adding "I was surprised at all the activity on the House floor during session." A sixteen-year-old from the metropolitan area said she had not expected state representatives to be so accessible or so friendly.

Each high school page will serve two one-week terms at the Capitol. One high school or high school district per house district was selected to participate in the program during the 1975 legislative session. The process by which students were selected was determined by the school, and the selection made on a non-partisan basis. Children of legislators and legislative staff are ineligible to take part in the program.



Rep. Carl Johnson (D-St. Peter) discusses local issues with Dieter Schmitz, a junior at St. Peter Sr. High School. Dieter served as a page in the House Chamber as a High School Page Program participant. Sec. of State Joan A. Grove chats with Paul Bruhn, High School Page from Frazee. High School Pages visited with the Secretary of State during their first week at the House of Representatives. Paul also met with his representative Frank DeGroat (R-Lake Park), while at the Capitol.

Agriculture Department, Sanitation Board, report to House committee

The Agriculture Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives, chaired by Rep. George Mann (D-Windom), met for the first time January 22 to hear reports from the Department of Agriculture and the Livestock Sanitation Board.

Jon Wefald, commissioner of agriculture, stressed to the committee that the number of farmers in the state is steadily decreasing due to loss of farm profits.

He said farmers have a right to the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. "There is no substitute for a fair return on the products of rural America," he said. "That is the number one goal that we all must work for and address ourselves to."

Agribusiness affects everyone in the state, Wefald said and great numbers of non-Minnesotans as well. Forty-five percent of the gainfully employed workers in the state work in agriculture or related areas, he said.

Wefald concluded his remarks, saying he would ask the legislature for a little over \$16

million for the biennium.

Jack Flint, executive of the state Livestock Sanitary Board, described for the committee some of the duties and responsibilities of the Board.

Basically, he said, the job of the board is to protect the health of domestic animals across the state. Duties include supervision of livestock exhibitions and sales, projects involving disease eradication, licensing of rendering plants and the supervision of all interstate livestock movements.

Majority leader's aide resumes law studies

David Biegling, executive secretary to Majority Leader Irvin Anderson, has resigned to return to law school on a full time basis.

Biegling has been top aide to the majority leader since late 1972. No replacement has yet been named.