



# SESSION SCENES

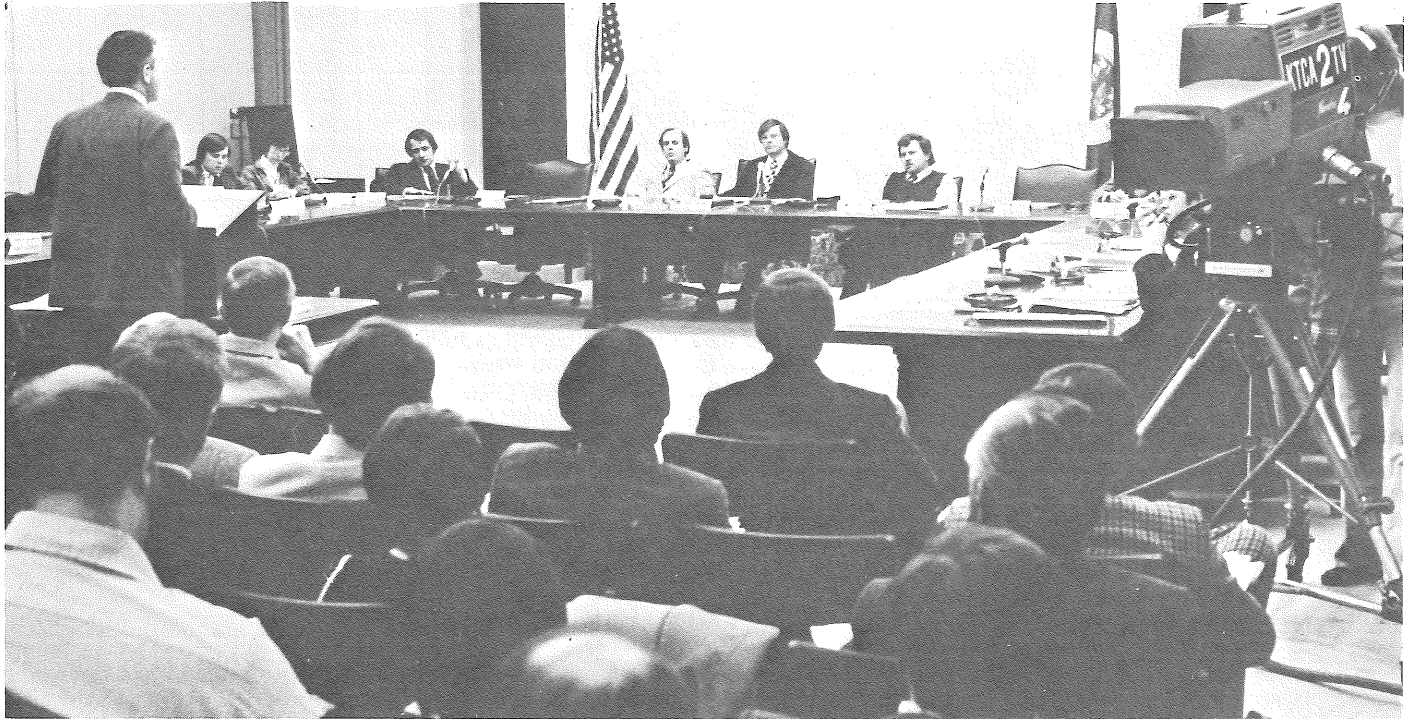
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 2 No. 2



March, 1975

House Information Office/Official Newsletter



**Hearings open on gun control bill . . . . .** Attorney General Warren Spannaus, above, and law enforcement officials spoke in favor of a handgun registration bill before the House Crime Prevention and Corrections Committee. The bill sponsored by Rep. Tom Berg (D-Mpls) provides for regulation of handgun sale, purchase or transfer of handguns. Committee Chairman Donald Moe said the committee will vote on the bill later this month after hearing from opponents and proponents of the measure.

## Action on gasoline tax increase bill delayed

Momentum behind a proposal to raise the state gasoline tax has lost speed in both legislative bodies. The House bill, authored by Rep. Al Patton (D-Sartell), came to a temporary halt on the House floor while a Senate companion bill met a roadblock in committee.

Rep. Patton requested a delay in discussion of his bill, H.F. 140, when it came before the House February 20. Debate on this bill was postponed until March 6. Senate committee members may not take action for some time.

If enacted, the measure would raise the state gasoline tax from seven to nine cents a gallon. Funds raised by the two cent increase would be used to build and maintain state highways and streets.

Patton's bill would raise \$24.8 million for the state trunk highway system; \$11.6 million for county state-aid highways; and \$3.6 million for municipal and state aid streets.

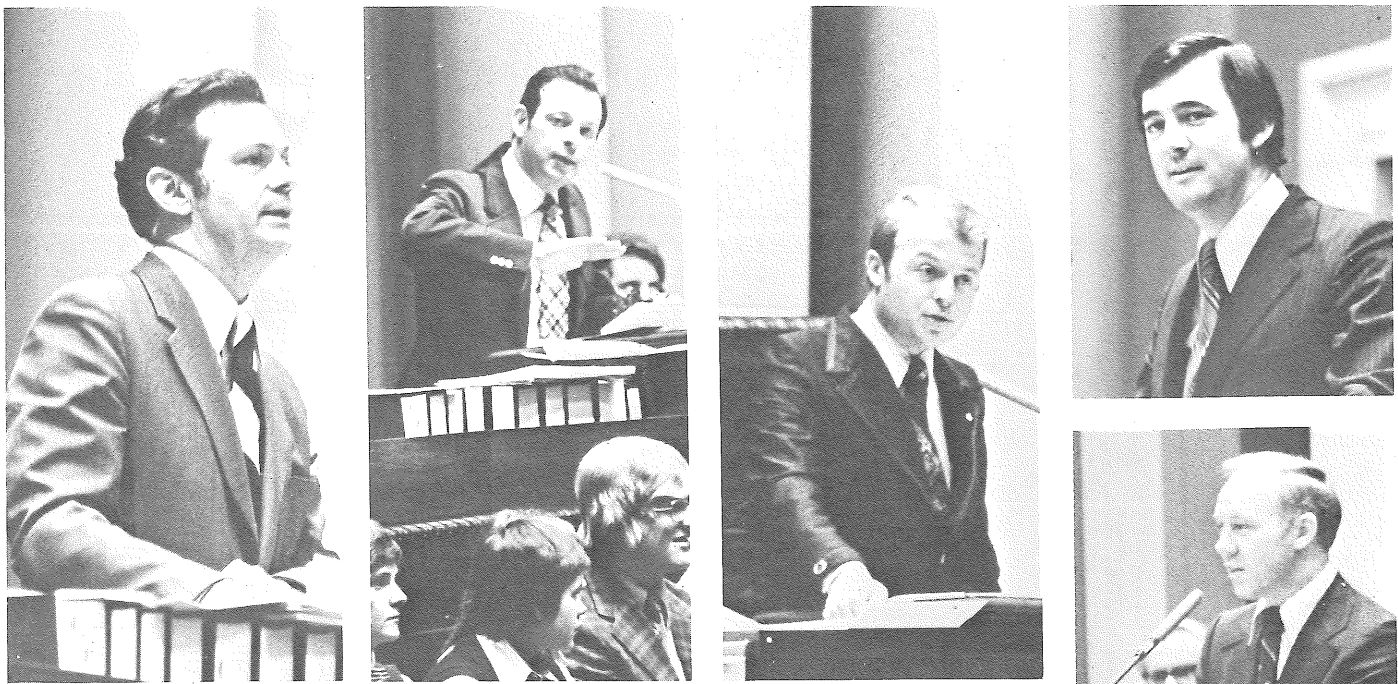
Patton said that inflation has forced up construction costs. As a result, more money is needed to build and maintain adequate roads.

Commissioner of Highways Frank Marzitelli told the House Transportation Committee that the Highway Department will run out of money for road construction June 30.

Commissioner Marzitelli said the bill will provide money to improve farm-to-market roads. Better roads would hold down transportation costs and consumer

prices. Road construction jobs would stimulate the state economy by increasing employment, Marzitelli said.

Opponents to the two cent increase told transportation committee members that alternative sources of funds should be considered. A representative of the Minnesota Transport Services Association said that increased transportation cost due to the tax increase would be passed on to consumers. The spokesman advocated review of the entire Highway Department budget, "We don't want the Legislature to come back every year to talk about a gas tax increase."



**Minnesota Congressmen visit House . . .** Five of Minnesota's congressional delegation visited the Minnesota House of Representatives last month during a recess in the U.S. House. The Representatives addressed the full body of the House and then answered questions from members concerning state and federal issues. Left to right above are Congressmen Bill Frenzel, 3rd District, who served in the Minnesota House from 1962 to 1970; Donald Fraser, 5th District, a state senator from 1954 to 1962; Thomas Hagedorn, 2nd District, who served in the Minnesota House from 1970 to 1974. At far right, top, is Congressman Richard Nolan, 6th District, who was elected to the Minnesota House in 1968 and 1970; and lower right, James Oberstar, 8th District.

## Legislators meet to select regent candidates

In addition to regular committee meetings and House sessions, members of the Minnesota House of Representatives have been meeting to select University of Minnesota regents. The Board of Regents sets policy for the University.

Regents are elected formally at a joint convention of the House and Senate. The joint convention is scheduled for March 20 in the House Chambers.

Traditionally, eight regent candidates are chosen by legislators in each congressional district. Four regents are chosen at-large. Under the regents voting system, legislators cast up to four votes according to the population they represent in each congressional district.

House and Senate members met together to select their congressional district's candidate. Candidates chosen by each delegation are traditionally elected at the joint convention.

Of the current membership of the board, Elmer L. Anderson, Chairman and 4th district Regent, and Fred Cina, 8th district Regent, are retiring. Regents Lester Malkerson, 5th district, George Rauenhorst (Olivia), at-large, and Loanne Thrane (Chanhassen), at-large, are not up for reelection this year.

The candidates for regents by congressional districts and at-large seats are as follows:

1st District (southeastern Minnesota) — Regent David Utz (Rochester) renominated;

2nd District (southern Minnesota) — Regent Lauris Krenik (Madison Lake) renominated;

3rd District (suburban Hennepin County) — Robert Latz, Golden Valley attorney, nominated over Regent John Yngve.

4th District (most of Ramsey County) — George Latimer, St. Paul attorney, nominated to fill the seat being vacated by retiring Regent Elmer L. Andersen.

5th District (most of Hennepin County) — Regent Lester Malkerson (Minneapolis) is not up for reelection this year;

6th District (southwest to central Minnesota) — Lloyd Peterson, Paynesville turkey grower, nominated over Regent

Kathryn Vander Kooi;

7th District (northwestern Minnesota)

— Regent L. J. Lee (Bagley) renominated;

8th District (northeastern Minnesota)

— Erwin Goldfine, Duluth businessman, nominated to replace retiring Regent Fred Cina.

The terms of at-large Regents Neil Sherburne (St. Paul) and Wenda Moore (Minneapolis) expire this year. At-large candidates are being interviewed by the House Higher Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee. The committees will meet jointly March 18 to recommend a slate of up to nine candidates for the at-large positions to be voted on by the joint convention of the House and Senate March 20.

## House approves name change bill

Minnesotans could choose their own last names under a bill sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn, Minneapolis DFLer. The measure allows people to keep their birth names, take the name of their spouse, or create a new family name after marriage.

Only the courts can grant name changes under the current state law. If the bill approved by the full House becomes law, individuals could change their names by petitioning the court. Name changes

would be granted unless intent to defraud could be shown.

Under the bill marital status and sex would not be considerations. There would be no presumption that either marriage partner would take the name of the other.

In cases where the marriage relationship is granted a dissolution, the bill allows people to change back to their former names without the court's discretion.

# Limited veterans preference bill passed by House

Veterans seeking government jobs in Minnesota will still be given some preference under a bill passed 98 to 34 by the House of Representatives. A bill to limit veterans preference in obtaining and advancing in Civil Service employment was offered by Rep. Linda Berglin (D-Mpls.), and after weeks of committee hearings and floor debate, compromise legislation was given approval by the full House.

The bill was amended on the House floor to end absolute veterans preference on the local government level and veterans preference could not be used for promotions.

However, no time limit was set on use of veterans preference, and veterans also would be allowed use of preference any number of times in obtaining jobs.

## Presidential primary legislation proposed

Citizens opposed to Minnesota presidential primary made their views known at a House subcommittee hearing February 25. The opponents, mostly DFL party activists, said the bill would weaken the political parties.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tad Jude (D-Mound), would set up a Minnesota presidential primary on the same day as the primary in Wisconsin, on the first Tuesday in April. Minnesota repealed its primary law in 1959.

Candidates could file in person, or supporters could put a candidate on the ballot. Delegates to national party conventions would be distributed according to primary results.

Former Gov. Karl Rolvaag said a string of primaries across the nation would be extremely hard on candidates, both physically and financially. St. Paul Mayor Lawrence Cohen said he is "an absolute firm believer" in the caucus system of endorsement.

Advocates of the bill testified at a House General Legislation subcommittee hearing February 10. Rep. Jude told committee members that a Minnesota and Wisconsin vote would provide the nation with a Midwest outlook on the candidates.

Proponents said that a primary could involve 10 times as many Minnesotans as the current political party caucus system for endorsing candidates. They said a primary would make it easier for night workers and servicemen to have a say in picking nominees for President.

The Elections Subcommittee will further debate the bill before deciding whether or not to refer it to the General Legislation committee for further discussion.

In the final version of the bill, veterans would be given a five point edge on civil service examinations. Veterans with service connected disabilities could add 10 points to their exam.

Rep. Berglin's original proposal provided for one-time-only use of bonus points within 10 years of discharge from

the service. Veterans could use their points to get one job or for one promotion.

Opposition to the bill was led by Rep. Al Patton (D-Sartell) who wanted no time limit, unlimited use, and lifetime use of bonus points for veterans competing for civil service jobs.

## Equal opportunity for girls, boys in school athletics proposed in bill

The House Education Committee heard more public testimony Feb. 26 on a bill requiring equal opportunity for boys and girls in school athletics. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (D-Mpls.), would make all elementary school athletics coeducational and would permit single-sex teams in upper grades only to give boys and girls equal opportunity to take part.

Under a stop-gap measure passed by the Legislature in 1974, unrestricted separation by sex is currently permitted. Unless the Legislature acts before July 1, 1975, the Human Rights Act will make all segregated teams illegal.

The bill would permit single-sex teams only to provide boys and girls with equal opportunity to take part. If schools provide boys' and girls' teams in the same sport, an essentially equal amount must be spent on each student, and all players must have similar equipment and essentially equal access to facilities.

All schools are urged to offer mixed play wherever practical. Schools have a one-year grace period to set up equal facilities and coeducational athletic programs, under the Kahn bill.

Opponents of the bill were equally divided between those who said the bill didn't allow enough leeway for separate teams, and those who said no separate teams should be allowed.

The director of the women's division of the state Human Rights Department said there was no disagreement on the goal of equal athletic programs for all students. "Department guidelines, in effect since 1974, provide a means to compensate for current inequities between boys' and girls' programs." "These guidelines interpret the Human Rights Act. Boys and girls could try out for any team, with size and skills determining who made the team."

A spokesman for the Urban League said the bill proposes "separate but equal" programs, and that his group rejected that philosophy. A member of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department said, "If we start here with separate facilities, where do we stop?"

Two girls' athletics coaches said the bill didn't go far enough in allowing separate girls' teams. One advocated a completely separate sports program for each sex, while the other urged adoption of State High League guidelines.

A spokesman for the High School League said the League has already adopted rules which support the intent of the bill, and he added, "School boards should manage extra-curricular affairs. We express concern that the bill, with its good intention will confuse the situation when it needs clarity."

At an earlier hearing on the bill, some committee members expressed concern about girls facing boys in contact sports. Rep. Kahn said team members would still be chosen according to size, weight, and skill considerations. She said schools wouldn't have to have two teams in any sport, as long as both boys and girls could try out for existing teams.

Among witnesses supporting the bill were two girls from the Twin Cities area. An 11-year-old Minneapolis girl and a 17-year-old high school junior urged the committee to allow co-ed teams.

Two witnesses from the Minneapolis public school system also supported the proposal. A high school principal told the committee, "Because of the disparity that has existed there is a case for separating some teams, if the resources are equal. The value placed on competition should be the same for all."

An attorney for a suburban school district opposed the bill. He said the measure goes too far. "In our zeal to provide equal participation, we may have a number of teams with only one exceptional girl competing."

A spokesman for the State Human Rights Department told the members, "The Department is unalterably opposed to introducing into law the provision for separate, but theoretically equal facilities for athletics."

Committee Chairman Carl Johnson said more testimony would be heard before the committee takes any action on the bill.

# Select committee to study legislative salary and per diem expenses

Speaker of the House Martin Sabo has named a special committee to study the question of legislative pay and per diem expenses.

The committee is instructed to come up with recommendations on both per diem (compensation for daily expenses) and salary by March 31. The recommendations will be reported to the full House and may include possible legislation.

Legislators are now paid \$8,400 a year in salary, plus \$25 per diem expenses for those who move away from their homes during the session.

The committee is chaired by Rep. Gordon Voss (D-Blaine). Other members are:

Democrats — House Majority Leader Irvin Anderson, International Falls; Ray Faricy, St. Paul; Neil Haugerud, Preston; Phyllis Kahn, Minneapolis; William Kelly, East Grand Forks; Al Patton, Sartell, and Ted Suss, Prior Lake.

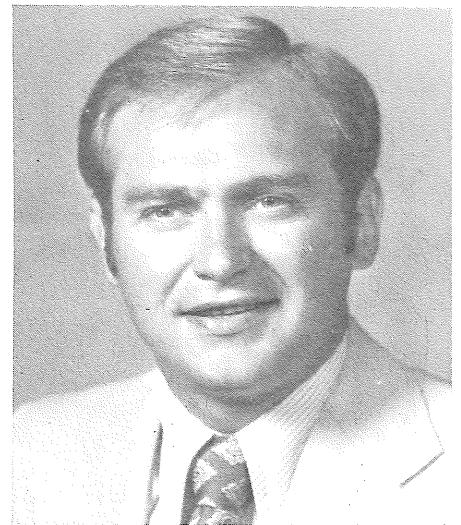
Republicans — House Minority Leader Henry Savelkoul, Albert Lea; Arne Carl-

son, Minneapolis; and Kenneth Zubay, Rochester.

Rep. Voss said the committee is holding public hearings on the issue and studying the State Personnel Board's recommendations for salary adjustments. The Personnel Board recommended last fall that legislators receive \$13,500 a year in salary plus \$10 per diem for metropolitan legislators and \$17.50 for non-metropolitan legislators to compensate for meals and other out-of-pocket expenses. The figures were based on a model for comparable work in state and local government and would be subject to cost of living adjustments.

## Notice

Material contained in this newsletter is current up to March 7, 1975. The progress of certain legislation and additional information pertaining to certain issues will be reported in future issues.



Minnesota House Minority Leader Henry was named one of ten "Outstanding Young Minnesotans" of 1975 by Minnesota Jaycees earlier this year. Rep. Savelkoul, 34, is an attorney from Albert Lea, and serves as chief spokesman for the Republican minority 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.

# Concept of smaller Legislature studied by committee

Several bills which intend to reduce the size of the Minnesota Legislature are being studied by the House General Legislation Subcommittee.

Five bills have been introduced which would reduce the current 201 member Legislature by as many as 69 House and Senate seats. Minnesota currently has the largest state Senate in the nation with 67 members, and 12th largest House with 134 members.

The bills now before the subcommittee are:

H.F. 12 (Enebo), 33 senators and 99 representatives, beginning with 1979 session if approved by a constitutional amendment.

H.F. 14 (Kelly, R.), 50 senators and 100 representatives, beginning with the 1983 session if approved by a constitutional amendment.

H.F. 37 (Faricy), 56 senators and 112 representatives, beginning with the 1977 session.

H.F. 65 (Sieben, M.), 55 senators and 110 representatives, beginning with the 1983 session.

H.F. 295 (McCarron), 40 senators and 120 representatives, after the next apportionment.

Chairman Bruce Vento (D-St. Paul) said the committee will continue to discuss the concept of a smaller Legislature rather than act on any particular bill. Citizen representation, cost savings, accurate population figures for apportion-

ment, staffing, and effectiveness are some of the many issues that will be studied by the subcommittee.

Proponents for a smaller Legislature say the reduction will make the Legislature more efficient and provide more time for individual research and careful debate.

Opponents argue that with a smaller Legislature each member would have more people to represent and be less effective. It is also argued that with fewer lawmakers, more staff would be needed, which would increase the cost of running the Legislature.

Legislative districts are determined by population based on census figures. The next federal census is in 1980 and districts will be reapportioned according to those population figures.

Each state representative now represents 28,000 constituents, and each state senator represents about 57,000 citizens.

A bill last year offered by Rep. Ray Faricy (D-St. Paul) would have reduced the size of the Legislature to 56 senators and 112 representatives. The bill was defeated in the House by a 65 to 65 tie vote, and again by a 65 to 64 favorable vote. In the House, 68 votes are needed for passage. The vote on the bill was largely on a rural and urban legislator split.

Rep. Faricy has a similar bill before the subcommittee this year and feels a smaller Legislature would improve the visibility of the House and its representatives.

"Minnesota has one of the best Legislatures in the nation now, but I feel that to make democracy work, people must know who it is that represents them."

Arguing against the idea that a smaller Legislature would lead to full time legislators, Faricy said that with a larger district, he personally would want to spend more time in his district to maintain contact with his constituents.

The 56 senators and 112 representatives were arrived at through a House subcommittee. The numbers were proposed by Rep. Gerry Knickerbocker (R-Hopkins) because each figure is divisible by seven and eight and would fit better in case there was ever redistricting according to the states congressional districts.

Rep. Enebo, who proposes a Legislature of 132 members, said a smaller body would not reduce the effectiveness of the lawmaking body. Enebo based his proposal of a three to one ratio of House to Senate members on other states with similar populations.

"California has 20 million people served by a Legislature of 120 members," Enebo said, "Minnesota has a population of 3.7 million served by a Legislature of 201 members. I just don't think we need that large of a Legislature to handle the job."

"With fewer members, the Legislature can be just as effective, even more effective; and become more visible and more responsible to the citizens of the state," Enebo concluded.

## Non-smokers rights endorsed

Non-smokers will have their own area in public places and public meetings if a bill given approval by the House becomes law.

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (D-Mpls.) all public meeting rooms and buildings have to establish nonsmoking sections. Public meetings are defined as those required by law to be open to the public. Smoking in such places as restaurants, bars, auditoriums, arenas, or hospitals would be permitted only in designated areas.

The bill requires that bars and restaurants without nonsmoking facilities post a sign conspicuously at the entrance stating that the building does not have accommodations for nonsmokers.

Doctors who testified in favor of the bill at a House Health and Welfare Committee meeting told legislators of the health hazards to nonsmokers from nearby cigarette smoke. The proposal applies to cigarettes, cigars and pipes.

The doctor told the committee members that patients with lung diseases are often irritated by cigarette smoke in public places, including hospitals. Other health hazards mentioned included the risk of heart attack, a rise in blood pressure, eye irritation, and allergic reaction.

Opponents to the bill were concerned that restaurants and other places used by the public would be required to install ventilation systems to comply with the

bill. Opponents also argued that "places of work" should be exempted from the bill.

The bill was amended to exclude warehouses, factories and other places of work with high ceilings that insured proper ventilation for cigarette smoke. But, Rep. Kahn said, if the work space is small enough so as to make it uncomfortable for the nonsmoker, the rights of the nonsmoker should be recognized. Enclosed offices which are occupied exclusively by nonsmokers are exempted from the bill.

Called the "Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act", the bill is co-authored by House Speaker Martin Sabo, a heavy smoker, House Minority Leader Henry Savelkoul, Reps. B. J. Philbrook (D-Roseville) and Ted Suss (D-Prior Lake).

The bill is before the full House for its consideration.

## Majority Leader names new executive assistant

Andy Brewer has been appointed executive assistant to Majority Leader Irvin Anderson. Brewer was most recently assistant director of the Minnesota Bicentennial Commission and is a former information director for the Public Service Commission.

Brewer replaces David Bieging who resigned in January to become a full time law student.

## New law provides \$5 million in bonds for Vietnam vets

An additional \$5 million in bonds to pay Vietnam-era bonus claims was signed into law by Gov. Wendell Anderson following approval by each house.

The fund set up by the 1973 Legislature has run dry, after paying about 138,000 claims totaling \$60 million.

More than 4,600 veterans are still waiting for their bonus money, and up to 7,000 veterans are eligible to apply. A deadline for applications of December 31, 1976 is set by the measure. Rep. Joel Jacobs (D-Coon Rapids) was sponsor of the bill in the House.

## House approves bill to allow left turn on red

Minnesota motorists will be legally able to make a left turn at a red light on to one way streets if a bill approved by the House becomes law.

The measure allows for left turns onto one ways from one way streets at a red light. If enacted, the law would be effective August 1, 1975.

Rep. M. J. "Mac" McCauley (R-Winona) Author of the bill said he isn't sure why the left turn wasn't included in the 1971 law allowing for right turns on red lights, but several states have laws allowing for both.

# Teachers learn legislative process at Capitol

More than 150 social studies teachers and administrators came to the Capitol January 23 to attend the first in a series of three conferences on State Government.

They followed a day-long program that took them through a session on the paper work behind the introduction of legislation and its final passage into law.

At a mock session the group heard from House Speaker Martin Sabo and Minority Leader Henry Savelkoul. Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman talked to the educators at one of the afternoon sessions.

Two members of the attorney general's staff gave an insight into how the executive branch of government has input into legislative action, with consumer's affairs as the case study.

After an introduction into the functions of the House Research from a staff member, the teachers concluded their day with a gallery view of the House in session.

Those attending the conferences represented many areas of the state, including Isanti, Rush City, Waseca, Paynesville, Albany, Northfield, Aitkin, Anoka, Burnsville, Rosemount, Cambridge, Blooming-

ton, South St. Paul, Osseo, St. Paul, and Minneapolis.

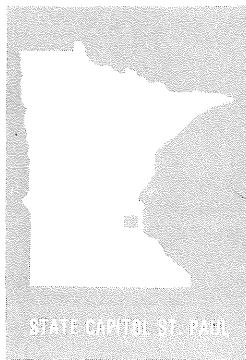
The February 6 and 7 conferences covered all phases of research, the bill drafting process, and a visit to a floor

session of the House followed by an evaluation session with legislators and staff.

Response to the conferences was enthusiastic with most teachers requesting an expansion of the program.



Social study teachers and administrators followed the procedures used for the lawmaking process as part of their conference. Here, a group listens to Janet Skarda explain how the bill drafting system works in the Revisor of Statutes Office.



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## Legislation proposed to maintain family farms

Young Minnesota farmers will find it easier to take over the family farm if a proposal before a House subcommittee is enacted into law. The House Family Farms Subcommittee is meeting to discuss possible legislation which would establish an agricultural land transfer program for the state.

The program would provide assistance to retiring farmers who wish to sell their acreage, and offer financial assistance to young farmers making initial land purchases. The measure would give the state power to act as the transfer agent for farm property.

Rep. George Mann (D-Windom), chief author of the original proposal said the program is designed to aid beginning farmers in the state. "Many families have found it economically impractical for a parent to transfer farm ownership to their children or other individuals wish-

ing to continue farming," Mann said. "Our goal is to promote more individual ownership of farms, not government ownership or corporate speculation."

The land transfer plan, called the Family Farms Security Act, is being studied by the House Subcommittee on Family Farms, chaired by Rep. Willis Eken (D-Twin Valley).

Rep. Eken said the committee will probably take the issue to different areas of the state to hold open hearings on the subject. Last summer a delegation of House and Senate members went to Saskatchewan, Canada, to study a similar program.

Under the Canadian government program, a land bank commission purchases land from retiring farmers who choose to enter the program, and then leases the property to young farmers under a long term lease. Direct descendants of the

retiring farmer have first option in leasing the land.

The program proposed by Rep. Mann does not have any provisions allowing for land leasing, where the government would own the land and the farmer would be the tenant.

The proposal asks that an appropriate state department or agency would offer to purchase farm land from retiring farmers at market prices for the immediate resale to beginning farmers.

The measure was first introduced in the House by Rep. Mann as a House Advisory Bill, which is essentially a suggestion to a committee for possible legislation.

Other authors of the bill are Rep. Eken, Frank DeGroat (R-Lake Park), Irvin Anderson (D-Intl. Falls), and Russell Stanton (D-Arco).

## Revision of state timber sale laws studied

Five rural legislators propose a higher limit on the value of state-owned timber sold informally by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The House members held hearing in northern Minnesota during the interim, and heard from a number of interested citizens. The bill they have introduced increases the informal sales limit from the current \$500 to \$1,500.

Under the bill, no person could hold more than two permits to harvest state-owned timber. Current law requires 30 days notice when a formal timber sale is planned. The bill would provide for 15 days notice.

When county auditors post and publish notice of formal sale, interested citizens will be informed of time and place of the sale, and will be given a source of detailed information on the quantity and quality of timber for sale.

The bill will be heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsors of the bill are Reps. Irvin Anderson (D-Intl. Falls), Douglas Johnson (D-Cook), Art Braun (D-Greenbush), Norm Pahl (D-Keewatin), and John Biersdorf (R-Owatonna).

Several legislators will travel to Cook, Mn. to hold a public hearing on the issue and gather additional information before acting on the proposed bill.

## House resolution urges Sec. Butz to keep stabilization office in state

The House of Representatives voted unanimously February 27 to urge that the Department of Agriculture keep its Agricultural Stabilization office in Minneapolis. The next day, Rep. Mary Forsythe (R-Edina), delivered a copy of the House resolution to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz in Washington.

Rep. Forsythe told House members that the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office serves midwest farmers and agribusiness, and provides a \$3.5 million dollar annual payroll.

The Agriculture Department wants to

move the office to Prairie Village, Kansas. Forsythe said the department hopes to cut costs, but further investigation will show that it will save money by remaining in Minneapolis.

Rep. Claudia Meier (D-Rice) supported the resolution. She said she had just returned from Washington, where Agriculture Department officials say they plan to close the office sooner than expected. "It is essential for Mrs. Forsythe to deliver the resolution personally," Meier said.