

# INSIDE *the* TERIM

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

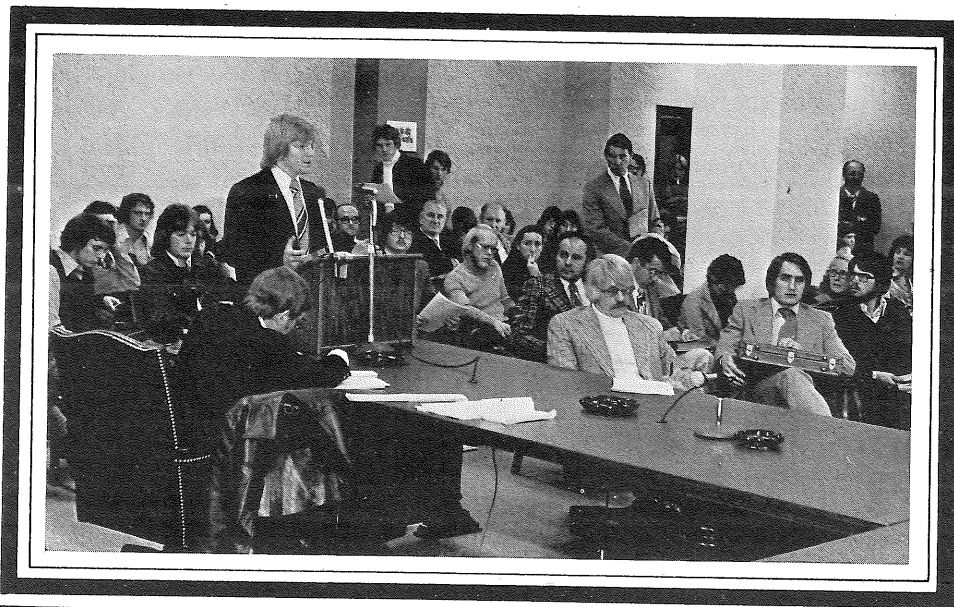
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Committees  
Work on  
Issues



Contents



Committee Reports  
Page 2-3

Legislative Focus  
Page 4-5

Transportation  
Page 6-7

Energy and Environment  
Page 8-9

Committee Reports  
Page 10-11

"10,000" Lakes Slogan  
European Visitors  
Page 12

## Transportation

## Energy and Environment

# Committee Reports

## Circuit breaker lacks audit funding

Members of the House Tax Committee learned the state could lose a "substantial" amount of tax revenue because it doesn't have the funds to machine or manually audit the new income-adjusted homestead tax refund return forms.

Arthur Roemer, Commissioner of Revenue, told committee members that the \$110,000 it would cost to machine audit the returns is "well worth it", but that it is too late to plan for an audit on next year's returns even if the Legislature provides the money during the 1976 session. He said that the 1975 circuit breaker law giving homeowners, senior citizens, and renters property tax relief did not provide funds to audit the returns. Roemer added that the savings to the state would be greater than the cost of the audit.

Most Minnesotans can expect to get a \$150 refund in addition to their homestead credit, Roemer said, and "very few will not receive additional credit". Credit begins to phase out for incomes over \$30,000.

Roemer said that renters, senior citizens, and the disabled may file their income-adjusted homestead credit claims with their income tax returns by April 15, but, like homeowners, they have until August 31 to do so.

## Phones incompatible with hearing aids

People who wear hearing aids cannot use many of the new telephones in Minnesota homes and public places according to the Minneapolis Association for the Hearing Impaired (MAHI). Ben Coppage, speaking for MAHI, testified before the House Commerce and Economic Development

Committee. This committee is considering legislation requiring Minnesota telephone companies to provide all their pay telephones with receivers that people with hearing aids can use—and to replace, at no charge, all home telephones that are incompatible with hearing aids.

According to Coppage, people with special telephone switches on their hearing aids cannot use the new telephones, and the telephone companies did not inform them they were changing the receivers.

Representatives of Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. said it is now replacing receivers on its 15,000 pay phones in the state so those with hearing aids can use them. They said the three-year replacement program will cost the company almost \$300,000. For a \$15 service fee, the company will replace receivers on home telephones.

John Conda of Northwestern Bell told lawmakers that the company switched to the new receivers because they use fewer precious metals, are more durable, and are less susceptible to vandalism. He said, "We are accountable to all customers, not just the hearing-impaired."

The company has produced an adaptor, which sells for \$7.50 with no profit to the company. It allows the hearing-impaired to use any phone. Spokesmen for MAHI and parents of hearing-impaired children objected that the adaptor is large, clumsy to attach, and interferes in hanging up the telephone.

According to the chief author Rep. Lyle Abeln (D-Bloomington), the bill should speed up the process of replacing the receivers. The company asked the members to allow for the replacement of the receivers at a reasonable speed, without interference from the Legislature. Roy Wier, Executive Vice-President of Public Affairs for NW Bell, said, "We say

we do recognize the problem, and not that we don't want to make the replacements. If you speed up the process, you will increase the costs."

## Joint committee meets on salary issues

The Joint House-Senate Governmental Operations Committee heard testimony on the issue of salary increases for state department heads, constitutional officers, and legislators.

Commissioner of Administration, Richard Brubacher, Commissioner of Finance, Gerald Christenson, Commissioner of Aeronautics, Lawrence McCabe, and Public Service Commissioner Arlen Erdahl spoke to the committee.

Brubacher emphasized that the state must pay its commissioners competitive salaries to attract qualified people.

Christenson said salaries represent only 13 percent of the state budget, with the largest share of tax dollars going to school districts and local units of government (68 percent).

Erdahl spoke from his experience as a former state legislator, former Secretary of State, and as present Public Service Commissioner. He said the legislature is actually full-time but lawmakers are receiving only a part-time salary.

Erdahl stressed the need to make salaries for constitutional officers and legislative members adequate to recruit and keep qualified public officials.

## Judges request pay increase

A representative from the Minnesota Citizens for Court Reform (MCCR) said a lawyer accepting a judgeship

# Committee Reports

takes a 30 to 50 percent loss in income. He said, "We seek judges more than they seek the job."

The MCCR recommends the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court receive an annual salary of \$55,000, associate justices, \$50,000; and trial judges, \$45,000.

Associate Justice Yetha, represented Supreme Court justices. He recommended: 1) setting salaries every six months to reflect cost of living increases, 2) a contingency fund for associate justices, and 3) a salary range similar to the MCCR recommendations.

Rep. Arne Carlson (R-Mpls.) suggested the committee have an economist testify on how inflation affects people in different income ranges. Committee chairman, Rep. Harry Sieben, Jr. (D-Hastings) agreed such testimony would be helpful as the committee continues its study.

## Medical malpractice

The chairman of the Legal-Medical Committee of the Minnesota Bar Association, John Eisberg, appeared before the House Medical Malpractice Joint Subcommittee.

He listed some problem areas from the legal standpoint in handling malpractice cases —

- obtaining expert testimony. This must be testimony from a doctor stating that the "conduct of the defendant deviates from acceptable medical practice in the community."
- the inability in many cases for attorneys to thoroughly question members of the jury.
- the statute of limitations may run out before an attorney knows there is a real case.
- doctrine of informal consent is becoming an increasing legal problem in this state (to what extent

must a doctor go to tell a patient of risks in treatment?).

Eisberg said a major difficulty for physicians is that they may have to go into court to face what are clearly frivolous charges.

But, he said, "Medical malpractice does take place. Its effects can be severe, even catastrophic, for its victims. These victims are entitled to fair and adequate compensation for the injuries they suffer."

Don Wegmiller, administrator, Fairview Southdale Hospital, speaking for the Minnesota Hospital Association, said hospitals received notice of premium increases running from 300 to 600 percent in March of 1975.

The American Hospital Association has established a self-insurance program, Wegmiller said, but the Minnesota association does not view this as a solution.

Thomas O'Malley of the Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce suggested making any malpractice legislation broad enough to cover all professional malpractice, for lawyers, architects, dentists, etc.

## Committee studies bingo bill

H.F. 1767 (Fudro, D-Mpls.), "the bingo bill," was on the agenda of the General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee in October.

The bill aims to give Minnesota a set of consistent statewide rules and leaves the primary responsibility for licensing and enforcement with local authorities.

The bill includes restrictions on bingo sessions, prizes, and advertising, to prevent commercialization in bingo,

and to assure that the proceeds go for charitable purposes.

The committee heard testimony from organizations that sponsor bingo games and amended the bill to make two changes:

- the definition of an active member of a bingo organization from a member of two-years standing to a member for six months.
- allow persons to work more than one bingo game for more than one organization, but not to receive compensation.

The committee delayed final action on the bill to give time for more input from citizens and organizations.

## Subcommittee hears emergency disaster bills

The Government Administration Subcommittee gave approval October 17, to H.F. 1892 (Wenzel, D-Little Falls).

The bill would require the executive council (Governor, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Commissioner of Administration) to declare an emergency when a disaster has occurred, or is threatening.

It would also require the Division of Emergency Services (now the Civil Defense Division under the Department of Public Safety) to help with relief measures during a disaster and to coordinate disaster planning.

Additionally, H.F. 1892 amends parts of 1974 Minnesota Statutes to clarify the law's definition of "disaster."

The subcommittee discussed another Wenzel bill, H.F. 1891, but postponed action on it until a future meeting. This bill would change already existing "good faith" agreements to legal binding agreements with other states for mutual aid in meeting an emergency or disaster.

# Legislative Focus 1975

## Continuing education for nurses

Because of a new state law, to keep their licenses, Minnesota nurses will have to go back to school.

The law gives the state board of nursing until January 1, 1978, to adopt rules spelling out continuing-education requirements. Nurses presently licensed in this state will have to take refresher courses. Lawyers, doctors, dentists, teachers have similar programs. Some the law requires. Some professional organizations require.

Advocates of the back-to-school concept say a professional license should not be a permanent job ticket in fields where technology changes rapidly.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 240 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Turtle and raccoon protection

State law protects turtles and raccoons. A 1975 statute removes raccoons from the unprotected list. Previously, hunters could take them at any time of the year. Now the Commissioner of Natural Resources may set the season between October 15 and December 31.

Hunters may use dogs to hunt raccoons during the season. They may continue this sport in off season so long as they do not take the animals.

The 1975 law also restricts the trapping and fishing of turtles.

Commercial dealers now need a \$25 license to take, transport, purchase and possess for sale unprocessed turtles and tortoises. Individuals with a fishing license may take, possess, buy, sell and transport turtles in any manner except by use of explosives, drugs, poisons, lime and other hazardous substances, or by the use of nets other than landing nets or traps. The new law limits to ten the number of

snapping turtles a person can take. The dorsal surface of the shell can be no less than 10 inches long. Supporters of the legislation say the indiscriminate taking of turtles is endangering the species.

Protection of raccoons - Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 164 Minnesota Session Laws.

Protection of turtles - Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 107 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Shade tree disease control

Homeowners that have diseased elm or oak trees may be able to get state aid for removing them. The Minnesota legislature appropriated \$800,000 for this purpose. Homeowners needing the aid must live in a city that has a tree-disease control program which can match the state money dollar-for-dollar.

Under the program, the state will pay eligible homeowners one-fourth of the cost, up to \$50, for removing each diseased tree from their property. The state subsidy will apply only to tree removals after June 1, only to trees in a "control area," and only where the owner has hired a contractor to cut the tree within 20 days after the city has tagged it for removal. Homeowners wanting to know if they are eligible should check with their city councils.

Legislators hope the subsidy program will spur quick removal of diseased trees to prevent further spread of Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm.

The legislature also approved \$700,000 in matching funds for tree recycling centers. The money is available to the state's four largest cities, to some park districts, and to any county that wants to participate.

Effective immediately. Chapter 253 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Drug label information

You may have noticed a new label on your prescription drugs warning you that its use either alone or with alcoholic beverages "may impair the ability of the user to operate a motor vehicle."

This is the result of a consumer-protection law to alert people to the dangers of driving while taking drugs.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 356 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Removal of property ID numbers

Removing identification numbers from property if you are not the owner, or do not have the owner's permission, is now a crime of theft under a 1975 law.

Removal of identification numbers makes it difficult for law enforcement officials to identify stolen property. So anyone who purchases, or in some manner becomes the owner of property and removes the identifying numbers will be as guilty of theft as if he/she had stolen the material.

Officials believe the legislation will help in successfully prosecuting more cases of theft.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 244 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Pay toilets

As of July 1, 1975 there will be more free toilets in public restrooms. A new state law requires all public places to have at least half of the toilets free.

Those in favor of the new regulation say pay toilets can be a nuisance to

# 1975 Legislative Focus

anyone without the right change or for people too poor to afford the charge.

Effective date July 1, 1975. Chapter 215 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Elections — petition in lieu of filing fee

Candidates for public office now have a choice of paying a filing fee or presenting a petition when filing for office. Previously, all candidates had to pay a filing fee to run for public office.

The number of required signatures on the petition varies for each office, but all people signing must be qualified voters of the election district in which the candidate is filing. The number of needed signatures for each office is as follows:

Governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, secretary of state, judge of the supreme court or senator in congress - 2,000. Representative in congress - 1,000. Representative or senator in the state legislature; district, county, probate or municipal judge - 500.

Any other office for which the law, municipal charter, or ordinance requires a filing fee - 500 or five percent of the total number of persons voting in the municipality, ward, or other election district, at the last preceding municipal general election, whichever is less.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 130 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Name choice

Minnesota law now gives men and women an explicit choice of names when they marry. Previously there was no state law relating to names one had to take after marriage, but

according to supporters of the measure many women had difficulty in keeping their maiden names.

Now when a man and woman apply for a marriage license, they will indicate which names they would like after marriage. The woman can take her husband's surname or he can take hers, or they can each keep their own, or combine the two.

The law also requires district court judges to grant name change requests automatically as long as the applicant is a resident of his county for one year and does not intend to use the name to defraud or mislead. In the past, judges could use their own discretion in considering name changes.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 52, Minnesota Session Laws.

## Child abuse

More people will have to report suspected cases of child abuse under a new reporting law. Past law required those in the medical profession to report, but now "any professional or his delegate who is engaged in the practice of the healing arts, social services, hospital administration, psychological or psychiatric treatment, child care, education, or law enforcement" must report to the County Welfare Department or to the police any suspected case of child abuse or neglect.

The law requires any individual with reasonable cause to believe a child is physically or sexually abused or neglected to make a report. Those who come under the requirement of the law who fail to make a report are guilty of a misdemeanor which carries a fine of \$300 or 90 days in jail, or both. Anyone making the report in "good faith" has immunity under the law from civil or criminal liability.

The statute defines physical abuse as

"any physical injury inflicted by a parent, guardian or other person responsible for the child's care on a child other than by accidental means or any physical injury that cannot be reasonably explained by the history of injuries." Sexual abuse includes subjecting any child to any sexual act against Minnesota law. Neglect involves abandonment, lack of proper parental care and guidance or cases of children who are in need of specific care, but who have parents or guardians who refuse to give it.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 221 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Insurance discounts for students

If you're attending a vocational technical school in Minnesota, you may want to check with your insurance company to see if you qualify for a discount on your automobile insurance.

A 1975 law requires any insurance company, offering student discounts, to include all eligible students from any accredited post-secondary school.

Previously, insurance companies offered discounts only to students in Minnesota colleges and universities, overlooking the states "Vo-Tech" schools.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 44 Minnesota Session Laws.

## Meat substitutes — indication on menu

Restaurants or other establishments serving meat in any form to the public must tell their customers if the meat contains any meat substitutes.

This information has to appear "clearly and prominently" on the menu. Any person who violates the law is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Effective date August 1, 1975. Chapter 133 Minnesota Session Laws.

# Transportation

## Investigating Alternatives

### Car Pools

**What kind of progress** are we making in getting people to share transportation?

Chapter 574, 1974 Session Laws directs the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) to "promote the use of car pools and employer vans," requires "freeways constructed after a certain date to include provision for exclusive lanes for vans and other multi-passenger vehicles," and authorizes tax levies for the program.

The law says MTC is to raise car pooling figures from the present 37 percent of people who commute to work to 50 percent by 1980.

During the interim, the Social and Economic Development Subcommittee heard reports from three state progress agencies.

#### Highway department questionnaires go out

Ronald Hoffman, chief of metropolitan planning in the State Highway Department, said his department has sent over 750,000 questionnaires to households in the seven-county metro area asking people to join car pools. This and other efforts brought about 12,000 people into the program. Hoffman told the lawmakers the highway department, to encourage the use of car pools, plans to allow vans and cars with three or more passengers to use bus lanes on Interstate 35W beginning at the Grant Street exit.

The department will see how successful this project is and whether it should expand to other parts of the Twin Cities area.

#### Energy agency: Overtime pay may be a problem

John Peterson, director of planning for the energy agency, told of possible problems of having to pay van drivers overtime. He said the wage and hour division of the United States Department of Labor considers "blue-collar" employees eligible for overtime in driving employees to and from work.

The energy agency, Peterson said, is asking the wage and hour division to waive the overtime requirement. The agency will meet with Congressman Don Fraser to draft legislation amending the wage and hour act to exempt van drivers.

Until the agency gets a ruling on the overtime, it will work with companies that have a high number of "white-collar" workers exempt from the overtime requirement to drive vans.

Peterson said the 3M company has been in the van program since 1971 and has had great success with the 77 vans it purchased after using the highway department's "matching" program.

#### Car pool matching program

The matching program is a computer program the highway department's planning division developed. It puts the names of people wanting to share transportation into the computer according to where they live, matches them by area, and gets them into car pools.

Several smaller industries in the metro area are using the program. Any interested persons can get more details by calling Ron Hoffman, 296-5975.

#### Agency supports legislation

The energy agency supports the passage of H.F. 1819 (Philbrook, D-Roseville) which would allow for investment tax credits and sales tax exemptions for the purchase and maintenance of commuter vans.

The agency feels the passage of this bill would encourage more companies to develop a van program.

#### H.F. 1382 would appropriate \$100,000

George Carlton, assistant commissioner for the Department of Administration urged, passage of H.F. 1382 (Fugina, D-Virginia) which would provide \$100,000 for the purchase of vans and insurance on them.

Carlton reported on the department's efforts to develop commuter van service for state employees.

Committee members suggested the Appropriations Committee consider H.F. 1382 soon to allow for immediate action on it by the legislature when it reconvenes in January, 1976.

They asked Carlton to have the Department of Administration look into the possibility of developing incentives for state employees to form car pools. A suggested incentive was a reduction in parking fees for state employees who do so.

Rep. John Tomlinson (D-St. Paul) said the State must set an example in the use of group transportation to encourage private business and individuals to do the same.

The legislators requested the MTC to report regularly on what it has done to carry out the requirements of Chapter 574, MTC agreed to make monthly reports.

## Railroads

The Railroad Abandonment Subcommittee heard details of Iowa's plan to save rural rail service as legislators continued to look into railroad abandonment problems.

John Millhone, former director of the Iowa Energy Policy Council and present director of the Minnesota Energy Agency told the committee how Iowa handles the railroad abandonment problem.

Millhone said the Iowa railroad branch line system dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. Its purpose was to put all farmers within a one-day ride by horse to a depot. Because it is such an extensive system Iowa has not tried to save all of the branch

lines. Instead, the state has supported abandonment of certain lines and upgraded others that will provide maximum service to grain shippers and possibly make a profit for the railroads.

Millhone talked about Iowa's three-way partnership agreement among the railroads, shippers, and the state. The state decides which branch lines are the best to upgrade by the number of cars traveling the line per year and the possible increase in its use.

Millhone said, ideally, the three parties, railroads, shippers, and the state, share equally the cost of such a project, but because the railroads have

had a rough time financially, the shippers and the state of Iowa have at times picked up larger portions of the expense.

When the shippers and state enter into an agreement with the railroads to upgrade a branch line, they get a return, on a per-car basis, on the interest-free money they invested.

Millhone said any overall transportation plan which deals with railroad abandonment and upgrading should include a study of the relationship of railroads to other forms of surface transportation to determine the most economical and efficient method.

## Electric Cars

Members of the Minnesota House Transportation Subcommittee on Highways inspected the operation of electric cars and discussed the possibility of their use by the state in limited circumstances.

An advisory bill, Rep. Shirley Hokanson (D-Richfield) author, under consideration by the subcommittee suggests the use of electric vehicles by the state for light delivery services, on college campuses, park services, or throughout the Capitol complex.

Tests show the "citicar" has a cruising speed of 38 miles per hour, range

of 50 miles, at a cost of about a penny a mile. It is easy to operate, requiring only a flip of a switch to put the car in forward or reverse. It is quiet, non-polluting, requires less maintenance than the standard automobile and has a storage capacity of 12 cubic feet.

The car also has its drawbacks, according to Consumers Union, a non-profit testing organization, which recently reported the car as unsafe because of its "inability" to withstand high impact such as occurs in accidents at highway speeds. The car lacks the acceleration and handling

capabilities necessary in hazardous driving situations, Consumers Union said.

Both the citicar and the "Elcar 2000," a similar vehicle, which the report criticized, are exempt from federal standards for conventional-type autos.

Despite its faults, the citicar has already had public use, replacing the three-wheeled scooters at last year's Aquatennial in Minneapolis.

**Lower left: Rep. Wayne Schumacher, Rep. M.J. McCauley. Lower right: McCauley and Rep. Dick Lemke.**



# Energy and Environment

## Millhone Speaks on Energy Bill

Minnesota's new energy director, John Millhone, spoke to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee during a hearing on Rep. Willard Munger's (D-Duluth) omnibus energy conservation bill. H.F. 1437.

Millhone talked about those points in the bill dealing with the regulation of appliances, public standards, energy conserving renovations to meet those

standards, and an energy research and development program.

In areas dealing with automobiles and appliances, such as air conditioners, water heaters, etc., Millhone said forthcoming federal action should take care of regulatory problems. He didn't feel the state would need to get into that. He said he does believe the state should establish a three-year suspension of natural gas lighting.

Millhone, in his statements, favored the establishment of standards for energy usage in public schools and an appropriation to upgrade state-owned buildings to achieve energy conservation.

Other speakers included commissioners from the Departments of Administration and Education and a representative from the Rochester People's Gas Company.

## Boundary Waters Bills Get Approval

During the October mini-session, the Recreation and Open Space Subcommittee approved H.F. 922 (Philbrook, D-Roseville) and H.F. 1644 (Johnson, D., D-Cook.)

H.F. 1644 would prohibit (except with the prior approval of the legislature in cases of congressionally de-

clared national emergency) the leasing for exploration or mining, of any state-owned or administered land. It prohibits, too, the issuance of state permits, licenses or leases that would allow the use of any other state natural resources for mineral exploration or mining operations in the BWCA.

H.F. 1644 does not ban logging in the BWCA. Rep. Douglas Johnson, author, said timber cutting is a significant part of the economy in the BWCA and that timber is a renewable resource. "It's very important economically," Johnson said of logging in the area.

## House Committee Hears Energy Report

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee has received the final report of the Legislative Energy Commission. The Minnesota legislature created the commission in 1974 to serve until July 1, 1975.

The commission consists of members from the Minnesota House, Senate, and the public sector.

The report had five sections:

- where Minnesota stands in regard to its energy supply and needs

- a proposed policy section
- a legislative proposals section
- an analysis of the energy agency
- comments on the commission itself

The commission reported a reduced consumption of energy in 1973-74 due to the shortage of energy supplies during that time and a present return to pre-1973 consumption levels.

According to the report one-half of Minnesota oil comes from Canada.

With announced and future reduction in Canadian crude oil, the commission predicts that by 1981, U.S. mid-western refineries will receive no Canadian crude oil.

The commission views the use of coal as one of Minnesota's greatest opportunities for expanded energy supplies. It lists Montana and North Dakota coal fields as possible future suppliers of coal for Minnesota.

## Bill Proposes Loans For Solar Heat

A state program of low interest loans to homeowners for solar furnaces could help get the citizen involved in energy conservation, according to Rep. M.F. McCauley (R-Winona), who has authored H.F. 1278, a bill setting up such a program.

During the September mini session the Government Administration Subcommittee took up McCauley's bill

creating a state program to provide loans at four percent interest to low and other income homeowners. Under the legislation, homeowners could get up to \$4,000 with up to ten years to pay it back.

The loans are only for circumstances where a solar furnace would save 20 percent or more of the fuel oil or natural gas the homeowner used in the previous year.

McCauley told members the state needs to develop programs encouraging the use of solar energy. He said presently the solar furnace is not economical for homeowners, but this legislation will make it so.

The subcommittee heard from opponents and proponents, but took no action on the bill.



# Garbage Power

Subcommittee On Environmental Protection — Bill Luther, Acting Chairman

Fairmont could be the first small community in the country with a "resource recovery electrical generating system."

The Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Bill Luther (D-Brooklyn Center) is currently considering a bill to appropriate funds for such a project.

The bill, H.F. 1297, by Rep. Darrel Peterson (R-Fairmont), hopes to get \$1.7 million for the project through the provisions of the Minnesota Resource Recovery Act.

The Peterson bill provides for the design and construction of an electrical generating system at the cost of \$3.7 million. The community would pay \$2 million by issuing revenue bonds. The sale of electricity the new garbage-burning system produces would pay back the bonds. The system would serve a five county area.

Fairmont has already experimented with the idea of "garbage power" to a limited extent. Last winter the local power plant burned garbage (free of metal and glass) with coal for a two-hour period. During that time the garbage supplied about 10% of the community's electricity.

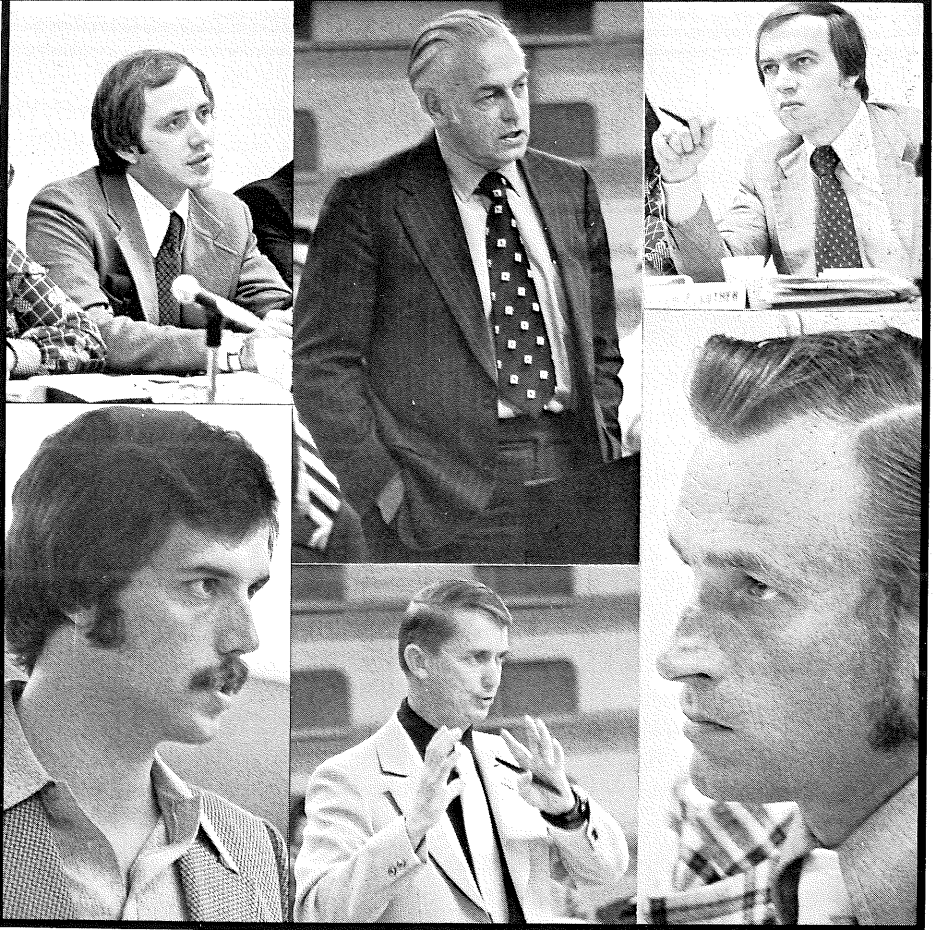
That test and the success of the Martin County Recycling Center (also in Fairmont) indicates the area's interest in finding new methods of recycling refuse.

City engineer, Gailen Narum, said another reason for the interest in a resource recovery system is the problem of getting traditional fuels.

"We found that landfills were not substantial. Small towns were looking for methods of solid waste disposal and energy reclamation."

Les Madsen, utilities manager, said there is actually no problem in purchasing coal but finding coal cars to bring it to the plant is a problem.

As for gas, there has been no major curtailment since last October. This



Rep. Wes Skoglund  
Don Kyser

Les Madsen  
Gailen Narum

Rep. Bill Luther  
Rep. Darrel Peterson

winter's gas supply equals last year's. Madsen admitted that future availability of natural gas is going to be a problem.

Madsen added that he favors the installation of a pyrolysis system to supply a gas fuel source. (A pyrolysis gas production system uses the natural decomposition of garbage as the means of gas production.)

Project coordinator for the city, Robert Ediskuty, said that he looked into the use of one particular pyrolysis system.

He found: "Refuse burning is slightly more environmentally sound than normal energy sources."

One engineer said, "Even if there is an adequate supply of refuse to support an energy system that doesn't necessarily mean it is going to get to the power plant."

Herschel Koenig, Faribault County

Engineer, said independent haulers will dump where it is cheapest. That may or may not include the landfills that are pick-up points for the resource recovery system.

"Economics weigh heavily on the proposal," said Koenig.

However, Rep. Bill Luther (D-Brooklyn Park) acting chairman of the subcommittee pointed out that, "The strongest argument (for the program) is the demonstration nature of the project. It's the smallest one under consideration."

Head of the Pollution Control Agency's solid waste division, Don Kyser, added that there are a number of boilers around the state similar to the one in use at the Fairmont plant. If garbage power works out, "It would have quite an impact... a new source of fuel."

# Committee Reports

## Minnesota lottery

Rep. James Pehler, (D-St. Cloud), author of H.F. 932 spoke to the General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on his proposed amendment to the Minnesota constitution which would allow a state-run lottery.

Pehler said about \$100 million in illegal betting occurs in Minnesota, annually, but there are no firm statistics on the effects a state-run lottery would have on these illegal activities.

Using Michigan and Illinois as examples, Pehler said both of these states show a profit of 43 to 44 percent on total lottery receipts.

The Wisconsin legislature, Pehler said, is debating the issue of a state lottery, and the possibility of a joint Minnesota Wisconsin lottery has come up.

Pehler asked the committee to consider forming a special select committee to study the issue of a state-run lottery.

## Raising the drinking age

Lowering the legal drinking age to 18 has not worked according to three House members who have authored bills to bring it up to age 19.

Rep. George Mann (D-Windom) told the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee that since he introduced his bill he has "yet to get one letter or phone call against raising the drinking age."

Mann and authors of the other two bills, - Rep. Ralph Jopp (R-Mayer) and Keith Langseth (D-Glyndon), agreed that allowing 18-year-olds to drink has caused many problems in the high schools. High school seniors, legally able to drink, are buying and drinking during school hours and are buying liquor for their younger friends.

The 1973 legislature changed the legal drinking age when it changed the age of majority from 21 to 18. That gave 18, 19, and 20-year-olds the right to purchase real estate, enter contracts, and buy and consume liquor. The three bills in committee now would change only the legal age for the purchase and consumption of alcohol.

Rep. Ray Faricy (D-St. Paul) disagreed with the three authors saying that something is wrong with an educational system that can't control liquor in the schools. He said varying the age of majority would create many problems. "An 18-year-old could own a building, but couldn't drink in his own building."

The committee has held meetings in outstate communities and will hold more hearings at the Capitol prior to the 1976 session.

## Prostitution

People in favor of and those against removing the criminal charge for prostitution spoke before the Commercial and Family Law subcommittee.

The subcommittee heard Rep. Phyllis Kahn's (D-Mpls.) bill H.F. 1807 which removes the state gross misdemeanor penalty of up to \$1,000 fine and one year in jail and strikes down local anti-prostitution ordinances. The legislation does not affect the laws on pimping, minors and prostitution, soliciting for a prostitute, and transporting another to a prostitute. The bill removes from present law the clauses that make it a crime to engage in prostitution or offer or agree to hire another person to engage in prostitution.

During the August mini session, James Manahan, chairman of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Committee on Victimless Crimes, told the lawmakers "prostitution laws

are examples of the improper use of the criminal justice system, a diversion of police resources and an invasion of privacy."

Attorneys Ellis Olkon and Nancy Olkon of Minneapolis agreed with Manahan that authorities do not arrest and prosecute male customers despite the 1974 law which requires such arrest and prosecution. The three attorneys said, often, in Minneapolis and other cities, there has been known beating and robbing of prostitutes by morals squad officers who also use threats of arrest to get free sex.

In speaking against the bill, Lieutenant Lawrence Roles of the Minneapolis Morals Squad told members that they try to rehabilitate the girls. "We don't want to punish them," he said.

When Rep. Ray Faricy (D-St. Paul) asked why the Minneapolis Morals Squad "is turning its back on the males," Lt. Roles said the squad has a personnel problem. "We don't condone what the men are doing, but we have to have the effective personnel to arrest the men."

Lt. Gary McGoffy, also of the Minneapolis Morals Squad, blamed much of the prostitution on the pimps. He said to get at the pimps they have to get to the prostitutes. Lt. McGoffy emphasized that decriminalization of prostitution will leave the morals squad with no way to handle complaints about prostitutes from hotels and citizens.

John Markert, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, told the lawmakers law should be the "teacher of its citizens"; that it should "strengthen, not weaken society."

Rev. Quinten Alfors, director of the Greater Minneapolis Association of Evangelicals, told members, "We want a society which supports individual and collective morality."

# Committee Reports

## Family council bill

A bill before the Government Structures Subcommittee (H.F. 565, Nelson, D-Mpls.) would create a council for the family until 1980.

The council would consist of 19 members, nine from the general public (five citizens-at-large and four from public and private agencies). The governor would appoint the nine general public members. The ten remaining members would be legislators (five from the House and five from the Senate).

Duties of the council would include coordinating programs among all state departments that relate to the family, recommending priorities for the development of public services, looking into the quality of public services, developing a public policy statement regarding services to families, and serving as a source of information to the public.

## Functional analysis

The House Committee on Governmental Operations held a mini-session meeting to discuss the recent functional analysis study done on Minnesota's state government.

The study, primarily, is to provide a base for people in decision-making positions of government to use in deciding how effective state programs and services are.

A secondary purpose is to catalog, exactly, these programs and services.

Tom Gilmore, president of the Society of American Value Engineers and an employee of the Government and Aeronautical Products Division of Honeywell Incorporated, spoke on the further uses of such a study.

Gilmore said it was most helpful and informative in providing raw information, but it did not go into any recommendations on how to improve

the overall efficiency of state government.

He said another step is necessary to break down raw data for use in forming a program for improving efficiency. That step, Gilmore said, is in value engineering.

Value engineering is the process of making a study and sorting the usable material from the unusable — a method of designing a program that will provide as many services as possible at the lowest cost.

A number of committee members voiced their concern that the value engineering approach might close down existing programs simply because of their cost without making other considerations.

Gilmore replied that the goal of value engineering is to devise a method of reducing costs while providing the same programs.

## Women and employment

The full committee of Labor-Management Relations heard from more than 20 witnesses on the subject of status of employment of women in Minnesota.

Most of them endorsed the passage of H.F. 1522 (Enebo, D-Mpls.) a bill to create a commission to study the economic and employment status of women.

Testimony reviewed the laws of Minnesota dealing with sex discrimination and the 1969 laws that brought Minnesota in line with Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Witnesses said, though state statutes indicate there is no sex discrimination, facts contradict this.

Some of the witnesses pointed to training opportunities as discriminatory. A representative from WOW (Working Opportunities for Women) said "women are not motivated to train for 'non-traditional' jobs." She said one way to counteract this would

be to waive tuition for women at technical-vocational schools.

A witness from the Minnesota Urban Coalition said 95 percent of women in the CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) program are "being trained in 'traditional' clerical and health-related jobs."

One witness mentioned a particular hardship the equal-jobs-and-equal-pay placement policy at the Hormel meat-packing plant in Austin caused. That plant had three job classifications of male, female, or both. This allowed women to elect classification by sex, or take a job of either classification. The new anti-discrimination law changed that, and it forced women into jobs that required physical labor many women would rather not do. Some view as unfair this type of elimination of the opportunity to choose a job classification.

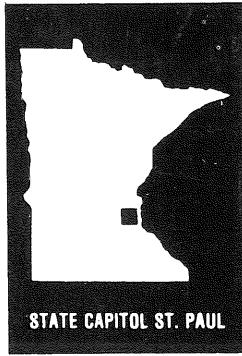
Commissioner Bud Malone of the Department of Labor and Industry said there are enough laws on the books to prevent job discrimination but not enough staff to enforce the laws.

Malone said the minimum wage law is an example. This law affects women in lower-paid positions, but it is difficult for the labor department to enforce minimum standards.

Betty Howard of the Women Services Division of the Department of Human Rights testified that the number of complaints the department received on sex discrimination is on the increase, from 213 in 1973, to 282 in 1974, and 142 as of July 1975. She said this is "only the top of the iceberg."

The Assistant Chief of Employment Services testified many large corporations are seeking women for employment.

Witnesses from the Women's Political Caucus and from the GOP Feminine Caucus said discrimination includes the refusal of employers to count volunteer activities as working experience.



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## Subcommittee hears explanation of "10,000" Lakes"

The Public Safety Subcommittee held an informational meeting on license plates October 16. Mary Williams, head of the Motor Vehicle Division of the Public Safety Department, testified before the subcommittee about the chain of events that led to the reinstatement of the "10,000 Lakes" slogan on Minnesota's license plates.

The Public Safety Department had decided to remove the slogan from 1977 plates, but, Williams explained, strong public criticism, at one time, resulted in a decision to include a slo-

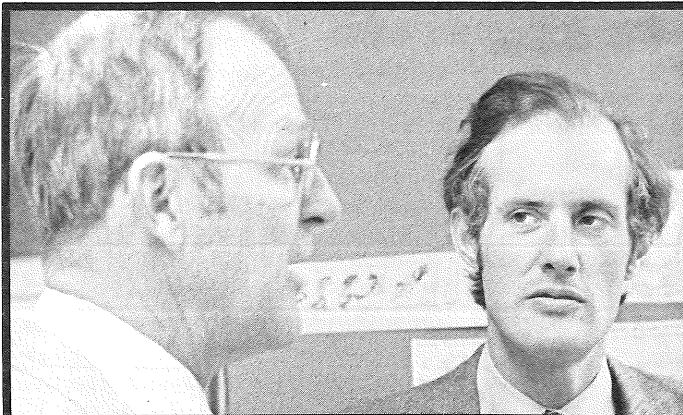
gan on the plates and have that slogan read "15,000" lakes, but the final decision was to have the slogan remain "the land of 10,000 lakes."

Williams assured the subcommittee that it will appear on the white and blue 1977 plates. She told the legislators there will not be a slogan on plates of trucks, motorcycles, and trailers for the next five years, but that "the slogan will be put back on the plates in the future."

The decision to drop the slogan from

license plates, Williams said, came as a result of a new state law that requires the Public Safety Commissioner to consult with the highway patrol, sheriff organizations, and local police about the "material and equipment" the state okays for use in the manufacture of license plates.

Williams told the subcommittee inmates of St. Cloud State Reformatory manufacture the plates at a cost of 60 cents per plate with an additional per-plate charge of 25 cents for reflectors.



## Europeans Visit Minnesota

This year guests from many of the Common Market countries, people with a broad variety of political and cultural backgrounds, have made a stop in Minnesota a part of their American tours.

Rep. Rodney Searle (top left) chatted with Mr. Anthony Newton (top right) a member of the British Parliament. Rep. George Mann (top right hand corner - center) toured Minnesota agricultural projects with Dr. Gerhard Prinz (left) Senior Government Advisor for the Bavarian Department of Development and Ecological Problems, and Mr. Michael Bogensberger (right) a Senior Advisor of the Bavarian Department of Nutrition, Agriculture, and Forestry.

In the lower right-hand corner Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House Edward Burdick explains legislative procedure to Theo Junker and his wife Marja-Leena. Mr. Junker is the Chief Administrator for the Secretariat of the European Common Market.

