

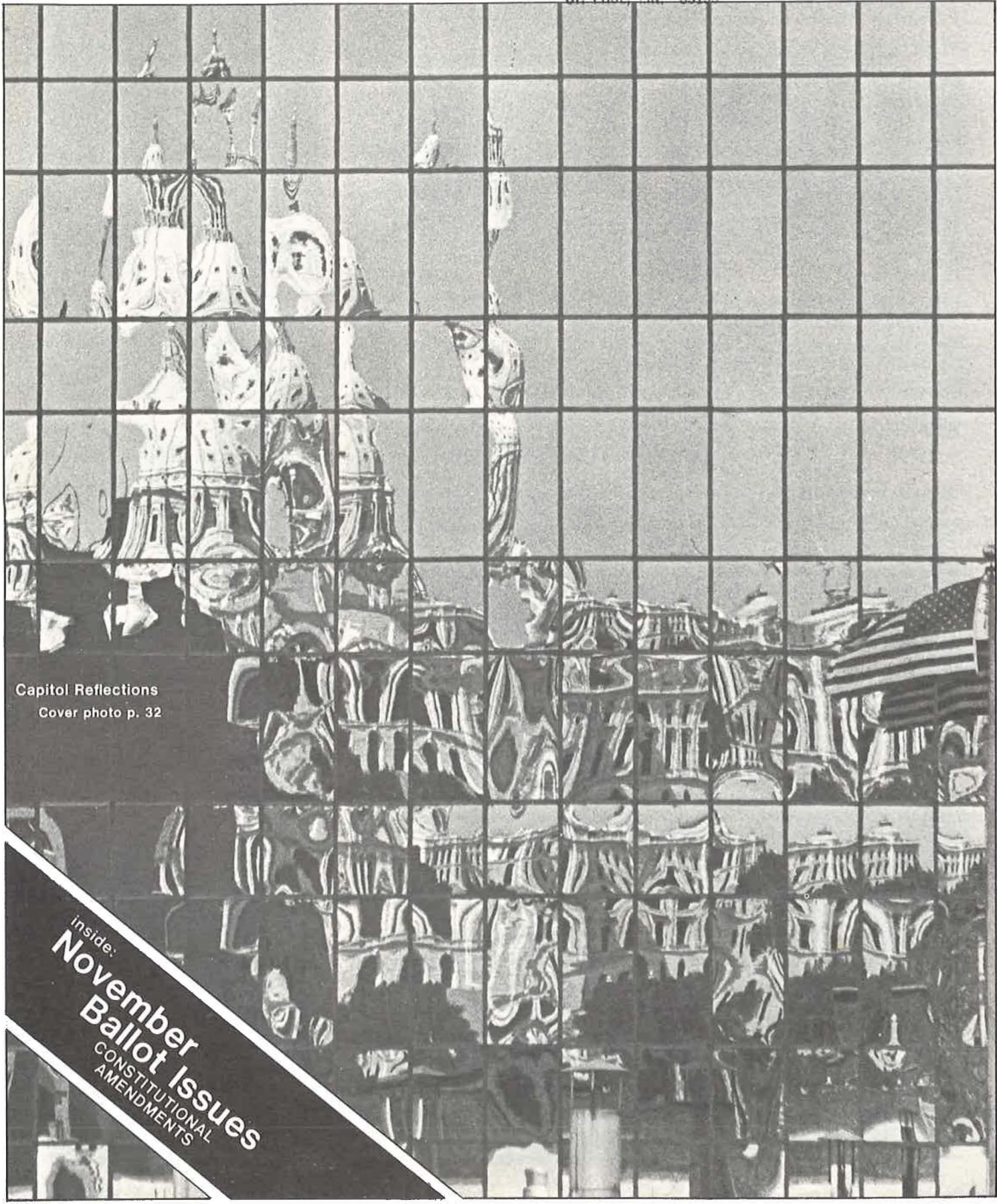
-80 June, July, August

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1980

Legislim

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL ST. PAUL, MN. 55155
June, July, Aug. 1980



Capitol Reflections
Cover photo p. 32

inside:
**November
Ballot Issues**
CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

interim

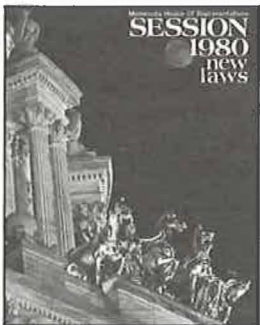
Minnesota House of Representatives

June-Aug. 1980

Publication of House Information Office • Rm 8 • State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota • 55155 • (612) 296-2146



In this issue:	page
Interim studies	3
<i>People problems: committees probe the issues</i>	
Commissions	5
<i>Review: in-brief interim meetings summary</i>	
Energy	6-10
<i>Update: 1980 report/a look at heat pumps/the co-op dispute</i>	
Interim activities	11
<i>Events: girls govern/donors respond for Coleman/clergy have their day at the Capitol</i>	
Constitutional Amendments	14-19 & 32
<i>"...there will be so many proposed amendments on the Nov. 4 ballot... it is important that citizens now begin to familiarize themselves with the issues."—Secretary of State Joan Growe</i>	
Commissions/Joint Committees/Boards/Councils	20
<i>Complete listing: who; what; where to call</i>	
Comment	24
<i>Candid interviews: retiring members talk about the good; the bad, the satisfactions; frustrations of their legislative experience</i>	
New laws	28
<i>1980 legislation: watercraft regulations/formaldehyde restrictions/protection for vulnerable adults</i>	



If you have a copy of *SESSION 1980 New Laws*, (at left) please note these corrections:

Page 7 Measles—school records. Ch. 504 HF2075 should read: Requires certain immunizations for children; immunization records for all children attending the school, and the number of children not immunized.

Page 9 DNR volunteers. Ch 384 HF1511 should read: Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to use volunteers and releases the department from certain liabilities when using volunteers. However, workers compensation provisions do apply to volunteers.

Page 35 Bills the Governor Vetoes. Medical malpractice Temporary Joint Underwriting Association Act HF1937/SF2029. Although the governor vetoed HF1937, the Temporary Joint Underwriting Association Act did become law as an amendment to an appropriations bill. The workers' compensation provisions, and other provisions of HF1937, are subject to the governor's veto and did not become law.

If you do not have a copy of *SESSION 1980 New Laws* and would like a copy, just write to the House Information Office, Room 8, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155, or call (612) 296-2146.

Editor: Jean Steiner; **Assistant editor:** Jean Mehle; **Design and production:** Marcia Balcken; **Staff writers:** Susan Shepard, Gary Cox, Dave Russell; **Photos:** Tom Olmscheid

interim studies

How much of Minnesota's farmland is going for highways, housing, and shopping areas?

In one decade—1967 to 1977—a half of a million acres did, and in a state with 23 million acres of farmland such losses can't continue, according to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

On June 4th, the SCS and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture presented their views on the future of Minnesota's farmland to the Joint Legislative Committee on Agricultural Land Preservation.

Ronald Dennistoun, deputy commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, outlined trends in Minnesota farming over the past 20 years.

Since 1960, the number of farms in Minnesota has declined, while the average farm size has increased; and the average cost of farmland has risen to \$1,008 per acre, Dennistoun reported.

These trends indicate the economic pressures on Minnesota farmers. Dennistoun's talk focused on conversion of farmland to other uses, such as highways, housing, and shopping areas.

The SCS worked on inventorying Minnesota soils for a number of years with units of state and local government. Land use maps that come out of those soil surveys give the location and type of farmland on a county basis to aid county planners in trying to avoid non-agricultural development of high-grade agricultural land.

Although destruction of farmland in Minnesota is less severe than in other states, the problem is still significant, said SCS soil conservationist Harry Major.

The conversion of farmland into other uses is also devouring valuable acreage on the east and west coasts which leads to increasing dependence on Minnesota and other mid-western states for food products. That pressure makes preserving farmland an important priority, Major said.

A variety of preservation programs have developed throughout the nation. Many have been successful in protecting farmland from bulldozers.

Wisconsin has one such program, and the committee plans to meet with officials and farmers there to see how it's working out as they continue their interim study of agricultural land preservation. △

Teenage Pregnancy

A House Health and Welfare subcommittee began hearings on its study of teenage pregnancy (HA48, Hokanson, DFL-Richfield) with testimony from the Department of Health and the Department of Public Welfare. Chairman Janet Clark (DFL-Mpls.) said the committee would invite testimony from any concerned group or individual and, perhaps, conduct some hearings outstate. She expressed hope that the committee would agree to propose legislation next session.

The number of births to unmarried teenage mothers is increasing faster than the number among the general population, Hokanson said. Ninety-five percent of the young mothers keep the child after birth. She said

that many teenage mothers will never finish high school and will be economically dependent and isolated from family and friends. Often teenage mothers fail as parents because they have few parenting skills and are themselves still children.

Most unmarried adolescent mothers receive welfare payments, said Ray Wey, director of social services of the Department of Public Welfare. "Society seems to resent paying for other people's mistakes," he said, "but at the same time, the mothers have a hard time making it on the size of their grants."

He said most programs presently focus on helping a mother after she becomes pregnant. Policies should concentrate more on prevention and work with the teenager's family and the teenage father, Wey said. Laws that prohibit family planning counseling in schools hinder programs which try to prevent teenage pregnancy, said Judi Kapuscinski of the Health Department's Family Planning Division.

Kapuscinski suggested that more teenagers are getting pregnant because they lack self-esteem and information on contraception. They are rebellious and face limited options for the future.

Sixty percent of teenagers have never had sexual intercourse, Wey said. Many who become pregnant did not want to do so. Some become pregnant, he said, because they don't want to face the fact that they're sexually active, so they don't use contraception.

Teenage mothers run a higher risk than older women in giving birth, said Kapuscinski. Wey added that many pregnant adolescents are reluctant to seek prenatal care.

Hokanson warned the subcommittee that some citizens want to use the hearings as a vehicle for abortion debate. If that happens, she asked that the subcommittee discontinue its study. △

Truth in Testing

To the millions who have been students, *they* carry familiar acronyms: SAT, LSAT, GRE and dozens of others. *They* are standardized multiple choice tests which almost every student must take to gain admission to college and graduate schools. Ralph Nader described them as, "a three-hour educational roulette game." During the last legislative session, the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee began informational hearings on the strengths and weaknesses of such tests and on legislation regulating the companies who prepare and give the tests.

Legislative response

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls.) introduced "truth in testing" legislation during the last session (HF2169) in response to criticisms of standardized testing. That legislation would require educational testing companies to give examinees, upon request, the test they took along with the answers. The examinee would have up to 90 days after receiving the test score to request the information. It would also require the testing companies to:

- file, with the Higher Education Coordinating Board, reports on research studies on the content of the test questions;

- provide more information to examinees about what the test is supposed to measure and how test scores relate to the examinees' future academic performance in school;
- provide similar information to a school which receives the test scores.

"...professionals disagree on fairness..."

In Feb., Allan Nairn, author of a study on one of the national testing agencies, ETS (Educational Testing Service), told the division that the tests "fundamentally affect the career and educational opportunities of millions of students, yet many professionals disagree on the accuracy, objectivity, or fairness of the test." He said educational professionals agree the tests do not measure many factors determining future success, such as motivation, interest in learning, ego strength, creativity, and psychological maturity.

Questions are sometimes "ambiguous, incorrectly scored, or geared primarily toward middle-class people," according to Nairn's findings. Nairn supported the provision in the "truth in testing" bill requiring testing services to provide examinees, upon request, the tests they took along with the answers. "That way, students would be able to dispute the correctness of their scores and also learn from their mistakes," Nairn said.

Minnesota colleges testify

The division heard from Dan Murray, director of admissions at Hamline University, who said most admissions people are aware of the limitations of the tests and Hamline regularly evaluates whether the tests are good predictors of future performance. He said they have concluded that the test is a good tool in determining admission.

Robert Stein, dean of the Law School, University of Minnesota, also testified saying the admissions committee rarely excludes students solely on the basis of a test score, but the tests do provide an objective, standard tool to compare students of diverse high school backgrounds. He said if each state enacted its own legislation, and the laws varied from state to state, the testing agencies would not survive, and the schools would lose a valuable tool.

In May, the division concluded their informational hearings on standardized testing. Phil Griffin, administrative assistant for the division, gave an update on ETS action relating to the disclosure of information. He said the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB), a national board which oversees ETS, announced that beginning the fall of 1980 students taking the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) will be able to verify their scores by obtaining answer sheets and scoring keys from the board. One published copy of the text will be available for public use.

Carol Pomroy, president-elect, Minnesota School Counselors' Association, said the association opposes "truth in testing" legislation. "If there are overall problems nationally, they should be dealt with on the national level. There are relatively few problems in Minnesota with testing and those can be resolved within the system," she said. "If we have 50 different laws, we're hurting our children rather than helping them." ▽

Are tests accurate predictors?

Author of the legislation, Rep. Lee Greenfield said, "All we are talking about is creating a fair, competent system to judge students and making sure it is fair to all of them."

Admissions director at the University of Minnesota, Leo Abbott, told the division that students' high school records are the best single predictor of their success in college and standardized tests are the second best predictor. He said tests help students rather than hurt them in their chances for admission. "If a student has a good academic record and a poor test score, a college will tend to admit that student. If a student has a poor academic record, but has a recent change in grades, or change in motivation, and a good test score, this will lead a college to admit that student."

There are multiple avenues for access into college for those students the University rejects, according to Abbott. Students may appeal an admissions decision; they may provide new data; they may retake the test or take another test; they may take extension classes; they may get into another college within the University which doesn't require test scores; or, they can attend another accredited college and then reapply after one year.

"It is incumbent upon those of us in admissions to use test data wisely and to rely on it only in so far as it is valid and not to over-value test scores," Abbott said.

Owen Samuelson, director of admissions, Gustavus Adolphus College, agreed that students' high school records are the best indicator of success and a major factor in the decision to admit or not admit a student. He said with a marginal candidate, test scores are more of a factor in admissions' decisions. "Our philosophy is to look at test scores in a positive manner rather than in a negative way," Samuelson said.

"There's nothing magic about test scores."

In answering a question about differences in high schools, Samuelson said the college did a study five years ago which showed that students from smaller high schools did better scholastically at Gustavus Adolphus the first two years than those from larger high schools. "We didn't expect that result," the director said.

"There's nothing magical about test scores," Floyd Brown, director of admissions, Moorhead State University, told the division. He said the school used test scores in pre-admission counseling and for possible placement of students in remedial programs. They are only one indicator and not the final answer, said Brown. "The combination of the test score and class rank tends to give us the best information that is currently available." △



Photo by Kristina Madson

Self Instruction in rural schools

By Bill Marx

Administrative Assistant, School Aids Division, Education Committee

Can technology and self-instruction provide economically feasible and academically sound approaches for rural schools to broaden their curriculums? Answering this question is the goal of the Academic Equity for Rural Schools (AERS) — a project of the Council on Quality Education (CQE) in the Littlefork-Big Falls School District.

Members of the House Education Committee visited the AERS project May 8 and discussed the potential of self-instructional programs to provide broader curriculum for students.

AERS uses computers, correspondence courses, videotape and other audiovisual aids to offer 50 courses on a self-instructional basis. Over 90 of the school district's 290 secondary students are taking courses through the project and another 61 are receiving basic skills assistance. Because of the individualized nature of the program, students can take advanced or remedial courses depending on their individual needs.

Although the AERS learning center uses several methods to offer alternative courses, the computer courses tend to attract the most attention.

The center has two Control Data PLATO terminals, a MECC (Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium) terminal, and an Apple II microcomputer. Michael Clay, the project director, warns that we must "think in terms of self-instructional learning centers" and not concentrate only on computers. He suggested that committee members first determine if self-instruction is a viable alternative in providing course offerings, then look at what method could best provide those offerings.

Clay said one of the problems for the AERS project has been the lack of good quality self-instructional materials. The hardware and capabilities of the computer far outstrip the programs that are available by computer, and many of the correspondence courses are out of date and non-motivational, Clay added.

The cost of the self-instruction methods in the AERS project range from a high of \$13.60 per student hour for the PLATO basic skills instruction to a low of \$2.17 per student hour for correspondence courses. Videotape programs cost \$5.29 per student hour and other audiovisual programs cost \$2.62 per student hour.

Committee members asked if teachers felt threatened by the "computer-taught" programs. Clay replied the intent of a self-instructional program is to broaden the curriculum and to offer courses that schools don't offer now, not to replace any teachers. Rep. Carl Johnson (DFL, St. Peter) suggested that teachers regard the self-instructional courses as a teacher aid and as supplemental to the teacher. Rep. Bob McEachern (DFL, St. Michael) pointed out, with critical teacher shortages in some areas, self-instructional courses might be the only way some districts have to offer certain programs.

Clay said the Littlefork School Board has been supportive of the AERS project. He believes the board will continue the project when the CQE funding ends after the 1980-81 school year. He is optimistic that other school districts will also start these types of self-instructional programs and learn from the experiences of the AERS project. Rep. Johnson questioned whether the state ought to initiate more projects like AERS, or if the initiative ought to come from local school boards. Several individuals expressed concern that if the state did not provide some incentives to start an AERS type project, other projects would be very slow to start.

Rep. David Jennings (IR, Truman) said, because of the lack of development of adequate programs for AERS-type projects, such projects may have to be slow in developing. △

commissions

House members serve on legislative commissions, advisory boards and task forces—groups that do in-depth studies on specific issues, oversee certain activities, or advise other groups. Here is a review of May and June activities.

The Legislative Audit Commission met May 7 . . . reviewed staff activities . . . met June 18 to discuss topics for 1980 program evaluations . . . proposals include "Hospital Regulation", "Minnesota State Arts Board", "Human Rights Department," and "DPW Rule 36" . . . met again June 23 to hear testimony from the Financial Audit Division, Investigative Unit, and Program Evaluation . . . heard a report on Rutgers University's "Legislative Oversight Development" program . . . the commission's **subcommittee on Topic Selection and Review** met May 6 . . . reviewed a report from the legislative auditor . . . reviewed reports from the Financial Audits Division, Program Evaluation Division and Investigation Unit.

On June 27, the **Legislative Commission on Employee Relations** met to discuss implementation of 1980 legislation and hear testimony on interest arbitration . . . the **Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)** met May 12 . . . approved the LCMR Water Committee work plans . . . revised the hydro power development plans . . . met on June 1 through 3 at Itasca State Park for an Issues Seminar to discuss issues relevant to LCMR operations . . . **LCMR's Forestry Committee** met to review April Banzhaf Forestry Study report on May 12 . . . approved DNR forest land acquisition adding 120 acres to Badoura State Forest . . . reviewed Timber and Wood Residue Work Program . . . met again on June 19 at the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve . . . considered acceptance of the Third Interim Banzhaf report and the May progress report . . . considered the work program for Fuel Wood Management and toured county forest land in the area . . . **LCMR Land and Recreation Committee** met with the Senate Committee on Energy and Housing at Wild River State Park . . . heard presentations on the Minnesota Solar Office, solar energy and earth sheltered housing, the Rivers Planning Work Program, Trails Grant-in-Aid Work Program, Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area acquisition, Wild River State Park Interpretive Program, and DNR's Landowners' Bill of Rights.


The Legislative Review Committee of LCMR met June 11 to review applications for state funding for local and regional parks . . . the commission's **Special Issues Committee** reviewed state personnel procedures . . . accepted the Land Management Information Center billing policy . . . approved the Energy Agency Biomass Center Work Program and DNR's Landowners' Bill of Rights on June 18 . . . the **Water Committee**, LCMR, met May 12 . . . accepted the Water Planning Board's Framework Water and Related Land Resources Work Plan . . . accepted the Acid Precipitation Work Plan and the Hydropower Development Work Plan.

The **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement** considered buy-back costs at a June 5 meeting, and again on June 26 . . . the **Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules** met June 18 . . . considered PCA hazardous waste rules, PCA air pollution control rules, PCA noise pollution control rules . . . reviewed Department of Corrections jail standards and issues referred for hearing . . . considered drivers' license rules, Board of Nursing rules, DOT state aid rules, nursing home rules, DPW Rule 185 and the commissioner of welfare's budget.

On May 19, the **Legislative Coordinating Commission** met to discuss the computer situation in the revisor's office . . . met again June 2 to appoint members to subcommittees . . . approved an appointment to a position in the Tax Study Commission . . . approved guidelines for salaries of personnel for commissions under its jurisdiction . . . heard testimony on computer approaches to reapportionment . . . met June 16 to hear testimony on Iowa's experience with a computer reapportionment plan . . . approved positions for the Legislative Commission on Waste Management . . . the **Tax Study Commission's Subcommittee on Sales and Excise Taxes** reviewed the structure of Minnesota's unemployment tax on June 25 . . . the **Workers Compensation State Fund Legislative Study Commission** met June 24 . . . heard testimony on the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds.

See list of commissions, joint committees, advisory boards; task forces.

UPDATE energy



On Wednesday, May 14, the House Committee on Energy and Utilities began a review of state departments and agencies to help develop a legislative plan to meet Minnesota's long-term energy needs. The committee took testimony on the state's role as a regulator and consumer of energy.

Almost unanimously, the agencies and departments emphasized use of conservation and renewable fuels to meet much of the state's future energy demand. Following are summaries of testimony each department or agency gave to the committee at hearings throughout May and June.

1980 Energy Policy and Conservation Report

A draft report the Minnesota Energy Agency submitted said:

- Minnesota must develop conservation methods and non-conventional energy sources to avoid potential 17 percent unemployment in Minnesota due to increasing costs of foreign oil.

- Conservation methods will cost less than the fuel conservation could save, and renewable sources will be competitive with conventional sources.
- An Energy Agency survey showed potential savings from conservation methods. For example, 55 percent of Minnesota's homes have less than 6 inches of insulation in the attic; 12 percent had none at all.
- Conservation and renewable fuels are also the best energy alternatives in their effects on employment according to the report. Investment in these methods creates three times the economic activity in Minnesota as investment in conventional fuels, because the state's supply of conventional sources comes largely from outside the state.
- Renewable energy sources alone could supply 35 percent of Minnesota's energy demand by the year 2000.

Department of Economic Development

Commissioner Kent Eklund said the Department of Economic Development makes loans to Minnesota businesses for energy development projects and conservation. One such business manufactures products to increase the heating efficiency of home fireplaces. Another is developing methods for using waste for alcohol fuel production.

Eklund suggested that legislation could encourage the private sector commitment to energy saving. Tax incentives would encourage installation of conservation technology, while a greater allowed rate of return for energy providers could encourage investment in new technologies, he said.

Department of Education

Vocational Education

Jerry Schmehl of the Division of Vocational Education projected that institutional buildings in Minnesota could save 20 percent of the present cost of heating and cooling if building managers had training in energy conservation measures. The division surveyed state government building managers and found that nearly all of them had a low level of competence in energy technology.

The division has developed a 45-hour program for training, which would cost building managers \$25 to \$30. Schmehl said the division would request \$700,000 from the Legislature to deliver the program.

For junior and senior high school teachers, the division has developed curricula and in-service training to assist them in teaching energy technology to students.

The division has also developed post secondary training in the areas of wind and solar technology, heating and air conditioning, and alternative energy information specialists.

Schmehl said the division provides training to adults who want to upgrade their skills in energy fields for their present jobs.

Science Programs

Richard Clark, science programs director, said that teachers have asked for materials to help them teach both energy related skills and the broader nature of energy and social impact of energy technology and policies. Home economics classes, for example, he said, could teach students how to make curtains with insulative qualities. Clark said he has gathered information specific to Minnesota's energy needs and resources.

Department of Economic Security

Chuck Wroebe, weatherization coordinator for the Department of Economic Security, explained that the state's weatherization program has been going well because the state has been able to coordinate its money, which pays for labor, with federal money, which pays for materials.

Metropolitan Council

Energy planner John Kari said the Metropolitan Council is developing a long-range plan for the metro area which would consider transportation, power plants, fuel needs and building codes affecting conservation. Kari predicted that, by the year 2000, renewable energy sources would serve an increasing portion of the metro area's energy needs, but a smaller portion than in non-metro areas. He stressed conservation as the key to meeting future energy needs.

Department of Administration

Don Pates described newly developed rules for a state law which requires landlords to remodel their buildings to conserve fuel and provides for energy audits on homes for sale. The Minnesota law contains two requirements more than the 22 rules the federal government requires. The rules will become effective Oct. 1, 1980 Pates said.

Public Service Commission

(new name: Public Utilities Commission)

PSC Chairman Katherine Sasseville told the Energy Committee that legislation to allow the PSC to intervene in power plant certificate-of-need proceedings is unclear. The legislation, in HF1710 (Nelson, DFL-Mpls), allows those who participate in PSC utility rate-setting hearings to also participate in the Energy Agency's need assessments. The confusion is whether the PSC, itself, may intervene.

Sasseville said the PSC wants to testify on the relative cost to consumers of alternative methods to meet a projected energy demand. Previous to this bill, the potential cost to consumers was not a consideration of the Energy Agency when it determined the method for providing energy to consumers. Regulations prohibited the PSC from testifying on power plant questions until after construction of the plant. It then had to set utility rates which balanced utility profits against fair cost to consumers, Sasseville said.

Sasseville also said the PSC had received many complaints from utility customers about utility companies putting higher rates into effect before the PSC had approved the increase. In the past, utilities had to refund increases which the PSC did not approve.

Sasseville said the majority of the PSC supported this "rates under bond procedure". However, two commissioners filed a dissenting opinion; and she expects more resistance to the rates under bond practice.

Department of Transportation

Legislative liaison Gene Olfstead outlined Department of Transportation programs to conserve energy. The department, he said, is beginning to use energy saving methods on its maintenance buildings, and purchasing vehicles which get better mileage. The department is researching road materials that allow better mileage and is continuing to promote car pooling, van pooling, and park and ride programs. The department encourages workers to ride buses to work and save gas for vacation trips, thereby helping Minnesota's tourist industry according to Planning Division Director Jim Wright.

Department of Commerce

Office of Consumer Services

Department of Commerce, Office of Consumer Services' Director Kris Sanda gave a brief summary of the activities of the office. "The office began in 1978 and is too young for evaluation," she said. "It is hard to tell the long-term effects of the office on the consumers of Minnesota."

Eldon Spencer from the Utilities Division said the division's responsibility is to represent the residential consumers' point of view at the rate hearings before the Public Service Commission (PSC). He said the division also regulates winter utility shutoffs.

Spencer said the office has new authority to intervene in federal rate regulations, such as automatic rate increases for fuel cost increases. Three-quarters of the utility rate questions get answers at the federal level, according to Spencer.

The office represents consumers in rate hearings of investor-owned utilities. Spencer said there is a need for intervention for consumer protection at rate hearings of municipal and cooperative utilities.

Residential Utility

Board of Consumers

Norinne McCarthy, chairman of the board, said the board establishes policy guidelines and writes resolutions relating to utilities and utility regulations. "The board is pro-consumer, not anti-utility," she said. We act as an advisor to the Office of Consumer Services, she said.

The board, like the Office of Consumer Services, deals only with investor-owned utilities.

Office of Hearing Examiners

Duane Harves, chief hearing examiner, explained how the office runs rate regulation hearings.

He said the hearings begin much like a court hearing. The first step is to gather information from all sides, answer questions of parties, and allow cross-examination of witnesses. The second step is a public hearing where both sides present their views. The public can make statements and ask questions.

Harves said the role of the hearing examiner is much like that of a judge: The examiner must rule on objections and hear-say testimony, disclose information before the hearing and report on findings of fact.

The hearing examiner only makes recommendations to the department or agency which requested the hearing. The department or agency makes the final decision. Prior to final decision, the department must allow 10 days for "any person adversely affected" to appeal, whether or not that person was a party to the hearings.

A final appeal is available to "any aggrieved person" through judicial review. The court will review the agency's decision but not the hearing examiner's position, Harves said. Courts will overturn an agency's decision only under considerable evidence.

Minnesota Energy Agency/MEA

The director of MEA, Mark Mason, told committee members the agency's priorities are conservation and renewable energy sources.

Susan Stewart, legislative liaison, said the agency has:

- initiated a fuel allocation program to assure crude oil supplies;
- completed a coal study, which inspired groups to develop a pulverizing plant;
- studied district heating;
- provided wind generation demonstration projects;
- helped start energy awareness programs in 30 communities.

Education Coordinator Jackie Lind said the Energy Agency is running two information centers in rural areas to answer questions and provide seminars on home heat loss, renewable and locally available fuels, insulation and alcohol fuel production.

Conservation Division/MEA

John Armstrong said the conservation division consists of 40 percent of the staff and budget of the agency. The division coordinates federal grant funds. The division's information program answered 23,000 phone inquiries on energy issues last year and mails 1,000 pamphlets each month.

The industrial and institutional program provides workshops on boiler efficiency and seminars on waste heat recovery; has developed an Energy Savers Award for industries and a program which encourages small and medium-sized businesses to manage energy.

The community outreach program of the conservation division provides technical assistance to cities.

Data and Analysis Division/MEA

This division forecasts future trends, does supply and demand analysis, and provides energy price services, according to Richard Wallen.

The division analyzes certificates of need for large energy facilities, but Wallen predicted few applications for certificates of need in 1980 and 1981. He expects those coming in after 1981 will be for transmission lines and fuel conversion.

Alternative Energy Division/MEA

Ronald Visness said the alternative energy division is concentrating on district heating, solar, and wind as alternative energy sources. He said wind could provide 20 to 25 percent of Minnesota's electrical needs. There are presently two federally sponsored experimental wind generation projects in Minnesota—one near Owatonna, the other near Moorhead.

Visness said some utilities will be using wind generators to augment hydro generation in periods of low water flow.

The division provides information on alternative energy sources and technologies. ▽

Housing Finance Agency

Director Jim Solem said that the Housing Finance Agency has six programs which relate to energy conservation:

- Emergency Energy Conservation Grant Program: provides heating grants;
- Home Improvement Loan Program: makes loans for up to 25 percent of energy improvements;
- Energy Efficient Home Demonstration Project: works with builders to improve conservation techniques in homes; finances homes through a lottery selection;
- Home mortgage program: finances homes at a smaller interest rate than conventional bank mortgages;
- Earth Shelter Demonstration Project: develops a number of earth sheltered homes;
- Apartment Development Project: provides a moderate redevelopment program for multiple unit dwellings.

Solem said that enforcement of multi-family dwelling energy standards is deficient in Minnesota.

Environmental Quality Board

Allan Jaisle of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) outlined his agency's role in siting new power plants. Siting is the second of three steps. The Energy Agency first assesses whether the state needs new generating capacity. Then the EQB determines location and develops an environmental impact statement. Finally, the new plant goes through the permit process.

The Energy Agency, Jaisle said, does not consider environmental issues. However it does determine the method for generating new power. By the time environmental issues and public testimony get consideration he said, "all the important decisions have already been made."

The public hearings state law requires are not helpful in solving public concerns, Jaisle said. "If you haven't solved the public's problems by the time of the public hearings, you probably won't solve them, because the hearings are largely an adversary process, not a give and take."

Jaisle said the EQB would attempt to change the rules to allow the environmental studies and the siting to occur at the same time.

The EQB will also propose rule changes which will preserve agricultural land from power plant and powerline condemnations, Jaisle said. In addition the board will study upgrading present powerlines to allow them to transport more power in the same corridor as an alternative to new lines. Present law prohibits upgrading of powerlines, he said.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Power Plant Siting Program

Jean Crampton, chairman of the committee, said the recommendations of the committee were unanimous. Its diverse membership came from all political persuasions. Recommendations included:

- increasing conservation before developing new sources of energy;
- constructing the smallest feasible plant when an area needs a new plant;
- using cogeneration, a method of using waste heat from electrical generation to heat water for space heating;
- using power generation methods which use fuels locally available, such as hydro, farm waste, solar, wind, etc.

The committee also recommended that the Energy Agency promote alternative energy sources. Many citizens, the committee believes, feel they lack the ability to control their land and feel overwhelmed by utility companies and government regulators. △

Space Heating

Can water replace other energy sources?

Minnesota doesn't have large traditional energy reserves and is dependent on imported fossil and nuclear fuels. Part of this imported energy goes for residential and industrial heating and cooling, when a renewable Minnesota energy source could do equally well.

Heat pumps use renewable groundwater resources to supply heat. These systems could lessen Minnesota's dependence on outside sources of fuel.

—Guidebook to Groundwater Heat Pumps, Minnesota Addendum
— NCSL

Ken Wonstolen from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)* presented research on groundwater heat pumps to the *House Energy and Utilities Committee* on May 14.

What are groundwater heat pumps?

Groundwater heat pumps take advantage of the natural heat energy in groundwater (water from underground water streams, i.e. aquifers). The pumps withdraw heat from water for space heating, and remove heat from the air and discharge it into the groundwater for cooling.

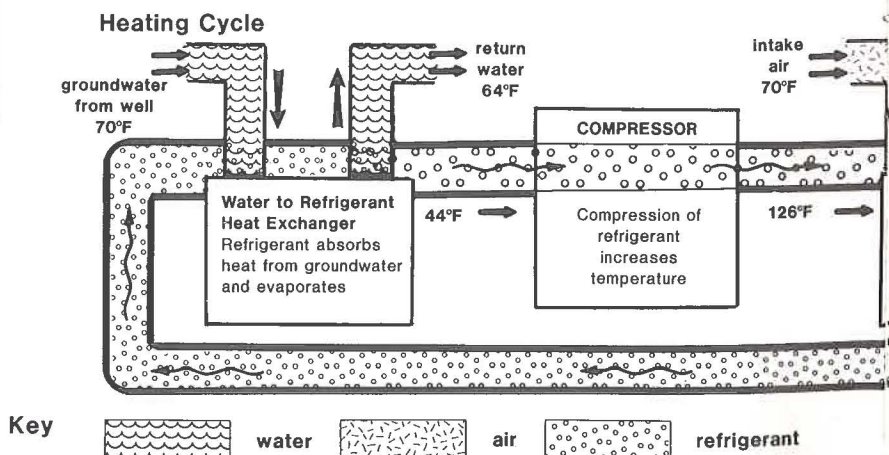
Heat pumps use electricity to run a compressor, blower, and a well pump, but the groundwater provides the heat. The water in the system must remain at a fairly constant temperature, and groundwater temperature changes little between seasons. Minnesota's groundwater temperatures range from 47°F in the northern part of the state to 56°F in the south.

How efficient are they?

A groundwater heat pump transfers existing thermal (heat) energy from one place to another. This is more efficient than space conditioning systems which convert fuel to thermal energy, then transfer the energy.

The efficiency of a system is the ratio of energy the system consumes to the heat it produces. This is the COP (coefficient of performance). The average COP of a groundwater heat pump is 3.2, meaning for every Btu of electrical energy the system uses, it will deliver 3.2 Btus. A Btu, British thermal unit, is the amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of water one degree Fahrenheit.

*NCSL has its headquarters in Denver, Colorado and is the official representative of the nation's 7,600 state lawmakers and their staffs. NCSL seeks to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures and to promote interstate cooperation and communication—NCSL Magazine *State Legislatures*.



Energy Efficiency Comparisons

System	COP
Coal furnace	0.70
Natural gas furnace	0.75
Electric resistance	0.95
Groundwater heat pump	3.20

What do they cost?

The initial cost of a groundwater heat pump system is more than the cost of conventional systems. In addition to the heat pump, the consumer must also install a water well and plumbing. However, by changing the heat flow, the pump can provide both heating and cooling.

Initial Cost Comparisons

Groundwater heat pump (heating, cooling, ductwork, water well, plumbing)	\$ 6,000
Natural gas furnace (heating, cooling, ductwork, chimney)	\$ 2,475
Electric resistance (heating, cooling)	\$ 1,500
Electric furnace (heating, cooling, ductwork)	\$ 2,500
Propane (heating, cooling, ductwork, chimney, storage tank)	\$ 2,625

The annual operating cost for groundwater heat pumps is less than for conventional systems, there is less maintenance expense, and a longer life expectancy, according to research.

A study compares 1978 heating costs for heat pumps and conventional systems in Wisconsin.

Home Heating Cost Comparison

System	Cost to heat per sq. ft.
Oil furnace	\$0.34
Oil furnace with supplementary heat from heatilator fireplace	\$0.31
Propane gas furnace	\$0.40
Electric resistance with supplementary heat from heatilator fireplace	\$0.35
Groundwater heat pump	\$0.21
Groundwater heat pump with supplementary heat from wood furnace	\$0.20

Sometimes the initial cost of a residential heat pump exceeds the long-term cost of a conventional system. But, commercial or industrial costs for multi-use groundwater heat pumps would often be less than for conventional multi-use systems.

Heat pumps can recover waste heat from power, industrial, sewage treatment, and manufacturing systems. The pump recycles heat to raise the water temperature, increasing efficiency.

Water: How much is there?

Minnesota uses only 10 percent of the available groundwater, according to the NCSL report. The amount available varies throughout the state.

Western Minnesota has the most limited supply and uses 80 percent of the groundwater available there. Eastern urban areas have limited groundwater resources and use about 50 percent of that supply.

The state has sand and gravel aquifers, which yield up to 500 gallons per minute, and bed rock aquifers, which produce 5 to 30 gallons per minute. Central Minnesota has the heaviest concentration of these aquifers. A residential heat pump needs 15 gallons per minute during peak heating or cooling periods. According to NCSL, sufficient water would be available in many parts of the state.

The Department of Natural Resources enforces groundwater allocation limits. Users needing more than 10,000 gallons per day, or supplying water to more than 25 residential customers must get a permit from DNR. Residential water source heat pumps need about 100,000 gallons of water a year, and would not need an allocation permit at this time.

What is the quality?

There are few polluting chemicals in the groundwater in most parts of the state. In southwestern Minnesota, some agricultural nitrates have seeped into the groundwater, and there are some salt water aquifers in northwestern Minnesota.

The water's mineral content is high in some aquifers and others contain carbonates. The Minnesota Department of Health requires well casing in areas where there are carbonate rocks such as limestone to prevent groundwater infiltration into the limestone.

Who owns/controls it?

Minnesota uses the riparian doctrine in allocating groundwater to landowners. This means the owner of the land above the water has the right to reasonable use of the water. The landowner can use the water if it doesn't cause injury to another's water supply or property.

The state has a comprehensive water use plan. The Minnesota Water Planning Board assesses the quantity and quality of water; DNR enforces allocation limits; the Health Department monitors water allocations, sets

well construction standards, and licenses well drillers; the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) regulates water disposal.

Where does used water go?

NCSL suggests reinjection, returning the water to the aquifer, as one means of disposal. The Health Department and PCA, however, prohibit injection wells.

Groundwater heat pump users who discharge water to surface streams must get a permit from PCA. If this method requires physical alteration of public waters, the user would also need a permit from DNR.

The user could dispose of the water, without a permit, through a leach field that connects to a septic tank system, or directly to surface lands. Another disposal method would be through a storm sewer or a sanitary sewer, if local ordinances allow this.

Are there environmental effects?

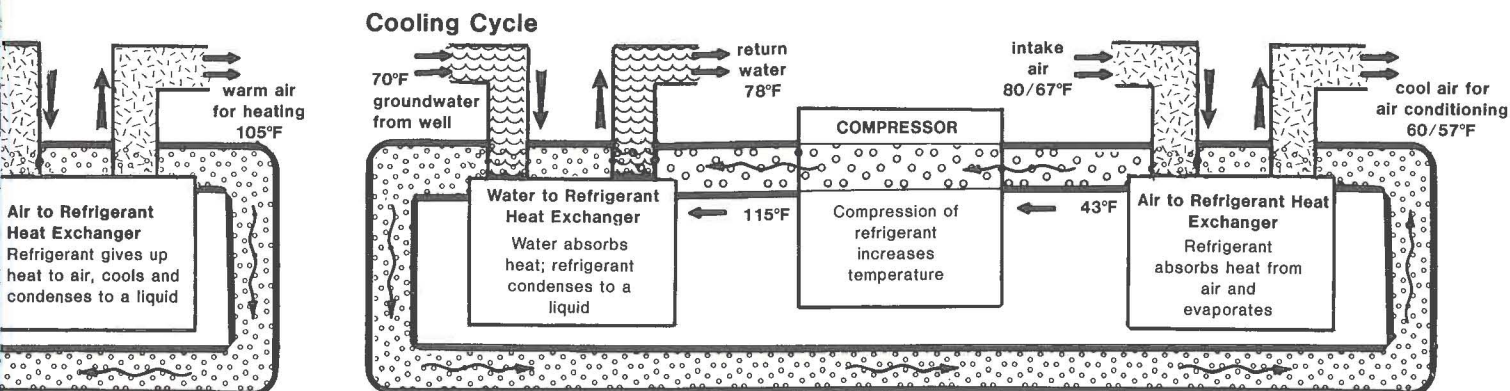
The NCSL report says extensive use of heat pump systems could impact groundwater supplies. If users remove groundwater and dispose of it on the land surface, only 50 percent goes back to the original aquifer.

Minnesota regulatory agencies have expressed concern that the pumps may lower water tables in areas of limited supply, and that reinjection of groundwater may cause pollution and temperature changes in the aquifers.

In Minnesota, people would use the groundwater primarily for heating. Reinjecting the water would lower the temperature in the aquifer, which could cause increased precipitation of minerals. Temperature increases from reinjection of water during the cooling process could increase chemical reactions such as the dissolution of limestone.

The NCSL report encourages states to study the economic and environmental effects of heat pump use and is continuing its study of the feasibility of increased use in Minnesota. The study should be complete by January.

Although heat pumps are not a new concept, the high cost of installation and uncertainty about environmental effects have limited their residential use. With rising traditional energy costs, and increased studies on environmental effects, heat pumps may provide a viable alternative for space heating in Minnesota.—Jean Mehle



Energy Update

"Farmers are the original do it yourselves... if you want the electricity you need, do it yourself in your rural electrical co-op... It's not 'them.' It's 'us.'"

rural electrical co-op ad

But few rural electrical cooperatives generate their own electricity. Most buy it from large Generation and Transmission Cooperatives (G&Ts). Customers, users of electricity, are members of local co-ops. Co-ops are members and owners of G&Ts.

State/federal agencies regulate G&Ts in a number of areas, but some co-op members charge G&T mismanagement. They've asked for more state regulation.

Because their workings intertwine, you can't discuss G&Ts without discussing local co-ops. So, in June, when the Utilities subcommittee of the House Energy and Utilities Committee looked at G&T regulation, testimony was on all aspects of rural electrical co-ops.

Here's an edited dialogue from interviews with people who testified to the subcommittee: Nancy Barsness, a farmer in Cyrus, Minnesota; Wendell Bradley, professor of physics at Gustavus Adolphus College; Charles Anderson, President of Cooperative Power Association (CPA); Phillip Martin, General Manager, United Power Association (UPA); and Rep. Ray Kempe (DFL-West St. Paul). Both UPA and CPA are generation and transmission cooperatives.

Co-op members and their rights

Bradley: When the Legislature deregulated the local co-ops, they did it on the assumption that they were actually run by the people. They're not.

Anderson: The rights of local members are included in bylaws. The model bylaws put out by the Rural Electrification Administration said what we were to go by. You can make changes, but the REA has to approve them.

Barsness: Charlie Anderson says members have specific powers. But we don't have one of those powers. We don't have open meetings where we can evaluate our directors' performances.

Anderson: Our annual meetings are very open. When our members want changes; boy, they change things.

Kempe: At Dakota County Electric, I've heard members were denied access to meetings. Members of the organization were denied the right to observe what goes on. They wanted to present grievances. They were refused. They were told to come to the annual meeting. They couldn't present any petition or grievance at any other meeting.

Anderson: In Meeker, we hold meetings out in the area other than the annual meeting. We have very good turnouts. They are informational meetings. But people make proposals at these meetings. We note every one of them. Then we talk about them at the annual meeting. The proposals are acted on by the board, not put to the vote of the membership. On a special vote, like amending bylaws, the board puts forth a proposal to the membership. The votes of the membership are binding on the board. That's in the bylaws.

Barsness: Whenever we have been able to get a question to a full vote of the member-

ship, we've gotten everything we were fighting for. Usually, we can't get these questions on the ballot. It appears they're scared to get these questions out to the people. Once, after the membership voted for open meetings, the attorney for the board came out and said that the board does not have to comply, that the board still had the right to close its meetings.

Anderson: All you have to do if you want to speak to the board is contact the president so he can work it into the agenda. They (co-op members) come up with some darn good ideas that we've missed. Indirectly, if something of great concern came up, they could contact the president to call a board meeting. If they are ignored, they have a right to petition for a special annual meeting. I think that right has to be included in the bylaws of all co-ops.

Barsness: Yes, we have the right to call a special meeting, but we've had that right abused. We have to have 20 percent of the members to call a meeting. Twenty percent of what? You couldn't get the number of members because you couldn't get into the books and records. So what good is a petitioning right?

We'd like access to books and records at any reasonable time. But our board passed two unanimous resolutions that deny members any access to books and records.

Anderson: If the board is unresponsive, the membership should become more insistent. Demand more information. To force it... well it takes a year or two of elections, but that's the way to go.

Initiative and local elections

Barsness: He says we have the right to amend bylaws. No, we don't, when we don't have the right to initiate them; when management plans the members' annual meeting agenda. That's one thing I'm asking for: initiative and referendum for co-op members.

Kempe: We should have a co-op members' bill of rights in our laws. It would give members greater participation.

Barsness: We have the right to elect the directors of our local distribution co-op. But we have had a problem with that. Before this year, law prohibited election by mail. But directors of our co-op were offering huge prizes if you sat at home and marked your ballot for the incumbent. You became eligible for this mail ballot prize. It discouraged attendance at the annual meeting. It discouraged an evaluation of that director's performance. In 40 years at the Rhunestone co-op an incumbent was never ousted in an election.

Need for expertise

Bradley: The general managers of the local co-ops run everything. The local board people are farmers. They can't even tell what their capacity needs are. You need somebody on the local board with financial and technical expertise.

Martin: I've heard this story from the mid-'40's. People said, "Those dumb farmers will never be able to run an electrical business. You just sit back for five years and the whole thing will be belly up." This didn't happen. Those people are smarter than everyone gives them credit for. They've got to hire technical people, and I think they've got the ability to do that.

Control of G&T's

Martin: G&T's are not too far removed from local co-op members. As staff of a G&T, I am governed by a 21-man board of directors. These board members are elected at the local co-op level. It's a democracy, a representative type of organization.

Barsness: Yes, all G&T directors are elected by the local boards. But it is a closed election. I elect one director for our local co-op. But I can't even find out who he voted for for G&T director, because it's a closed ballot. So I, as a member, am totally removed from having any impact on the G&T director's appointment. This is a very important responsibility I place in my director, but I can't even evaluate his performance.

Martin: Very seldom do G&T's do something large that doesn't involve the distribution co-ops. They have to approve projects. They know what we're doing.

Demand and supply

Martin: The regional power pools (where utilities can buy and sell electricity to each other) allow us to plan together to minimize investment and maximize dependability.

At one time, when we built a power plant, we had to build another one along side it in case the first went down.

Together you have, spinning in this region, capacity large enough to recover the loss of the largest unit in the region. If we lost a 500 megawatt plant, you wouldn't even know it.

Bradley: Utilities have been projecting annual demand growth at seven percent. It's close to two percent. I was able to show that utilities are building more facilities than they need to meet future demand. There's a difference between their projections and what utility watchers are predicting. The difference between what they're building and what they need works out to an excess capacity of about 10,000 megawatts in 1986.

Martin: Mr. Bradley infers that we do not recognize that the rate of load growth is decreasing. The United Power Association has recently completed new load forecasts which predict a load growth considerably lower than historical growth. We're projecting 4.97 percent in 1980. Utilities have cancelled planned generation units and postponed the inservice date of others. As for the 10,000 megawatt excess, that very well could be. I'd have to check that out.

Bradley: The Minnesota Energy Agency is supposed to assess the state's electrical needs and grant permits for new power plants when they're needed. But they've never made an independent assessment of any utility's needs. They take their figures right from the utility's figures.

Disagreement continues

Martin: As long as we get a certificate to meet our requirements I guess I'm satisfied with the process.

Kempe: I think where abuses are pointed out, co-ops should police themselves first. If they refuse to remedy a serious wrong, then the opportunity presents itself for the state to step in with regulation.

Barsness: It goes further than straightening out our local co-op. If we get a law, then there is something guaranteeing those changes. — Gary Cox

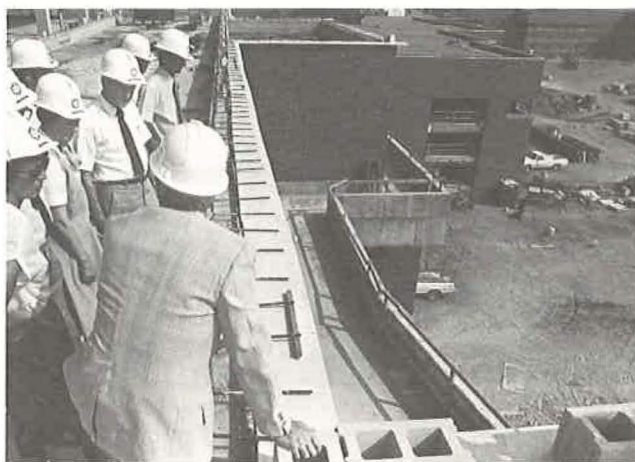
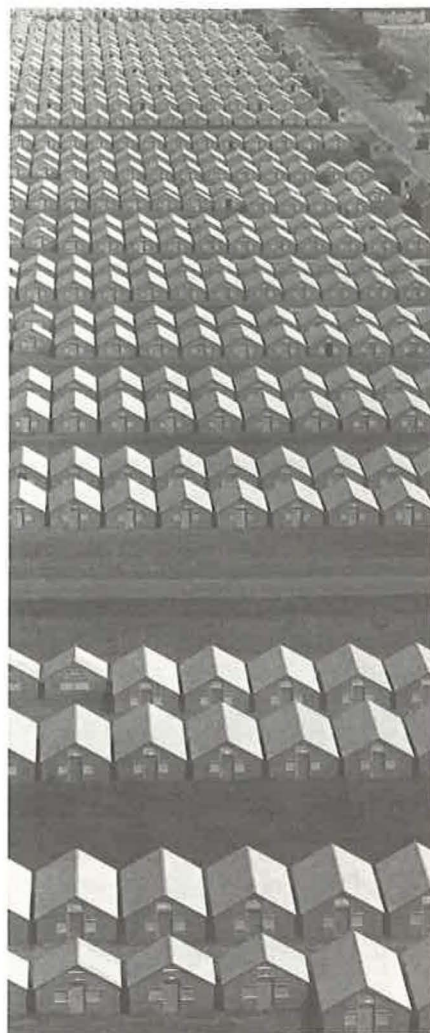
interim activities

Guardsmen for a day

Rows of aluminum barracks stood ready for use at Camp Ripley, Minnesota as members of the Minnesota National Guard began their annual summer training session.

House members joined the troops for a day, shared their field rations, observed the new "Tow" anti-tank wire-guided missile launcher (below), and toured the new camp winter quarters.

In photo at upper right is Representative Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth).



Stillwater Prison Visit

House members, Representative Mary Forsythe (IR-Edina) and Representative Robert Reif, M.D. (IR-White Bear Lake) listen as Warden Frank Wood describes the design and planned use of the recreation area at the new Stillwater Prison, now under construction.



Blood Donors show support for Senator Nick Coleman

In June, friends and colleagues of Senator Nicholas Coleman gathered at temporary Red Cross Blood Donor centers in the Capitol Complex to donate blood in the senator's name as an expression of their support and concern for Coleman, then a patient in the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Coleman has since become an outpatient at the hospital and has been back to his office in the Capitol.

Photo below shows the Red Cross set up in Room 15 of the State Capitol. Donors are House employees.



Girl's State

A seventeen-year-old governor (at right) ran into trouble with a legislature of high school juniors. Only two proposals of her six-point program became law, and she vetoed two bills the House and Senate passed. Together, the proposed laws may indicate the political mood of the state's high school students.



The governor and members of the legislature were participants in the 34th annual Minnesota Girls State which met at the Capitol on June 13. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the event that gives 450 high school girls the chance to be lawmakers for a week. The girls elected House and Senate members, city councils, a state Supreme Court and executive positions including a governor and mayor.

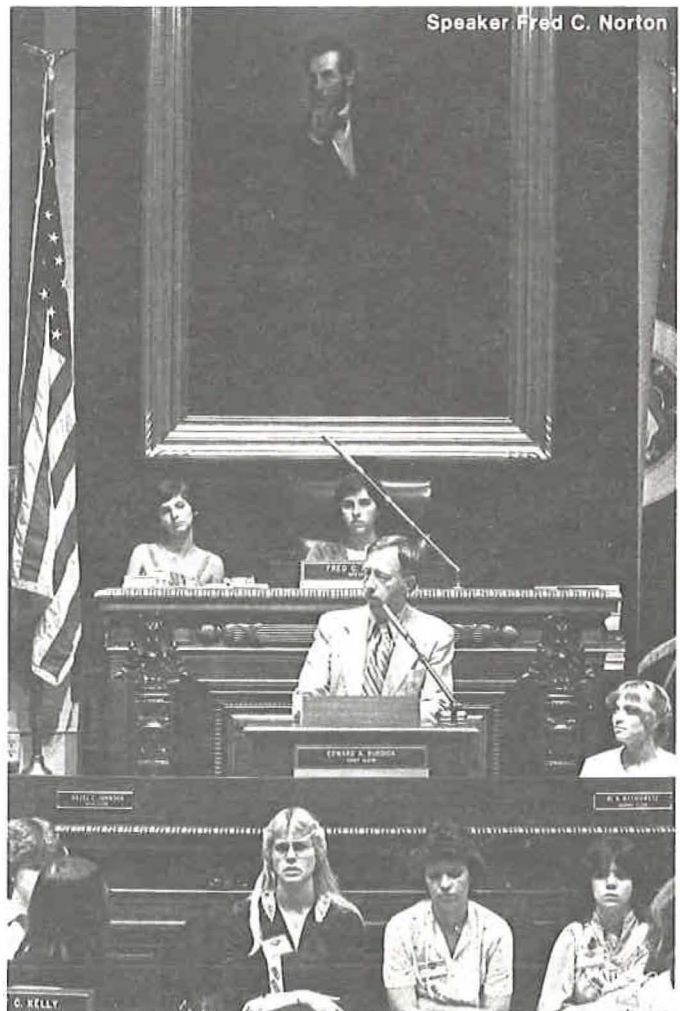
Debate was moderate when the legislature passed only six of an estimated 70 bills the girls introduced. Those that passed would:

- increase regulation of nuclear power plants and punish violators by closing the plants;
- require high school students to take two classes in mathematics between the ninth and twelfth grades;
- require yearly performance evaluations of teachers;
- require every driver to pass a road test every eight years to maintain driving privileges (vetoed);
- require industrial smoke stack filtration to prevent pollutants which cause "acid rain" and levy a \$1,000 per day fine for violators;
- exempt savings account deposits from state taxation (vetoed).

Only the teacher evaluation and anti-pollution proposals of Girls State Governor Allison Rosati passed the legislature. The students did not act on proposals to:

- provide college loans to students from middle income families;
- institute programs to put welfare recipients to work on community enhancement projects;
- develop new juvenile delinquency programs;
- provide research funds for alternative energy sources

Local chapters of the American Legion Auxiliary selected participants largely on the basis of scholastic achievement, with no consideration for racial or economic background, according to coordinator Eleanor Johnson. — Gary Cox





President's Commission on Pensions

Representative Donald Moe (DFL-St. Paul), chairman of the House Governmental Operations Committee, on June 12, testified before the President's Commission on Pension Policy. The commission is studying and taking testimony on private and public pension policies throughout the United States.

MINISTERS VISIT THE CAPITOL

It is quieter at the State Capitol these days. The legislative session ended in April. And although interim committees are meeting and studying various complex issues facing the state, legislators can spend more time away from the Capitol now.

The slower pace also allows them to meet with groups and talk about the process and the problems. Rep. John Clawson (DFL-Center City), legislator and clergyman, invited a number of the St. Paul area clergy to the Capitol to talk about the process and the role of the church in the political system in a one-day seminar. Two Presbyterian ministers gave their views on the seminar and the role of the church:

"I really enjoyed the seminar for the communication, just sitting down and talking with a legislator who also has a theological perspective," said Richard Vogeley, pastor of

Edgecumbe Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. Vogeley said in the health field, doctors are looking at the holistic approach to healing, not just the physical healing of the body, but the spiritual and mental healing as well. He said it is also important for clergy to have a holistic approach and to get a theological and secular perspective on today's problems. "This seminar is one way to get the two perspectives together," he said.

The church I serve has been of the mind that government is a part of our lives, but we don't have much influence over politics," said Richard G. Douse, pastor of Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. He stressed the importance of communication, and of dialogue between the theological and secular communities. "This is important if we are going to have any effectiveness in communicating what we call the gospel," Douse said.

"As Presbyterians, we stress education so

people can make intelligent decisions," Vogeley said. He said it is important that people get all the information and hear both sides of an issue and then make "a responsible, intelligent decision on how they stand in light of their faith."

"Most of us would not see the pulpit as a soapbox to peddle a particular point of view," said Douse. "However, many times people want to be told what to think."

"I've observed that the growing churches are those that are giving answers and those that aren't growing are those that are asking questions," said the pastor. For instance, Douse said, if he ends his sermon with a question, people are frustrated because it makes them think.

"The holistic approach is the core," Douse said. "It will enable people to know what ultimately is the love of God doing its work through us all." — Susan J. Shepard

Constitutional Amendments

In the 1980 general election, Minnesota voters will adopt or reject five amendments to the state constitution—a constitution which came out of a bitter political battle. It has changed little for over 100 years. Since 1857, there have been 190 proposed amendments to the constitution. Voters approved 102 and rejected 88. The largest number of amendments to go before the voters was in 1914 when 11 were on the ballot. Voters accepted only one and rejected the other 10.

In November 1974, Minnesota citizens approved an amendment which restructured and rewrote the constitution in modern language without changing the meaning.

The Making of Minnesota's Constitution

What's unique to Minnesota is the fact that, in the beginning, the state had not one constitution but two—the result of the political wars.

Early Minnesota settlers in the St. Paul, Stillwater, and St. Anthony area were primarily Democrats. They had followers in the outlying pioneer communities to the north and west of St. Paul. Later settlers in Winona, La Crosse, and St. Peter were largely Republican and had supporters in the southern agricultural areas.

Congress created the Territory of Minnesota in 1854. The territory was twice the size of the present state, and extended west to the White Earth and Missouri Rivers (now in North and South Dakota). Not long after becoming a territory, residents pushed for statehood.

Dividing the Minnesota Territory

For Minnesota to become a state, Congress needed to adopt an Enabling Act setting the boundaries for the new state, and allowing the territory to form a constitution. No one considered including the whole territory in the new state, but where to divide the territory became one of the most controversial issues of the time.

People in the agricultural areas, where the Republicans were strongest, favored making the southern part of the territory into the state of Minnesota. The East-West group wanted the state to extend from the St. Croix to the Missouri River, with the northern boundary just north of St. Paul.

If Congress accepted those boundaries, the East-West faction hoped for federal funds for a railroad going from Winona to St. Peter and on to the Missouri River, eventually extending to the Pacific. The group felt this would increase Minnesota's agricultural and trade importance.

During the 1857 territorial legislative session, the East-West group had enough votes to pass a bill moving the Capitol to St. Peter. The attempt to do this failed when Joseph Rollette of Pembina, a member of the North-South group, disappeared with the bill until the session was over.

While the East-West group was working for their proposal in the territory, delegate to Congress, Henry M. Rice, was in Washington working for the North-South proposal. He drew up a bill favoring the Democrat's interests in St. Paul, St. Anthony, and Stillwater.

Rice's railroad proposal put St. Paul and St. Anthony as the central point where four railroads would meet. To ease controversy with the East-West group, he also proposed a railroad going across the southern part of the new state.

The Rice proposal worked. Congress approved the Enabling Act and the North-South division of the state giving Minnesota its present boundaries.

The Constitutional Convention

The enabling act allowed voters to elect delegates to a constitutional convention. The election in June of 1857 resulted in a close split between parties. After disputes over elections and the issuance of certificates, the count was—56 Republicans and 55 Democrats.

Irregularities in the election led to ill feelings between the parties. Because Democrats were in control of the territorial offices, some Republicans were worried and arrived for the convention days early. Some slept in the Capitol. They couldn't find out from the Democrats the time and arrangements for the convention, and there were reports that Democrats changed the clocks in the House of Representatives chamber to be sure the Republicans didn't make it. Then, on the first day of the convention, Republicans were in the House chamber early, when the Democrats arrived in a body. A Democratic leader went to the front of the chamber, called the convention to order, and immediately adjourned until the next day.

At the same time, a Republican leader moved to the front and called for nominations for president. The Democrats walked out as a body. The Republicans stayed, elected a president, and organized as a constitutional convention.

Two Chambers—Two Constitutions

The two parties never met together. Each claimed to be the constitutional convention. They met in separate rooms and drafted separate constitutions.

"Because there will be so many proposed amendments on the November 4 ballot, it is important that citizens now begin to familiarize themselves with the issues."

Joan Growe—Secretary of State

After about three weeks of separate meetings, the public became upset. The conventions agreed to a conference committee. Five men from each party met to work out a compromise but came to a deadlock over suffrage for nonwhites.

The issue was so intense that at one point one man attacked another with his cane. As the second man reached for his cane, other members separated them, and told them to leave. The remaining four members from each party continued the task of drafting a constitution.

A Compromise

In the final compromise version, Republicans agreed to limit the right to vote to whites in exchange for a simple method of amending the constitution. They hoped to grant nonwhites the right to vote through an amendment.*

Although neither party wanted to accept the compromise, each convention voted to approve it. However, when it came time to sign the constitution, Democrats wouldn't sign a document that had Republican signatures, and the Republicans refused to sign the same document as the Democrats. The night before the convention deadline, two teams of copyists wrote up two constitutions. The Republican's copy on white paper. The Democrat's copy on blue-tinted paper. The two constitutions differ in spelling and punctuation in places, but are otherwise the same. Thus, Minnesota has two copies of the original constitution, one with the Democrats' signatures, the other with the Republicans'.

*Minnesota voters approved an amendment granting the right to vote to blacks in 1868. In 1898, voters approved an amendment making it more difficult to amend the constitution.

Changing the Constitution

Legislature

The Legislature passes a bill proposing an amendment to the constitution and provides legislation to make the amendment work if voters adopt it. The Legislature can specify the order the amendment questions will appear on the ballot. This year Reapportionment will be the first question. (p. 16)

Before amendment questions get to the ballot, they go through the offices of the attorney general, secretary of state, and county auditor.

Attorney General

At least four months before the general election the attorney general prepares a statement on the purpose and effect of the amendment, shows which sections of the constitution will change, and how the constitution will read if voters approve the amendment. The statement then goes to the secretary of state.

Secretary of State

The secretary of state publishes the attorney general's statement in all legal newspapers in the state in October before the election and distributes copies to county auditors. The secretary prepares a pink ballot with a short title to identify each amendment on the ballot. The question the Legislature specifies appears below the title.

The public can get copies of the pink ballot from the Secretary of State four weeks before the election. If the Legislature doesn't specify the order amendments will appear on the ballot, the secretary of state does this.

County Auditor

The county auditor receives copies of the attorney general's statement, and posts two copies at each polling place on election day. The auditor also has copies of the pink ballot available three weeks before the election.



Voters

When citizens go to their polling place, those precincts which use paper ballots will have the pink ballot with constitutional amendments. In the precincts using voting machines, the constitutional amendments appear in a row after the list of candidates for election. The voting machine, like the paper ballot, shows the title of the amendment and the ballot question. In precincts that use electronic voting systems (punch card ballots) amendments appear in the same form, following the last candidate's name.

To ratify an amendment a majority of those voting at the election must vote "yes" on the amendment. Failure to vote on the amendment is a "no" vote.

—Jean Mehle

Reapportionment

I. REAPPORTIONMENT: TRANSFER TO A BIPARTISAN COMMISSION.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to transfer from the legislature to a bipartisan commission the power to draw the boundaries of legislative and congressional districts?

The Minnesota Constitution requires the redrawing of congressional and legislative district boundaries after every census. Responsibility for reapportioning the state rests with the Legislature. This November, Minnesota voters will decide whether these duties should go to a bipartisan commission instead of the Legislature.

The question is whether a commission can do a better and fairer job than the Legislature. Some groups say it can, but others say there is evidence to the contrary.

To carefully weigh all the facts, voters will need a knowledge of reapportionment. This article doesn't deal with the pros and cons of a reapportionment commission, but attempts to provide helpful information.

Reapportionment History

Controversy has always surrounded reapportionment. Historically, two major issues have caused problems: 1.) States failing to reapportion and 2.) Gerrymandering; reapportioning districts with the aim of benefiting a political party, interest group, or person. (see Figure 1)

Back in 1946, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to enter the "political thicket" of reapportionment by denying a challenge to Illinois' congressional district plan. Times have changed, and 25 years later the courts are entangled in the reapportionment issue. The federal constitution and all state constitutions require reapportionment. Until the early 1960's, however, many states didn't reapportion their legislative or congressional districts after every census. In fact, in 1960, Vermont hadn't reapportioned since the first census in the 1790's. The disparities between districts left the 35,000 residents of Burlington with the same representation as the 38 citizens of Stratton. In California, the six million residents of Los Angeles County had but one senator among 40 state senators.

Changes began in 1962 when the Supreme Court found Tennessee's legislative districts malapportioned. Since then a series of lawsuits have challenged states' district plans. Emerging from these cases is a firm court stand on reapportionment.

The Supreme Court's Stand

The most important factor is equality of population between districts. The Court realizes that mathematical exactness is impossible, but it has consistently said that states must "make an honest and good-faith effort to construct districts, in both houses of the legislature, as nearly equal as is practicable." Equal population ensures that everyone's vote carries equal weight.

The court permits variances if justifiable. In 1973, the Court upheld Virginia's reapportionment plan because deviations of 16 percent were due to boundaries of political subdivisions. But the Court noted, that this figure approached the permissible limit. Smaller deviations were unacceptable when states had clearly not attempted to make districts as equal as possible.

Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering usually takes two forms: 1.) Concentrating a voting group in one district. 2.) Splitting a voting group into different districts. The first is an offensive tactic to increase a group's strength. The second is defensive, since it dilutes the strength of an opponent.

New York State's 1970 reapportionment plan provides some classic examples. One district in New York City included two neighborhoods of similar voting records. Nothing extraordinary—except that the neighborhoods were miles apart and connecting by a long strip of unoccupied land. At one point the strip was the westbound lane of a freeway. Syracuse is an example of method two. The city consisted of four wedge-shaped districts, each extending far into the surrounding rural area. Splitting the city vote diluted Syracuse's impact on the regional representation.

The Supreme Court's stand on gerrymandering is vague. Generally, the court upholds it if district's are contiguous, and of equal population. Gerrymandering which discriminates against a racial group or minority is illegal, but the challengers must prove intent to discriminate. Meanwhile affirmative action gerrymandering, for the benefit of a minority, is legal.

Minnesota's History

Minnesota has had its share of reapportionment headaches. The state constitution requires reapportionment every 10 years. But between 1913 and 1959 Minnesota did

not reapportion. In 1959, the state reapportioned using 1950 census figures. The plan was to take effect in 1962. The court ruled that plan, and a 1966 plan, unconstitutional. In 1971, the Legislature again reapportioned the state, but the governor vetoed the plan. Finally, in 1972, a federal court mapped out the districts we have today.

Reapportionment Commission

If Minnesota voters approve the constitutional amendment, a nine-member commission will reapportion the state. The Speaker of the House will appoint one of the nine Commission members. The caucus, other than the Speaker's party, will appoint another. The same procedure will follow with the president of the Senate, and the minority party caucus. The four bipartisan appointees will then select the remaining members of the commission. These five must have unanimous support of the four appointees and cannot be public officials, campaign



Back in 1812, the Massachusetts Legislature, with the prompting of Governor Eldridge Gerry, sculpted an oddly shaped district in Essex County. Artist Gilbert Stuart, upon seeing a map of the district, added wings, claws, and head. Stuart claimed the beast resembled a salamander, but editor Benjamin Russell retorted: "Better say a Gerry-mander." The term stuck for all subsequent redistricting which benefits a party or interest group.

officers, political party officers, employees of the Legislature or congress, lobbyists, or immediate family of legislators or congressmen.

Four of the members must live in the metropolitan area and four in the remainder of the state. The ninth member may come from either area. Six of the nine members must approve the reapportionment plan by September 1, 1981. If the commission fails to agree on a plan, the responsibility of reapportionment goes to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Guidelines

The commission must follow prescribed guidelines in reapportioning the state. The primary factor in determining districts is population. Districts of the same kind must have as equal a population as possible. The

guidelines note that the commission must justify population variances greater than 0.5 percent and 5.0 percent for congressional and legislative districts, respectively.

The districts must be as compact and contiguous as possible. As much as possible, the districts should follow boundaries of local governmental units and natural or man-made physical boundaries. House districts are to be fully contained within Senate districts; two House members for each Senate member. Finally, no apportionment plan may purposely favor a political party or person.

Time Constraints

The Reapportionment Commission will work under rigid time limits. To speed up the process, HF38/SF129, which the Legislature passed this year, authorizing putting the amendment on the ballot, appropriates \$150,000 to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for use in arranging data processing support for the Reapportionment Commission.

If voters don't approve the commission, the Legislature will use the collected data to handle reapportionment.

Reapportionment and the Census

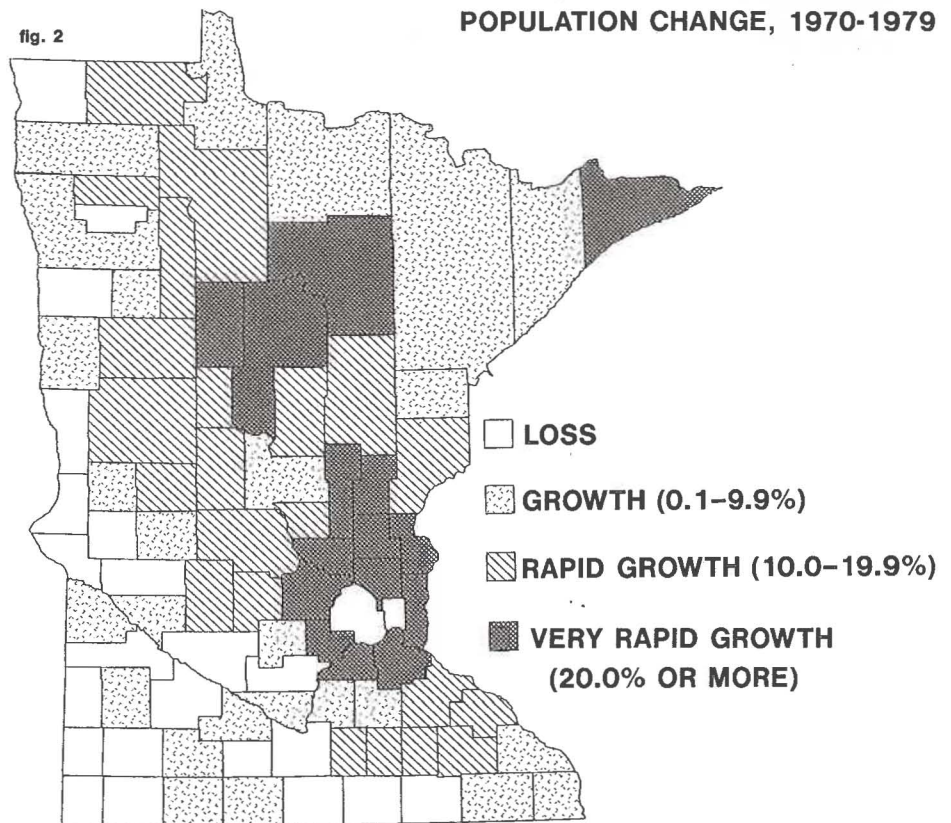
Population is the determining factor. To assure equal representation, the Supreme Court ruled that districts must be "as nearly of equal population as is practicable". This places a lot of responsibility on an accurate census. Every 10 years the Census Bureau tackles the task of counting all the people living in the United States. When the results are in, each state begins reapportioning.

This year's Census began on April 1. Data collection is continuing through the summer, with the bureau releasing preliminary results in August. Preparations for the 1980 census started years ago. The work involves not only the Census Bureau but state agencies as well. In Minnesota, the Office of State Demographer, a part of the State Planning Agency, has worked closely with the federal bureau. Results from the 1970 census were slow in coming and difficult to work with at a state or local level. Those planning this year's census made a number of changes to streamline the process, among them, a system of dividing Minnesota into different census units and reporting tabulations by district units and block groups. Both equal roughly 1,000 people. Cities over 10,000 people use block groups. Non-urban areas use enumeration districts.

In 1977, Minnesota froze its precinct lines until Jan. 1982. The Demographer's Office then mapped all the state's precincts and submitted them to the Census Bureau this past April. These maps ensure that Minnesota will receive census data by precincts. Census Bureau enumeration districts will correspond to non-urban precincts making them readily useful to state and local planners.

Another streamlining measure was the speeding up of the release of the final census statistics. Federal law now requires the Census Bureau to release the results by April 1, 1981. This deadline will give the Legislature, or the commission, depending on the outcome of the amendment vote, enough time to reapportion by the 1982 elections.

fig. 2



Minnesota's 1980 Population

What did the 1980 Census discover about Minnesota? In June, with Census figures not yet ready, a few predictions were possible from the State Demographer's Office.

According to 1980 estimates, Minnesota now has over four million residents (4,070,600). This is an increase of 6.9 percent since 1970 (3,806,100). Population changes in two ways, by in-migration and by natural increase (more births than deaths), or by decrease (out-migration, or more deaths than births). High growth states in the south and west have a large net in-migration. Minnesota had a slight out-migration during the 1970's, meaning all of the state's growth was a result of natural increase.

The population of a state determines its share of the 435 congressional seats in Washington. Minnesota's allotment of eight congressmen will probably not change after reapportionment. The distribution of the state's population has changed, however, and district lines will need redrawing. In 1970, Minnesota's eight districts were nearly equal in population; maximum differences were less than two percent. Since then, the populations of districts four and five, both in the Twin Cities, have declined sharply. Meanwhile, district one, two and eight have increased rapidly. Today, population differences up to 27 percent exist between districts.

Figure 2 shows the percent change in population by counties. During the 1970's, Hennepin and Ramsey counties lost over five percent of their populations. Other declining populations are in the southwest farming areas of Minnesota. Suburban areas surrounding the Twin Cities grew, and population growth fanned out from the Twin Cities,

extending northwest into North Central Minnesota.

The percent change in a population is often misleading. Counties with few residents can have large percent changes with little actual growth in the number of people. For example, the population in Cass, Hubbard, and Itasca counties increased by over 20 percent, but the actual gain in residents was only 16,000.

Total population increases will affect the new legislative district lines. Assuming Minnesota maintains its 134 legislative districts, each will contain around 30,000 residents. Districts are not based on counties, but this data does indicate where representation will need changing. For example, the 16,000 people Cass, Itasca, and Hubbard counties gained corresponds to only one-half of a new legislative district. The 86,000 person drop in Hennepin and Ramsey counties is equal to the loss of nearly three districts.

The seven counties surrounding Hennepin and Ramsey gained 205,000 people during the 1970's. That increase equates to over six seats in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Anoka and Dakota counties will be the big gainers, each picking up (by population) two House seats.

The end result of all the distributional adjustments will be increased representation for the metropolitan area. Center city and rural voting power will decline. The 1970's were the most mobile decade in Minnesota history. The Demographer's Office projections predict these trends will continue for the next two decades. But changes will not be of the same magnitude. Slower growth and less in-state migration will make reapportionment easier in the future which may be a comforting thought in the heat of next year's reapportionment. —David Russell

Campaign Spending

II. CAMPAIGN SPENDING: LIMITS AND DISCLOSURE. Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require campaign spending limits for candidates for executive and legislative offices and public disclosure of campaign spending for all state offices?

If voters vote "yes"...

If voters approve the proposed spending limit amendment, the amount candidates could spend would rise with the cost of living, starting in 1982. The current limits are \$600,000 for candidates for governor, \$15,000 for Senate candidates and \$7,500 for House candidates. These limits, which would probably double under the proposal, would reflect inflationary increases since the 1974 Legislature set the limits. Spending limits apply only to candidates who accept public financing. The income tax checkoff would go from \$1 to \$2.

If voters vote "no" or don't vote...

Failure of voters to approve the constitutional amendment would abolish current spending limits.

Campaigning spending laws: A review

Minnesota state law currently provides for campaign spending limits and public disclosure of contributions and limits. It has had strict limits and public disclosure since 1974 when the Legislature passed a comprehensive campaign finance law.

Much of the history of campaign spending laws led to the passage of HF2304 (Kempe DFL-W. St. Paul), a bill proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to increase the campaign spending limits and the income tax checkoff or repeal the limits altogether.

History

Prior to 1974, Minnesota's campaign finance law had a "legalized loophole" which allowed candidates to exceed campaign spending limits. The limit applied only to candidates and their personal campaign committees. It did not apply to volunteer committees, which spent most of the campaign money.

For example, in a 1972 campaign for state Senate, a Minneapolis second ward alderman, spent \$15,603, exceeding the \$2,000

limit set by law. The expenditures were legal because the limits did not apply to volunteer committees.

At that time, the secretary of state said public disclosure requirements "were innocuous... There's no damning evidence to be uncovered in them." Those reports did not require a listing of contributions and the amounts donated. Most candidates merely listed filing fee and gasoline expenses they incurred in campaigning.

Early in the 70's, "good government" groups such as Common Cause and League of Women Voters advocated reform of Minnesota's campaign finance laws. The first major reform came in 1974. That year the Legislature passed a comprehensive measure requiring all candidates to disclose the amounts and sources of their contributions and providing for strict limits on how much candidates and their personal and volunteer committees could spend—and how much individuals could give. It also provided for public financing of campaigns.

"Legislating spending limits on total spending is seen as a way to hold down the rapidly rising costs of campaigning," the League of Women Voters wrote in a 1972 newsletter. "Those supporting limits argue that unlimited money gives an unfair advantage to wealthy candidates."

In December of 1976, a U.S. District Court struck down the spending limits because the 1974 law did not apply them exclusively to candidates who have accepted public financing. Earlier in 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court had held this to be the only constitutional way a legislative body could limit a candidate's spending.

In response to the court's ruling, the 1978 Legislature passed a law again providing for campaign spending limits, but only for candidates who accepted public financing. The limits were the same as those the Legislature had set in 1974.

Public financing and limits

With that change, the issue of limits became entwined with the issue of public financing of campaigns. Minnesota is one of approximately 15 states that provide public financing to political candidates. Taxpayers contribute funds by checking a box for the party of their choice on the state income tax return. This checkoff does not reduce a taxpayer's refund. The formula for distributing the political party accounts develops from the election results from the last general election for that office and the amount taxpayers check off for that political party within that particular county.

Since the check-off system began in 1974, more people have checked the DFL box than the IR, but the state Ethical Practices Board recently released figures that show the percentage gap between the two parties is narrowing. Those figures list 40.38 percent checking the DFL box and 28.75 percent checking the IR box.

In 1976, when all state candidates had to comply with spending limits, 97 percent accepted public financing, but in 1978, the percentage accepting dropped to 86 percent. "The campaign expenditure limits in 1978 were sufficiently restrictive to be one of the major causes for a decline in candidate participation in the public financing program," said the Ethical Practices Board in late December 1979.

"Increased non-participation in public financing serves to defeat one of the purposes of public financing which is to transfer campaign fund-raising from the less desirable large individual and interest-group contribution to small-donor, private contributions, public financing funds and limited-party and interest-group fund sources," said the board.

In February of 1980, the Legislature voted in favor of a bill raising the spending ceilings and including an escalator clause to combat inflation. Governor Quie vetoed the bill saying that the Legislature should remove spending limits because they "do not hold down the costs of campaigns and they inhibit a challenger's ability to obtain name recognition and identity, which any incumbent inherently has already acquired." The governor said he favored a reduction in contribution limits.

Toward the end of the session, Quie said he would accept the legislative proposal if it were contingent upon public approval. On the last day of the session, the Legislature approved the higher campaign spending limits which were part of a bill providing for initiative and referendum.

In November, voters will have the final say whether or not they think there should be spending limits for candidates who accept public financing. —Susan J. Shepard

Initiative & Referendum

IV. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: ESTABLISHMENT OF.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide for Initiative and Referendum?

Voters will decide in November whether they want the power to make and repeal state laws. A proposed Minnesota constitutional amendment would allow voters to place on the ballot initiatives for new laws and referenda to repeal existing laws.

According to the proposed amendment, sponsors of an initiative and referendum measure could place the measure on the ballot if they have petitions with signatures of five percent of the voters who voted in the last election in each of the state's eight congressional districts.

The bill, (HF2304-Kempe DFL, W. St. Paul) which put the initiative and referendum question on November's ballot would not allow voters to make or repeal constitutional amendments, appropriations, or special laws.

The majority of those who vote yes on the measure would adopt an initiative and referendum issue. Those who vote at an election, but do not vote on the issue, would count neither for nor against its adoption.*

The constitutional amendment would prohibit the governor from vetoing any measure the people adopt in this way. It would also prohibit the Legislature from amending or repealing an initiative or reenacting a referendum "until another general election has intervened."

If sponsors reject the revisor's advice, they would submit their own draft to the secretary of state.

The sponsors would have no control over the summary that appears on the ballot. The summary would have to be a "true and impartial statement on the intent and purpose" of the measure.

Sponsors would be required to submit their petitions to the secretary of state for tally and verification. Any voter could challenge the petition. Anyone who challenges in bad faith may have to pay assessed costs of the challenge up to \$200.

Under provisions of the bill, corporations could not deduct the cost of campaigning for or against an I&R measure for tax purposes.

Another provision would prohibit anyone from intentionally publishing any false information about a ballot measure.

The constitutional amendment, if it passes, expires on January 1, 1985.

The majority of voters who vote at the November election must approve the constitutional amendment, according to state law. Those who vote at the election, but do not vote on the amendment, count as "no" votes.

If the Legislature adopted a bill with a purpose similar to a ballot measure, the sponsors may still elect to place the measure on the ballot. If they do so, the Legislature may also place its proposal on the ballot. Voters would vote "yes" or "no" on each measure. Both could become law. If there is a conflict between two, the one with the greater number of votes would be law.

If sponsors wish to propose a measure which conflicts with existing state law, they would submit an initiative to amend the current law or a referendum to repeal a section of the law.

The bill (HF2304) which included the constitutional amendment also would regulate the initiative and referendum process.

The bill would require a sponsoring committee of at least 50 people.

The sponsors of a proposal to go on the ballot may accept or reject advice from the state revisor of statutes on the measure's constitutionality and the best form for presenting the measure on the ballot. If the sponsors accept the revisor's advice, the revisor would prepare a final draft of the measure. Sponsors must approve the draft.

*This differs from approval of a constitutional amendment where the majority of people voting must vote for an amendment before it will pass. People who do not vote at all on a constitutional amendment count as votes against the amendment. No vote is a "No" vote.

The pros and cons of Initiative and Referendum (I & R) are many and varied: A 'yes' or 'no' vote on an I & R issue leaves no room for discussion, compromise, and amendments to perfect a proposed law. **versus** Bills are weakened by 'amending them to death'.

I & R reflects the will of the majority and allows leaders to distinguish between majority will and a vocal minority. **versus** I & R endangers rights of minorities with the 'tyranny of the majority'.

Citizens can't take time to study and understand very complex issues. **versus** Voters can understand issues as well as the legislators can in a busy, limited session.

Campaigns create a true public forum and reduce apathy and alienation toward government. **versus** Media campaigns simplify issues so much that voters can't know what they're voting for.

Special interest money might dominate a campaign and buy an election. **versus** Bigger spenders haven't always won a ballot issue unless they spent many times more than the opposition.

Forces elected officials to face every issue, or the people will take it into their own hands. **versus** Allows the Legislature to sidestep controversial issues and pass them on to the people. Weakens representative government. —Gary Cox

**Constitutional Amendments
continued on page 32**



commissions

Legislative Commissions and Joint Committees

Advisory Committee to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission

Contact: (612) 436-7131
(tape recorder)

Members:

House

Clawson (D-Center City)
Mehrkens (R-Red Wing)
Reding (D-Austin)
Stoa (D-Winona)
Weiser (R-LaCrescent)

Senate

Engler (R-Randolph)
Nichols (D-Lake Benton)
Sikorski (D-Stillwater)
Stern (D-St. Louis Park)
Vega (D-South St. Paul)

Responsible for assisting the commission in joint regional planning, controlling air and water quality, and regulating land use development in the St. Croix/ Mississippi River boundary area.

*Note: Where available we have indicated names of chairmen, co-chairmen, or vice-chairmen. For more information call the contact number, or if no contact number, 296-2146.

Advisory Council on the Economic Status of Women

Contact: (612) 296-8590

Members:

House

Berglin (D-Mpls) Chr.
Levi (R-Dellwood)
Olsen (R-St. Louis Park)
Otis (D-Mpls)
Wynia (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Brataas (R-Rochester)
Luther (D-Brooklyn Park)
Olhoft (D-Herman)
Spear (D-Mpls)
Staples (D-Plymouth)

Other

12 governor-appointed citizen members

Responsible for studying the economic status of women in Minnesota, including: credit, family support, inheritance laws, educational opportunities, career counseling, job and promotion opportunities, and laws and practices that constitute barriers to women's full participation in the economy.

Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Personnel/Payroll Reporting

Contact: not available*

Members:

House

Kahn (D-Mpls)

Senate

Merriam (D-Coon Rapids)

Other

1 employee commissioner of education appoints
1 member Board of the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium appoints
1 regional management information center member Education Board appoints
3 public school employees education Board appoints
1 governor's office employee

Responsible for recommending policy standards for school district reporting of payroll and personnel data.

Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Student Reporting

Contact: not available*

Members:

House

Kahn (D-Mpls)

Senate

Strand (D-Cyrus)

Other

Same as for the Advisory Task Force on Uniform Data Standards for Personnel/Payroll

Responsible for recommending policy standards for school district reporting of student data.

Capitol Area Architectural/Planning Board

Contact: (612) 296-7138

Members:

House

Faricy (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Moe (D-Ada)

Other

Lieutenant governor, Chr.
3 members governor appoints
3 members mayor of St. Paul appoints

Responsible for land-use planning, architecture, and zoning in the Capitol area.

Citizens Committee on Voyageurs National Park

Contact: (218) 283-3507

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (D-Int'l Falls)
Rothenberg (R-St. Louis Park)

Senate

Jensen (R-Sleepy Eye)
Stumpf (D-St. Paul)

Other

4 governor-appointed citizens from:
Koochiching County, St. Louis County, state at large (total 12)

Responsible for researching the establishment and operation of Voyageurs National Park, making recommendations to the National Park Service and securing funds.

Commission on Historical Memorials

Contact: Dave Nystuen
(612) 726-1171

Members:

House

Clawson (D-Center City)

Senate

Stumpf (D-St. Paul)

Other

1 representative each from:
Minnesota Historical
Society, St. Paul Arts and
Science Museum, St. Paul
City Council

Responsible for designing and erecting memorials to commemorate the first two State Capitol buildings, the meeting places of the territorial government, and the State Constitutional Convention.

Committee to Study the Financing of Correctional Services and the Community Corrections Act in Minnesota

Contact: (612) 296-8209
(612) 421-4760
ext. 1638

Members:

House

Wieser (R-LaCrescent)

Wynia (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Knutson (R-Burnsville)

Nelson (D-Austin)

Other

2 employees commissioner of corrections appoints

6 county representatives
Association of Minnesota
Counties appoints

Responsible for studying the financing of correctional services and community corrections.

Education Commission of the States

Contact: (303) 861-4917
Denver
(612) 296-1755
Minnesota
Commissioners

Members:

House

Erickson (R-Hills)

Senate

Hughes (D-Maplewood)

Other

Governor

4 members governor appoints

Responsible for collection and interpretation of information on educational needs and resources, encouraging research, developing proposals for financing, proposing recommendations for improvement of public education, and maintaining nationwide, state and local cooperation.

Great Lakes Commission

Contact: (612) 224-5705

Members:

House

Battaglia (D-Two Harbors)

Knickerbocker (R-Minnetonka)

Senate

Dieterich (D-St. Paul)

Ulland, J. (R-Duluth)

Other

1 member governor appoints
(each participating state
has 3 to 5 members on the
commission)

Responsible for collecting and interpreting data on the water resources of the Great Lakes area; recommending methods for development, use, and conservation of water resources; and recommending agreements between the United States and Canada relating to the Great Lakes Region.

Indian Affairs Intertribal Board

Contact: (612) 296-3611
(218) 755-3825

Members:

House

Byrne (D-St. Paul)

Clark (D-Mpls)

Drew (R-St. Paul)

Senate

Chmielewski (D-Sturgeon Lake)

Nelson (D-Austin)

Sillers (R-Moorhead)

Other

Governor or his designee
Commissioners or designees of
Departments of: Education,
Public Welfare, Natural
Resources, Human Rights,
Economic Development,
Corrections, Health, Iron
Range Resources and
Rehabilitation Board,
Housing Finance Agency

Elected tribal chairman or
designees of reservation
business committees or
councils of: Fond du Lac,
Grand Portage, Mille Lacs,
White Earth, Bois Forte
(Nett Lake), Leech Lake,
Red Lake, Upper Sioux,
Lower Sioux, Shakopee-
Medwankanton, Prairie
Island

2 members Indian residents
elect at-large.

Responsible for advising state agencies, departments, and the Legislature on Indian affairs, problems, acting as an intermediary between tribal and state and local governments, and assisting in the delivery of services to the Indian community.

Interstate Cooperation Commission

Contact: (612) 296-7058

Members:

House

Erickson (R-Hills)

Johnson, C. (D-St. Peter)

Lehto (D-Duluth)

Nelsen, B. (R-Staples)

Rice (D-Mpls)

Norton (D-St. Paul) ex-officio

Senate

Bang (R-Edina)

Humphrey (D-New Hope)

Knoll (D-Mpls)

Schaaf (D-Fridley)

Sillers (R-Moorhead)

Gearty (D-Mpls) ex-officio

Other

Attorney general

Commissioner of finance

Commissioner of administration

Commissioner of state planning

Lieutenant governor

Governor, ex-officio

Responsible for developing and maintaining friendly contact between Minnesota and other states, the federal government, and local units of government; and advancing cooperation between units of government through compacts, uniform statutes, rules, and regulations.

Joint Legislative Committee on Agricultural Land Preservation

Contact: (612) 296-4156

Members:

House

Albrecht (R-Brownston)

Haukoos (R-Albert Lea)

Johnson, D. (R-Willmar)

Jude (D-Mound)

Kalis (D-Walters)

McEachern (D-St. Michael)

Valan (R-Moorhead)

Wenzel (D-Little Falls)

Senate

Engler (R-Randolph)

Hanson (D-Hallock)

Olhoft (D-Herman)

Purfeerst (D-Faribault)

Schmitz (D-Jordan)

Strand (D-Cyrus)

Wegener (D-Bertha) Chr.

Responsible for studying ways to assure Minnesota lands are suited to the production of agricultural products, and provide tools and incentives to prevent the unplanned and unscheduled conversion of agricultural and open space lands to other uses.

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

Contact: (218) 744-2993

Members:

House

Battaglia (D-Two Harbors)

Begich (D-Eveleth)

Carlson, D. (R-Sandstone)

Prahl (D-Grand Rapids)

Sherwood (R-Pine River)

Senate

Johnson (D-Cook)

Lessard (D-Int'l Falls)

Perpich (D-Chisholm)

Solon (D-Duluth)

Other

Commissioner of natural
resources

Responsible for developing natural resources and providing vocational training and rehabilitation for residents, where distress and unemployment exists.

Joint House/Senate Select Committee on Transportation Financing

Contact: (612) 296-4228
(612) 296-4167

Members:

House

Anderson, G. (D-Bellingham)
Co-chr.

Anderson, R. (R-Ottertail)

Friedrich (R-Rochester)

Hokanson (D-Richfield)

Kalis (D-Walters)

Searles (R-Wayzata)

McEachern (D-St. Michael)

Senate

Frederick (R-West Concord)

Humphrey (D-New Hope)

Kirchner (R-Richfield)

Purfeerst (D-Faribault) Co-chr.

Setzepfandt (D-Bird Island)

Laufenburger (D-Lewiston)

Responsible for studying transportation financing in Minnesota.

✓ **Joint Legislative Committee
on Science and Technology**

Contact: (612) 296-8041

Members:

House

Greenfield (D-Mpls)
Nelson (D-Mpls)
Den Ouden (R-Prinsburg)
Rees (R-Elko)
Waldorf (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Frederick (R-West Concord)
Hanson (D-Hallock)
Keefe, S. (D-Mpls)
Olhoft (D-Herman) Chr.
Tennessen (D-Mpls)

Responsible for overseeing the Science and Technology Project, and studying science and technology issues.

**Legislative
Advisory Commission**

Contact: (612) 296-4207
(612) 296-4195

Members:

House

Sieben, H. (D-Hastings)
Voss (D-Blaine)

Senate

Moe (D-Ada)
Johnson (D-Cook)

Other

Commissioner of finance is secretary
Governor is presiding officer but not a member

Responsible for overseeing and making recommendations on transfers of appropriations from the general contingent fund to departments and agencies.

✓ **Legislative Audit Commission**

Contact: (612) 296-4710

Members:

House

Dean (R-Mpls)
Eken (D-Twin Valley)
Heinitz (R-Wayzata)
Moe (D-St. Paul) Chr.
Onnen (R-Cokato)
Pehler (D-St. Cloud)
Sieben, H. (D-Hastings)
Voss (D-Blaine)

Senate

Ashbach (R-St. Paul)
Coleman (D-St. Paul)
Gearty (D-Mpls)
Johnson (D-Cook)
Moe (D-Ada)
Ogdahl (R-Mpls)
Pillsbury (R-Wayzata)
Schaaf (D-Fridley)

Responsible for reviewing the effects of grant-in-aid programs, spending of public funds and financing, and overseeing the activities of the legislative auditor.

**Legislative Commission
on Employee Relations**

Contact: (612) 296-2607
(612) 296-4196

Members:

House

Halberg (R-Burnsville)
Moe (D-St. Paul)
Norton (D-St. Paul)
Rose (R-Roseville)
Sieben, H. (D-Hastings)
Voss (D-Blaine)

Senate

Ashbach (R-St. Paul)
Coleman (D-St. Paul) Chr.
Moe (D-Ada)
Nelson (D-Austin)
Ogdahl (R-Mpls)
Schaaf (D-Fridley)

Responsible for conducting hearings on public employee salary negotiations, making recommendations to the commissioner, and monitoring the state civil service system and collective bargaining process.

**Legislative
Commission on Energy**

Contact: (612) 296-4180

Members:

House

Ainley (R-Park Rapids)
Jacobs (D-Coon Rapids)
Nelson (D-Mpls)
Otis (D-Mpls)
Rothenberg (R-St. Louis Park)
Vanasek (D-New Prague)
Wigley (R-Lake Crystal)
Wynia (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Anderson (D-North Branch)
Barrette (R-St. Paul)
Bernhagen (R-Hutchinson)
Humphrey (D-New Hope)
Knoll (D-Mpls)
Omann (R-St. Joseph)
Stumpf (D-St. Paul)
Tennessen (D-Mpls)

Responsible for studying energy supply and use, identifying potential for economic growth and job creation from increased energy efficiency and use of renewable resources, identifying ways to assure energy supplies, coordinating resources on energy conservation.

✓ **Legislative Commission
on Minnesota Resources**

Contact: (612) 296-2406

Members:

House

Carlson, D. (R-Sandstone)
Casserly (D-Mpls)
Laidig (R-Stillwater)
Metzen (D-South St. Paul)
Munger (D-Duluth)
Sarna (D-Mpls)
Searle (R-Waseca)

Senate

Anderson (D-North Branch)
Kirchner (R-Richfield)
Laufenburger (D-Lewiston)
Luther (D-Brooklyn Park)
Moe (D-Ada)
Renneke (R-LeSueur)
Willet (D-Park Rapids) Chr.

Responsible for studying state policy relating to outdoor recreational facilities, public waters, historical sites, land exchanges, timber, and reviewing and approving projects relating to Minnesota's natural resources.

✓ **Legislative Commission
on Pensions and Retirement**

Contact: (612) 296-2750
(612) 296-6806

Members:

House

Biersdorf (R-Owatonna)
Kaley (R-Rochester)
Moe (D-St. Paul)
Patton (D-Sartell)
Sarna (D-Mpls)

Senate

Ogdahl (R-Mpls)
Peterson (D-Detroit Lakes)
Renneke (R-LeSueur)
Schmitz (D-Jordan)
Strand (D-Cyrus)

Responsible for studying retirement benefits of non-federal employees in Minnesota, making recommendations on financing pension funds and accrued liabilities and establishing and maintaining sound pension policy.

**Legislative Commission
on Waste Management**

Contact: not available*

Members:

House

Anderson, R. (R-Ottertail)
Casserly (D-Mpls)
Long (D-Mpls)
Pehler (D-St. Cloud)
Searles (R-Wayzata)

Senate

Keefe, J. (R-Hopkins)
Luther (D-Brooklyn Park)
Merriam (D-Coon Rapids)
Nelson (D-Austin)
Strand (D-Cyrus)

Responsible for overseeing the Waste Management Board and the Pollution Control Agency on activities relating to waste management.

✓ **Legislative Commission to
Review Administrative Rules**

Contact: (612) 296-1143

Members:

House

Berkelman (D-Duluth)
Fjoslien (R-Brandon)
McCarron (D-Spring Lake Park)
Peterson, B. (R-Bloomington)
Simoneau (D-Fridley) Chr.

Senate

Gunderson (D-Mabel)
Knaak (R-White Bear Lake)
Luther (D-Brooklyn Park)
Olhoft (D-Herman)
Penny (D-New Richland) Vice-chr.

Responsible for promoting adequate and proper state agency and department rules, public understanding of the rules, and investigating complaints on rules.

Legislative Coordinating Commission

Contact: (612) 296-4174

Members:

House

Anderson, I. (D-Int'l Falls)
Eken (D-Twin Valley)
Farley (D-St. Paul)
Knickerbocker (R-Minnetonka)
Norton (D-St. Paul)
Searle (R-Waseca)

Senate

Ashbach (R-St. Paul)
Coleman (D-St. Paul)
Gearty (D-Mpls) Chr.
Hanson (D-Hallock)
Keefe, S. (D-Mpls)
Ogdahl (R-Mpls)

Responsible for coordinating activities of the House and Senate, overseeing activities of the Revisor of Statutes and the Legislative Reference Library, and reviewing legislative commission budgets.

Legislative Study Group to Examine the Structure of Government of the City of Minneapolis

Contact: not available

Members:

House

Dean (R-Mpls)
Norman (R-Mpls)
Pleasant (R-Bloomington)
Peterson, D. (D-Mpls)
Nelson (D-Mpls)
Long (D-Mpls)

Senate

Hanson (D-Hallock)
Keefe, S. (D-Mpls)
Ogdahl (R-Mpls)
Spear (D-Mpls)
(two vacancies)

Responsible for examining the structure of Minneapolis city government, and recommending ways to increase efficiency, reduce cost, and insure a structure which is responsive to citizens.

Midwestern Education Board

Contact: not available

Members:

House

1 member

Senate

1 member

Other

Governor or his designee
2 citizen members governor appoints (at least 1 from education field)

Responsible for providing greater educational opportunity and services for citizens in states which are parties to the compact. The board will begin functioning when 6 states ratify the compact. States have until 1981 to do that. Minnesota has ratified.

Minnesota Conference on Small Business

Contact: not available

Members:

House

3 members the speaker appoints

Senate

3 members the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration appoints

Other

3 members governor appoints
1 member who served on the 1980 White House Conference on Small Business

Responsible for reporting proposals for action to help small business.

Minnesota Education Council

Contact: (612) 296-1755

Eight legislators, one from each Congressional district governor appoints:

1st-Rep. Zubay (R-Rochester)

2nd-Rep. Johnson, C. (D-St. Peter)

3rd-Rep. Olsen (R-St. Louis Park)

4th-Rep. Tomlinson (D-St. Paul)

5th-Rep. Nelson (D-Mpls)

6th-Sen. Dunn (R-Princeton)

7th-Sen. Sillers (R-Moorhead)

8th-Rep. Weaver (R-Anoka)

Other

Governor

Members who serve on ECS (Education Commission of the States)

8 citizens governor appoints, one from each Congressional district

Responsible for studying recommendations of the Education Commission of the States and exchanging information about education activities.

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Contact: (612) 224-9903

Members:

House

Jude (D-Mound)

Peterson, D. (D-Mpls)

Stowell (R-Lewiston)

Senate

Bernhagen (R-Hutchinson)

Kleinbaum (D-St. Cloud)

Purfeerst (D-Faribault)

Other

3 members governor appoints

Responsible for promoting a scenic parkway and highway for Minnesota, and reviewing programs involved in water and land-use and improvement of the Great River Road of the Mississippi River Parkway.

State Ceremonial Building Council

Contact: John Ondov, Chr.
(612) 341-7170

Members:

House

Metzen (D-South St. Paul)

Senate

Stumpf (D-St. Paul)

Other

Commissioner of administration
Governor's spouse

Executive director of the arts board

Director of the Historical Society

9 persons the governor appoints including one each from:

field of higher education,
American Society of Interior Designers;
American Institute of Architects; American Society of Landscape Architects; family that donated the ceremonial building, if available; and four public members

Responsible for developing an overall restoration plan for the state ceremonial building (governor's residence).

State Council on Black Minnesotans

Contact: not available

Members:

House

Berglin (D-Mpls)

Moe (D-St. Paul)

Senate

Barrette (R-St. Paul)

Knoll (D-Mpls)

Other

7 citizen members governor appoints

Responsible for advising the governor and the Legislature on the nature of issues confronting Black people and on statutes or rules necessary to insure Black people access to benefits and services, recommending revisions in the state's affirmative action program, implementing programs to help Black people, and publicizing accomplishments of Black people.

Tax Study Commission

Contact: (612) 296-6717

Members:

House

Evans (R-Detroit Lakes)

Kvam (R-Litchfield)

Novak (D-New Brighton)

Searles (R-Wayzata)

Sieben, H. (D-Hastings)

Tomlinson (D-St. Paul)

Vanasek (D-New Prague)

Senate

Davies (D-Mpls)

Hanson (D-Hallock)

Jensen (R-Sleepy Eye)

Johnson (D-Cook)

Merriam (D-Coon Rapids)

Peterson (D-Detroit Lakes)

Sillers (R-Moorhead)

Responsible for examining the total tax structure, revenue needs and sources of revenue of the state and its political subdivisions, and recommending long range tax policy.

Workers Compensation State Fund Legislative Study Commission

Contact: (612) 296-4190
(612) 296-8881

Members:

House

Begich (D-Eveleth)

Heinitz (R-Wayzata)

Kaley (R-Rochester)

Reding (D-Austin)

Simoneau (D-Fridley)

Stadum (R-Ada)

Senate

Brataas (R-Rochester)

Keefe, S. (D-Mpls) Chr.

Laufenburger (D-Lewiston)

Luther (D-Brooklyn Park)

Nichols (D-Lake Benton)

Vega (D-South St. Paul)

Responsible for studying the feasibility of a state competitive fund to provide workers compensation insurance.

comment

Open, candid remarks on the job, politics, the process and people from eight retiring members.

"...if they *really* knew, they wouldn't remain passive about politics. I mean the 50 percent of the people who don't participate."

— Ray Pleasant



"Why am I leaving, and what am I going to do? First of all, I'm going to do what I'm doing right now—work as an engineer in my real job," says Representative **Ray Pleasant** of Bloomington.

He's been in the House for eight years, and says there were several factors that led to his decision to quit:

"First family considerations—to spend more time with them. Secondly, I had in my own mind, when I first came to the Legislature, a definite period of time I intended to stay—depending on the will of constituents and God—and that was eight to ten years.

"It's a philosophy of mine that I don't think people should remain in the Legislature long periods of time. There should be a limitation on how long one stays in such an office."

Pleasant chuckles and says, "I introduced a bill once to that effect. It never went anywhere for some strange reason."

Was the job different than he thought it would be? "Anyone who hasn't spent some time with the Legislature previously—as an intern, or whatever—would find it quite different than they anticipated.

"In fact, the usual reaction of the neophyte legislator is 'What have I gotten myself into?'"

Were there roadblocks? "I don't know if we can call something a roadblock—just practical politics.

"First of all, unfortunately, as far as one Ray Pleasant's concerned, for the eight years I was there, I remained in the minority caucus.

"That's a definite hindrance to what can, or cannot, be accomplished. Unfortunately, whether ideas are good or bad has nothing to do with what will become law when you're in the minority caucus. That's the way the game is played."

What does he see as a major accomplishment? "The Legislature has moved closer to the people. There are new people

and groups participating, rather than just the same old citizenry. "This, at least, is my impression of what the Legislature used to be.

"People are more ready to contact their state representatives and senators on a par with their willingness to contact a councilman. They're more willing to call them about whatever their problems might be."

Does the process work? "The system doesn't always work as it should. With the passage of time, the power shifts from one caucus to another. Issues are adopted by opposite caucuses as time passes. Some good ideas get lost—never get adopted.

"There's that phrase about an idea ahead of its time. Well, the one ahead of its time in the Legislature doesn't happen."

Will he stay in politics? "I'm not sure. I plan to take at least a year's vacation.

"I'm going to live my real life—with friends. I'm a year

decisions have on their daily lives.

"I think, if they *really* knew, they wouldn't remain passive about politics. I mean the 50 percent of the people who don't participate.

"Maybe, then, they wouldn't think we're all a bunch of crooks, huh?"

"I invent toys," says **Stanley Fudro**, a 24-year veteran of the Legislature. "The Easter egg coloring machine that's on the market and the Billionaire Game are two. I've done the uranium searching game, the original three-dimensional toy on the market. It was voted the number one game at the New York Toy Fair.

"I won't tell you about the ones nobody likes."

Fudro's a Minneapolis legislator. He's enjoyed his service, but "After 24 years, I think it's enough. I've met a lot of nice people. A person in the Legisla-

"A person in the Legislature meets so many wonderful people. You can't beat that in an occupation of any kind."

— Stanley Fudro



and a half behind in building my cabin, and my wife is getting impatient. I've almost got the dining room table cleared off.

"I don't know what the record shows, but if you really look at politicians' family lives, you'll find a high percentage of divorces or other family problems.

"Children don't see their parent because—like me—I'm up at seven o'clock for an eight o'clock tax meeting, for instance. Then, with dinner meetings, it's nine or ten before I get home. Those are the kinds of pressures that are put on the spouse."

How would he sum it up? "I wish everybody could spend one term in the Legislature. It's an experience that is like a four-year college degree. One can hear about the Legislature, or talk to people about it, but unless they've actually been there, they don't realize that that's where the action's at and what an immense impact those

ture meets so many wonderful people. You can't beat that as far as an occupation of any kind. I'm sure I'll miss the place, but I'll keep busy."

Will he stay active in politics? "You bet. I'm not going to turn my back on it. It's been good to me. You try to put back a little bit of what you took. I'm real active in the race right now."

What did he find frustrating about getting the job done?

"The garbage bill was a frustration for me. (The supplemental appropriations, or garbage bill, sometimes incorporates, as amendments, bills that failed to pass through committees.) I've always voted that a bill that hadn't been heard in a committee should not be put into effect, but you never know until midnight of the last day. You can sneak a bill into the garbage bill, and nobody knows about it."

Despite that, does he think the process works? "Very well. I know it sometimes seems like a hodge-podge, but it all comes

out quite well. I think the Minnesota Legislature is one of the best-organized legislatures in the country. We have good people in it, and I guess the public here is a little more attentive to committees than in other states."

How much power does a representative have? "As a committee chairman he can have as much power as he wants. If he tries to be a fair chairman, he gives every bill a hearing whether it's a republican or democratic bill. He doesn't say,

process is one, says Faricy, but there are others:

"Since I've been in the House, we've addressed issues aimed at helping people at the lower end of the socio-economic ladder. We've tried to address the problems of the small businessman, and we've come up with sentencing guidelines.

"The public can attend committee meetings. We record the meetings and record roll call votes. There's more accountability on what happens to bills

"People may be amazed by this, ... Minnesota is generally far beyond anything other states are doing."



— Ray Faricy

'Look how powerful I am. I just killed another bill.' That's not the responsibility of a chairman. I try to give every bill a fair hearing."

But, chairman or not, Fudro says, being a legislator is a fulltime job and he has some opinions about that. "I think the mixture of different people from different walks of life is important—a variety of occupations.

"There's never enough time and legislators could use more time to understand bills. But with the help of the research department, the administrative assistants, and the secretaries, it's much easier to understand the problems the way we should understand them.

"I think it would be better if legislators didn't continue their outside jobs, but with inflation and prices the way they are, that's impossible. But if they run for office, their prime interest should be the Legislature.

Ray Faricy, a St. Paul attorney, is leaving the Legislature after serving his fifth term, but he's not leaving politics.

"I'd like to think of this as a sabbatical. I don't know if I'll run for public office again, but I certainly want to stay active.

"My wife and I enjoy politics, and we've been encouraging our children to get involved. I'm sure we'll continue to work for candidates we like and tell our legislators how we feel on issues."

Major accomplishments of the Legislature? Opening up the

during the process. We've become much more people-oriented since I've been here, but the pendulum is starting to swing back a little toward special interest."

Problems, frustrations, or pitfalls? "Sure. One-issue politics is the major problem I've seen of late. All of a sudden, legislators are finding themselves threatened in trying to do a respectable job.

"I was a little nervous this time about the negative approach and the philosophy that government shouldn't do anything.

"I agree there are times when government shouldn't be involved and we should encourage the private sector to do things. But, the government-shouldn't-do-anything idea goes beyond that.

"There are people that can survive in that kind of a society, but, unfortunately, there are those who can't. And we have a responsibility to them.

"Pitfalls? There are days when you're ready to walk out of this place you're so frustrated, but, basically, the legislative process does work.

"We've made tremendous progress. People may be amazed by this, but when we go to other states and talk about programs, Minnesota is generally far beyond anything other states are doing.

"It doesn't mean we're spending more. We just seem to have better direction in where our dollars go."

And 10 years have brought changes, Faricy says. "I've watched the transition to an era

where problems are more complex. Included in the complexity are questions like, 'What are we going to do with nuclear waste? What are we going to do with just plain waste?' We don't have solutions yet, but we've started."

How does he feel about a full-time legislature? "I'm nervous about that. It can create an ivory tower where real association with people, even on a work-day basis can be lost. And we need to keep in contact with the people in the district."

What now for a former Representative Faricy? "I'm going to concentrate on my law practice. It's nice just concentrating on one train of thought.

"I'm going to spend time enjoying, cutting the grass—having a beer."

Leo Adams of New Hope accepted a governor's appointment to the Public Service Commission. He looks back on his almost six years in the Legislature as an exciting, challenging, and interesting experience, but he admits to frustrations:

"I think the biggest frustrations during my stay were with the extremely powerful lobbying groups and with the press, perhaps more in the last couple of years.

"I've viewed that from several different perspectives. There seemed to be a lot of frustration on the part of all the elected officials, regardless of party, with the representation of what we thought were the facts."

Any problems with the process? "No, not really. The legislative process came very easy for me, and I felt I was able to do an efficient job.

"The biggest frustrations during my stay were with the extremely powerful lobbying groups and with the press."



— Leo Adams

"In any case, anyone's going to spend the better part of the first term learning. That was true for me, but I was fortunate in getting a subcommittee chairmanship as a freshman, that really helped me.

"It would be great if everyone could have that opportunity, because it forced me to get right down to it and learn the process fast which was to my benefit."

Does he think the process works? "No doubt in my mind that it works. In my opinion, it is what it's designed to be—representative of the people.

"Perhaps it would be better if we could get more people involved in the process, and, there again, I lay the blame on the press.

"Seemingly, the only things that really get outstanding coverage are things that people don't like. As that gets reported more and more, fewer and fewer people want to get involved in the process.

"Until they do get involved, they don't find out that there's more to it than just the negative side the press seems to report all the time."

Do people know how to communicate with their representatives? "It's unfortunate, but our way of life has people so busy that unless they really break off and take the time to get involved, they are not going to understand the process well enough to communicate effectively.

Adams feels very positively about improvement. He says, "I think people are so much better-informed today than they ever were before, even five years ago. And there's no comparison between now and 10 years ago. They aren't as well-informed as they should be, and, certainly, from a perspective of a percentage of people, we still are woefully lacking. But we're improving steadily."

Does he plan to stay active in politics? "I plan to stay as active as my new position will allow me. In this position, there are some limits as to what I can do.

"Certainly, being a commissioner, politics are involved. You're not going to be separated from that.

"But, as to my involvement, obviously, there won't be any within a political party, because that's forbidden.

"I'll be involved to the extent that I can in personal campaigns, but that'll be it."

Norman Prahl's from Grand Rapids. He's been a farmer and a miner. For him serving in the Legislature has been a great honor, but he says 10 years is long enough. He feels he's pulled his weight, wants to travel, and go fishing with the grandchildren.

Does he think the legislative process works? "It's a bungling process, but it's certainly better than any other system in the world."

What would he look back on with the most pride of accom-

welfare. Those who complain are the same people whose dad and mom got help from the government in the past.

"I have senior citizens who are having a tough time, and I say, 'Go down to the welfare office.' 'Oh, no,' they say. 'I've got my pride.'"

"In the first place, try to eat your pride, and see if you can live on it," I tell them.

"In the second place, when the state gives you homeowners' tax credits, that's tax money. You

"I leave with regret, says **Tom Stoa**. "It's simply a matter of wanting to do other things, too."

Stoa has represented Winona, Minnesota for four years, but he wants to go back to school and get another degree—in aerospace engineering...

"I realized I couldn't do that and represent Winona at the same time. So I had to choose. It was one of the hardest decisions of my life."

There's no one accomplishment of the Legislature he can point to and say it was stunning, he says, but, "I think the major accomplishments, according to my personal views and interests, have related to environment and open spaces—forests, parks, and recreation areas."

"One bill that I think was outstanding legislation was the Parks Bonding Bill—two actually—one in each of the last two bienniums. We've shown real commitment."

Did the job hold surprises for him? "Yes, the tremendous power of conference committees. I'd been a college intern to the Legislature for an entire session before serving here, so I knew what I was getting into—what it was like. But a few things were still surprises to me. The power conference committees have was the biggest."

"Those committees don't get as much attention or publicity as regular, standing committees. They also don't get the attention that sharp debates on the floor of the House or Senate get—but they're incredibly important."

"Anything that happens in either the House or Senate

saw the process from the inside. "For example, some of the members are tremendously capable and hardworking—dedicated—just as in the population as a whole."

"The most damning thing you can say about the Legislature—this group of 201 men and women—is that it's a fair reflection of the constituency. "Any standard you use to measure the Legislature you'll find we've got some good, some bad, and all shades in between. Very similar to society."

Do people communicate well—respond to government? "Some of my constituents, a small minority, know very well how to communicate with me. And they do on a regular basis. In percentage, maybe half are only dimly aware of who I am, or what I do. Some of those don't know I exist."

"It really varies, and it certainly can be improved on. Perhaps that's one of the flaws of our political system."

"By contrast, I had a German legislator visit, a state legislator. He told about a meeting they held in his district. Ten thousand people showed up."

"It was just a talk to discuss the issues. They had their party chairman there. I can imagine, if we had our party chairman speaking with a local legislator, and 10,000 showed up, it would be truly awesome here in the United States. In Germany it's routine."

"The American public seems more apathetic. You can see that in voting statistics—we have dismal turnouts."

Will he stay in politics? "I'm sure I'll be involved for the rest

"The day might come when the government will start paying people for not writing songs. If they do, I'll be the first in line. They'll owe me a million dollars."

— Norman Prah



plishment? "If I must point to one thing I can be proud of, it's that we raised the taconite tax to a realistic rate. It was 12 cents a ton when I went to office. That's only a production tax on the mined ore—not the billion dollar facilities or the land that's used for taconite mining."

"At that time, there was an 18-cent tax on a pack of cigarettes. We've raised that 12 cents on ore to about \$1.55 a ton now. We've used that money to keep our homeowners' taxes down. We've kept about 91 percent of it on the iron range where it belongs, despite the fact that we've got a couple hundred hands grasping for it to spread statewide."

Prah's also proud of a bill that allowed unemployment compensation payments to employees on strike because of company safety violations.

"That passed in '73 over a lot of opposition. The fact that the law has never been used tells me that it forced a lot of industries to clean up their act."

Do people depend too much on government? Prah says he doesn't know. Maybe they do, but, "A lot of people say the government is too easy on that guy or gal on welfare."

"That's hard to tell from the outside looking in. You never know how that guy, flat on his back on welfare, got there."

"Everywhere you go, people are swearing about the people on

accept it. So what's the difference? For senior citizens I think that pride is foolish."

Prah's strong in his feelings that parity, disaster payments to people who suffer property losses, bailing out Chrysler, and paying landowners not to farm land are all a form of welfare.

"The day might come when the government will start paying people for not writing songs. If they do, I'll be the first in line. They'll owe me a million dollars."

Did he have problems getting the job done? "Well, in my district we had a DFL chairman who, when I was elected, thought he owned me. Very powerful man in the labor organization. Every time I had a bill, he'd make sure the labor people didn't show up to support it."

"Another problem came when I went back to work at the mines after working on the moving machinery safety bill... they didn't think I'd win the first time I ran... they tried to fire me, because I refused to work in the end of the mine where it's hotter than a pistol and everything's tumbling—where the big wheels run... I told them I'd repair them in the repair area—no other way."

Will he stay in politics? "I'd really like to have gotten out of politics, but I'm going to help out the young lady seeking my seat. And, of course, I'll be active in conventions, especially at the local level. But, I'd like to coast a bit."

"The most damning thing you can say about the Legislature—this group of 201 men and women—is that it's a fair reflection of the constituency."

— Tom Stoa



that's had hours and hours of debate and many, many votes taken on it—anything can be undone, overturned, turned inside out—in a conference committee."

Does he think the process works? "It has its flaws, but it works. And I want to say that I am more positive about the Legislature now than before I

of my life. Sometime in the future I think I'd like to run for office again. I don't know when, or what office. No plans, but my feelings about politics are good ones. I'll be back some day."

John Corbid comes from Oklee, Minnesota and has been a legislator for three terms. He's wanted his own busi-

ness—had been looking for a resort for about four years. He bought one in August of 1978, so he's leaving the Legislature. He thinks if the last election had been better, he might have stayed, but he says, "I won. But barely."

Looking back, did he find anything when he came into office that he didn't expect? "Well, yes," he says, "the most disappointing thing I found when I

the legislator. And I don't mean that in a critical sense. But most staff work for a committee or in an issue area. Unless you're a committee chair, or an official leader, it's difficult to have enough expert advice to get the knowledge you need to make informed decisions. You have access to research people, but they don't have enough time to devote to the needs of 134 individuals.

"When you're new, there's a degree of intensity—a crusading factor. We're right, and we're going to save the country and the state from the bad guys."

— John Corbid



came into office was the number of people pressuring for your time—wanting you to introduce bills for special interests—some good—some bad.

"You can get caught up in getting bills passed—churning them out. I wish I had spent more time on one or two ideas that I had and just fought for them. That kind of pressure to help out the groups was a surprise to me. I wish I could have avoided it. The advice I'd give future legislators is: Tell them, 'no thanks.'"

"I carried some truly local bills for my district, and I don't mean those. They're part of your responsibility."

Corbid thinks political philosophies pretty much follow party lines and that new members—either IR or DFL—are alike in a lot of ways:

"When you're new, there's a degree of intensity—a crusading factor. We're right, and we're going to save the country and the state from the bad guys. Philosophies differ about what government should do. But the intensity and righteousness are very similar."

Were there roadblocks to getting the job done? "Time." Corbid says. "You're so busy going to committee and constituent meetings, and sitting through endless floor debate you've heard before. You can't avoid that, because the people who watch such things could say, 'He was missing four, six, or 38 percent of the time.'"

"Another thing we lack is staff that have their first loyalty to

"Several special interest groups spend much more money on research and presenting their cases than we are able to spend to defend the public position. I think we're out-gunned on that."

What would he look back on with most pride? "Two children in my district have a disease called the no-growth syndrome. When I first met them, one daughter was 10 years old and about 2 feet high. A doctor at Children's Hospital told me he had a cure—a long-range plan for injections for those children, and others like them—so they would end up in the normal growth range."

"Even starting at age 10, you could bring that little girl into the 4-foot-11, 5-foot range. But it was too expensive, something like \$40,000 a year. Families couldn't afford it."

"I was able to get an amendment to a Health, Welfare, and Corrections appropriations bill that gave state support to those people after they had exhausted their insurance payments."

"The last time I saw the mother of those two children, she said both the girls were growing; and the doctor had diagnosed that they would be normal."

"Six years of work, and campaigns, and knocking on doors were worth it just to see that program get started."

Will he stay active in politics? He plans to: "I'm going to help DFL candidates for the Legislature until this election is over. Then, I'm sure I'll be working

for democratic candidates for Congress in my own district—and legislative candidates. I don't foresee ever dropping out and not being political again. It's an on-going commitment."

Al Patton works as a dispatcher for the St. Regis Paper Company in Sartell. He's leaving the Legislature after four terms, because, "The busy schedule down at the Legislature was not compatible with my job at the paper company."

What does he see as major accomplishments of the Legislature in his eight years?

"The total reversal of the attitude of the Legislature in regard to legislation passed."

"We were very progressive in the first four or five years of my tenure—passed legislation that hadn't been dealt with for a number of years."

Was the job different than he expected? "No, it was exactly what I had anticipated. I knew it was going to be hard work and very time consuming."

"What I wasn't prepared for was fitting that into my regular lifestyle and how it would work out with my job here in private employment. There was serious conflict there."

"That same conflict exists with a good number of legislators that basically fall into the age category of 25 to 50, the working years. They have tremendous problems with maintaining a job as well as trying to stay with their family. I've seen a good number of problems develop over that."

Were there roadblocks in the way of doing the job? "I really don't think there are any roadblocks in the legislative process itself. The process is a mixture of ideas and attitudes and people."

"Coping with it is part of being a politician—part of the job. I've never considered the political system, or the legislative process, as it's set up in Minnesota, a hinderance to accepting good ideas and enacting them."

Then, he thinks the process works well? "The Minnesota Legislature works. And it works because the people want it to."

"It may look like it's floundering at times, but that may be a reflection of what's happening in society at the time."

"I see the Legislature as a mirror of the state. We have our ups and downs, but I've never seen it stop serving the people. I have great faith in our government and structure."

Then, people do respond to government? "Yes, they do. And legislators respond in different fashions. I probably respond quite differently than a lot of legislators. I probably stuck my neck out quite a few times on some issues which I felt strongly on."

"I probably had some setbacks on that, but that's all right. Being objective on issues showed more respect for my people, I felt, than always being political."

Does he plan to stay in politics? "Yes. I hope to run for the Legislature again, hopefully within six years."

"I'm just taking some time off from legislative duties, legislative activity, to stay with my family. It doesn't hurt for a legislator to get back into the district and find out what's going on—keep a perspective on things."

"One thing I've found. Legislators do lose perspective if they don't stay involved in the community. This is happening. I see it creeping into the Minnesota Legislature as it becomes more of a fulltime body."

"We become professionals and see it from a professional standpoint. I think that's where we are probably going to have some problems in the future."

"I predict, if we continue on the professional approach to the Legislature, that we will see turnabouts in the body itself other words, it will flip flop from democratic to republic; quite radically. I really don't know if that's good."

"Anyway, for me, it's just a temporary goodbye." △

"The process is a mixture of ideas and attitudes and people."

— Al Patton



new laws



Vulnerable Adults

Any licensed professional who works with vulnerable adults must report incidents of abuse or neglect, according to a law (HF1942, Hokanson, DFL-Richfield) the Minnesota Legislature passed this year.

A vulnerable adult is one who is a patient in a nursing home, hospital, or mental institution, or who is unlikely to report the incident because of a mental or physical handicap.

Nursing home owners, as well as organizations representing elderly people, supported the bill.

Although abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults has long been illegal, many cases go unreported, so nothing happens to protect the victim, Iris Freeman of the Nursing Home Advocates group said. If someone discovers repeated abuse, it's often too late to collect evidence against the abuser and impossible to stop it.

Rick Carter of the Minnesota Association of Health Care Facilities, a group of nursing home owners, says the law will not make it easier to discover abuse, but he hopes the potential of legal penalty will encourage staff to report abusive coworkers. He said the law makes it easier for a nursing home to fire abusive employees. Previously an employee

of a home fired for suspected abuse could file for unemployment compensation which the nursing home pays for, Carter said.

Nursing homes have been reluctant to report suspected abuse of patients that came from hospitals, according to one nursing home representative. They feared that hospitals would retaliate by refusing to send new patients. "Now we feel we have the mechanism to complain," the representative said.

Francis Strong, a handicapped woman who organized a United Handicapped Federation conference on physical and sexual assault, believes the law will force nursing homes to try harder to monitor employees and policies. She is aware of cases where staff in private and state facilities repeatedly abused patients. "But the institutions hushed them up," she said.

The most common cause of abuse in nursing homes, Freeman said, is that "there are a number of facilities which simply can't provide the service." Staffs are too small and poorly trained, she said. Many staff members are only temporary. Staff persons have difficulty caring for all the patients and become frustrated.

LaVonne Hagenmeyer, administrator of the



Formaldehyde

Beginning Jan. 1, 1981, the state will regulate the sale of building materials and housing units which have products containing urea formaldehyde, as the result of a new state law.

Formaldehyde is a common bonding agent the plastics industry uses. It's an adhesive, or glue, in wood products such as particle board and paneling and it's in urea foam insulation.

High levels of formaldehyde fumes can make people sick. During periods of high temperatures or high humidity, fumes of the toxic substances sometimes release into the air. Symptoms of formaldehyde poisoning can include itchy eyes, stinging nose and throat, and headaches. And it can be deadly, especially to the old and the young.

During the period from Feb. 1979 to April 1980, Minnesota health officials investigated 486 complaints of respiratory and gastrointestinal problems to determine whether or not they had any connection with the formaldehyde in building materials.

Most of the complaints (60 percent) came from people living in mobile homes, but there were also problems in conventional homes and recreational vehicles.

Laura Oatman from the Department of Health said mobile home complaints have been more prevalent than conventional home complaints since 1976 when the U.S. Housing and Urban Development got the authority to set housing construction standards. Since then, construction standards have produced more airtight homes to save energy.

Prior to the 1980 legislative session, there were no state standards to govern the levels of formaldehyde fumes in private homes. However, the federal government has set exposure limits for industrial workers.

During the last session, the Legislature conducted hearings to determine the extent of the problem of formaldehyde poisoning, and as a result, adopted the new state law providing for state regulation of the toxic substance. □

Excelsior Nursing Home in a metropolitan suburb, agrees that staffing is a problem, which she blames on temporary nursing pools. "They send us people with no training," she said.

Nursing homes have difficulty retaining staff because temporary pools pay higher wages and don't require weekend work, Hagenmeyer said. Many staff members quit to work for the temporary pools, she said. There is enough work so they can earn more money.

Nursing homes must hire temporary people to maintain required staff ratios, Hagenmeyer said.

Even drawing from temporary pools, many nursing homes are not properly staffed, Freeman said, because the State Welfare Department does not enforce staffing regulations. Facilities will correct the staff deficiency for a short time after the department orders a correction, she said, then they go back to a deficient staff ratio. When the department attempts to enforce regulations, the deficiency remains while the case is in court.

Not all abusers are facility staff members, Carter said. "We've noted increasing numbers of problems with children of nursing

home patients physically abusing their parents."

But no one really knows how big the problem is, according to the law's author, Rep. Shirley Hokanson. "One report estimates that between 500,000 and a million aged people are abused in any given year in the U.S.," she said.

An informal survey by the United Handicapped Federation found 60 cases of rape and sexual abuse of elderly people in the Twin Cities area in four months. But the studies do not accurately describe the problem, Hokanson said, because many cases are not reported.

Interpretation of one section of the law is not clear, Carter said. It requires facilities to prepare a plan for preventing abuse for each patient. "The interpretation right now is that the prevention plan can be a part of our standard patient-care planning," he said. Under this interpretation, an abuse prevention plan would be unnecessary if the facility determined there was no danger of abuse to a particular patient. Carter said facilities would oppose a requirement to prepare a separate plan for each patient.

Another section of the law requires local wel-

fare and police departments and state licensing agencies to maintain records of reported abuses. Such records are the only way a nursing home can learn whether a prospective employee has a history of abusiveness. The nursing home would have to check with the licensing agency, however, and Carter said facilities do not normally do so.

The bill allows testimony on abuse and neglect from people that courts don't normally consider competent to testify. This includes mentally incompetent individuals and children. It also includes professionals such as lawyers, doctors, and clergy who the law protects from having to testify about their clients.

Professionals need not report accidental injuries, according to the law, but a series of accidents would probably fall under the category of neglect, according to a House researcher who helped draft the law.

The law allows a damage suit against anyone who intentionally makes a false report of abuse. — Gary Cox

That law requires the commissioner of health, by May 24, 1980, to determine if formaldehyde fumes pose a significant health problem and, if so, to set rules "establishing standards governing the sale of building materials and housing units" containing formaldehyde.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1981, the law prohibits the sale of materials of housing units containing urea formaldehyde unless the seller informs the buyer of the danger — in writing.

Under the law, manufacturers of a product, or builders of a housing unit, containing materials with formaldehyde, will have to "pay the reasonable cost of repair, or relocation, if a consumer can prove the housing unit contains a significant level of the toxic substance, has medical records related to formaldehyde, and a statement from a physician that the consumer must vacate the premises." These provisions were effective immediately upon final enactment of the law.

Late in May, Commissioner George Pettersen, announced temporary rules regulating the use of building materials which give off the vapor. The commissioner said he is recommending the enforcement of a temporary limit of 0.5 parts per million of urea formaldehyde vapor in new houses and mobile homes.

According to the department, the temporary rules will go into the State Register, June 23, and then a 20-day comment period follows when the public can submit — in writing — their objections. During that period of time, the department can review and change the rules. After the 20-day comment period, the temporary rules go to the attorney general's office for the attorney general's comment on legality issues. If the attorney general doesn't object, the temporary rules go into effect for a maximum of 180 days.

Legislators who sponsored the law were critical of the temporary limit. During a May 23 press conference, Sen. Frank Knoll (DFL-Mpls.) and Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls.) said the vapor levels Pettersen's rules allow could pose a "significant health hazard, especially among the very young." They said there is a documented case of an infant death where formaldehyde vapors measured at 0.29 parts per million, or about half the allowable amount under the Health Department's temporary recommendation.

Pettersen said the department will adopt permanent rules after they hold public hearings later this year. He said evidence the department collects at the hearings could lead to permanent rules which would lower the permissible level of formaldehyde.

— Susan J. Shepard

Watercraft

Revenue increases

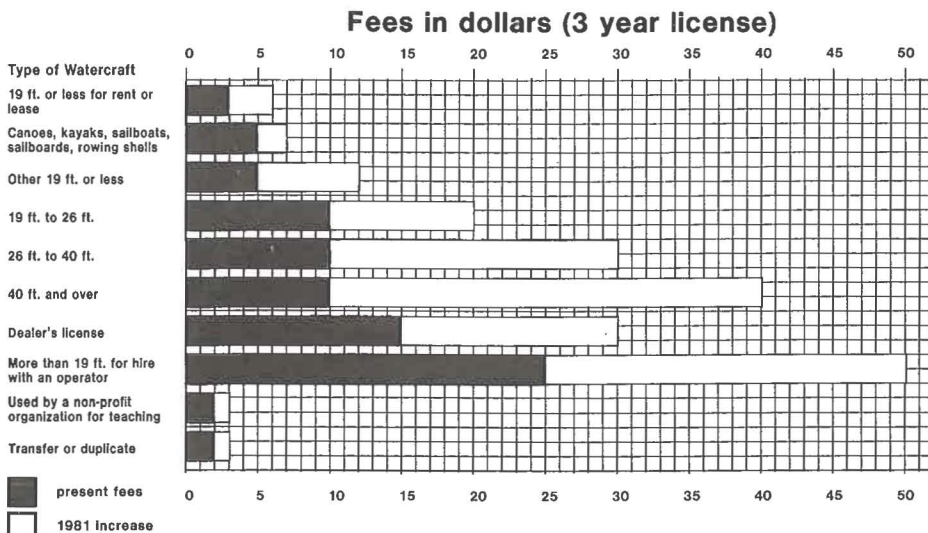
State revenues from boat licenses will increase by an estimated \$1.3 million. Kim Elverum, Boat and Water Safety Section, Department of Natural Resources, said boat license fee revenues go to the state's general fund. DNR then requests money for boat safety through the legislative appropriations process and allocates those funds to counties.

Rep. Doug Carlson, IR-Sandstone, chief author of the measure, said the increase in fees will provide more money for counties. License fees cover about one-third of the cost of county water safety programs.

The present amount going to county boat safety programs is about \$275,000. Elverum said the department expects the watercraft license fee increases will generate an additional \$600,000 to \$650,000, increasing the county program total to between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

Minnesota's more than 500,000 boat owners will pay more for boat licenses beginning in January of 1981. A new law (Ch. 568) raises three-year license fees on watercraft.

Increases in fees range from \$1 to \$30 depending on the type, size, and use of the watercraft. (See chart on fee increases.)





County watercraft safety programs

"The allocations to counties for watercraft safety are based primarily on the water surface in the county," Elverum said of the present allocation process. A House researcher said the criteria which will go into *Minnesota Statutes* is similar to that DNR uses now.

The new law provides a formula for allocating boat safety funds to counties, basing it on:

- the number of watercraft using the county's waters;
- the number of watercraft using specific bodies of water in relation to the size of the waterbody, and the type, size and speed of the watercraft;
- the acres of water within the county;
- the past performance of the county for boat and water safety;
- special considerations the commissioner of DNR may determine.

Elverum said the DNR has studied water usage. "Many people buy licenses in the urban areas, but use the boats at a cabin or resort area. There's a high usage rate in Minnesota's vacation areas. But, we've also found a lot of activity in the metro area." According to Elverum, the department is beginning a study of traffic and watercraft usage patterns of vacationers from other states.

To receive the funds, counties submit a budget to DNR each biennium. The budget includes proposed water and boat safety and enforcement activities. The commissioner reviews these proposals and adds county requests to the department's budget. Under present law, the commissioner can't request more than 75 percent of the money the department expects the state to receive from watercraft license sales during the biennium. Ch. 568 removes the 75 percent limit.

The commissioner can withhold up to \$25,000 of the money the department receives each biennium for watercraft safety. This money would go for emergency aid to counties that have special boat safety problems.

If a county doesn't submit a boat safety budget, or doesn't provide an adequate program, the commissioner may take back all or part of the funds that went to the county. This money would then go to the DNR or to a political subdivision within the county to provide the watercraft safety program.

Other provisions in Ch. 568

Watercraft capacity: after Dec. 31, 1980, manufacturers of watercraft under 20 feet, except canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and sailboards, must permanently affix a plate to the watercraft stating the maximum safe carrying and power capacity of the watercraft. The commissioner of DNR will set specifications according to U.S. Coast Guard standards.

Life preservers: watercraft operators must equip the craft with the number and type of life preservers the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner will set standards through department rules using U.S. Coast Guard guidelines. Elverum said the standards will be similar to present standards.

Motorboat noise limits

Another new law, Ch. 530, prohibits people from operating motorboats that exceed noise limits.

For marine engines or motorboats with manufacture dates before Jan. 1, 1982, noise levels cannot exceed 84 decibels measurable at a distance of 50 feet from the motorboat.

For marine engines or motorboats manufacturers make after Jan. 1, 1982, noise levels can't be over 82 decibels from 50 feet away.

The law excludes marine engines or motorboats if the operator receives a permit for a marine event, regatta or race. The permit will designate the time and the area where the operator may use the craft.

DNR received \$30,000 to purchase motorboat noise monitoring equipment and provide training for county sheriffs in the use of the equipment and enforcement of noise limits.

Noise limits will not affect most motorboats, according to Rep. Michael Sieben, DFL-Newport, House sponsor of the bill. The main problem is jet boats that have an above-water exhaust system.

Elverum said problems with motorboat noise concentrate in the metropolitan area around the St. Croix River and Lake Minnetonka. He said, "We've also held public hearings in other parts of the state having problems, like Gull Lake near Brainerd."

The department has started training and enforcement programs in the metropolitan area and will next move to vacation areas of the state. The department has purchased six noise monitoring devices for enforcing the law. "We'll see if we need more devices as the program progresses," Elverum said.

In a recent release, the Department of Natural Resources reminded boaters and fishermen that they must use proper lights on their boats after sunset.

All boats must display lights from sunset to sunrise while on the water. Motorboats under 26 feet, including fishing craft, must display a red and green bow light and a white stern light, when moving. If anchored, the watercraft only needs a white light visible from all directions.

Non-motorized craft (canoes, sailboats, etc.) need only a white light, whether in motion or anchored.

Kim Elverum noted that inexpensive battery-powered lights are available for fishermen who do not have an electrical system on their boat.

Alcohol or controlled substances: the law prohibits people from operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Previous language used the terms intoxicating liquor, narcotic, and habit-forming drugs.

Sound-producing devices: motorboats 16 feet or longer must have sound-producing devices. The operator of the boat shall sound the devices only when necessary to insure safe operation of the craft.

Backfire devices: it is unlawful to use motors, other than detachable outboard motors, on watercraft, unless the carburetor has a U.S. Coast Guard approved device for arresting or safely deflecting backfire.

— Jean Mehle

Publication of House Information Office
Rm 8 • State Capitol • St. Paul, Minnesota
55155 • (612) 296-2146

Cover photo: Reflection of the Capitol in the Northern Federal Savings and Loan Building. The photographer took the photo from the top of an apartment building on Wabasha St. in downtown St. Paul.



Trunk Highway Bonds

III. HIGHWAY BONDS: REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove restrictions on the interest rate for, and the amount of trunk highway bonds?

Effect of the Amendment

The constitution limits trunk highway bond indebtedness and limits the interest rate on the bonds.

Voter approval of the amendment (p. 15) would give the Legislature more flexibility to borrow money for trunk highway construction and maintenance. Because of rising costs and set revenues, the state is having difficulty in meeting highway needs.

Approval would allow interest higher than five percent on public bonds. Of the \$50 million in trunk highway bonds the 1977 Legislature authorized, the state has been unable to sell \$19 million. Investors haven't been purchasing bonds with interest rates less than six percent.

Although passage of the amendment would remove the limits, only the Legislature can authorize bond issues through state law. The Legislature would also need to amend state law to allow the state to pay higher interest on the trunk highway bonds.

History

In 1956, Article XIV of the Minnesota Constitution created the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund which provides money for

trunk highways and local roads and streets. The money comes from the motor fuel tax and motor vehicle license fees. The Legislature raised the tax on motor fuel from 9 cents to 11 cents during the 1980 session.

These revenues go to several funds. The trunk highway fund receives 62 percent, the county state-aid highway fund receives 29 percent, and the municipal state-aid street fund receives 9 percent.

The Constitution allows the state to issue trunk highway bonds to provide additional funds for trunk highways. The trunk highway fund repays these bonds. The constitution limits the indebtedness of the trunk highway fund to \$150 million and sets the maximum interest on bonds at five percent.

The indebtedness and the interest rates are the provisions the amendment would change.

In the 1976 general election, Minnesota voters defeated an amendment which contained these provisions and included a provision which would have put revenue increases from the motor fuel tax into the state general fund instead of the dedicated highway fund. The 1980 amendment deals only with bonds and doesn't change the dedication of funds.

Notaries Public

V. NOTARIES PUBLIC: REMOVAL OF SENATE APPROVAL.

Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove the requirement that notaries public be approved by the Senate?

The Amendment

If Minnesota voters approve this amendment, notaries public the governor appoints would no longer need Senate approval.

The governor has appointed notaries public and the Senate has approved those appointments. Since adoption of the original constitution.

Becoming a Notary Public

Anyone wanting to become a notary public would get an application from the governor's office and submit that application for approval to the notary office of the Department of Commerce, a state agency under the executive branch of state government. The applicant for notary public then receives an application from the notary office and sends that back with a personal security bond for \$2,000. This costs the individual about \$20.

When the notary office accepts the application, they send the applicant a notary commission. The applicant takes the commission to the clerk of court in the county where he/she lives. The clerk of court files the applicant's signature. The person is then a notary public and must purchase a rubber stamp or an embossing seal. The notary commission is legal for seven years minus one day from the date the notary office issues it. Notaries public witness signatures. The notary's stamp on a document means the person who signed the document is who he/she claims to be, and he/she signed the document in the presence of the notary.

The notary office annually submits a computer list of eligible applicants to the Senate for approval. The annual list consists of about 5,000 names.

If the voters approve the constitutional amendment the Senate would no longer get the annual list for approval.