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## The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

Session Final  
May 13-23, 1977

### SESSION GLIDES TO ADJOURNMENT AS CONFEREES COMPROMISE ON MAJOR BILLS

The first year of the 70th session came to an end Monday May 23rd on the motion of Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman as Senate President Edward Gearty brought down his gavel for adjournment.

The Legislature will reconvene in January 1978. During the interim period Senate committees will continue hearings and investigations into a number of bills introduced this year, as well as considering new legislation.

The final ten days of session brought the expectable flurry of activity, but noticeably absent was the chaos that has characterized some sessions in the past. Veteran observers said it had been one of the smoothest sessions ever -- which many credited to rules changes that gave Majority Leader Coleman additional authority in bill scheduling. While the changes were controversial earlier in the session, the ease with which the session ended may tend to convince any skeptics.

Another important factor that prevented a last minute bottleneck was the session-long work of the Finance Committee and its new Chairman Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada). Moe said at the very first committee meeting that "if there is a bottleneck, it won't be because of this committee," and then proceeded to set forth a series of deadlines for subcommittee and committee action which were all met. During the final week Senators from both parties rose to compliment Moe and his committee on their work.

### FRIDAY MAY 13 - THE HOME STRETCH BEGINS

A marathon session Fri. May 13 brought final passage to some 40 bills. Among the measures approved was S.F. 544, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul). It places a deadline for completion of the environmental impact statement on the effects of finishing the 35E interstate segment. Another bill gaining approval was H.F. 79, authored by Sen. Mike Menning (DFL-Edgerton). It prohibits non-resident aliens from purchasing farm land. Also passed was a bill (H.F. 856) authorizing a centralized disbursement system for food stamps. The measure was sponsored by Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm). The Senate also approved a bill by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.) that establishes a life and health guarantee association. It provides continued coverage in cases where insurance companies may fold or become financially insolvent.

A number of bills on the Special Orders agenda were also discussed Friday. The most controversial of the bills discussed was S.F. 1027, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes. The measure is designed to strengthen the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Opponents offered several amendments dealing with the budget recommendation procedures but none of them were adopted and the bill was passed by a 35-22 vote.

Other bills approved on the Special Orders agenda included: H.F. 1310, authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), which brings state unemployment compensation laws into compliance with federal laws; H.F. 206, sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), which raises the personal allowance for welfare patients at long-term care facilities; H.F. 451, authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum, (DFL-St. Cloud), which authorizes banks to establish two detached banking facilities; S.F. 1394, authored by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), which continues tax incentives for pollution control equipment; S.F. 126, authored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman), which makes unemployment compensation taxable for persons with incomes in excess of \$15,000; and S.F. 899, authored by Sen. John Milton. It clarifies the requirements for administration and inspection of nursing homes.

### MONDAY MAY 16 - PRELIMINARY APPROVALS

Because the Senate was as far as it was in its work it did not meet over the weekend and reconvened Mon. May 16.

About 40 bills were given preliminary approval Monday afternoon before the Senate recessed for dinner. After that the Senate took up a number of major bills, including H.F. 1337, authored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (I-R, St. Paul), which alters definitions for tax purposes for homeowners associations and exempts membership dues, fees and assessments from taxable gross income. Also approved was S.F. 1015, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), which creates a state program to assist local communities in removing dilapidated buildings along highways.



#### MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL DEFEATED

Chief author William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center) then brought his mandatory deposit bill up for consideration. Luther had worked out what he hoped would be an acceptable compromise that involved major changes in the bill.

The first amendment offered was by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), a vocal opponent of the mandatory deposit bill. He suggested that the deposit be raised to 25 cents per can, reasoning that "if 10 cents is good, 25 cents should be better." But the amendment was rejected overwhelmingly by a 6-34 vote.

The first major amendment was offered by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). Under his amendment consumers would have been returned only eight cents of each 10 cent deposit and the other two cents would go to set up community recycling centers on a county basis. This was intended to soften retailers' objections to handling and storing returned cans -- an objection that had previously led Peterson to oppose the bill. After extensive debate the amendment passed 34-25.

A motion by Sen. Ed Schrom (DFL-Albany) another vocal opponent, to refer the bill to local government was defeated 11-47.

Sen. Eugene Stokowski (DFL-Mpls.) then offered an amendment to include newspapers and require deposits on them. Senate President Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.) questioned whether the amendment was serious and Stokowski insisted it was, but it was defeated 21-28.

The second major amendment was offered by Luther. He added most of the entire "anti-litter" bill (authored by Gerald Willet, DFL-Park Rapids) into the mandatory deposit measure. He said that the resulting package with recycling centers and litter taxes represented a comprehensive approach to the problems of litter, energy waste, and solid waste disposal.

Opponents questioned germaneness of both amendments but both were ruled in order.

The debate repeated familiar arguments with opponents saying the measure would result in loss of jobs and supporters saying that there would be more jobs (though lower paying) and that there would be energy savings, litter reduction, and less solid waste to dispose of.

On the final vote, which came just after 1 AM Tuesday morning, the bill was defeated 31-34. After a quick recess for a bill scheduling subcommittee, the Senate adjourned until Tuesday afternoon.

The Tues. May 17 session of the Senate saw passage of several major pieces of legislation on the Special Orders Calendar and final approval for over thirty bills on the Senate Calendar

#### WORKERS COMPENSATION - APPROVED ON SPECIAL ORDERS

A comprehensive bill dealing with workers compensation, authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), was the focal point of discussion during the late afternoon. The measure (H.F. 1004) increases the maximum benefit amounts to 100% of the average weekly wage and changes the supplemental benefits to 60% of the average weekly wage. Eight provisions to reduce insurance rates were also contained in the bill, as were provisions providing for the establishment of a Workers' Compensation Study Commission and for limiting the cost of living escalator to 6% per year. An author's amendment delaying the effective date until June 30, 1979, thus allowing the Study Commission time to review rate setting provisions, was adopted. The bill was then approved 34-22.

#### HEALTH SCREENING FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS - APPROVED ON SPECIAL ORDERS

A bill mandating a comprehensive health screening program, to be administered by state school districts, was approved 45-4. The measure (S.F. 743), sponsored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), is a response to Governor Perpich's proposal to provide physical and mental health screenings on an early and periodic basis. The bill contains provisions encouraging existing volunteer organizations continued participation in current health screening programs.

#### OMNIBUS CORRECTIONS - APPROVED ON SPECIAL ORDERS

Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park) received prompt approval for his Omnibus Corrections bill (H.F. 728) with a 35-0 vote. The bill prescribes the duties of probation officers and the commissioner for parole and probation. It also authorizes the sealing of criminal records and the payment, by inmates, for room and board.

#### ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Several bills were reported back from Conference Committee and received repassage by the Senate. Among those approved Tues. evening was S.F. 1489, the Semi-State Omnibus bill,

authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud). The bill authorizes funding for semi-state agencies for the biennium. Also approved were S.F. 826, authored by Sen. James Ulland (I-R, Duluth), dealing with seaway port authorities and S.F. 49, authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), exempting agricultural and business loans over \$100 thousand from the usuary rate.

#### PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENTS APPROVED

A bill containing amendments to the privacy act established during the previous legislative session was given its second and third readings before the Senate. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.) and according to Sen. John Keefe (I-R, Hopkins) "does a tremendous job balancing the individual's right to privacy with the public's right to know." The measure was approved 48-1 and sent to a conference committee.

Bills receiving final passage on the Senate Calendar included: S.F. 597 (Sen. Gene Merriam, DFL-Coon Rapids), a bill requiring duck hunters to purchase a migratory water fowl stamp; S.F. 160 (Sen. Jack Davies, DFL-Mpls.), a measure establishing a full time tax court; H.F. 1201 (Sen. Gerry Sikorski, DFL-Stillwater), a bill requiring insurance companies to issue readable insurance policies; H.F. 314 (Sen. Nancy Brataas, I-R, Rochester), legislation allowing Olmsted county to utilize electronic recordings of trial proceedings; H.F. 676 (Sen. William McCutcheon, DFL-St. Paul) a bill placing a \$250,000 limit on individual claims in civil liability cases involving the illegal sale of liquor; and H.F. 585 (Sen. Wayne Olhoft, DFL-Herman), a bill altering the definitions of "income" for senior citizens property tax freeze purposes and adding further definitions to the tax laws.

#### GUN CONTROL PASSES IN WEAKENED FORM

After routine bill introductions and motions, Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) moved to take his controversial gun control measure (H.F. 800) from the table Wed. May 18. The bill had been tabled after a successful motion to reconsider last week as McCutcheon sought support for some kind of weakened compromise measure. He indicated that several amendments would be offered.

The first amendment offered simply clarified a provision that would allow hunters to carry along pistols while hunting. It was proposed by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook).

A second amendment offered by Sen. John Keefe (I-R, Hopkins) made a major change in the bill. It would allow a person to obtain a permit to buy any number of guns during a one year period from date of issuance of the permit. Previously the bill would have required a new permit for each gun. The amendment was adopted 35-11.

After additional debate the bill passed on a very close 34-31 vote. As passed it requires a seven day waiting period while the gun purchase permit is being processed to check out the background of the applicant to make certain that the person does not have a history of drug or alcohol abuse, mental problems, or a criminal record. In addition, minors are not permitted to obtain a permit. But once the permit is obtained, no further waiting period would be necessary for one year.

#### ENERGY BILL PASSES BUT INSULATION CREDITS AND GAS GUZZLER TAXES ARE OUT

Next to come up during the Wednesday session was H.F. 522, the Omnibus Energy bill. It requires statewide adoption of the state building code and provides for certain tax credits.

The extension of the building code statewide was opposed by several rural legislators who maintained it would increase building costs. But bill author Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) said that without the extension of the code the energy provisions could not be enforced and a later amendment to delete the building code provision failed 26-39.

Two other controversial amendments were introduced. The first, offered by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), would have restored a 20 percent tax credit for new insulation added to homes after January 1, 1977. The provision was in the bill when it left the Energy and Housing Committee but it had been removed in the Tax Committee because funds available were inadequate. Both chief author Anderson and Majority Leader Coleman opposed the amendment, saying that it was a good provision but that it was too costly.

The second major amendment attempt was offered by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope). Humphrey sought to reinsert a tax on initial registrations of low-mileage autos. According to Humphrey 30 percent of petroleum use is for transportation. He estimated that the registration fee would raise an additional \$15 million in revenues but the amendment failed 27-34. Opponents claimed it would put Minnesota auto dealers at a disadvantage with those from neighboring states.

After several other amendments, the bill passed 52-10.

#### MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL RECONSIDERED

Following routine messages and the appointment of several conference committees, a motion to reconsider S.F. 1 (the mandatory deposit bill) was introduced by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch). Anderson had changed his vote to oppose the bill at the last minute on Monday. This permitted him to introduce the reconsideration move.

Bill author William Luther indicated in response to questions that he would immediately lay the bill on the table for interim study if the motion to reconsider prevailed. After some discussion the move was successful and passed 30-21. The bill was tabled and the Senate recessed until Thursday.

Thursday, May 20, the Senate concentrated on bills listed on the Special Orders Calendar and the reports of Conference Committees.

#### AGE DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED; DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY CREATED

Of major importance Thurs. was H.F. 6, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), a bill that prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in employment and education. Provisions in the bill included sections exempting apprenticeship positions and allowing senior citizen benefits such as low-cost housing. The bill passed 46-0.

A bill creating a Department of Economic Security was also approved 43-8 after extensive debate. Under the provisions of the bill, S.F. 202, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada), the department of employment services and the governor's man power office would be abolished. An amendment offered by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), excluded the department of vocational rehabilitation from merger. (The amendment was adopted by the Senate but later was dropped by a conference committee.)

#### HEALTH RESEARCH APPROVED; OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES CREATED

In other action on the Special Orders calendar the Senate approved a measure (S.F. 1361) that would provide state grants to finance health research and authorizes the establishment of a health research subcommittee by the State Health Coordinating Council. The bill was sponsored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake). Also approved was H.F. 613, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), legislation establishing an office of volunteer services within the office of the Governor.

#### INSURANCE BILL APPROVED

H.F. 1030, authored by Sen. Gerry Sikorski, a bill requiring minimum anticipated loss ratios for some insurance plans generated a substantial amount of debate, with some Senators maintaining that the industry had not been aware of all the provisions of the bill. As a compromise measure Sen. Robert Ashbach (I-R, Arden Hills) offered an amendment to delay the effective date. The amendment was adopted and the bill was passed 45-3.

#### CRIME VICTIM CRISIS CENTERS BILL; PARKS BILL PASSED

The Senate also approved a bill (H.F. 180) establishing crime victim crisis centers under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. Such crisis centers will "get the emphasis away from the offenders to the forgotten people of crime - the victims" stated author Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park). A bill for outdoor recreation (H.F. 1300), sponsored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), sparked some controversy in a discussion over the distribution of funds between outstate and metro area parks. As the bill stands monies will be allocated for land acquisition and improvement for parks, trails, wildlife lands and outdoor athletic fields. Sen. Arnulf Ueland (I-R, North Mankato) sponsored a measure (H.F. 769) that would exempt municipal transit systems from the gasoline and special fuels tax. The bill passed on a vote of 49-0.

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

A bill changing the rule of three to the rule of seven for Hennepin County Civil Service employee selection was repassed 35-18. Originally the Senate version (S.F. 875), authored by Sen. Emily Ann Staples (DFL-Plymouth), called for the top five persons on the applicant list be considered for a particular job, while the House version held that the top ten people be considered. The conference committee report on another measure (S.F. 1290) authored by Sen. Staples was also adopted. The bill, prescribing venue for child neglect cases, was repassed on a 37-9 vote.

A bill increasing the fee to \$1.50 for filing for automobile registrations was received back from conference committee and repassed. The \$1.50 fee will be effective August 1, 1977 and then will increase to \$1.75 January 1, 1979. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Mike Menning (DFL-Edgerton).



#### UNIT PRICING FAILS; USUARY BILL GAINS

The most heated debate Thursday evening came with the discussion of the unit pricing bill (H.F. 8). The bill's author Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), in an effort to make the bill more palatable to opponents who contend the cost of unit pricing would drive smaller stores out of business, offered an amendment exempting retailers having less than \$1.2 million in gross sales per year. The amendment, which was adopted, also had a provision (which was not adopted) requiring more than 15% of a store's inventory be unmarked before the store could be charged in violation of the act. After extensive debate the bill failed on a 27-31 vote.

The long awaited usuary bill (H.F. 500) was given preliminary approval late Thurs. night. The bill, authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd) would continue the usuary exemption that had passed last year. Sen. Borden observed "when the bill passed last year there was a dramatic increase in housing starts and it is hoped the trend will continue this year."

A number of important bills were taken up as Special Orders on Friday as the Senate moved into its final three days. (Special Orders are given both preliminary and final passage in a single step to expedite the legislative process.)

#### PCA BONDING INCREASED BY \$40 MILLION

Two of the more important Special Orders bills taken up early in the day were H.F. 1252 and S.F. 1530. House File 1252, a bill authored in the Senate by A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island), increases Pollution Control Agency bonding to provide 15 percent matching state grants for local communities to obtain federal funding for pollution control and sewage treatment facilities. Under the bill, PCA bonding authority would increase from the \$95 million currently authorized to \$135 million. Setzepfandt said the PCA would not need the funds immediately but that the authorization was necessary in advance for lead time on new projects.

#### FUNDS OKAYED FOR NEW PRISON, UNIT F AT UNIVERSITY

Senate File 1530 (author: Moe for the Committee on Finance), a building appropriation bill, authorizes two major and somewhat controversial projects -- the expenditure of \$20.8 million on a new maximum security prison facility and \$13 million as the state share of funds to construct an additional health sciences unit (Unit F) at the University of Minnesota medical complex. In addition to okaying plans to construct the new 200 prisoner capacity security unit, the bill also included funds for architectural plans to remodel Stillwater prison for a reduced capacity medium security correctional facility. Certain Senators expressed concern about the cost of the prison facilities, but a more serious concern was expressed over the funding for Unit F. Sen. John Milton, who sponsored an amendment to delete the section appropriating funds for the health science unit, warned that the state may be over training medical personnel and that in a few years there may be an over-supply developing just as is now faced with an over-supply of teachers. However, his amendment was defeated overwhelmingly, 6-37. The bill then passed 44-4.

Also approved were items on the Senate Calendar. H.F. 756 authorizes sale of state owned lands for Reserve Mining's taconite disposal facility; H.F. 530 prohibits "pyramiding" of credit life insurance and requires insurance premiums to be based on the amount owed, not on the amount of the original balance or loan; and H.F. 1283 eliminates the need for approval of the Commissioner of Economic Development for industries development bonds.

#### CONFERENCE SETS 10 YEAR SUNSET ON GOVERNOR'S NEW APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY

S.F. 109, the coterminous appointments bill authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), came back from conference committee on Friday with two major changes. The House had no "sunset" (expiration date) provision and since the Senate version called for expiration after a six year trial, a compromise was reached to make it 10 years. Also, under the conference report, the Commissioner of Education would be appointed by the Board of Education but the appointment would be subject to the approval of the Governor. All other department heads would be directly appointed by the Governor and would serve terms the same length as his.

Also approved on Friday was the Conference Committee report on S.F. 181, which increases the size of the boards for public retirement associations and makes minor changes in retirement provisions. Several other conference reports were also approved with only minor changes involved.

#### TIMBER WOLF RESOLUTION, OTHER BILLS ALSO OKAYED

A resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior to return management of the Eastern Timber wolf, H.F. 105, (Senate author: Doug Johnson, DFL-Cook) was approved Friday, 38-18. Also passed was H.F. 962 (Senate author: Roger Moe, DFL-Ada), a bill that abolished open ended appropriations and allocates specific amounts for debt service and other functions; S.F. 707 (author: Robert Tennessen, DFL-Mpls.) appropriating funds for displaced homemaker assistance;

S.F. 336 (author: William McCutcheon, DFL-St. Paul) creating a state board for Spanish speaking people; and S.F. 455 (author: Allan Spear, DFL-Mpls.) setting up a bilingual, bicultural educational program for native Americans

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INCREASES HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING BY \$36 MILLION

A major conference committee report was approved Friday. H.F. 1510, the Omnibus Higher Education funding bill, increased from \$880 to \$916 million, although much of the increase was only on paper as funding previously included in the Omnibus Education Aids bill was transferred to the Higher Education bill. The bill passed 48-3.

#### MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS APPROVED: PLASTIC MILK CONTAINERS, RADIOACTIVE STORAGE, BANNED

Two major environmental bills, both authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), were debated extensively Friday before winning approval. H.F. 45, a ban on plastic milk containers, passed 40-23 as many Senators who had opposed the mandatory deposit bill joined forces with Luther. Sen. Conrad Vega, who had opposed the deposit bill because of its possible impact on unemployment, urged the ban be enacted, saying that if it were done later it would cause much more dislocation. H.F. 1215, a ban on any federal facility for the permanent storage of radioactive waste, was also hotly debated. Opponents said it was "provincial" for the state to take that position and argued that national needs should prevail. However, supporters said that the facility could be located in better places such as saltflats. The bill, which passed 41-16, was the last item taken up Friday night before adjournment.

Several of the most important measures to come before the Senate this year were acted upon at Saturday's session.

#### TAXES

The Omnibus Tax Bill (H.F. 1475), sponsored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), is designed to protect homeowners and farmers from large property tax increases in the next two years and will deliver some income tax relief to all individuals with taxable income less than \$25,900. Those in higher income brackets, retired public employees and retired military personnel will see an increase in their taxes. The bill also increases the production tax paid by taconite companies from 80 cents a ton to \$1.25 and channels most of the proceeds into environmental and economic protection funds for the mining region. The bill passed 45-17.

Another tax measure received from conference committee and approved by the Senate alters the definition of gross income for tax purposes. The bill (H.F. 437), authored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman) brings the state definitions in line with federal definitions.

#### HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS

A \$1 billion appropriation for Health, Welfare and Corrections was approved Saturday afternoon. The bill (S.F. 1416) also directs the closing of Hastings State Hospital. H.F. 1631, a measure providing funds for the construction of a new prison at Stillwater and for the completion of buildings at the University of Minnesota was also approved. Both bills were sponsored by Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park). Other Health, Welfare & Corrections measures to gain repassage by the Senate included: S.F. 743, authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake) mandating early and periodic health screening for pre-schoolers; S.F. 124, sponsored by Sen. Lewis, establishing pilot programs to aid battered women; H.F. 6, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) prohibiting age discrimination; H.F. 856, authored by Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm), authorizing the centralized disbursement of welfare payments; and H.F. 1054, sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.) changing the requirements for eligibility for aid to families with dependent children.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT

S.F. 1467, a bill that appropriates \$470 million for state departments and agencies was approved late Saturday night. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope), includes funds for the continued operation of the Office of Consumer Services and the Department of Economic Development. Final approval was also granted and \$884 million transportation appropriations bill (H.F. 1610) sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud). The measure includes \$29 million subsidy for the Metropolitan Transit Commission which will allow bus fares in the Metropolitan area at 30 cents. Also passed was S.F. 1337, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), a civil service pay package which included language lifting a pay ceiling imposed earlier on local governments. The measure also includes a compromise pay increase of 18.7% for state troopers.



Other bills agreed upon Saturday included: S.F. 73 (Sen. Jim Nichols, DFL-Lake Benton), a measure prohibiting ground apparatus for weather modification; S.F. 896, (Sen. Gene Merriam, DFL-Coon Rapids) authorizing a yearly payment as well as a lump sum payment to farmers who's lands are used for power line routes; H.F. 398, (Sen. Hubert Humphrey III) banning aerosols using chlorofluorocarbon propellants; H.F. 451, (Sen. Winston Borden, DFL-Brainerd), permitting branch banking; and H.F. 613, (Sen. Jerome Hughes, DFL-Maplewood) establishing an office of volunteer services.

#### EDUCATION AIDS SET AT \$1.77 BILLION; ENERGY BILL, COURT REFORM GIVEN FINAL OKAY

Three major conference committee reports were okayed during Monday's brief final session -- the Omnibus Education Aids bill; the Omnibus Energy bill; and a major court reform measure, S.F. 311.

The Education Aids bill, the single largest appropriation measure, was set by the Conference Committee at \$1.772 billion, an increase from the \$1.74 billion previously okayed by the Senate. Per pupil aids were set at \$1,030 the first year and \$1,090 the second, increases of \$5 and \$15 per pupil respectively. The House would not go along with one major Senate provision -- the requirement that districts obtain a certificate of need for any new construction over \$200,000. Instead, the commissioner of Education will have review and comment authority for capital programs in excess of \$400,000. Several other Senate provisions including grants for alternative education aid for the eligible teachers program were also dropped from the bill. In spite of some expressed reservations about possible diminished educational quality, the bill passed 59-0 on its final vote.

The Omnibus Energy bill, already weakened by deletion of taxes on gas guzzlers and credits for insulation, was further weakened in conference by deletion of tax credits for solar energy. Several Senators rose to decry the conference action but all said they would support it because of the remaining provisions, which included an extension of the state building code to all areas of the state. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III, the chairman of the Energy subcommittee said, "I'm not sure it brings us forward as far as we're falling behind," and called upon the Senate to work for a more extensive energy package in 1978. The bill was approved 44-12.

The Court Reform bill (H.F. 311) was, in contrast, strengthened in conference by the addition of provisions that allow reassignment of judges within judicial districts without consent and for 15 days outside the district without consent. In addition only one chief judge would be designated for each judicial district. After discussion, the bill passed 51-6.

Conference committee reports for tip credits, public television, anticipated loss insurance, data privacy, Dakota County representation on the Minnesota Zoological Board, and peace officer training were also approved before Majority Leader Coleman made his motion for adjournment until January 17, 1978. The Senate finished its business shortly before the House and both had adjourned by late afternoon -- hours before the deadline, and in marked contrast from the frantic last minute activity that has characterized some sessions in the past.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last regularly scheduled edition of Briefly for this session. During the interim period, Briefly and other Public Information Office publications will be issued at irregular intervals as the need arises.



# briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For May 9 - 13, 1977

## SENATE APPROVES MAJOR TAX BILL; REJECTS GUN CONTROL FOR NOW

Down to the next to the last week of session, the full Senate met daily this week and took action on a number of major bills -- including passage of determinate sentencing, the Omnibus Tax bill, the Omnibus Transportation appropriation, and authorization of \$100 million in bonding for bridge replacement and repair. Rejected was the controversial gun control bill, but a move to reconsider was later approved, making it possible to bring the bill up another time this session.

During its first session of the week Monday morning, the Senate moved quickly through over 50 bills waiting for final approval. Most of the bills, having been debated extensively before being given preliminary approval, were passed with little discussion. H.F. 334, which prohibits 48 ft. trailers and shortens the maximum allowable length to 45 ft, while keeping the same overall length limit for trailer and tractor combinations, was passed after a short debate. H.F. 970, which would require licenses for any one selling leeches for bait, failed on a close 31-33 vote, but a move to reconsider later passed 33-28 and the bill was progressed. Another bill generating debate was H.F. 805, which would allow supervisory personnel in school systems to join certain bargaining units. It passed 35-24 or only one vote over the 34 required for final passage.

After a noon recess, the Senate took up the Omnibus Tax bill, H.F. 1475. Chief author William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul) first moved two important amendments, one of which exempted the first \$5,000 in public employee pensions from state income tax and the other of which restored the investment credit. Since these changes would result in an \$18 million decrease in revenues, McCutcheon also moved that the personal income credit per dependent be increased from \$21 to \$30 instead of increasing to \$34 as originally provided in the bill. A series of amendments were then offered by members of the Independent-Republican caucus, all of which failed on partisan votes. The final vote on the bill as amended was 53-12 with all 12 votes against coming from I-R Senators. However, six I-R Senators did vote in favor of the bill, joining 47 DFL Senators.

The two major tax relief provisions of the bill are: \$143 million in property tax relief, made possible by increasing the maximum homestead credit circuit breaker allowances and other changes; \$40.5 million in income tax relief, made possible by the increase in the credit allowance as mentioned above.

The bill will now go to a conference committee to iron out difference between the Senate and House versions.

Tuesday's session of the Senate saw action on three major bills from the Special Orders Calendar.

The determinate sentencing bill (S.F. 65), authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), was the first of the controversial measures to be heard. Determinate sentencing is the method of sentencing based on the idea that punishment should fit the crime, not the person. It presumes that everyone who commits the same crime should receive the same punishment.

After the Senate had adopted an author's amendment moving the bill more toward the House version, a series of amendments, including provisions for capital punishment and increased judicial discretion, were soundly rejected. The bill then received approval by a vote of 58 - 5 and was sent on to the House.

Another measure sponsored by McCutcheon did not fare as well. The "gun control" bill (H.F. 800), is actually designed, not to limit ownership of handguns but, to regulate the movement of pistols from dealer to individual. The measure requires a background check on an applicant and a seven day waiting period before a pistol could be transferred. It is intended to keep pistols out of the hands of felons, minors and those with drug, alcohol and mental problems.

In an eloquent plea for support of the measure Majority leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL - St. Paul) summarized his belief in the bill by stating simply "this bill will save lives." Sen. Nancy Brataas (I-R, Rochester) echoed Coleman's sentiments adding "the bill is a most reasonable step" and urged a yes vote on the bill. Defeat for the measure came on a 38-27 vote, but the bill may be brought up again for consideration because Sen. McCutcheon voted on the prevailing side (against his own bill) thus enabling him to move to reconsider.

A transit spending bill, totaling \$35.5 million, was approved on a 48-12 vote. The bill (S.F. 1078) appropriates \$29 million for the Metropolitan Transit Commission and is designed to keep the basic fare for most MTC bus rides from rising although some fare increases may be required for longer rides.



The measure also provides \$150,000 for a feasibility study of the proposed downtown St. Paul people mover project. Author David Schaaf (DFL - Fridley) added an amendment setting some restrictions on the people mover study; eliminating two MTC representatives from the project's steering committee and adding the commissioner of transportation, a metropolitan council advisory committee member and two non-voting legislators.

In other action Tuesday, the Senate gave final approval to bills; providing summer youth employment (S.F. 625- Sen. Sam Solon, DFL - Duluth); allowing savings banks to establish negotiable orders of withdrawal accounts (H.F. 787- Sen. Winston Borden, DFL - Brainerd); changing the organization of the Attorney General's office (H.F. 1364- Borden); imposing limits on the issuance of licenses for commercial fishing on Lake Superior (H.F. 140- Solon); and prohibiting employers from making deductions in wages without an employee's authorization (H.F. 541- Allan Spear, DFL - Mpls.).

Wednesday afternoon the Senate accepted the conference committee report on the minimum wage legislation. According to author John Milton (DFL - White Bear), all that differed in the two versions was the effective date and a compromise was reached that makes the increase effective Sept. 15, 1977.

The Senate then took up S.F. 347, which would increase the allowable finance charges on open end charge accounts and sets limits on closed end accounts (which presently have no limit). A minimum annual charge of \$15 could now be levied on open end accounts. According to Senate author Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), a person who would have an average balance of about \$1,000 and thus be subject to \$12 in normal interest charges would pay an additional \$3 to bring the total to \$15. After the \$15 total is reached at 18 percent, the percentage charge must revert to 12 percent annually. Opponents disputed Laufenburger's claim that stores were losing money on charge accounts and pointed out that larger chains make substantial profits each year on finance charges. But the bill passed easily on a 47-17 final vote.

Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) moved that the House amendments to the no site stadium bill be accepted and that the bill be sent on to the Governor. The repassage vote was 39-27, almost identical to the original 40-25 Senate approval of the no site plan. Sen. Bill McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul) entered a motion to reconsider the defeat of the gun control bill. The motion to reconsider passed and the bill was laid on the table for possible future action.

The Wednesday evening session began with another Laufenburger bill on the Special Orders calendar, H.F. 733, which would authorize \$100 million in highway bridge bonding over the next biennium. Of this amount \$50 million would go for trunk highway bridge repair and replacement, the revenues being raised through highway fund bonds. Another \$50 million in general revenue bonds would be allocated to county roads (\$27 million), municipal routes (\$8 million), and township roads (\$15 million). Amendments to reduce the allocation for township roads failed when rural supporters pointed out that poor bridges on such roads are causing school buses to be detoured for miles because crossing some bridges is unsafe. The bonding bill passed easily 55-3.

The next bill taken up Wednesday was H.F. 1610, the Omnibus Transportation finance bill. It appropriates a total of \$861 million for transportation purposes during the biennium -- including highways, mass transit, airport regulation, and other activities now under the domain of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud), chairman of the Finance Subcommittee on Semi-state and Transportation, said he was most proud of the fact that the current appropriations had managed to hold the line and were \$7.5 million less than the actual 1975-76 annual expenditures. Sen. David Schaaf (DFL - Fridley) amended in the entire transit bill approved earlier. He said that this was necessary because the Omnibus bill and the transit bill differed by some \$3 million because the Omnibus bill had used estimates for transit but that his bill had developed the budget more completely. The amendment passed and the bill was given unanimous final approval.

Four other Special Order bills were also taken up. S.F. 897, also authored by Sen. Kleinbaum, increases the maximum benefit that can be paid to crime victims under the Crime Victims' Reparations Act. Three persons who have been seriously injured while crimes were being committed against them have been awarded the current maximum of \$10,000. But Kleinbaum said he felt that this amount was inadequate for a person who has become paralyzed for life or similar injuries and asked that the maximum be increased to \$25,000. S.F. 193, authored by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL - Bertha), increases the maximum that can be expended on construction of armories. S.F. 120, authored by Sen. Bill McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul) sets up bilingual educational programs for Spanish speaking people. The emphasis is on transitional training that would allow Spanish speaking children to function in regular classrooms. S.F. 783, authored by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL - St. James) would fund distribution of certain official state publications to county libraries.

The Thurs. May 12 session began with a discussion of the conference committee report on S.F. 32, the bill that provides funds for control of Dutch Elm disease. Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (DFL - New Hope), the bill's author, explained the changes made by the committee. As it stands now the measure would provide a total of \$28.5 million to communities over a period of 24 months. The largest share of the appropriation (\$21,625,000) would go for sanitation projects such as the removal of diseased trees. The full Senate concurred with the conference committee report and the measure received final passage.

A measure (H.F. 875) that attempts to deal with the housing crisis was the next focal point of discussion. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL - Mpls.), raises the bonding authority for the Housing Finance Agency from \$600 million to \$900 million, with \$100 million earmarked for rehabilitation loans for existing homes and \$200 million provided for additional financing of family homes for low and moderate income people. The bill also allows for more loan flexibility for housing and redevelopment authorities. Approval of the measure was granted on a 45-6 vote.

A bill establishing pilot programs to provide emergency shelter and treatment for battered women was the next item on the Special Orders Calendar to gain passage. Author Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL - St. Louis Park) explained the measure, noting "the problem of battered women has always existed but it is one of the least reported crimes," and "the bill attempts to address the problem of violent behavior in our society."

Final approval was also given to a number of measures, among which were: A bill granting a cost of living increase for welfare recipients (S.F. 446 - Sen. Steve Keefe, DFL - Mpls.); a measure giving financial aid to detached worker programs through community YMCA's (S.F. 655 - Sen. Hubert Humphrey III); legislation providing \$640 thousand for public television in extreme northwestern Minnesota (S.F. 690 - Sen. Marvin Hanson, DFL - Hallock); and a bill permitting limited gambling for non profit organizations (H.F. 405 - Sen. Tom Nelson, DFL - Austin).

Over fifty measures were given preliminary approval by the Senate acting as a committee of the whole. A bill that would lift the construction moratorium on 35 E (H.F. 544) was sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL - St. Paul). The measure was amended by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul) to keep the moratorium in effect while requiring a deadline on an environmental impact statement. Also approved was a measure banning the sale of pressurized containers using chlorofluorocarbon propellants (H.F. 398 - Humphrey); a bill prohibiting the dissemination of pornography depicting minors (H.F. 343 - Olhoft, DFL - Herman); a measure designating wild rice as the official state grain (H.F. 55 - Peterson, DFL - Detroit Lakes); and a bill encouraging post-secondary institutions to grant comparable credit for comparable work at another institution (H.F. 129 - Penny, DFL - New Richland).



#### TAX COMMITTEE WRAPS UP BUSINESS FOR THE SESSION

The Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), met Tues. May 10 and Wed. May 11 to consider a number of bills and conclude committee business for the session.

Of chief importance was the omnibus energy bill (S.F. 669) authored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch). The tax provisions of the bill were substantially amended by the committee. An attempt to add an excise tax based on milage to first time automobile registrations was defeated. The bill was then approved by the committee.

A great deal of discussion occurred at both meetings on a measure (S.F. 1050) dealing with the statutes on the state sales tax. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman), incorporated several provisions suggested by the department of revenue. After extensive debate a section dealing with sales tax on country club fees and recreational facility fees was struck from the bill and final approval was granted.

Another measure suggested by the revenue department was also passed by the committee. The bill (H.F. 585), authored by Olhoft, contains definitions of income for senior citizen property tax freeze credit purposes and sets out procedures for tax liens on personal property.

In other action this week the committee approved: S.F. 979, authored by Sen. Arnulf Ueland (I-R, North Mankato), allowing an exemption from the gasoline and special fuels tax for municipal transit systems; S.F. 1238, authored by Sen. Roger Strand (DFL-Cyrus) calling for sales tax on telephone service charges be made payable by the person paying for the service; S.F. 1214 authored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (I-R, St. Paul), establishing filing requirements for a condominium association; H.F. 993, authored by McCutcheon, anticipating the coming of the metric system by establishing a method of taxation on liquors sold in metric containers; and S.F. 126, authored by Olhoft, mandating the taxation of unemployment compensation benefits when gross income exceeds \$15,000 per year.

#### FINANCE MOVES QUICKLY TO ACT ON REMAINING BILLS

The Senate Finance Committee (chaired by Sen. Roger Moe, DFL-Ada) met twice Wed. May 11 and again Thurs. May 12 to clear its agenda of some 30 or more bills awaiting Finance Committee approval for appropriations. (Bills which involve both policy matters and financial appropriations are first heard by policy committees and then referred to Finance for action on the appropriation sections. Finance is also free to make policy amendments, however).

At the Wednesday morning session, the Finance Committee approved two election-related measures by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.). The first (S.F. 266) appropriates money to produce a manual to instruct new election judges; the second (S.F. 519) makes changes in registration procedures, including a new provision that will allow a person to automatically change his voting registration when that person changes the address on his driver's license. This provision is designed to reduce voting day registrations which totaled a record 474,000 statewide during the 1976 election. Also approved was a measure (S.F. 448) by Keefe that begins implementation of the emergency 911 number. Other bills approved included S.F. 472, authored by Sen. Eugene Stokowski. It would increase the state contribution to the Teacher Retirement funds from 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent annually. According to Stokowski this increase is necessary to prevent huge deficits because of unfunded accrued liabilities. Originally the bill had increased the state contribution to 4.5 percent but the Minnesota department of Finance said that such a large increase would not be necessary if the fund earned an average of seven percent annually on its investments. Stokowski said that the fund has earned less than five percent annually during the past 45 years, however. The committee also approved funds to set up a criminal justice telecommunications system, and several other bills.

Wednesday afternoon the committee approved two important bonding measures. S.F. 1444, authored by Sen. A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island), increases PCA pollution control bonding from its current \$95 million level to \$135 million. The second, authored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) provides \$62.5 million in bonding for acquisition and development of parks and trails throughout the state. Also approved was S.F. 743, authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake). The bill sets up a statewide program of pre-school health screening.

On Thursday the committee approved necessary funds to enforce legislation that would bar age discrimination, okayed a bill that would allow the department of welfare to purchase insurance that would protect foster parents against liability in cases of damages caused by the foster child, and also approved \$600,000 to set up six Native American Bicultural Educational programs across the state. Several other bills were also approved while others were voted down as the committee sought to keep spending within limits of available dollars. Additional bills were to be heard Friday morning -- including the Omnibus Energy bill and S.F. 202, which would create a Department of Economic Security.



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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For May 2 - 6, 1977

## SENATE APPROVES FINANCE BILLS, CHANGED POWERLINE PROCEDURES

Meeting four times during the week, the full Senate moved through dozens of bills and approved several major items -- including the \$1.72 billion education aids bill, a \$445.5 million appropriation for state agencies, and a bill that makes major changes in power plant and powerline siting procedures.

At the Monday day session, the Senate gave final approval to 27 bills and preliminary approval to almost 30 more. Among the measures winning final approval were:

- S.F. 109, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley). The bill provides for appointment of state commissioners and department heads by the Governor for terms that run concurrently with the Governor's. It was amended to include a six year expiration date at which time the legislature will review its workability.
- S.F. 695, authored by Sen. Peter Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul). The bill authorizes \$8.25 million in bonds for renovation and repairs at Como Zoo.
- S.F. 1302, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). The bill instructs the Department of Transportation to report on the feasibility of constructing roadside informational plazas which would provide directions to resorts and other recreational facilities nearby.
- S.F. 1208, authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake). The measure requires that polling places be made accessible to the elderly and the physically handicapped and that assistance be provided those unable to enter the polling place.
- S.F. 830, authored by Senators Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) and James Ulland (IR-Duluth). The bill places a special two percent sales tax on on-sale food and drink in the Duluth area. Proceeds are to help fund several community development projects.
- S.F. 798, authored by Sen. Robert Dunn (IR-Princeton). The measure would make any person who is injured in the course of assisting a police officer eligible for workers' compensation benefits.
- S.F. 1165, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids). The bill would regulate land use by private citizens who own property within state parks and provides that any such land be sold to the state upon death of the current owner of his first generation descendants. It passed by an extremely close vote, winning just the 34 votes needed for final passage.

The Monday night session of the Senate saw passage of two major appropriation bills. The largest education aids package in the state's history was approved on a 55-10 vote. The bill (S.F. 481, H.F. 550) carries a \$1.72 billion appropriation for the state's educational system. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merrian (DFL-Coon Rapids), provides foundation aids of \$1,025 per pupil unit for the 1977-78 school year. A series of amendments offered by Independent Republicans, designed to raise the amount of per pupil aid, were defeated during the course of the debate. The bill will now be sent to a conference committee.

Approval was granted a \$445.5 million bill (S.F. 1467) to finance most state departments for the biennium. The bill would increase allocations to state agencies by 15% but is about \$500,000 short of the Governor's recommendations. Sen. Hubert Humphrey III, chairman of the Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, stated that the bill was "an attempt to trim the bureaucracy without losing services." The final vote for the measure was 57-2.

A third bill on the Special Orders Calendar (S.F. 1350), authored by Sen. Nancy Brataas (I-R, Rochester), was also approved. The measure postpones the effective date for implementing uniform curriculum for nursing assistant training.

Preliminary approval was granted to a measure (S.F. 497, authored by Sen. Allan Spear, (DFL-Mpls.) that would add the words "affectional preference" to the state Human Rights Act. (The bill failed to win enough votes for final passage and subsequently was withdrawn by the author and returned to the Judiciary Committee on Thursday). Tuesday night the full Senate approved the bill (S.F. 1489) appropriating funds for semi-state agencies. Finance Subcommittee chairman Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud) sponsored the measure which has a total appropriation of \$11.6 million, \$250,000 less than the Governor's recommendation. Major increases of funding from the last biennium included \$1.8 million for the Minnesota Historical Society and \$4 million for the state Arts Board. The bill was approved 49-0.

In other action, the full Senate granted final approval to over 30 bills with little or no debate. Discussion centered on bills listed on the General Orders Calendar. The Senate, acting as a committee of the whole, gave preliminary approval to: S.F. 678, authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd), allowing F & M Savings Bank to establish negotiable orders of withdrawal (a

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(Continued on Page two)



system that operates much like checking accounts); S.F. 1172, also authored by Borden, adding metropolitan and capitol area agencies to the Administrative Procedures Act; S.F. 1051, again authored by Borden, allowing for grand juries to be drawn from more than one county; S.F. 1410 (Borden) providing that the responsibility for the assignment of deputy and assistant attorney generals to various state departments reside with the Attorney General; and S.F. 1106, authored by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL - St. James), authorizing counties to prohibit the transportation of solid waste to other counties.

The first item to come up for consideration at the Thursday session was S.F. 497, the controversial "gay rights" measure, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL - Mpls.) Two Senators who had supported the measure earlier were absent and Spear acknowledged that he did not have the required 34 votes needed for passage. He said the campaign against the bill was the most "vicious" he had witnessed in his years in the Senate and added that if a secret ballot were taken the bill would pass. He then moved that the bill be withdrawn from the Senate and returned to the Judiciary Committee. After some discussion the Senate acceded to his request.

Bills making theft of cable television transmissions illegal, appropriating money to cover the cost of special elections held to replace Agriculture Secretary Robert Berglund and State Senator Alec Olson (who became Lt. Gov. when Gov. Perpich took office), and several other measures were given final approval.

Several important bills designated as Special Orders were then taken up. S.F. 896, which makes a number of important changes in the power plant and powerline siting procedures to be followed by the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), was the topic of fairly extensive discussion. Author Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids) explained the bill, which includes a number of complicated tax provisions that would reduce the property taxes of residents along lines. The bill also changes the line siting procedures by eliminating the two-step process of selecting a wide corridor and then designating a specific route within that corridor and instead calls for a single step route designation. Other provisions of the bill allow a person who feels that the powerline threatens his health or safety to demand that the power company proposing a route through his property purchase his entire property instead of the area affected, and also provide mechanisms for increased citizen input into the powerline siting procedure. The bill passed 56-1.

Another item on the Special Orders Agenda, S.F. 1065, which would have allowed the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) to invest up to \$30 million of its funds to build an office building in St. Paul, was referred to the Finance Committee for further hearings on a 29-24 vote. Two other items were approved -- S.F. 341 provides a credit for day care expenses for dependent children and H.F. 531 permits banks to take second mortgages in federal disaster areas.

The Senate then turned to a 92 item General Orders Agenda. About 50 bills were given preliminary approval, many of which had limited or local significance only. Among them was H.F. 40, which requires 30 hours of educational courses prior to licensing as real estate brokers or sales agents and an additional 60 hours in the three years following licensing. The bill was amended to delete the training requirement prior to licensing but the bill's author, Sen. Allan Spear (DFL - Mpls.) indicated that he would move to reconsider that action. Also approved was a measure by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL - Duluth) that limits the numbers of commercial fishermen on Lake Superior. Solon indicated that populations of herring, lake trout and others were near depletion and that this bill was necessary to preserve sporting fishing on the lake. A bill by Sen. Eugene Stokowski (DFL - Mpls.) that removes the age requirement for application for non-qualification certificates also gained preliminary approval.

CORRECTION: In last week's wrap-up of Senate action, it was incorrectly reported that only two amendments were successfully added to the stadium bill. Four amendments were approved. In addition to the two cited last week, two other amendments were approved -- one of which provided that available federal monies should be sought, and the other of which provided funds for land acquisition if needed.

GOV OP CONTINUES HEARINGS ON DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY; FINAL VOTE SET

At meetings Tues. May 3 and Wed. May 4 the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul), continued hearings on a comprehensive reorganization of state human services. S.F. 202, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada) would create a super-agency for state human services such as employment services, vocational rehabilitation, welfare services and others.

Opponents of the measure said that similar reorganizations have failed to produce improved results at the service delivery level and that new levels of top bureaucracy would reduce accountability. Sen. Frank Knoll (DFL - Mpls.) said he was concerned that so many people who would be directly affected by the reorganization appeared to oppose it. Senate research staff briefed the committee on the results of a study of similar measures. The committee members were told that the results were mixed, that quantitative service delivery appeared to improve but that the qualitative impacts were difficult to assess. A vote had been scheduled at the Wednesday session but time ran out and a special Friday session was scheduled. Results of that meeting were not available.

JUDICIARY BARS ALIEN LAND ACQUISITION, APPROVES ONE TENANT BILL AND WILL STUDY SECOND

Several measures were approved by the Judiciary Committee at meetings Mon. May 2 and Wed. May 4. Included was a bill (H.F. 79) that bars non-resident alien acquisition of farm land and another that requires that landlords pay tenants interest on security deposits and which provides penalties for wrongfully withholding a portion of the deposit. A second tenant bill, also by Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center), that would allow tenants to "repair and deduct" was laid over for interim study.

At two meetings Friday the committee was to take up nine additional bills, including S.F. 811, the Omnibus Privacy bill authored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL - Mpls.) The bill defines private and confidential information and provides safeguards against wrongful access -- particularly in cases of electronic computer files.

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES BAN SPRAY CANS; APPROVES POLLUTION CONTROL MATCHING GRANTS

At meetings Tues. May 3 and Thurs. May 5 the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III that would ban manufacture, sale and use of spray containers using chlorofluorocarbon propellants. Also approved was a measure by Sen. A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL - Bird Island) that provides \$124 million in bonding to provide local communities with the 15 percent matching grant money needed to obtain federal funding. A bill by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL - Detroit Lakes) that designates wild rice as the state grain was also approved, in addition to several others. At the Thursday session the committee discussed and then laid over a bill by Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center) that clarifies the scope of Pollution Control Agency powers in regulating pollution.

COMMERCE COMMITTEE APPROVES READABLE INSURANCE POLICIES ACT

The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL - Mpls.), met Tues. May 3 and approved a number of bills.

Among the measures passed was H.F. 1201, sponsored by Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL - Stillwater), a bill requiring that insurance policies be "readable and understandable to a person of average intelligence." Also approved were H.F. 1094, authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), providing for competitive bidding on group insurance contracts for public employees; H.F. 1179, authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (I-R, Burnsville), requiring non-profit health service plan corporations to maintain a surplus of at least \$100,000; and H.F. 296, sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.), establishing a Life and Health Guaranty Association.

OMNIBUS TAX BILL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The Senate Tax Committee, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), debated provisions of the omnibus tax bill this week. The Mon. May 2 meeting was devoted to discussion of Article X, the section dealing with taconite taxation. Wed. May 4 the committee continued to hear public testimony on various other sections of the bill. The most controversial element being a plan to tax pensions in Minnesota. A total of 18 amendments were offered by committee members but only two were approved by the committee. The bill will now go to the Senate floor.

FINANCE OKAY GIVEN TO NUMEROUS BILLS INCLUDING SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MEASURE

Having completed committee and floor action on most of the major appropriation bills, the Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) turned this week to numerous bills awaiting financial review and approval by the committee. Approved this week was a bill that doubles state spending to create summer youth employment from \$4 million to \$9 million over the next biennium. The additional \$5 million would cover a special program for college bound or college youth that would permit participants to earn up to \$1100 in summer job income. Also approved were bills increasing the compensation to crime victims, providing a start-up appropriation for an Indian small business assistance program, the state employee pay bill, the Housing Finance Agency appropriation and bonding authorization, and others.

COMMITTEE PASSES HOME CARE PROGRAMS FOR THE NEEDY, "WORK EQUITY" REQUIREMENTS

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee met Tues. May 3 and approved a measure (H.F. 572, S.F. 629) establishing an experimental program to provide alternatives to nursing home care in selected areas of the state. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls).

Also approved by the committee were H.F. 1498, (S.F. 1465, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega), a bill creating mandatory "work equity" programs for general assistance recipients; H.F. 856, authored by Chairman George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm) allowing the commissioner of public welfare to establish a centralized disbursement system for AFDC, emergency assistance, and food stamps; H.F. 319, authored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park), changing the name of "daytime activity center" to "developmental achievement centers"; and H.F. 823, authored by Sen. James Nichols (DFL-Lake Benton), permitting the use of plastic water casings in water wells.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CONCLUDES HEARINGS

The Local Government Committee met Fri. April 29 and Wed. May 4 to conclude committee hearings on a number of bills. The committee approved a measure (H.F. 1129) authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), codifying existing laws relating to the composition, terms, selection and redistricting of the board of commissioners in Ramsey County.

Two bills were heard and passed onto the Consent Calendar: H.F. 937, authored by Sen. Peter Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul), deleting obsolete provisions about parks and recreation areas from the Ramsey county code and H.F. 323 authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), providing an unclassified position as administrative assistant to the Sheriff of Dakota county be authorized.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HEARS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUCCESSOR CLAUSE BILL

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), devoted discussion Mon. May 2, to a measure (H.F. 7) providing for successor clauses in collective bargaining. The bill's sponsor, Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) argued that "a contract is not worth the paper it is written on if the business changes hands", because the new owners would not necessarily honor the old contract agreements. The bill was laid over by the committee.

In other action the committee approved a bill (H.F. 1283, S.F. 1426), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), removing the requirement of approval of industrial development bonds by the commissioner of economic development and a measure (H.F. 1310, S.F. 1422), authored by Sen. Laufenburger, bringing state laws concerning unemployment compensation requirements conformity with federal requirements.

GENERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE WRAPS UP COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee met Tues. May 3 to act on the final two bills before the committee this session.

The first, H.F. 261, authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) authorized the commissioner of Veterans Affairs to act as the guardian for minors or incompetents receiving monies from the U.S. Government when a U.S. agency requests the Commissioner do so. The bill also allows the Commissioner to have just one trust account instead of individual accounts for each guardianship.

A second bill, (S.F. 1473), authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), requiring blood alcohol charts to be posted in all establishments selling alcoholic beverages and in new cars was laid over by the committee.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE OKAYS PUBLIC TV MEASURE

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), met Tues. May 3 and approved a bill providing matching funds for public television stations. The bill allows the state to match funds given by small private contributors and was sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

Also granted approval was a measure (H.F. 1518), introduced by Sen. Otto Bang (IR-Edina), allowing land to be detached from the Eden Prairie school district and attached to the Bloomington school district.

Thurs. May 5 the committee approved a measure (H.F. 44) sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), appropriating money to the Council on Quality Education for the design and implementation of programs for high potential children.



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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For April 25-29, 1977

## SENATE PASSES NO SITE STADIUM BILL, OMNIBUS FINANCE MEASURES, IN DAILY SESSIONS

Meeting daily Saturday through Thursday (except Sunday), the Senate moved through scores of bills this week, including passage of several pieces of major legislation.

Among the more important bills approved were:

- The no site stadium bill, authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.). It authorizes bonding of up to \$55 million for the construction of a multi-purpose sports stadium. Funds to meet payments would come from ticket revenues or from a back-up two percent liquor tax on sales in the metro area. A seven member commission would choose the site and decide upon a domed or open air type.
- The appropriation of \$652.8 million to fund post-secondary education, including the state universities and the U of M.
- The appropriation of \$954 million to fund various health, welfare and corrections programs over the biennium. Included was a proviso to close Hastings State Hospital on January 1, 1978 and Anoka State Hospital on January 1, 1979.
- S.F. 311, a major court reform measure. Authored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.), the bill allows the chief judges of county and district courts to reassign judges in their districts in order to meet varying workloads.
- S.F. 1077, which creates a Crime Control Planning Board. The new board supercedes the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention. Author Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd) indicated that the measure was intended to give the Legislature a broader role in crime prevention policies and administration.

At the Sat. April 23rd meeting, preliminary approval was given to about 40 bills. Among the more extensively debated measures were: S.F. 667, a bill that authorizes a \$10 million bonding program in Minneapolis to provide loans for the rehabilitation of small businesses; S.F. 737, a bill that allows owners to place a tag on their pets indicating that if impounded, the animal should not be used for research; S.F. 191, a bill that allows adopted children to learn the identity of their biological parents, provided that the parents do not file an objection; and S.F. 543, a bill that would have lifted the construction moratorium on 35E through St. Paul. All of the contested bills passed after amendments except the 35E moratorium measure, which was strongly opposed by Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman.

At the Monday day session, a total of over 40 bills were given final approval. S.F. 125, the "Arab boycott" bill, authored by Sen. Steve Keefe, was approved 52-4. The Minneapolis bonding measure for rehabilitation of small businesses was approved 44-14 and the leave of absence bill passed by a 41-18 vote (both had been given preliminary approval Saturday). Also approved (57-3) was S.F. 804, the Omnibus DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) bill. Authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) the law would allow courts or arresting officers to retain the driver's licenses of persons convicted of DWI offenses. Also approved were measures requiring employers to pay remodeling costs for workers who are handicapped because of industrial accidents; extending the tax credit for feedlot pollution control equipment and providing for carryovers of the credit; defining powers of arrest of U of M police officers; prohibiting short-barreled shotguns; and others. (Complete details of Senate actions are listed in the official JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.)

At the Monday night session, the Omnibus Health, Welfare and Corrections bill was approved after extensive debate. The bill, which appropriates \$954,878,000 over the next biennium, passed 55-8 after a series of amendments to keep various state hospitals open had all been defeated. The bill is 12 percent less than the departments had requested. HWC Finance sub-committee chairman Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park) defended the cuts, saying that it was time for the legislature to get a handle on the budget and to stop open end appropriations. Also approved Monday night was a \$339,000 deficiency appropriation for Amtrak service to Duluth for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977. It will take another \$1 million to subsidize the service for one additional year, the cut off point for continued funding. By then the route is expected to be self-supporting or Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) said he would be the first to vote to end the subsidy. S.F. 686, the bill allowing pet owners to prohibit use of their animals for research, was amended to delete a provision that had allowed local communities to pass ordinances placing community-wide bans on research use of impounded pets. Preliminary approval was also given to S.F. 109 (authored by Sen. David Schaaf, DFL, Fridley), which provides for the coterminous appointments of state department heads with the Governor. The bill also gives the Governor complete hiring and firing authority, a provision that was debated extensively.

(continued on page 2)



At the Tuesday night session, the Senate gave final passage to over 20 bills and preliminary approval to over 20 more. Among those given final approval were: S.F. 541, which authorizes value analysis of certain Mn/Dot construction projects; S.F. 368, which gives continued insurance coverage options to spouses when coverage would end because of divorce; S.F. 558, which allows trapping of the Great Horned Owl under certain specified conditions; S.F. 825, which changes eminent domain procedures in Hennepin County and prohibits lawyers who have argued an eminent domain proceeding within one year from serving on a judgement panel; S.F. 426, which allows the issuance of a limited license for those who have had driver's licenses revoked, in order to attend drug or alcohol counseling programs; and S.F. 411, which provides for the training and licensing of peace officers in the state. Also given final approval was the animal research prohibition measure, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids).

On the General Orders Agenda, the most controversial measure, S.F. 116 unit pricing, was defeated by a 25-31 vote after extensive debate. Author Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul) offered several amendments that would have extended the scope of the bill, but they were defeated. Proponents, including co-author Gerry Sikorski (DFL-Stillwater), argued that the bill would assist consumers in making the best buys. Sen. Nancy Brataas (I-R, Rochester) said that as a homemaker she personally found the unit pricing system very helpful when doing grocery shopping. Opponents argued that the measure would increase the cost to stores and that such price increases would be passed on to consumers. Sen. Ed Schrom (DFL-Albany) also said that unit pricing does not take differences in quality into account. "There are good cherry pies and bad cherry pies," he said.

At the Wed. April 27 evening session, the Senate first passed bills changing the duties of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources and requiring the licensing of Montessori schools by the commission of education. Also given final approval were three bills on the Consent Calendar. On a close 29-28 vote, S.F. 109-coterminus appointments, was moved back to General Orders. The most extensively debated measure on the General Orders Calendar, S.F. 131, which relates to registration of lobbying efforts, was re-referred to the Judiciary Committee. Chief author William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center) urged the Senate not to refer the bill to Judiciary because he said he "doubts he will see the bill again." By a vote of 36-24 the measure was sent back to Judiciary.

The Senate then took up several Special Orders. First to be heard was H.F. 1510, the Omnibus Higher Education funding bill. It passed 61-0 after little debate. S.F. 311-court reform was also on the Special Orders agenda. Two amendments, the first of which would have allowed transfers of judges without their explicit consent and the second of which would have provided for only one chief judge in each judicial district, were both defeated. After defeating an additional amendment the bill was passed 40-14.

At the Thursday day session, several additional bills were given final approval. The most hotly debated bill, S.F. 1118, which would have allowed duck hunters on private property to leave their decoys out over night, was defeated 26-39. On the General Orders agenda, S.F. 109, the coterminous appointments bill that gives the Governor hiring and firing power over state department heads, was amended to provide that the act expire after six years. This provision, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) was in response to the fear of some Senators that the Governor might be too powerful under the new law and that it would be impossible to change the law later because of his veto power. With the new "Sunset" provision the bill passed. Also given preliminary approval were S.F. 695, an \$8.25 million metro bonding measure for remodeling and repairs at Como Zoo; S.F. 297, which makes certain changes in the tip credit provisions for minimum wages; and S.F. 1302, which would require Mn/DOT to study the feasibility of constructing roadside informational plazas to direct tourists to nearby resorts. Voted down was a special orders bill that would have established a state investment pool for local government. In addition several more bills were given preliminary approval at the Thursday night session before taking up the stadium bill. Included were S.F. 787, which directs the state's department of agriculture to study the need for licensing tree removal operators; and S.F. 1165, which requires privately owned land within state parks to be used in a manner consistent with park use and that the private land should be sold to the state upon death of the current owner or first generation descendants.

The Crime Control Planning Board bill was also approved on final passage. The Senate then turned to S.F. 895, the no site stadium bill. Debate lasted about two and a half hours and a dozen amendments were offered, only two of which passed. One would require that small contractors be awarded parts of the contract; the other would provide that the chairman of the site-selection committee serve a full term, instead of serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The closest vote came on the amendment by Minority Leader Robert Ashbach that would have authorized the remodeling and doming of the U of M Memorial Stadium. If failed 30-31. The bill as amended passed 40-24. Having voted on the prevailing side, author Keefe then moved to reconsider -- a motion that was promptly defeated. Keefe's move foreclosed any future attempt to reconsider since such a motion can only be introduced once. The Senate will not meet this weekend but will convene at 10:00 AM on Monday.

PANEL APPROVES MEASURE TO RAISE CHARGE ACCOUNT INTEREST LIMIT

The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL - Mpls.) voted Fri. April 22 to raise the state interest limit on revolving charge accounts to 18 from 12 percent a year. The bill, authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), would also put an 18 percent limit on installment loans which have no state limit now. Under the bill, (S.F. 347) the maximum interest rate would be 1 1/2 percent a month until the total for a year is \$15 and then the interest reverts to the present 1 percent.

Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center), sponsor of a bill to hold down electric rates for residential users, changed his bill (S.F. 97) into one calling for a study of the proposal and of the same approach to gas rates.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPROVES COMPARABLE CREDIT MEASURE

The Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood) met Thurs. April 28 and approved a measure (H.F. 129) encouraging institutions to grant comparable credit for work at another institution. According to the bill's author, Sen. Tim Penny (DFL - New Richland), students would know what is transferable and institutions would be encouraged to develop uniform standards.

The committee also approved the Governor's appointment of Mrs. Katherine Vanderkooi to the State Board of Community Colleges.

At a meeting of the Education Subcommittee on Education Aids Mon. April 26, a measure (S.F. 512), authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud), appropriating funds for programs for gifted children was approved.

OMNIBUS TAX BILL DEBATED BY COMMITTEE

The Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws met Wed. April 27 to begin discussion on the omnibus tax bill. The committee, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), discussed article IV, the section dealing with dependent care at the Wednesday meeting. Further discussion on the omnibus bill is scheduled for later meetings.

A bill (S.F. 158), authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL - Park Rapids), authorizing payment in lieu of taxes on certain classifications of property was approved by the committee. Also approved was a measure (S.F. 1019), authored by Sen. Douglas Sillers (I-R, Moorhead), authorizing taxes in excess of levy limits for the arts.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HEARS HOUSE BILLS

The Senate Employment Committee met Wed. April 27 to hear a number of House bills. H.F. 212 sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL - St. Paul) providing a period when employment fees must be refunded was approved. H.F. 920, sponsored by Sen. George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm), provides for unions to be notified when a member is injured or dies. The bill was amended to allow the employer 48 hours after receiving notice of such an injury to notify both the union and the Department of Labor and Industry. Sen. Peter Stumpf (DFL - St. Paul) introduced a bill authorizing payroll deduction for local arts and science councils. Both bills were approved by the committee.

COMMITTEE BANS NON-RETURNABLE PLASTIC MILK CARTONS

A measure (H.F. 45) prohibiting non-returnable plastic cartons was approved Thurs. at a meeting of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL - Park Rapids) amended the bill to include plastic-coated paper milk cartons. The ban on plastic milk cartons is to begin on July 1, 1978 and on the plastic-coated paper cartons is to start in 1980. The bill's sponsor in the Senate is Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center).

In other action this week the committee approved a resolution, sponsored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL - Cook), that the State of Minnesota be granted control of the Eastern Timberwolf. Under the measure (H.F. 105) the Dept. of Natural Resources would undertake to protect the wolf without letting it damage the livestock of area farmers.

The Subcommittee on Environmental Protection approved a measure (S.F. 197) prohibiting the sale of pressurized containers using chlorofluorocarbon propellants. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (DFL - New Hope) would allow medicinal aerosols to be used.

FINANCE COMMITTEE WORKS ON OMNIBUS BILLS

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada) completed work on several omnibus bills this week. The committee followed subcommittee recommendations for funding for State Departments, Semi-state Departments and Transportation. The Education (con't on page 4)



Aids bill, a \$1.725 billion package was also approved by the committee.

Total appropriations were \$449.4 million for state departments, \$15.4 for semi-state and \$825.6 million for transportation.

The committee also approved funds to support the determinate sentencing bill (S.F. 65) and a special elections cost measure (S.F. 157).

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS HEARS OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES TESTIMONY

The Senate Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul), began work on a bill (S.F. 202) that would create a Department of Economic Security. The measure, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada), would abolish the Department of Employment Services and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Both areas would fall under the jurisdiction of the new department. Further hearings on the bill are scheduled for next week.

JUDICIARY APPROVES POWER LINE BILL

The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL - Mpls.) met Mon. April 25 and approved a bill that places higher priorities on agricultural land in power line routing. The bill (S.F. 896), sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids) provides for changes in the purchase of lands and for grievance procedures on the part of landowners.

In other action the committee approved a bill (S.F. 662) providing enforcement powers for the payment of child support. The measure is sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL - St. Paul).



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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For April 18 - 22, 1977

## SENATE DEFEATS CAMPUS LIQUOR CONTROL, APPROVES BRANCH BANKING AND ARAB BOYCOTT BILLS

At meetings Mon. April 18 and Thur. April 21, the full Senate defeated a bill by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud) that would have allowed state colleges and universities to control liquor use on their own campuses; approved a bill by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd) that allows banks to set up branches within the economic development region in which the home bank is located; and gave preliminary approval to a bill by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) that would prohibit Minnesota corporations from joining in the tertiary Arab boycott (the boycotting of businesses that do business with Israel).

Also approved at the Monday session was a bill by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL - Fridley) that repeals the state's Sunday Holiday bill and allows trucks to operate in class A cities without requiring special permits. The branch banking measure was approved 38-25. Several other measures were also approved.

At the Thursday session final passage was given to several bills that were given preliminary approval Monday. Included were S.F. 105, authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL - Mpls.), a bill that allows fathers of illegitimate parents first adoption rights should the mother decide to give the child up; S.F. 430, a bill exempting peace officers who have completed approved vocational-technical instruction from further training requirements (authored by Sen. George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm); and two bills by Sen. Frank Knoll (DFL - Mpls.) that require the state to purchase certain percentages of materials from small and minority-operated businesses. Also approved was a bill that allows credit unions to contract with other credit unions to provide certain services (such as data processing) that smaller credit unions cannot afford to maintain individually.

Three tax measures on the Special Orders agenda were also approved. S.F. 816, authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), allows the Revenue Department to obtain additional information without going through procedures specified in the Administrative Procedures Act. H.F. 437 (Senate author Wayne Olhott, DFL - Herman) simply brings state definitions of gross income in line with federal. H.F. 586 (Senate author William McCutcheon, DFL - St. Paul) provides for reciprocity with Wisconsin for limited tax information and subjects any information given to the Wisconsin department to the same privacy safeguards required by Minnesota law.

The Senate also voted to approve the pay bill as passed by the House. It was signed Thursday by the Governor.

The Senate is scheduled for a day-long session Saturday April 23; a 10:30 to 3 pm session Monday another 7 to midnight session Monday evening. Several other evening sessions are scheduled or possible next week.

## SENATE FINANCE APPROVES HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS AND EDUCATION OMNIBUS BILLS

At meetings Mon. April 18 and Wed. April 20 the Finance Committee (chaired by Sen. Roger Moe, DFL - Ada) met and approved omnibus funding measures for Health, Welfare and Corrections, and Education. The HWC funding totaled \$946 million over the coming biennium. The Education funding totaled \$652.8 million.

Two items were debated extensively at the HWC session Monday. The Health, Welfare and Corrections Subcommittee (chaired by Sen. Robert Lewis, DFL - St. Louis Park) had recommended the closing of Hastings and Anoka state hospitals. Urban area legislators expressed concern that this would leave the metro area without a state hospital but the full committee went along with the subcommittee recommendations. Another major issue surfaced over the subcommittee recommendation to slash a total of \$2.5 million from chemical dependency programs. The full committee over-rode the subcommittee recommendation and restored the full funding.

The Education Omnibus bill was \$32 million less than the Governor's recommendation. Much of the cutback was achieved through reductions in the University of Minnesota appropriation. The House Appropriations Committee reduced the University allocation even more drastically, cutting about \$45 million from the Governor's \$403.2 million recommendation.

At a Friday afternoon meeting the committee also considered omnibus funding measures for State Departments, Semi-state Departments and Transportation. The subcommittee recommendations are for \$449.4 million for state departments over the biennium, \$15.4 million for semi-state, and \$825.6 million for transportation.



EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE DEBATES WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEASURE

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston) devoted two hearing this week to a major workers' compensation bill (S.F. 960). At a special night meeting the bill was extensively debated and then referred to subcommittee. The measure is sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.)

Earlier in the week the committee voted to send two bills dealing with economic development to the Governmental Operations Committee. S.F. 202, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada) would establish a Department of Economic Security and S.F. 835, authored by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul), would establish a Human Services Board.

A bill (S.F. 297), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), designed to eliminate tip credits was amended so that tip credits are not abolished completely. An employee must make \$1.15 an hour in tips before an employer can take the tip credit under the amended version of the bill. The measure also specifies that tip pooling among employees, if it is done, must be completely voluntary. The bill was approved by the committee.

COMMITTEE APPROVES EDUCATION AIDS PACKAGE

The Senate Education Committee, headed by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood), gave final approval to a \$1,725 billion school aids package. The only major change to the bill (S.F. 481) came in the form of a mature staff amendment that would allow older teachers to step out of teaching temporarily.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids), sets basic state aid to school districts at \$1,025 per pupil unit during the next school year and \$1,075 in the following year. Other provisions include a 60 cent per day tuition for vocational students under 21 and \$2 per day tuition for older students, an extra \$20 million for districts experiencing declining enrollment and requirement of a certificate of need before a school could be built or expanded.

The committee also approved a measure (S.F. 743), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), that would initiate health screening of pre-school children on a state wide basis.

The controversial school redistricting plan (S.F. 156) proposed by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL - North Branch) was tabled by the full committee at a meeting Thurs. April 21. A number of other bills were approved and re-referred to Finance at that time.

GAMBLING BILLS HEARD BY COMMITTEE

Sen. Howard Olson's (DFL - St. James) General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee voted approval of a measure (S.F. 399) allowing fraternal, religious and other non-profit groups to operate gambling devices as long as the gambling is not done for pecuniary gain.

The bill's author, Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL - Austin), pointed out that such gambling is widely done now and that most law enforcement agencies do not think of it as gambling since the proceeds are usually given to charity. Nelson also stated that the measure is designed to give municipalities more control over groups holding "gambling nights" as fund raisers by requiring licensure.

The committee also heard Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud) explain a measure (S.F. 33) allowing pari-mutuel betting in Minnesota. The bill was quickly sent to subcommittee for further study.

A controversial student smoking bill (S.F. 354) authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids), was laid over after having several hearings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE HOLDS EXTRA MEETINGS

The Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL - Bertha) held extra meetings this week in an attempt to hear a large number of bills before the deadline date. Most of the bills were of a very specific nature and were approved by the committee.

One of the bills generating controversy, however, was a measure (S.F. 424) requiring seven member county boards in counties having populations greater than 90,000. Author Gerry Sikorski (DFL - Stillwater) said that the bill is designed to make local government more responsive to the needs of the people. After some debate the bill was laid over for interim study.



ENERGY AND HOUSING PASSES HOUSING FINANCE BILL; GASOLINE TAX FOR SOLAR DEVELOPMENT.

At meetings Tues. April 19 and Thurs. April 21, the Senate Energy and Housing Committee approved S.F. 867 (the Omnibus Housing Finance Agency bill), and S.F. 788, a bill providing for a 1¢ per gallon additional tax on gasoline. The committee, chaired by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), also approved a bill (S.F. 803) by Sen. John Bernhagen (I-R, Hutchinson) that would fund research and development of a diesel-alcohol fuel mixture.

The Housing Finance Agency bill, carried by Sen. Frank Knoll (DFL-Mpls.), was amended to provide down payment assistance to qualified low income applicants and to provide a larger monthly subsidy on mortgage payments. Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) offered amendments requiring reports on the location of loans and that 10 percent of agency funds be devoted to concentrated renovation in redevelopment areas.

Discussion began on the gasoline tax measure at the Tuesday meeting but was cut short by the evacuation of the Capitol because of a bomb threat. On Thursday Sen. Robert Benedict (DFL-Bloomington) continued his arguments in support of his proposal. The measure would authorize a statewide vote to increase the state gasoline tax by one cent per gallon. The proceeds from the tax, estimated to generate \$20 million annually, would fund solar energy installations (grants and loans) and would also fund continued research and development into solar and other alternative energy sources. The measure was approved and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee for further hearings.

The diesel-alcohol measure would fund research into use of alcohol to supplement petroleum supplies. Preliminary research indicates that as much as 10 percent alcohol could be added without requiring engine modification. In addition, the mixture may improve fuel economy by seven percent, experts testified. The measure was approved.

COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL PROHIBITING CAMPAIGN "DIRTY TRICKS"

The Senate Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.) met Tues. April 19 and approved a measure prohibiting infiltration and sabotage of political campaigns. The bill, (S.F. 1310) authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.), would make campaign interference a misdemeanor.

In other action, the committee heard bills presented by Sen. George Pillsbury (I-R, Wayzata) and Sen. Arnulf Ueland (I-R, North Mankato). The Pillsbury bill (S.F. 1121) deals with the distribution of funds for political campaigns obtained through the state income tax check off. Individual party accounts would be eliminated under the measure. The Ueland bill (S.F. 1124) deals with election day registration and would prohibit a person who registers on election day from vouching for another person. Both bills were laid over for interim study.

TAX COMMITTEE APPROVES "NO SITE" STADIUM BILL

The Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), met Fri. April 15 and approved a "no site" stadium proposal.

The bill (S.F. 895), authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.) had entered the committee with an amendment specifying a Bloomington site. An author's amendment was adopted, however, that allowed for the commission to choose a site. The bill was then passed on a 13-6 roll call vote.

At a meeting Wed. April 20 the committee devoted its attention to a number of technical bills. Sen. Ron Sieloff (I-R, St. Paul) sponsored several measures relating to state income tax. S.F. 981, a bill that alters the method of computing gross income for the adjusted homestead credit circuit breaker, was sent to a subcommittee for further study. S.F. 579, a measure that would provide a "carry forward" for large charitable contributions was approved by the committee.

Also approved were two bills authorizing a gravel tax in three Minnesota counties, (S.F. 173) authored by Sen. Marv Hanson (DFL-Hallock) and (S.F. 475) authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). A bill, (S.F. 830), authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), that allows a sales tax on food and drink in Duluth was also approved.

#### JUDICIARY APPROVES COURT REFORM, GAY RIGHTS, OTHER MEASURES

A bill that includes protection for gays in state human rights laws was approved by the Senate Judiciary (Jack Davies, DFL - Mpls., Chairman) at its Mon. April 18 meeting. The bill, S.F. 497, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL - Mpls.) would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, education and credit matters. Minneapolis and St. Paul both have city ordinances similar to the proposed state law.

The bill drew a number of witnesses both for and against the measure. Proponents, including a clergyman, a gay activist, and the mother of a gay son, all urged the committee to include gays in the discrimination laws to insure basic human rights. Opponents were especially fearful that the law would allow gays to gain undue influence in schools and that they could affect the development of children. After extensive discussion, the committee approved the measure by an 11-3 vote.

Discussion of a measure by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL - Mpls.) that would allow transfers of district and county court judges to meet varying workloads began Monday and was carried over for final action at the Wed. April 20 meeting. Tennesen said S.F. 311 would improve the court system by allowing the chief judges of each judicial district to transfer judges from county to district courts so that the caseload of judges would be distributed more evenly. This would result in greater efficiency and cut down on trial delays, which now exceed 18 months in some areas, witnesses said. The most extensive and heated debate came over whether such transfers should be allowed with or without the consent of the judges involved. Advocates of extensive reform, such as Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL - St. Paul), argued that requiring consent would make the provision meaningless. But several judges testified in favor of the consent provision and the committee majority concurred.

Several other bills were also approved but did not generate extensive debate. A total of 15 bills were considered by the committee on Friday. (Results of that meeting were not available at publication deadline and will be summarized next week.)

#### LAETRILE; CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS DEBATED

The controversial drug laetrile was the subject of emotional debate at a crowded meeting of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee Tues. April 19. A bill (S.F. 1010), offered by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL - Sturgeon Lake) would legalize the sale and prescription of the substance in Minnesota. Chairman George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm) laid the bill over for further study.

In other action this week the committee heard a bill (S.F. 959) relating to catastrophic health insurance. The bill was extensively amended and re-referred to the Finance Committee. The bill's author is Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL - Stillwater). Also approved by the committee was a bill (S.F. 1361), sponsored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake) authorizing funds for health research.

#### COMMERCE COMMITTEE ACTS ON INSURANCE BILLS

The Senate Commerce Committee, headed by vice-chairman Allan Spear (DFL - Mpls.) met Thurs. April 21 and approved several bills dealing with insurance.

Other bills acted upon included S.F. 1086, authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.), a measure that gives municipalities local control in licensing establishments selling liquor and cigarettes; S.F. 1135, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL - Fridley), a bill requiring a certificate of insurance be filed before a motor carrier permit can be issued; and S.F. 1179, authored by Sen. Mel Frederick (I-R, West Concord), a bill allowing savings and loan associations to buy revenue bonds.

#### MTC FINANCING, RESORT INFORMATION PLAZAS, INCREASED DRIVER'S LICENSE FEES ALL APPROVED

At meetings Mon. April 18, Tues. April 19, and Thurs. April 21, the Transportation Committee (chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst, DFL - Faribault) approved several major changes in Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) funding, increased driver's license fees, and approved a bill requiring the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to study the feasibility of building a series of roadside informational plazas that would give direction and distances of resorts in the area.

The MTC funding bill, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL - Fridley), would set new maximum limits for the amount of MTC subsidy on bus routes. Critics of current MTC policy argued that certain suburban routes are subsidized extensively while passengers on inter-city routes pay almost the full cost of operation. New maximum subsidies of \$1.25 per passenger would become effective Jan. 1, 1978 and would be reduced to \$1.00 per passenger on Jan. 1, 1979. MTC would have to decide whether to raise fares, cut service frequency or segments of routes not meeting these guidelines, Schaaf said. The bill also eliminated MTC support for the "people mover" project in St. Paul.

The committee also approved an increase in driver's license fees from \$5 to \$7; gave authority to Mn/DOT to use its equipment to remove dilapidated roadside buildings; okayed a bill making it permissible for motorists to stop on interstates in order to assist others, and gave Mn/DOT additional time to complete parts of the statewide transportation plan.

#### AG & NATURAL RESOURCES APPROVES \$52 MILLION PARKS & TRAILS BILL

At meetings Tues. April 19 and Thurs. April 21, the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee (chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, DFL - Park Rapids) approved a number of bills, including S.F. 1360, which authorizes the sale of \$52 million in bonds to acquire and develop parks and trails throughout the state.

The measure, authored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL - North Branch), originally included \$62.5 million in bonding authority, but the committee cut out \$10.3 million that would have gone to development of parks in the metro area. Another \$11.5 million for acquisition of land in the metro area was left in the bill. The measure continues the state's Resource 2000 program, aimed at acquiring parks and recreational space now so that it will be available in the future.

Also approved Thursday was a bill by committee chairman Willet that requires owners of property that is located within state parks to use their property in a manner consistent with the planned use of the park. Upon death of the owner or upon sale, the land must then be sold to the state so that it can be incorporated into the park. The Willet measure avoids the need for state condemnation and allows current owners to continue use of their property.

At the Tuesday meeting the committee approved a measure that includes the sale of leeches under the provisions of the state minnow law, another measure requiring licensing of custom food processors, and several others.

#### GOV OP APPROVES PENSION MEASURES, CRIME CONTROL PLANNING, WATER RESOURCES BOARD

The Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul) approved a variety of local pension measures, bills creating a Crime Control Planning Board and a Water Resources Planning Board, and several other measures at meetings Tues. April 19 and Wed. April 20.

The Crime Control bill (S.F. 1077), which is authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd) would abolish the Governor's Crime Commission and replace it with a new board. Borden said that part of the reason for the legislation was to increase the amount of legislative input into crime control policy and that under the bill "the legislature will be an integral part of the planning process."

Also approved following extensive discussion and amendments was S.F. 1201, which establishes a Water Planning Board under statutory authority. Chief author Gerald Willet (DFL - Park Rapids) said that Minnesota drought conditions still rank 7 on a scale of 10 and that future demands will put an increasing strain on water reserves. The bill establishes guidelines for use, requires studies to determine existing water supplies, and sets forth permit procedures.



# briefly

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For April 11-15, 1977

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## BRIEFLY

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ELECTIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES PROCEDURAL BILLS

The Senate Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL - Mpls.), met Tues. April 14 to hear a proposal that would establish an advisory committee on presidential primary elections. The measure (S.F. 933), authored by Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (DFL - New Hope), was laid over for interim study.

In other action this week the committee approved a bill (S.F. 1208), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), mandating that all polling places be easily accessible to the elderly and the physically handicapped.

Sen. Emily Ann Staples (DFL - Plymouth) introduced a bill (1248) that provides for a pamphlet on voting methods, registration and constitutional amendments to be published by the Secretary of State's Office before general elections. Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) sponsored a bill (S.F. 1150) that would regulate the identification of absentee voters. The bill also provides for assistance to absentee voters who are hospitalized or in nursing homes. Both bills were approved.

TAX COMMITTEE AUTHORIZES FULL TIME TAX COURT

Sen. William McCutcheon's (DFL - St. Paul) Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws met Wed. April 13 and approved a bill that would establish a full time tax court.

Other provisions of the bill (S.F. 160), authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL -Mpls.), create a small claims division and provide for penalties. The bill will now be heard by the Finance Committee.

Another bill (S.F. 331) authored by Davies is designed to reimburse local units of government for revenue lost because of property tax reductions on Title II and 3cc property. (Title II property is low income multiple family property and 3cc property is property owned by handicapped persons.) A total of approximately \$18 million would be paid by the state to local government units during the biennium. The bill was laid over until Wed. April 20.



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In other action this week the committee approved a bill (S.F. 1208), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), mandating that all polling places be easily accessible to the elderly and the physically handicapped.

Sen. Emily Ann Staples (DFL - Plymouth) introduced a bill (1248) that provides for a pamphlet on voting methods, registration and constitutional amendments to be published by the Secretary of State's Office before general elections. Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) sponsored a bill (S.F. 1150) that would regulate the identification of absentee voters. The bill also provides for assistance to absentee voters who are hospitalized or in nursing homes. Both bills were approved.

TAX COMMITTEE AUTHORIZES FULL TIME TAX COURT

Sen. William McCutcheon's (DFL - St. Paul) Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws met Wed. April 13 and approved a bill that would establish a full time tax court.

Other provisions of the bill (S.F. 160), authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL -Mpls.), create a small claims division and provide for penalties. The bill will now be heard by the Finance Committee.

Another bill (S.F. 331) authored by Davies is designed to reimburse local units of government for revenue lost because of property tax reductions on Title II and 3cc property. (Title II property is low income multiple family property and 3cc property is property owned by handicapped persons.) A total of approximately \$18 million would be paid by the state to local government units during the biennium. The bill was laid over until Wed. April 20.



# briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For April 11-15, 1977

## HASTINGS CLOSED, "FUZZ BUSTERS" BANNED, BRANCH BANKING OKAYED BY SENATE

A number of controversial bills received final approval by the full Senate this week in three active sessions held Mon., Wed. evening and Thurs.

The move to close Hastings State Hospital won approval on a 59-7 vote. Opponents of the bill, citing the needs of the residents of the three county area served by Hastings, offered an amendment allocating \$3.6 million for community based mental health units. Bill author George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm), reasoned that the extra appropriation was unnecessary because allocations currently being made by the Finance Committee already take the three county area into account. The amendment failed 18-47 after heated debate.

An \$11 million "deficiency appropriation" bill (S.F. 1072) that covers the expenses incurred by the Department of Natural Resources fighting forest fires last year was also passed. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada).

A much disputed "fuzz buster" bill (S.F. 141) was approved 37-28. The measure, authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL - Faribault), prohibits the sale or possession of radar detection devices in Minnesota. Opponents of the bill had claimed that such a measure was an invasion of personal privacy.

Also passed was a measure (H.F. 82) increasing the amount of pecuniary gain before a crime may be classified as a felony. Chief Senate author is Jim Nichols (DFL - Lake Benton).

Preliminary passage was granted to a bill, authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd), allowing branch banking in Minnesota. The measure (S.F. 450) would permit banks to establish branches only in the economic development region in which the principal office is located and only in towns with populations greater than 2,000.

A measure (S.F. 57) establishing local control of campus liquor policy at state colleges (chief author Sen. Jack Kleinbaum, DFL - St. Cloud), also gained preliminary approval, along with a bill (S.F. 651 - authored by Sen. George Perpich) that establishes state-wide standards for safe drinking water. Several non-controversial measures were also given preliminary okays.

## COMMITTEE DEBATES SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS

A plan to distribute social service money to counties through block grants was laid over for interim study by members of the Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee at a meeting Thurs. April 14. Chairman George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm) sponsored the bill, which would consolidate a number of categorical social service aid programs into block grants to each county.

In other action the committee approved a bill (S.F. 707), authored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL - Mpls.), establishing programs for displaced homemakers. A bill (S.F. 458), proposed by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.), increasing the personal allowance for nursing home residents to \$35 per month was also approved. Both bills must now be heard by the Finance Committee.

Earlier this week the committee approved S.F. 883, a bill authorizing money for Vinland National Center (author: John Milton, DFL - White Bear Lake) and S.F. 1058, a bill providing grants to plan and organize human services programs (author: Howard Olson, DFL - St. James). The two bills were amended and sent to Finance.

## AG AND NAT RESOURCES APPROVES POWER LINE SITING BILL, WATER PLANNING

At meetings Tues. April 12 and Thurs. April 14, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, DFL - Park Rapids) approved several measures, including S.F. 1201 (creating the Water Planning Board) and S.F. 896, which makes certain changes in power line siting procedures.

The Water Resources bill, authored by committee chairman Willet, establishes a State Water Planning Board under statutory authority. (The current board was created by executive order.) The bill also deals comprehensively with the regulation of water use, establishes new priorities for use, and appropriates money to conclude a state-wide ground water survey.

The powerline siting measure, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids), was the topic of an evening meeting Thursday that did not adjourn until 2 am Friday. The bill, which had 15 amendments added during the marathon session, attempts to clarify procedures followed in placing power lines and power plants and would give a higher priority to avoidance of prime agricultural land in future routing.

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## BRIEFLY

### THE MINNESOTA SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

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#### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS APPROVES SUNSET MEASURE, OTHER BILLS

At meetings Tues. April 12 and Wed. April 13, the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) approved a number of measures including S.F. 66, a bill requiring periodic oversight and review of the regulatory functions exercised by state agencies. (Such bills are commonly referred to as "Sunset" laws since they allow expiration of certain functions when the legislature feels there is no longer any need.)

The author of the sunset measure, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL -New Hope), called it a "large step in the historical process of establishing the co-equal status of the Legislature." Under the measure one-seventh of the state's regulatory agencies would come up for a review each year. It would begin with an internal review in which the agency would be required to justify the existence of certain programs. The Legislative Audit Commission, working with preliminary reports, would then select out one or two (at minimum) for a comprehensive review. Those reports would then be scrutinized by the appropriate legislative standing committees. If no need for continuation was found, the programs would be phased out over the next one year period.

Also at the Wednesday meeting, the committee took up a bill that would establish an internal bond counsel for the state. The measure was laid over. It passed a bill that exempts those employees in the office of state mediator from being part of collective bargaining units since they have access to information that could be sensitive in negotiations.

On Tuesday the committee approved a measure by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL - Plymouth) that provides assistance for the International Center, another that provides for the investment of Metropolitan Airports Commission funds and a final bill that eliminates changes for legislative manuals.

#### JUDICIARY APPROVES OMNIBUS DWI BILL, AMENDED GUN CONTROL MEASURE

At meetings Mon. April 11 and Wed. April 13, the Judiciary Committee passed two major bills -- the Omnibus DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) measure and a gun control bill that requires a mandatory 14 day waiting period before a person can purchase a hand gun from a dealer.

One of the major changes in the DWI bill (authored by committee chairman Jack Davies, DFL-Mpls) is a new procedure that allows arresting officers or courts to retain the licenses of those who refuse tests (implied consent) or those who are convicted of DWI offences. Following convictions, the department of public safety currently sends a revocation notice to the party involved, asking that the license be surrendered. Frequently there is no compliance. By taking the license at the time of arrest or conviction, and issuing a temporary license that is only good during appeal, the non-surrender problem can be solved without endangering due process, according to Davies. The measure also includes several other changes, including required urine analysis to check for controlled substances.

The hand gun control measure, authored by Sen. Bill McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), came up for committee action on Wednesday. Opponents of the bill were given equal time (the proponents were heard the previous week). An amendment by Sen. Ron Sieloff (I-R, St. Paul), which eliminated private transfers of guns from the provision of the bill, passed by an 8-7 vote. The measure, which only requires the waiting period for purchases made from licensed gun retailers, allows local police to check out the background of the applicant to determine whether the person has a history of drug or alcohol problems, mental illness, a criminal record, or is a minor. If any of the five applied, the purchase could be blocked.

The committee also passed several other bills.

#### TRANSPORTATION APPROVES BRIDGE BONDING, NOISE BARRIER CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM

At meetings Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the Transportation Committee approved a number of measures, including the continuation of the bridge bonding program through 1978 with an additional \$50 million in bonds. The committee also approved a measure that allows contractors to collect interest on sums due from governmental units if those units are slow in making payments on completed work and another bill increasing the width limit on trailers from 8-9 ft. for hauling construction or farm equipment. Also approved was a bill authored by committee chairman Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) that puts a moratorium on construction of noise barriers and directs MN/DOT to pursue research into alternative noise abatement methods.



## BRIEFLY

### THE MINNESOTA SENATE WEEK IN REIVEW

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#### COMMITTEE APPROVES HENNEPIN COUNTY PARK LEVY INCREASE

The Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha), approved a bill (S.F. 978) that would permit Hennepin County to increase its levy for the county park and reserve districts from .67 to 1.0 mill. Also, under the proposed measure, authored by Sen. Emily Ann Staples (DFL-Plymouth), the county would be able to issue bonds exceeding the present \$2.5 million limit.

Other bills passed at meetings Mond. April 11 and Wed. April 13 included a measure (S.F. 36), authored by Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL - Stillwater), requiring railroad companies to reimburse local governments for expenses incurred putting out fires caused by locomotives and a bill (S.F. 628), proposed by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL - Jordan), extending the compliance date for county land and planning controls to August 1, 1978.

#### WORKER'S COMPENSATION BILLS RECEIVE HEARINGS

Members of the Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), focused their attention this week on issues relating to worker's compensation.

A major worker's compensation bill (S.F. 960) authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls), received its first hearing Wed. April 13. Among the many provisions of the bill are sections that increase the compensation levels, clarify the definition of family farms, remove the exemption of state legislators, and allow owners of businesses to elect coverage for themselves. It is expected that the bill will be extensively amended before the final vote by the committee.

Two other bills relating to worker's compensation were approved by the committee. The first, S.F. 943, authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL - Faribault), authorizes worker's compensation coverage for owners of a business or family farm. The second, S.F. 821, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL - Herman), excludes family corporations from coverage.

#### COMMITTEE APPROVES HANDICAPPED PARKING BILL

The Senate General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL - St. James), met Tues. April 12 and Wed. April 13 and approved a number of bills.

Sen. Robert Benedict (DFL - Bloomington) introduced a measure (S.F. 922) that would provide penalties for non-handicapped persons parking in spaces designated especially for the handicapped.

S.F. 932, introduced by Sen. Mike Menning (DFL - Edgerton) increases the filing fee for automobile registrations to \$2.00. Sen. Sam Solon (DFL - Duluth) sponsored a bill (S.F. 356) authorizing a tax credit to veterans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. A measure (S.F. 753) authored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL - Cook) allows a biennial payment, instead of an annual payment, on the tax assessed on trailers under 3,000 lbs. Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud) sponsored a bill (S.F. 39) that increases the number of institutions permitted to conduct minimum basic police training. A bill (H.F. 380) relating to bicycle registration was also approved.

#### OMNIBUS EDUCATION AIDS BILL STUDIED

Members of the Senate Education Committee, headed by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood), held extra meetings this week to consider the Omnibus Education Aids Package.

The bill (S.F. 481), sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids), outlines the state's participation in educational funding for the current biennium. Substantial amendments have been offered and will receive full consideration during hearings next week before any final action is taken.

In other action, the committee approved a measure (S.F. 679), authored by Sen. Tim Penny (DFL - New Richland), that clarifies and further outlines the types of student financial aids available through the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Another bill (S.F. 1027) relating to the HECB, which changes the membership composition of the board and defines its duties, also gained approval. The bill's sponsor is Sen. Hughes.

A measure (S.F. 233), authored by Sen. Hubert Humphrey III (DFL - New Hope), which defines the procedure for setting standards and for licensing Montessori Schools, was passed by the committee.

ENERGY AND HOUSING COMPLETES OMNIBUS ENERGY BILL, TURNS TO HOUSING

The Energy and Housing Committee this week completed action on S.F. 669, the Omnibus Energy bill authored by committee chairman Jerald Anderson (DFL -North Branch), and turned Thursday to S.F. 867, a bill that increases the bonding authority of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and also includes a number of changes.

The energy measure was amended to include a new provision that provides credits to homeowners for insulation improvements during the next three years, and then makes certain standards mandatory without credits following that time. The provision is intended to encourage voluntary compliance in advance of the mandatory requirements. (For other provisions, in the bill see Briefly for April 4-7).

The measure will now go to Finance.

In addition to increasing the MHFA bonding authorization from a total of \$600 million to \$750 million, the housing measure also includes a new mortgage assistance program that allows the MHFA to subsidize payments up to a maximum of \$60 monthly. The bill also appropriates funds to construct demonstration homes utilizing underground construction and solar energy. The homes will be built at state parks and will serve as ranger residences.

The committee began discussion of amendments but took no action on the bill.

OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BILL HEARD BY COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The Senate Commerce Committee met Tues. April 12 to hear a bill (S.F. 1003), authored by Sen. George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm), that would transfer the Office of Consumer Services from the Department of Commerce to the Attorney General's Office. The measure had first been proposed by the Governor in his budget address earlier this year. After extensive debate, the bill was referred to subcommittee for further study.

The committee also laid over for further study a bill (S.F. 346) authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), that redefines "non-intoxicating" malt liquor. In essence, the bill would eliminate the sale of 3.2 beer in Minnesota. Furthermore, all beer would be taxed at \$4 per barrel, the current tax for strong beer.

Several bills dealing with credit unions were approved at the Thurs. April 14 meeting. Also approved was a measure (S.F. 678), authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd), which authorizes savings banks (F&M Saving Bank) to establish negotiable order of withdrawal (N.O.W.) accounts. N.O.W. accounts are used much like checking accounts.

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# briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For April 4-7, 1977

## SENATE MEETS FOUR TIMES: PASSES DUTCH ELM BILL, SALARY BILL, "FUZZ BUSTER" BAN

At meetings Mon. April 4, Wed. evening April 6, and Thurs. April 7, the full Senate took up and passed over twenty bills, and selected Regents for the University of Minnesota Board.

The only item considered on Monday was S.F. 32, the Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt Disease control bill, authored by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL - New Hope). The bill, which appropriates over \$28 million over an 18-month period to assist local communities in fighting the diseases, was placed on Special Orders because of its importance and passed by a vote of 57-9.

At a joint session of the Senate and House Monday afternoon, five persons were elected to six year terms on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Included were David Lebedoff (5th District), Mary Schertler (4th District), Michael Unger, Wenda Moore, and Charles McGuiggan.

In a four-hour evening session Wednesday, the Senate moved through 19 items on the General Orders agenda. Preliminary approval was voted for a ban on fuzz busters, an increase in the weight limits for trucks traveling on Minnesota roads, a bill allowing travel on certain roads by snowmobiles, an increase in the dollar amount of damage necessary in auto accidents before a report is required (from \$100 to \$300), and a dozen others. (More detail will be provided when the bills receive final approval.) Four other non-controversial bills on the Consent Calendar were also approved.

Discussion Thursday centered on the proposed pay increase bill for top state employees, legislators and judges and on a measure that would raise the state minimum wage. The pay increase bill (S.F. 483) was amended to reduce per diem by 50% and given approval by the full Senate. The minimum wage bill, which was to have been considered for final passage, was referred back to a conference committee to iron out Senate and House differences in the proposed effective dates. The Senate had agreed to an effective date of Jan. 1, 1978 while the House had proposed a June 30, 1977 date.

## OMNIBUS EDUCATION AID BILL PRESENTED

The Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids) took final action on an omnibus education aids package Thurs. April 7.

Earlier the subcommittee voted to set foundation aid payments to local school districts at \$1,025 per pupil unit for the 1977-78 school year and at \$1,075 per pupil unit for the 1978-79 term. The subcommittee has also approved \$152.8 million in transportation aid and \$140.7 million in special education.

The total package will now go to the full committee chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood).

## COMMITTEE APPROVES LOBBYIST BILL

The Senate Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL - Mpls.) met Tues. April 6 and approved a bill (S.F. 131) that would tighten financial reporting requirements for lobbyists at the Legislature. The bill is authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center).

The committee also approved a measure (H.F. 21, companion S.F. 82) sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL - Jordan) that would require certificates of election to the Legislature to be sent to the Secretary of State and then to the Legislature rather than to the newly elected members.

## SUBCOMMITTEE STUDIES HUMAN RESOURCE BILLS

The Employment Subcommittee on Economic Development, chaired by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), began hearings on three bills with wide-ranging social implications. S.F. 202, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada), would create a Department of Economic Security, S.F. 835, authored by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul) would create a Human Services Board and S.F. 938, authored by Sen. Milton would establish a Human Resources Coordinating Council. All three bills are scheduled for further hearings.

#### JUDICIARY BEGINS HEARINGS ON GUN CONTROL WAITING MEASURE

At a meeting Wed. April 6 the Judiciary Committee began debate on a new gun control bill that would require a 14 day waiting period before anyone could purchase a handgun.

The measure, S.F. 781, authored by Sen. Bill McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) was strongly supported by Minnesota Attorney General Warren Spannaus in testimony before the committee. During the 14 day waiting period police would be authorized to check out the background of anyone applying for a handgun purchase permit and could prevent persons with criminal records, a history of drug or alcohol abuse, hospitalization for mental illnesses, or minors, from obtaining a permit. The person or dealer would then be prohibited from selling that person the handgun involved. If no negative report was issued by the investigating authority, the sale could proceed.

The bill also provides for a mandatory one year sentence to be served by anyone who used a handgun in committing a crime. The committee will consider the measure again at a meeting scheduled for next week.

In concluding his testimony, Spannaus said: "I believe the evidence is overwhelming that the bill you are considering today will help solve the problem". He was referring to the 10,000 deaths caused annually in the United States by crime committed with handguns -- a per capita homicide rate 100 times greater than Sweden and 300 times greater than Norway.

Earlier the committee approved a bill (S.F. 766) authored by Judiciary Chairman Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) that outlaws possession of sawed off shotguns under any circumstances. Davies explained that the bill simply complements an existing federal law and would permit prosecution in state courts. Davies said there is "no legitimate use in society whatsoever (for sawed off shotguns) they are simply used in crimes."

At a meeting Mon. April 4 the committee also approved a measure establishing an informant fund to be used by law enforcement authorities, a bill that allows adopted children over 21 to learn their biological identities (with built-in safeguards), a bill clarifying the University of Minnesota Police powers of arrest, and several technical bills.

#### ENERGY AND HOUSING BEGINS EXAMINATION OF OMNIBUS ENERGY PACKAGE

At three meetings during the week, the Energy and Housing Subcommittee on Energy, chaired by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope), began hearings on S.F. 669, the Omnibus Energy Bill.

The bill contains a number of important provisions, including:

- extension of the state building code to the entire state and the addition of energy related standards;
- a provision for an inter-agency study concerning use of coal as an intermediate energy source, including a look at coal gasification;
- the establishment of minimum efficiency standards for air-conditioners;
- a ban on pilot lights in all new appliances sold, except those which have no electrical connections;
- tax credits for solar energy, including an exemption from increased real estate valuation, an exemption from the sales tax, and an income tax credit for 10 percent of the installation costs; and
- a new formula for determining annual vehicle registration tax which would include estimated miles per gallon for all new cars

The bill, which contains 16 sections, also includes a number of other provisions.

Hearings, which began April 5 and continued on Thurs. April 7, are expected to be completed by the subcommittee next week. The bill will then go to the full committee, chaired by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch).

#### GOV OP APPROVES INITIAL START UP COSTS FOR 911 EMERGENCY; ASSISTANCE FOR HANDICAPPED

At meetings Tues. April 5 and Wed. April 6, the Government Operations Committee (chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth, DFL-St. Paul) approved a measure that would finance initial start-up costs for the Emergency 911 system. The program will begin the 9 county metro area but would eventually be statewide. A caller dialing 911 from any phone would automatically be connected to the closest police or fire station. A caller could also reach 911 from a payphone even without a dime. The program will be phased in throughout the state over an 8 to 10 year period, witnesses said.

The committee also approved two measures by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope) that establish a special state office under vocational rehabilitation that would aid the severely handicapped, and a grant providing assistance to public radio. A bill by Sen. James Ulland (IR-Duluth) that allows the Duluth Port Authority to contract for outside auditing assistance was also approved.



## BRIEFLY

SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW (For April 4-7)

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### COMMITTEE HEARS FLUORIDATION DEBATE, BILL LAID OVER

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee, chaired by Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm) met Tues. April 5 to hear debate on a measure (S.F. 98), sponsored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd), that would give communities local option on fluoridating municipal water supplies.

Proponents of the bill argued that there is a possible link between cancer and fluoride and that communities should be able to opt out of water fluoridation programs. Opponents of the measure, primarily representatives of Dental Associations, pointed out that the studies linking cancer and fluoride are inconclusive and that there are definite dental benefits from fluoridation of water supplies. The bill was laid over by the committee.

A bill (S.F. 996) authored by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL - St. James), which would establish a formula for the distribution of Title XX social service funds, was also laid over. Under the proposal social service funds would be distributed on the basis of client population and would thus be more equitable for the rural counties.

Approved by the committee was a measure (S.F. 470); authored by Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL - St. Louis Park), that clarifies the law concerning the custody of youthful offenders. The bill was then re-referred to the Judiciary Committee.

### COMMITTEE APPROVES BILLS CONCERNING DULUTH

The Senate Local Government Committee, headed by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL - Bertha), met this week and considered a number of bills dealing with specific local issues.

At the Wed. April 5 meeting the committee approved several bills, co-authored by Sen. James Ulland (I-R, Duluth) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL - Duluth), dealing with issues relating to the city of Duluth: S.F. 827 allows the city to establish a housing finance program similar to the programs in Mpls. and St. Paul; S.F. 828 would permit Duluth to build and maintain parking facilities within the city limits; and S.F. 830 would permit the city to impose a sales tax of up to 2% on food and drink.

In other action this week the committee approved a measure (S.F. 1017), authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL - International Falls) that would give the town board of Bass Brook the powers authorized by Minnesota statutes. A bill (S.F. 442), sponsored by Sen. A. O. H. Setzepfandt (DFL - Bird Island), concerning county planning, was also recommended to pass.

### MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL SENT TO FLOOR

The Senate Rules and Administration Committee, chaired by Sen. Nicholas Coleman (DFL - St. Paul) met Mon. April 4 and reversed their original decision on S.F. 1, the controversial mandatory deposit bill. At a meeting last week the committee had voted to send the bill to the Employment Committee for further hearings. However, Sen. Gerald Anderson (DFL - North Branch) moved to reconsider the motion. After a close vote, the motion to reconsider carried and the way was clear for another motion that would send the bill to the Senate Floor. Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL - Park Rapids) made the motion and the measure was approved on a 14-4 roll call vote.

### COMMITTEE RAISES DRIVERS LICENSE FEES

Sen. Howard Olson's (DFL - St. James) Committee on General Legislation and Veterans Affairs met Tues. April 5 to hear a variety of bills.

A measure (S.F. 324) authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL - Austin) raises drivers license fees from the current \$5.00 to \$7.00. A bill (H.F. 176) sponsored by Sen. Gene Stokowski (DFL - Mpls.) reduces the age of eligibility for a non-qualification certificate from 16 to 14 years old. And another measure (H.F. 146) sponsored by Sen. Stokowski outlines the procedures for returning unused special assessment monies to taxpayers in cities of the first class. All three measures were approved by the committee.

### TRANSPORTATION LIFTS FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM

The Transportation Committee Tuesday lifted a two-year old moratorium on freeway construction in the metropolitan area, thus clearing the way for completion of several interstate sections.

Also on Tues. April 5, the committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), approved a bill that would allow removal of trees and shrubs along highways when necessary for safety reasons. On Thurs. April 7 the committee continued hearings on a proposed moratorium on noise barrier construction and on an operating subsidy for the Amtrak line serving Duluth.

TAX COMMITTEE BEGINS HEARINGS ON INCOME TAX SIMPLIFICATION

Two bills that would simplify the computation of Minnesota income tax received preliminary hearing at a meeting of the Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws Wednesday, April 6.

S.F. 1040 (Companion H.F. 1072), sponsored by Chairman William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), was presented to the committee by the House author Rep. John Tomlinson (DFL - St. Paul). In his presentation Tomlinson tied his bill into the work done by the Tax Study Commission.

S.F. 768, authored by Sen. Collin C. Peterson (DFL - Detroit Lakes) approaches the problem of simplification from another angle entirely. The Peterson bill would base the state tax on a percentage of the federal gross income and would change itemized deductions into tax credits. The Tomlinson - McCutcheon bill, on the other hand, would increase the standard deduction and would use federal rules to determine gross income.

Both bills rely heavily on the figures derived in computing federal taxes but differ in the way those figures would be used. Further hearings will be held on both bills.

The committee also narrowly approved a measure (S.F. 295), sponsored by McCutcheon that would exempt all newsprint and ink from the sales tax. Currently only the smaller newspapers are exempt from sales tax.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE DEBATES NEGOTIATION FACTOR

The Senate Employment Committee, headed by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), met Wed. April 6 and debated a proposal (S.F. 447), authored by Sen. Steve Keefe, (DFL - Mpls.) that would allow education policies to be one of the items of negotiation between teachers and school boards. Current law prohibits inclusion of such policies when negotiating teacher contracts. After extensive debate the measure was laid over.

In other action, the committee approved a bill (S.F. 557), authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids), that prohibits mandatory employee participation in group life insurance programs. A measure (S.F. 691) regulating bid and performance bonds for small and minority businesses under the state "set aside" program was also approved. The bill's author is Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL - Mpls.).

COMMERCE COMMITTEE EXTENDS FLOATING USURY RATE

The Senate Commerce Committee chaired by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL - Mpls.), approved a measure (S.F. 668) Tues. April 5, that would extend the floating usury rate on conventional home loans for another two years. The bill's author is Sen. Winston Borden (DFL - Brainerd).

Also approved was a bill (S.F. 582), authored by Sen. Tim Penny (DFL - New Richland), relating to common carriers. The bill had received extensive hearings in subcommittee.

At the Fri. April 1 meeting, the committee approved a measure (H.F. 621-companion S.F. 534), sponsored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL - Park Rapids), clarifying the requirements for auto dealer licenses. A bill (S.F. 19), authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL - Lewiston), dealing with telephone rate regulation was amended and passed by the committee.

NON RESIDENT ALIEN LAND PURCHASE BANNED: SUBCOMMITTEE CONTINUES POWERLINE HEARINGS

At a meeting Tues. April 5, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, DFL - Park Rapids) passed several bills including S.F. 79, which prohibits non-resident aliens from purchasing prime agricultural land. Chief author Mike Menning (DFL - Edgerton) said the measure was necessary to prevent foreign land speculators from acquiring valuable farm land.

The committee also approved a measure (S.F. 597) that will require state hunters to obtain a state waterfowl stamp in addition to the federal waterfowl stamp now required. The funds collected would be used to run state programs aimed at improving waterfowl habitat and increasing populations.

The Subcommittee on Environmental Protection, chaired by Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center), continued hearings on S.F. 896, which is one of several bills dealing with the powerline and power facility siting problem. The Subcommittee on Agriculture, chaired by Sen. Marv Hanson (DFL - Hallock) also met Tuesday to consider proposed amendments to the Green Acres Act. That action was laid over following extensive discussion.



# briefly

For March 28- April 1, 1977

## The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

### SENATE PACE QUICKENS, NIGHT SESSIONS TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK

At two busy sessions this week the Senate took up and approved a number of bills, including an increase in the State minimum wage and the repeal of the mandatory helmet law for motorcyclists.

On Monday, March 28, the Senate also passed S.F. 291, which prohibits the termination of employee insurance benefits for failure to meet performance quotas or for other disciplinary actions. Chief author Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) argued that employees should not have termination of their health insurance used as a threat against them.

It also okayed H.F. 383, which increases the assessment levied on the potato industry for promotional purposes; S.F. 22, which authorizes an off sale liquor license for Lake of the Woods County; and S.F. 587, which gives county courts the authority to order the examination of a defendants's mental capacity.

On Thursday, March 31, the Senate reconsidered S.F. 147, which would limit deficiency judgments in consumer transactions. It passed by 34-29, having failed last week by 33-30. The minimum wage bill was the topic of some discussion but passed easily by a 57-4 vote.

Another measure, S.F. 193, which provides for rotation of juvenile and family courts judges, also engendered controversy but passed by a vote of 39-21.

The most extended debate came over the repeal of the mandatory motorcycle helmet. Opponents said that new statistics showed an increase in fatalities in states that had repealed similar laws but proponents argued that fairly exhaustive studies had showed statistically insignificant differences. A move to send the bill to the Health, Welfare, and Corrections Committee for further hearings failed. The repeal passed 39-20 and as soon as differences in the Senate and House versions are resolved, the bill will go to Governor Perpich.

Other bills approved included S.F. 319, which permits the sale of liquor at certain public dances; S.F. 194, which prohibits trespass at cemeteries during hours posted as closed; S.F. 401, which modifies certain motor vehicle dealer licensing requirements; and S.F. 49, which relates to interest rates charged for business and agriculture loans. H.F. 464, which provides for reciprocity in licensing plumbers licensed by other states, was also approved.

The Senate will meet Monday, April 4 at 10:30 AM. An evening session is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6 at 8:00 PM.

### AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES OKAYS ANTI LITTER BILL

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Thursday approved S.F. 665, an anti-litter bill authored by Committee Chairman Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids).

The measure requires all cars and recreational vehicles to have litter bags, puts a tax on all businesses that contribute to the litter problem (drugstores, producers or sellers of groceries, food, cigarettes, pop, beer, etc.), provides for levying of sentences against those convicted of violations to spend time picking up litter, and provides funds for recycling efforts.

The bill is modeled after a similar law passed in Washington and has been promoted by opponents of mandatory deposit as an alternative to that type of bill. However, others see the two bills as complementary. The mandatory deposit bill, S.F. 1, was referred last week by the Rules Committee to the Employment Committee where chief author William Luther said he feared it would be defeated. A move to reconsider that action will be taken up by the Rules Committee next Monday at 10:00 AM.

In other committee action Tuesday, March 29, a bill was approved that would authorize payment of \$.75 per acre to counties and townships with large areas of publicly held or tax-forfeited land. Since such properties are tax exempt some areas have almost no tax base to support community services. This bill would correct that inequity said chief author Willet. The committee also approved several other bills that will now go to the Senate.



COMMITTEE APPROVES BILINGUAL, BICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood, met Thurs. March 31 and approved two major policy measures that would establish pilot bilingual and bicultural education programs.

Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), author of the bilingual education measure (S.F. 120), pointed out that the failure of Minnesota Schools to educate non-English speaking children is reflected, not only by high drop out rates, but also by the children's negative self image and by limited job opportunities available to non-English speaking persons.

The measure provides for five transitional pilot programs to be established in which instruction is to be given in both languages. Also, the instruction is to be given with sensitivity to and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the limited English speaking student. The bill also outlines the duties of the Board of Education, procedures for teacher licensure, and parental participation. Students would be allowed to participate in bilingual programs for three years or until they have acquired proficiency in the English language.

The second bill approved by the committee (S.F. 455), authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) is designed to establish a cultural bridge between American Indian students and the more traditional Anglo educational system. The bill contains many of the same provisions as the bilingual measure, with the major differences being the emphasis on bicultural education, the establishment of six pilot programs, and the elimination of a set expiration date for student participation in the program. An amendment proposed by Sen. Hughes allowing participation of children under the proposed early childhood and family education act was also approved.

Both bills were re-referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Two bills (S.F. 536 & S.F. 537), authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (I-R-Burnsville) were also approved. Both bills concern the transfer of lands from one school district to another.

Committee members devoted the entire meeting Mon. March 28 to testimony given by candidates for the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

COMMITTEE APPROVES STATE LOTTERY MEASURE

The General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee, headed by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), approved a measure Tues. March 29, that would allow voters at the next general election to remove the constitutional prohibition on state lotteries in Minnesota.

The bill's (S.F. 12) author, Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), emphasized that the measure does not attempt to institute state lotteries; it merely would act as a referendum to sound out voter response on the subject of state lotteries. After a close vote the bill was passed and re-referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

In other action the committee approved the appointment of Dr. William Kosiak to the Crime Victims Reparations Board. At the Wed. March 30 meeting, members approved and re-referred to Finance a bill (S.F. 517), authored by Sen. Mel Frederick (I-R-West Concord), that would allow the restoration of the Wasioja Seminary Ruins and a measure (S.F. 809), authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) that would allow the upgrading of other than honorable discharges.

Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) proposed a bill (S.F. 686) that permits municipalities to enact ordinances prohibiting unclaimed animals to be used for research. The measure would also allow owners to request that the animal be destroyed rather than used for research if the animal was impounded and the owner unable to reclaim. The bill was passed on a voice vote by the committee.

TRANSPORTATION OKAYS TEMPORARY BLOOMINGTON FERRY BRIDGE; INCREASES TRUCK LENGTH LIMITS

At meetings Tues. March 29 and Thurs. March 31, the Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), approved a bill authorizing construction of a temporary bridge at the Bloomington Ferry Bridge site, and approved an increase in the overall allowable lengths for trucks (from 55 to 60 feet).

The committee also approved several other measures including one by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha) that would temporarily exempt hay trucks from weight limits.

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THE SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW (For March 28 - April 1, 1977)

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### COMMITTEE OKAYS CHILDRENS HEALTH SCREENING MEASURE

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee met Thurs. March 31 to approve and send to Finance a bill (S.F. 743), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), that would initiate a state-wide early childhood health screening program.

The committee also approved a measure (S.F. 872), authored by Chairman George Perpich (DFL - Chisholm), mandating the closing of Hastings State Hospital.

Several bills relating to medical assistance were introduced but were laid over for further consideration.

At the Tues. March 29 meeting three bills were approved by the Committee. S.F. 562, authored by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL - Bertha), would allow the licensure of chiropractors who attend a school that has accreditation status. Sen. Emily Ann Staples (DFL - Plymouth) sponsored a measure (S.F. 652) establishing a program to aid hemophiliacs in Minnesota. A bill (S.F. 144) authored by Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL - Stillwater), provides for establishing a Father Miller memorial chapel fund in the state treasury.

### COMMITTEE HEARS VOTER REGISTRATION BILLS

The Senate Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL - Mpls), met twice this week to consider a number of bills.

Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls) introduced a measure (S.F. 519) that requires every county to have voter registration. Other provisions include changes in the format of the voter registration card and allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to send out registration cards with driver's license changes. The bill passed and was re-referred to Finance.

Also approved at the Tues. March 29 meeting was a measure (S.F. 737), authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood) that allows employees of the state to take leaves of absences when elected to city or county office. A bill (S.F. 845) authored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL - Cook), allowing separate school board election districts in St. Louis County was also approved.

Two bills were passed by the Committee at the Thurs. March 31 meeting. The first measure (H.F. 300), sponsored by Sen. Peter Stumpf (DFL - St. Paul) removes obsolete provisions for special hours for registration locations. The second bill (S.F. 916) authored by Sen. Keefe allows annexed unincorporated property to be assigned to the immediately adjacent precinct.

### ENERGY AND HOUSING HEARS ENERGY BILLS: OMNIBUS PACKAGE COMING UP

At meetings Tues. March 29 and Thurs. March 31 the Energy and Housing Committee and its Energy Subcommittee began discussions of several energy conservation and alternative energy source bills.

At the full committee meeting Tuesday, discussion centered around a bill by Sen. Harmon Ogdahl (IR -Mpls) that would extend the provisions of the state building code to all areas of the state and would also include new energy-related standards. Another bill providing for minimum security standards was also introduced.

The Energy Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL -New Hope), discussed several bills. The first (S.F. 367), authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR -Burnsville) would exempt any solar collection device installed from increased property tax assessments, thus providing an incentive to potential solar energy installation. The second (S.F. 687), was introduced by chief author Robert Benedict (DFL - Bloomington). It would levy an additional penny per gallon tax on gasoline and other fuels, the proceeds from which would be earmarked to fund solar energy tax credits and research into alternative energy sources. The tax would generate an estimated \$20 million annually but could save an estimated \$1.75 billion each year if it results in utilization of solar energy to its potential, Benedict said.

The Senate Omnibus Energy bill is being drafted and may include several additional measures. The final bill concerned efforts at improving interstate communications in the energy field. Discussions will begin next week.

### EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEES STUDY ISSUES

The two Employment Subcommittees, Economic Development, chaired by Sen. John Milton (DFL - White Bear Lake), and Labor, headed by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) met several times this week to consider bills that will soon come before the full committee.



UNIT PRICING, PAY INCREASE, GAIN FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Unit pricing and the pay increase bill both gained easy approval this week at meetings of the Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada). The unit pricing measure had previously been approved by the Commerce Committee, and the pay bill had passed narrowly in Governmental Operations.

The unit pricing measure, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL - St. Paul), requires all grocery stores with sales in excess of \$750,000 annually to display prices per standard unit of measure, such as price per ounce. This facilitates price comparisons.

The committee also approved an \$11 million deficiency appropriation for the Department of Natural Resources to cover extra costs incurred in fighting record numbers of forest fires last summer.

The Finance subcommittees are continuing the allocation of funds and are expected to complete the allocation process on schedule by April 14, committee sources said.

TAX COMMITTEE ADOPTS MEASURE DEFINING GROSS INCOME

The Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), approved a bill (H.F. 437) that would alter the definition of gross income for state income tax purposes. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL - Herman), outlined the provisions of the bill, most of which were developed in response to the Federal Tax Reform Act of 1976. The bill also places restrictions on some deductions and makes certain changes in the treatment of small business corporations.

In other action, the committee approved a number of bills dealing with the homestead credit provisions of the tax laws and also considered local tax issues.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES ORDERLY ANNEXATION BILL

Sen. Myrton Wegener's (DFL - Bertha) Local Government Committee met and approved a number of technical bills this week.

The focal point of discussion at the Mon. March 28 meeting was a bill (S.F. 348), authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL - Austin) outlining the orderly annexation of property by municipalities. After extensive deliberation the bill was laid over for interim study.

The committee approved three bills sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL - Coon Rapids) at the Wed. March 30 meeting. All three bills dealt with Anoka County regulations.

COMMERCE COMMITTEE PASSES INVENTORS MEASURE

The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL - Mpls), met Fri. March 25 to consider the so-called "freedom to create" bill (S.F. 208).

The measure, stated author Wayne Olhoft (DFL - Herman), would make illegal those provisions in employment contracts that require employees to turn over unrelated inventions to their employers. The bill was approved.

Other bills approved were: a measure (S.F. 249), authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL - Ada), that would permit a collector of commemorative liquor bottles to sell them without a license; a bill (S.F. 368) proposed by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR - Burnsville), which would prohibit provisions for the termination of accident and health insurance coverage because of a temporary break in the marital relationship; and a bill (S.F. 774) submitted by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL - St. James) that would allow retail liquor stores to offer recorded entertainment and coin operated games.

The Subcommittee on Banking headed by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL - Duluth) met Thurs. March 31 and recommended passage for two bills, S.F. 347, authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger, concerning open end credit interest and S.F. 283, sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud) allowing electronic funds transfer. The Subcommittee on Regulated Industries, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich began hearings on two bills (S.F. 97 and S.F. 604), authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL - Brooklyn Center), dealing with the life-line concept of utility rate structure.

JUDICIARY APPROVES DETERMINATE SENTENCING, AMENDMENT GIVES PROSECUTORS APPEAL RIGHT

The Judiciary Committee (chaired by Sen. Jack Davies, DFL - Mpls), gave final approval to S.F. 65, the determinate sentencing bill authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL - St. Paul), at its meeting Friday April 1. The committee held hearings on the measure last week and Monday and Friday of this week. The bill has also been approved by the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee but must still win Finance Committee approval before going to the Senate floor.

The vote for final passage in the committee was unanimous.

Discussion Friday centered on an amendment offered by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR-Burnsville) that would have increased specified penalties for various crimes. Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL-Stillwater) offered a substitute amendment that would instead give prosecutors the right to appeal when they felt a sentence was excessively lenient. After some parliamentary discussion, Sikorski withdrew his amendment temporarily to allow a vote on the Knutson proposal.

Chief author McCutcheon opposed the Knutson amendment, saying that it was irresponsible to make such changes without investigating repercussions such as the impact on prison populations. Senator Sikorski said that in actuality the stiffer sentences might be counterproductive because judges might then give probation rather than sentencing "this nice white middle class person" to 25 years for second degree murder. Knutson said the "public wants some good strong sentences," and claimed that the determinate sentencing bill could result in lower terms than are currently served. After the discussion, the amendment failed and the committee took up and passed the Sikorski amendment.

The amendment gives prosecutors the right of appeal whenever they feel that a judge has been excessively lenient in his sentencing. Currently prosecutors have no appeal rights. This limited appeal right was strongly supported by county attorneys from around the state.

BLOOMINGTON STADIUM SITE WINS SURPRISE GOV. OP. OKAY: TEACHERS' FUND BOOSTED

In a surprise move at an evening meeting, Wed. March 30, the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL - St. Paul), approved the existing Bloomington site for the construction of a new sports stadium.

The move came just after Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls) had begun explaining his no-site proposal, which had been favored to pass. A strike everything amendment, the effect of which was to insert the Bloomington site bill in place of the no-site proposal, was offered by Sen. William Kirchner (IR-Richfield). The amendment passed by an 8-7 vote. A move to reconsider failed on a tie vote.

The bill now goes to Taxes and Tax Laws, but no final decision on the site is expected until it reaches the Senate floor.

At an earlier meeting Wednesday, the committee approved several changes in state pension plans. The most important change, contained in S.F. 472, which is authored by Sen. Eugene Stokowski (DFL - Mpls. ), would increase the state contribution to the Teacher's Retirement Plan from two and a half to four and a half percent per year. This would generate an additional \$40 million during the next biennium and would keep the pension fund financially sound.

The Subcommittee on Metro Affairs, chaired by Sen. Frank Knoll (DFL - Mpls) began discussion of several bills to establish an elected Metropolitan Council at a meeting Tues. March 29. The bills will receive further hearings next week.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEES STUDY AID PLANS

Hearings continued Fri. April 1 in the Subcommittee on Educational Organization on Sen. Gerald Anderson's (DFL - North Branch) proposal (S.F. 156) to reorganize school districts. The chairman of the subcommittee is Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL - Maplewood).

The Subcommittee on Education Aids, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam, began final action on a series of bills dealing with state school aid.

Sen. Neil Dieterich's (DFL - St. Paul) Subcommittee on Post Secondary and Higher Education met Wed. March 30 to discuss foundation aid levels.



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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For March 21-25, 1977

## SENATE DEBATES RULE AMENDMENT, NARROWLY REJECTS SEVERAL BILLS

At meetings Mon. March 21 and Thurs. March 24, the full Senate took up a number of routine bills and several more controversial ones.

Minority Leader Robert Ashbach (IR-Arden Hills) proposed an amendment to the rules at the Monday meeting that would have restricted conference committees to consideration of bills previously considered in at least one of the houses of the Legislature. After considerable debate, the amendment failed.

Also at the Monday meeting, the Senate gave final passage to H.F. 38 (Housing Warranties), but included several amendments. At the Thursday meeting the Senate was informed officially that the House would not concur with the amendments and that it had named three members for a conference committee. Senate author Gerry Sikorski moved that the State also name three members to a conference committee.

Ten bills were up for final passage at the Thursday session. Seven were passed by unanimous or near-unanimous votes. An eighth, S.F. 26, which would extend fishing seasons for certain fish, passed narrowly by a 39-24 vote. Two others, S.F. 147, which would limit deficiency judgments in loan defaults, and S.F. 189, which would increase the dollar amount necessary for a conviction of a felony in theft, failed on identical 33-30 votes, just one short of the 34 votes required for passage. Motions to reconsider both bills were later introduced and passed.

The Senate will convene again on Mon. March 28 at 10 a.m.

## COMMERCE COMMITTEE APPROVES BRANCH BANKING

The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL-Mpls.), approved a bill Thurs. March 24 that would allow branch banking in Minnesota. The bill (S.F. 450), authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd), specifies that banks may be allowed to branch only within the regional development area in which the principle office is located. According to the bill, the Commissioner of Banking may approve a branch if the proposed branch will improve the quality or increase the availability of banking services in the community.

At a meeting Tuesday, March 22 the committee approved a bill (S.F. 125) authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) that is designed to stop business firms cooperating with the Arab boycott. In broad terms the bill prohibits discrimination in business transactions on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry or national origin.

In other action, the committee began hearings on a bill (S.F. 668), proposed by Sen. Borden, that would set a floating usuary limit on home loans. Discussion will continue on the measure at a meeting next week.

## MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL GAINS COMMITTEE APPROVAL, NOW GOES TO RULES COMMITTEE

The controversial mandatory deposit bill, S.F. 1, narrowly passed an Agriculture and Natural Resources committee vote on Tues. March 22. Two Republican-Independents joined eight DFLers to pass the bill by a 10-9 margin. (Three IR members and six DFL members voted against the measure.) The bill requires a mandatory 10 cent deposit on all beverage containers, whether returnable or throw-away.

Following an objection by Sen. Roger Laufenberger (DFL-Lewiston) to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee report at the Senate Session Thursday, the measure was referred to the Rules Committee rather than going to the Senate floor. It may be referred to the Employment Committee by Rules for additional hearings on the bill's impact on employment, sources said. Rules is expected to make that decision some time next week.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources committee chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, (DFL-Park Rapids) narrowly defeated another fairly controversial measure at its Thursday meeting. H.F. 352, which prohibits the use of electronic fish-finding devices, was defeated by a 10-7 vote.

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COMMITTEE HEARS BILL TO CLOSE HASTINGS STATE HOSPITAL

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee approved an amendment Thurs. March 24, that would close Hastings State Hospital. The bill (S.F. 872) had originally called for transferring the hospital to the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the author, Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm) offered the amendment to close in place of the original measure. Final voting on the bill will take place next week.

In other action this week the committee began hearings on a bill (S.F. 743), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), that would initiate state-wide early and periodic childhood health screening. Currently, such screenings are only available in part of the state. Under the new measure, the screenings would be administered through the school districts. The committee will vote on the bill at its Tues. March 29 meeting.

The committee also passed and re-referred to Finance a bill (S.F. 897), sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud), that increases the amount of reparations that can be awarded to crime victims.

A measure (S.F. 514), authored by Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL - St. Louis Park), that would establish victim crises centers was also approved and re-referred to Finance. The committee also approved a bill (S.F. 651), sponsored by Sen. Perpich, that establishes standards for safe drinking water.

TRANSPORTATION DEBATES NOISE BARRIER MORATORIUM, PASSES OTHER BILLS

At meetings Tues. March 22 and Thurs. March 24, the Transportation Committee continued to hear witnesses and to debate a proposal by Committee Chairman Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) that would put a halt to construction of freeway noise barriers and would, instead, place emphasis on alternatives to reduce freeway noise, such as surface repair and more rigid noise level standards. No final action was taken and the bill will be considered on April 7.

The committee also approved a bill by Sen. Ed. Schrom (S.F. 265), (DFL-Albany) that would require contractors who haul gravel and other heavy loads to reimburse local governments for any damages done to roads as a result. It also approved a measure (S.F. 757) that repeals the state's Sunday Holiday law, which had banned trucks from operating on highways in Class A cities on Sundays unless a special permit was granted. Since the permits were granted in almost all cases, the law had become a formal red tape requirement that did not fulfill its intended objective. Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), author of the repeal, argued that it would be better to simply lift the ban since it was not, in fact, being enforced anyway.

INNER-CITY HOUSING OUTLOOK, INSULATION NEEDS, EXAMINED BY ENERGY AND HOUSING

Meetings held Tues. March 22 and Thurs. March 24 by the Energy and Housing Committee (Sen. Jerald Anderson, DFL-North Branch, chairman) were devoted to examinations of the inner-city housing rehabilitation outlook and to home insulation methods and supply.

Committee members were told by witnesses that a large percentage of inner-city housing in the Twin Cities area has reached or is reaching the point at which it will require major rehabilitation or replacement. In certain core inner-city areas in Minneapolis, between 81 and 100 percent of housing units were built prior to 1939. Since 50 years is an approximate point at which housing needs either major rehabilitation or must be destroyed, almost all these units will reach that point by 1989.

Considerable testimony was devoted to the work being done in the Stevens Court area of Minneapolis. With renovation and other neighborhood improvements, the turn-over rate in housing in the Stevens Court area has dropped from an average residence time of one year in 1974 to almost three years currently, with most who choose to leave the neighborhood now doing so primarily because there are not enough larger units to accommodate growing families.

Next week the committee will consider several bills to provide tax credits for improved housing insulation.



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### COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL PROHIBITING AGE DISCRIMINATION

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), met Fri. March 18 to continue discussion on H.F. 6, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), a measure that adds a prohibition against age discrimination to the Human Rights Act. The measure was approved at the Fri. meeting.

Wed. March 22 the committee considered a number of bills that had been approved earlier by the Subcommittee on Economic Development, chaired by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), and the Subcommittee on Labor, chaired by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.)

Among the bills acted upon was a measure (S.F. 23) providing for the structural remodeling of disabled workers' residences under the Workmen's Compensation Law. According to the bill's author, Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), the bill would apply only to about six workers each year who are permanently disabled while on the job.

Two bills authored by Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL-Mpls.) gained the approval of the committee. The first, S.F. 238, extends the small business "set aside" to transportation department facility construction. The bill would "set aside" 2% of the proposed department construction for small businesses with 50% of the "set aside" to be awarded to minority businesses. The second measure (S.F. 555) also pertains to the "set aside" provisions and would provide a bonding mechanism for small businesses through second party bonding.

A bill (S.F. 410), authored by Sen. Allan Spear, prohibiting employers from deducting breakage and alleged theft losses from an employees wages without the employees' written authorization, was also approved.

Also approved was a measure (S.F. 703) authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), allowing state employees to take a leave of absence to participate in amateur international athletic competitions.

### TAX COMMITTEE HEARS HOME IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE PLAN

The Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), met Wed. March 23.

Sen. Robert Benedict (DFL - Bloomington) introduced a measure (S.F. 103) providing that home improvements to houses more than 5 years old not be added to the assessed value of the property until the home is sold to a new owner. Sen. Benedict stated that the bill is designed as an energy conservation measure to add an incentive for home improvements of an energy saving nature - such as increasing insulation. "We are currently penalizing people for trying to improve their homes," Benedict added. After extensive debate the bill was sent to a special subcommittee for further study.

In other action, the committee approved a bill (S.F. 705), authored by Sen. McCutcheon, that would allow financial information contained in state income tax returns to be abstracted and used in determining reciprocity agreements between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The information could also be used by study groups such as the Tax Study Commission. The bill was extensively amended to protect the confidentiality of the tax returns used for such study.

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# briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For March 21-25, 1977

## SENATE DEBATES RULE AMENDMENT, NARROWLY REJECTS SEVERAL BILLS

At meetings Mon. March 21 and Thurs. March 24, the full Senate took up a number of routine bills and several more controversial ones.

Minority Leader Robert Ashbach (IR-Arden Hills) proposed an amendment to the rules at the Monday meeting that would have restricted conference committees to consideration of bills previously considered in at least one of the houses of the Legislature. After considerable debate, the amendment failed.

Also at the Monday meeting, the Senate gave final passage to H.F. 38 (Housing Warranties), but included several amendments. At the Thursday meeting the Senate was informed officially that the House would not concur with the amendments and that it had named three members for a conference committee. Senate author Gerry Sikorski moved that the State also name three members to a conference committee.

Ten bills were up for final passage at the Thursday session. Seven were passed by unanimous or near-unanimous votes. An eighth, S.F. 26, which would extend fishing seasons for certain fish, passed narrowly by a 39-24 vote. Two others, S.F. 147, which would limit deficiency judgments in loan defaults, and S.F. 189, which would increase the dollar amount necessary for a conviction of a felony in theft, failed on identical 33-30 votes, just one short of the 34 votes required for passage. Motions to reconsider both bills were later introduced and passed.

The Senate will convene again on Mon. March 28 at 10 a.m.

## COMMERCE COMMITTEE APPROVES BRANCH BANKING

The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.), approved a bill Thurs. March 24 that would allow branch banking in Minnesota. The bill (S.F. 450), authored by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd), specifies that banks may be allowed to branch only within the regional development area in which the principle office is located. According to the bill, the Commissioner of Banking may approve a branch if the proposed branch will improve the quality or increase the availability of banking services in the community.

At a meeting Tuesday, March 22 the committee approved a bill (S.F. 125) authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL - Mpls.) that is designed to stop business firms cooperating with the Arab boycott. In broad terms the bill prohibits discrimination in business transactions on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry or national origin.

In other action, the committee began hearings on a bill (S.F. 668), proposed by Sen. Borden, that would set a floating usuary limit on home loans. Discussion will continue on the measure at a meeting next week.

## MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL GAINS COMMITTEE APPROVAL, NOW GOES TO RULES COMMITTEE

The controversial mandatory deposit bill, S.F. 1, narrowly passed an Agriculture and Natural Resources committee vote on Tues. March 22. Two Republican-Independents joined eight DFLers to pass the bill by a 10-9 margin. (Three IR members and six DFL members voted against the measure.) The bill requires a mandatory 10 cent deposit on all beverage containers, whether returnable or throw-away.

Following an objection by Sen. Roger Laufenberger (DFL-Lewiston) to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee report at the Senate Session Thursday, the measure was referred to the Rules Committee rather than going to the Senate floor. It may be referred to the Employment Committee by Rules for additional hearings on the bill's impact on employment, sources said. Rules is expected to make that decision some time next week.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources committee chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, (DFL-Park Rapids) narrowly defeated another fairly controversial measure at its Thursday meeting. H.F. 352, which prohibits the use of electronic fish-finding devices, was defeated by a 10-7 vote.



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### COMMITTEE HEARS BILL TO CLOSE HASTINGS STATE HOSPITAL

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee approved an amendment Thurs. March 24, that would close Hastings State Hospital. The bill (S.F. 872) had originally called for transferring the hospital to the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the author, Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm) offered the amendment to close in place of the original measure. Final voting on the bill will take place next week.

In other action this week the committee began hearings on a bill (S.F. 743), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), that would initiate state-wide early and periodic childhood health screening. Currently, such screenings are only available in part of the state. Under the new measure, the screenings would be administered through the school districts. The committee will vote on the bill at its Tues. March 29 meeting.

The committee also passed and re-referred to Finance a bill (S.F. 897), sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL - St. Cloud), that increases the amount of reparations that can be awarded to crime victims.

A measure (S.F. 514), authored by Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL - St. Louis Park), that would establish victim crises centers was also approved and re-referred to Finance. The committee also approved a bill (S.F. 651), sponsored by Sen. Perpich, that establishes standards for safe drinking water.

### TRANSPORTATION DEBATES NOISE BARRIER MORATORIUM, PASSES OTHER BILLS

At meetings Tues. March 22 and Thurs. March 24, the Transportation Committee continued to hear witnesses and to debate a proposal by Committee Chairman Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) that would put a halt to construction of freeway noise barriers and would, instead, place emphasis on alternatives to reduce freeway noise, such as surface repair and more rigid noise level standards. No final action was taken and the bill will be considered on April 7.

The committee also approved a bill by Sen. Ed. Schrom (S.F. 265), (DFL-Albany) that would require contractors who haul gravel and other heavy loads to reimburse local governments for any damages done to roads as a result. It also approved a measure (S.F. 757) that repeals the state's Sunday Holiday law, which had banned trucks from operating on highways in Class A cities on Sundays unless a special permit was granted. Since the permits were granted in almost all cases, the law had become a formal red tape requirement that did not fulfill its intended objective. Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), author of the repeal, argued that it would be better to simply lift the ban since it was not, in fact, being enforced anyway.

### INNER-CITY HOUSING OUTLOOK, INSULATION NEEDS, EXAMINED BY ENERGY AND HOUSING

Meetings held Tues. March 22 and Thurs. March 24 by the Energy and Housing Committee (Sen. Jerald Anderson, DFL-North Branch, chairman) were devoted to examinations of the inner-city housing rehabilitation outlook and to home insulation methods and supply.

Committee members were told by witnesses that a large percentage of inner-city housing in the Twin Cities area has reached or is reaching the point at which it will require major rehabilitation or replacement. In certain core inner-city areas in Minneapolis, between 81 and 100 percent of housing units were built prior to 1939. Since 50 years is an approximate point at which housing needs either major rehabilitation or must be destroyed, almost all these units will reach that point by 1989.

Considerable testimony was devoted to the work being done in the Stevens Court area of Minneapolis. With renovation and other neighborhood improvements, the turn-over rate in housing in the Stevens Court area has dropped from an average residence time of one year in 1974 to almost three years currently, with most who choose to leave the neighborhood now doing so primarily because there are not enough larger units to accommodate growing families.

Next week the committee will consider several bills to provide tax credits for improved housing insulation.



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### COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL PROHIBITING AGE DISCRIMINATION

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), met Fri. March 18 to continue discussion on H.F. 6, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), a measure that adds a prohibition against age discrimination to the Human Rights Act. The measure was approved at the Fri. meeting.

Wed. March 22 the committee considered a number of bills that had been approved earlier by the Subcommittee on Economic Development, chaired by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake), and the Subcommittee on Labor, chaired by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.)

Among the bills acted upon was a measure (S.F. 23) providing for the structural remodeling of disabled workers' residences under the Workmen's Compensation Law. According to the bill's author, Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), the bill would apply only to about six workers each year who are permanently disabled while on the job.

Two bills authored by Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL-Mpls.) gained the approval of the committee. The first, S.F. 238, extends the small business "set aside" to transportation department facility construction. The bill would "set aside" 2% of the proposed department construction for small businesses with 50% of the "set aside" to be awarded to minority businesses. The second measure (S.F. 555) also pertains to the "set aside" provisions and would provide a bonding mechanism for small businesses through second party bonding.

A bill (S.F. 410), authored by Sen. Allan Spear, prohibiting employers from deducting breakage and alleged theft losses from an employees wages without the employees' written authorization, was also approved.

Also approved was a measure (S.F. 703) authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), allowing state employees to take a leave of absence to participate in amateur international athletic competitions.

### TAX COMMITTEE HEARS HOME IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE PLAN

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# briefly

For March 14-18, 1977

## The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

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### SENATE APPROVES AMENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BILL, WILL GO TO GOVERNOR

At its Thursday, March 17 session, the full Senate completed legislative action on a bill that makes substantial changes in Minnesota's unemployment compensation practices. (Those who quit their jobs will no longer be eligible for benefits) The Senate had passed a similar measure in February but amendments made in the House brought the issue back to the Senate for final resolution. The Senate approved the House changes, which would avoid decreases in the amounts of compensation paid to lower salaried workers. The bill now will go to the Governor for his signature.

The Senate also approved H.F. 38, which requires that builders provide guarantees that any new homes built are free of structural defects.

The Senate also took action on a number of minor bills at its session Thursday and an earlier session on Monday, March 14.

The full Senate will meet again next Monday at 10:30 AM.

### COMMITTEE BEGINS HEARINGS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), began hearings Monday, March 14 on the early childhood and family education act (S.F. 535).

The bill, authored by Hughes, includes provisions for early and periodic educational screening, educational programs for parents, libraries of books and toys, family services, home activity kits and resource information. The Subcommittee on Education Aids will hold further hearings on the bill.

Two other bills were approved by the committee this week. H.F. 291 (S.F. 284) sponsored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park) is a measure designed to allow school districts to form joint boards to lease or purchase data processing equipment. A bill (S.F. 57) authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), allowing local control of campus liquor policy was also approved.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS APPROVES APPOINTMENTS BILLS

The Senate Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) met Tuesday, March 15 and approved two bills. S.F. 37 authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), provides a mechanism for the public to learn of and apply for state agency positions. S.F. 109, a measure providing for coterminous appointments was authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley) and was also approved by the committee.

A bill (S.F. 382) authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul) mandating zero based budgeting was recommended for interim study.

### MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL DRAWS PROPONENTS, OPPONENTS: VOTE SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK

Hearings by the full Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on S.F. 1-mandatory deposit, began on Tuesday, March 15 with the testimony of a number of supporters. It was supported by representatives of the MN Energy Agency, The Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and many citizen's groups and individuals.

On Thursday, March 17 equal time was given to the opponents, who represented the soft drink industry, grocers, and several unions.

Proponents claim that the bill would save energy, end waste, cut down on litter, and result in a net increase in jobs.

Opponents reply that there could be increased energy use, that other approaches should be taken to the litter problem, that jobs would be lost, that it would increase beverage costs, and that it puts Minnesota industries at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states.

Rebuttal and a full committee vote is scheduled next Tuesday, March 22.



## BRIEFLY

THE SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW (For March 14-18, 1977)

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### HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS ACTS ON BILL AIDING BATTERED WOMEN

The Senate Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee, chaired by Sen. George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm), met Tues. March 15 to hear a bill (S.F. 124) authored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park), that would establish assistance and educational programs for battered women. Two programs would be in the twin cities metropolitan area; one would be in an outstate city and one would be in an outstate rural area.

The committee also acted on five other measures. Sen. Wayne Olhott (DFL-Herman) introduced a measure (S.F. 464) that provided for reciprocity in licensing for plumbers licensed in other states. Sen. Lewis sponsored a bill (S.F. 493) stipulating that after the first three years a non-profit nursing home has been owned the state agency will not allow the expense of interest in net debt to exceed 100% of the original value of the home for depreciation purposes. A bill (S.F. 553) appropriating money for the retired senior volunteer program was sponsored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake). Sen. Roger Strand (DFL-Cyrus) introduced a measure that authorizes Yellow Medicine County to participate in the mental health services program at Marshall, Minnesota. Sen. James Ulland (IR-Duluth) then introduced a bill (S.F. 476) exempting licensed hospital psychiatric or chemical dependency units from review by the Welfare Department. Instead, such units will be under the jurisdiction of the Health Department. All five measures were passed by the Committee.

The Thurs. March 17 meeting of the committee was devoted to a measure (S.F. 459), introduced by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), that would delineate the responsibility of state government in financing social services. The bill, which is designed along the lines of the school aid formula of financing, would be a uniform method of financing social services in Minnesota.

### EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE APPROVES HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), approved a measure (S.F. 226) that raises the state minimum wage to \$2.30 per hour. The current wage level is \$2.10. The bill's author, Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake) noted that the poverty level had been determined at \$2.90 per hour and the proposed raise would not insure heads of households freedom from poverty.

A section that proposed a reduction in tip credit was dropped from the bill and had been, Milton pointed out, the major focus of opposition testimony.

In other action the committee approved and referred to Finance a bill (S.F. 625) authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), increasing the appropriation for summer youth employment. The bill raises the level of funding \$5 million dollars in an attempt to employ as many young people as possible.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE ACTS ON THREE BILLS

The General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), met Weds. March 16 to hear and approve three bills.

S.F. 606, authored by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha), pertains to the financing of National Guard Armories. H.F. 260, also sponsored by Wegener, deletes obsolete references to the naval militia from the statutes.

Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston) then introduced a bill (S.F. 217) that clarifies the definition of veterans for the purpose of purchasing tax forfeited land.

### TAX COMMITTEE APPROVES BILLS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

The Senate Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) approved two bills designed to help the deaf at meetings Mon. March 14 and Weds. March 16.

S.F. 223 authored by Sen. Otto Bang (IR-Edina), authorizes the same tax benefits for people with hearing ear dogs as for those with seeing eye dogs. S.F. 292, by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) reduces the decibel level for determining hearing impairment for tax purposes.

In other action this week the committee defeated a measure (S.F. 171), authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), that would exempt outdoor advertising from personal property taxes.

## BRIEFLY

THE SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW (For March 14-18, 1977)

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### ENERGY AND HOUSING BEGINS HEARINGS ON ENERGY AGENCY; TOURS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

The Energy and Housing Committee began hearings on Thurs. March 17 on S.F. 669, a bill that would extend the life of the State Energy Agency and make certain changes in its powers. The committee began preliminary discussions on the measure. Extensive amendments are expected as the bill goes into hearings in the next weeks.

At the same meeting, the committee, chaired by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) was given a synopsis of the findings of the State Energy "fly-over" program to obtain thermographs (which pinpoint heat loss). A second fly-over is now being done in some cases to determine whether the heating inefficiencies indicated have been remedied or ignored.

On Tues. March 15 the committee toured the Honeywell Energy Resources Center.

### JUDICIARY HEARS UNIFORM PARENTAGE BILL

The focus of two meetings held by the Judiciary Committee during the week was S.F. 105-Uniform Parentage, a bill that would remove the legal distinctions between legitimate and illegitimate children in determining adoption rights. The major change affected by the bill would be to allow fathers of illegitimate children first rights for adoption should the mother give the child up. The bill, authored by committee chairman Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) is a complicated one and therefore required the extended hearings. At a final meeting of the Judiciary Committee for the week on Fri. March 18, the committee was expected to complete action on it, along with several other bills.

### ELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SUCCESSION LAW

The Senate Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.), focused discussion Thurs. March 17 on a measure (S.F. 758) outlining the succession of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The bill, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), would follow precedents set by the Federal government in that, in the event of a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor, the governor could appoint a member of the legislature or a constitutional officer to the position. The measure was laid over for further consideration.

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Sen. Robert Tennesen's (DFL-Mpls.) Commerce Committee met Tues. March 15 and defeated a measure (S.F. 129) authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center) that would have allowed off sale liquor stores to advertise prices. Committee members had expressed fears that such advertising would drive small establishments out of business and thus voted to defeat the measure.

A bill (S.F. 450) authorizing branch banking was then introduced by Sen. Winston Borden (DFL-Brainerd). The measure would allow banks to have branch offices only in the economic development regions in which the parent bank is located. Borden, in his explanatory remarks, emphasized the importance of competition in banking as the primary reason for the bill.



FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES CONTINUE WORK, FULL COMMITTEE TO DECIDE DUTCH ELM APPROPRIATION

The Finance subcommittees continued work on budget requests during the week, and completed action on a number of agency and department requests.

The Finance Subcommittee on Semi-State & Transportation, chaired by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), has almost completed its budget review of semi-state agencies.

One of its more important recommendations involves doubling the appropriation for the State Arts Board from about \$2 million to almost \$4 million. The increase would be for grants in aid for outstate projects, and for subsidies to major institutions (\$1.6 million for the biennium).

The subcommittee also continued its review of the MN Department of Transportation request. Included in the discussion was the Governor's recommendation for an appropriation of \$650,000, each year to subsidize the Duluth Amtrak line.

The Finance Subcommittee on Health, Welfare, & Corrections has almost completed its review of the \$853 million Department of Welfare state request. Emphasis at the Subcommittee hearing has been on holding down costs, although some inflationary cost adjustments have been included. The subcommittee also reviewed the Department of Correction's request. The major item involved, possible fund of a new correctional facility, however, is not a part of their general request and may instead be a part of the building bill recommendations now being prioritized by the Department of Finance.

The Finance subcommittee on Education, chaired by committee chairman Roger Moe (DFL-Ada), completed work on the University of Minnesota's \$399.2 million request (which includes staff pay increases). The Governor's recommendation is for an appropriation of \$350.6 million, but this does not include costs of any pay increases that may be included in the general state employee pay bill. The University's controversial request for a staffing increase to cover anticipated enrollment increases is not expected to be funded.

The Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope), has almost completed work on the State Energy Agency request. The Agency had requested about \$400,000 in new funds primarily for expanded energy research grants and to expand their infrared aerial survey. The Governor had not recommended all the increased funds sought, but has indicated that he will now support selected study reports. The current recommendation is for a biennial appropriation of about \$2.4 million.

The subcommittee also reviewed the Dept. of Natural Resources requests. New funding is being sought for expanded operations in water use permit operations. Another major item in the DNR presentation is an \$11 million deficiency request to cover excess costs of fighting forest fires last summer. The item is being considered separately and will soon come up for full committee action.

The full committee will meet again next week to take a final vote on the Dutch Elm Disease Control Bill. An amendment increasing the appropriation for reforestation was tied on at the last meeting but no final vote was taken because of time limitations.

TRANSPORTATION OKAYS BUS SHELTER ADS, INCREASES DOLLAR DAMAGE REPORT AMOUNT

The Transportation Committee (Clarence Purfeerst, DFL-Faribault, Chairman) okayed two bills at its Tuesday, March 15 meeting. The first, S.F. 145, would permit advertising on bus shelters. Proceeds from the ads would go to the municipalities in which the shelters are located. The second, S.F. 108, simply increases the dollar amount of damages sustained in accidents before a report is required. This change is an inflationary adjustment so that minor accidents will not have to be reported.

The Transit subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), began an examination of Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTC) financing policies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBATES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

The Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha), met Wednesday, March 16, to hear testimony supporting proposals allowing withdrawal from the Regional Development Commission. Two bills are before the committee that advocate such a policy; S.F. 247 authored by Sen. Ed Schrom (DFL-Albany) and S.F. 491 by Sen. A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island).



# briefly

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The Subcommittee on Education Aids, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) also met twice this week. A report from the Department of Education on transportation aids was the center of discussion at the Mon. March 7 meeting. The Thurs. March 10 meeting was devoted to a presentation by the Division of Secondary Vocational Education of the Department of Education.

The Subcommittee on Post Secondary and Higher Education continued a discussion of post secondary funding at a meeting Thurs. March 10. The subcommittee is chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul).

Hearings began Tues. March 8 in the Subcommittee on Special Programs on two bills that would establish pilot bilingual educational programs. The bills, (S.F. 120) authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) and (S.F. 455) by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), differ both in philosophy and scope. Chairman Peter Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul) will schedule further hearings to debate the relative merits of each bill and to hear public testimony.

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The first bill (S.F. 196), authored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.) provides funds to establish evening child care centers at the University of Minnesota, two community colleges and two state universities. The centers would provide inexpensive child care facilities for parents attending night classes and would be self supporting after the initial set up costs had been taken care of. The bill passed and was re-referred to the Finance Committee.

The second bill (S.F. 146), authored by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha), clarifies the definition of "ambulance" in Minnesota law. The measure was approved by the committee.

The committee met Thurs. March 10 and approved a bill (S.F. 80) that would allow the Department of Health to reimburse persons for costs incurred taking an approved ambulance training course. The bill's sponsor is Sen. Mike Menning (DFL-Edgerton).

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE HEARS PROPOSALS

The Senate Local Government Committee chaired by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha), met Weds. March 9 to consider two proposed bills.

Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.) introduced a bill (S.F. 78) that clarifies the responsibilities of the parties to involve in repurchase agreements of debt service fund investments. The measure was approved by the committee.

A second measure (S.F. 442) dealing with the enforcement of regulations concerning the instruments that convey real estate. The author, Sen. A. O. H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island), requested that the bill be laid over for technical revision.

#### GOV OP SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS METRO COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

The Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Metro Affairs, headed by Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL-Mpls.) met Fri, March 4 to continue background presentations on the Metropolitan Council.



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# briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

For March 7-11, 1977

## SENATE PASSES BILLS; APPROVES RULES

At meetings Mon. March 7 and Thurs. March 10, the full Senate approved a total of 15 bills, none of which generated extensive debate because of their non-controversial nature. At the Thursday session, the Senate also took up and passed its permanent rules. The minority moved an amendment that would have specifically stated that the Senate would operate under the provisions of the state open meeting law. Majority leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) opposed the change, saying that the Minnesota Constitution specifically empowers the Legislature to hold closed meetings when necessary. In addition, Coleman said that the amendment was essentially redundant because Senate meetings were already open on a routine basis. Minority Leader Robert Ashbach called Senate openness a "charade".

After the discussion the amendment failed 17 to 45 on a straight party-line split.

## FINANCE VOTES BIG INCREASE IN SHADE TREE REFORESTATION SECTION

The full Finance Committee Thursday approved an amendment to the shade tree disease control bill that doubled the allocation for reforestation efforts. The amendment, sponsored by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), increased the reforestation allocation from \$4 to \$8 million and the total bill from about \$28 to almost \$32 million. Chenoweth said that unless we committed adequate resources now to replanting, our cities could be barren and shadeless for a number of years in the 1980's and 1990's. Chenoweth also said that efforts now would most likely cost less than comparable efforts in the future. Chief author Hubert Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope) supported the increase but committee chairman Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) opposed it, saying that the increase could endanger its passage.

Finance subcommittees continued hearings during the week on budget requests from a number of state departments and institutions including the University of Minnesota and the departments of Welfare, and Corrections.

## AG & NAT RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES MANDATORY DEPOSIT BILL

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Environmental Protection approved S.F. 1: Mandatory deposit at a meeting Tues. March 8. The bill, authored by subcommittee chairman William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), was approved with only one dissenting vote, cast by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), who said that it would probably increase costs to consumers. The full Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids) will hear public testimony on the bill at meetings next Tuesday and Thursday. A vote on the bill is scheduled for Tues. March 22.

## CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY URGED

A bill creating a state Department of Economic Security received its first hearing at the Fri. March 11 meeting of the committee. The Department of Employment Services and Vocational Services would be abolished by the measure (S.F. 202). Author Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) explained the proposal, outlining the new organizational structure for human services in the state.

Hearings continued Wed. March 9 on a bill (S.F. 226), authored by Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake) that would raise the state minimum wage from \$2.10 to \$2.30, the current federal minimum wage. Discussion Mon. March 7 focused on a measure (H.F. 6) authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), amending the Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age.

Chairman Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston) said all three bills would receive further hearings next week.



## BRIEFLY

THE SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW (For March 7-11, 1977)

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### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RAISES VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS, PASSES OTHER BILLS

At a Tues. March 8 meeting, the Transportation Committee (Clarence Purfeerst, DFL-Faribault, chairman) passed S.F. 270-Laufenburger, a bill that increases the allowable vehicle weight limit on Minnesota roads from 73,000 to 80,000 lbs. (Several states to the west, including the Dakotas, have already passed bills increasing the weight limit; Iowa and Wisconsin have not.) Advocates from the trucking industry sought the change and argued that this would result in greater efficiency, lower freight costs and energy savings.

The committee also passed House File 511, which allows the state to sell transportation bonds immediately to take advantage of favorable bond market conditions.

At a Thurs. March 10 meeting the committee passed a bill that clarified the restrictions imposed on motorcyclists with learning permits. Existing legislation prohibited them from using "freeways," a term that was not defined. The word "interstates" was substituted instead.

### GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES PAY RAISES

The Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), met Wed. March 9 and approved a measure that would increase salary benefits for top administration officials, legislators and judges. The salary increase package, sponsored by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.) passed by a narrow 10 - 8 margin.

The measure would raise the governor's salary from \$41,000 to \$58,000. Legislative salaries, now at \$8,400 a year, would go to \$16,500 in 1979 and to \$18,500 in 1980. District judge salaries would go from \$40,000 to \$41,500. The proposed bill also called for a substantial reduction in the per diem allowance for state legislators. There have been no pay raises for top state officials and legislators since 1973.

The bill had cleared the Subcommittee on Personnel Benefits, chaired by Sen. Gene Stokowski (DFL-Mpls.), Fri. March 4. The measure will now go to the Senate Finance Committee for further hearings.

### JUDICIARY PASSES 18 YEAR OLD OFFICE HOLDING BALLOT AMENDMENT

The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) approved a measure (S.F. 16) that would place the question of 18-21 year old eligibility for office on the next general election ballot. Currently 18-21 year olds are eligible to vote but are not allowed to hold office. Chief author Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) said he saw no basis for this dual standard and argued that the question should be put to the voters. No one appeared in opposition.

The Committee also approved S.F. 194: cemetery trespass, authored by Sen. Arnulf Ueland (IR-Mankato). (See Briefly for Feb. 28 to March 4.)

The committee began discussion on a bill by Davies that would require local approval and another bill by Sen. Bill McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) on spouse abuse. Both were laid over for further consideration.

### ENERGY AND HOUSING PASSES BILL LIFTING SALES TAX ON FUEL DURING SUMMER MONTHS

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee passed a measure Thurs. March 10 that would lift the state sales tax on fuel oil, distillates, and propane, when sold and delivered during the months of July, August, and September.

S.F. 258, authored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook) had originally provided for the sales tax exemption on a year-round basis. Representatives from the MN Seniors Federation and the state AFL-CIO urged passage of the bill without the amendment--arguing that heating supplies, like food and clothing, are a necessity and should not be subject to the sales tax.

Members of the committee, including Chairman Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), and Senators Harmon Ogdahl (IR-Mpls.) and John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) all argued that the amendment was intended to encourage increased utilization of home storage capacity by providing an incentive to fill tanks during non-peak demand periods. The bill was passed as amended with the recommendation that the measure will be referred to the Committee Taxes and Tax Laws for hearings.

On Tues. March 8 the Committee had toured the NSP King Plant at Stillwater as part of an ongoing effort to familiarize Committee members with energy production and problem.



EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEES HEAR A VARIETY OF BILLS

Several Education Subcommittees met this week to hear a wide variety of legislative proposals.

Hearings on the controversial school redistricting bill (S.F. 156), authored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), were held Mon. March 7 and Fri. March 11 by the Subcommittee on Organization. The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood) continued to take public testimony on the measure.

The Subcommittee on Education Aids, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) also met twice this week. A report from the Department of Education on transportation aids was the center of discussion at the Mon. March 7 meeting. The Thurs. March 10 meeting was devoted to a presentation by the Division of Secondary Vocational Education of the Department of Education.

The Subcommittee on Post Secondary and Higher Education continued a discussion of post secondary funding at a meeting Thurs. March 10. The subcommittee is chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul).

Hearings began Tues. March 8 in the Subcommittee on Special Programs on two bills that would establish pilot bilingual educational programs. The bills, (S.F. 120) authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) and (S.F. 455) by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), differ both in philosophy and scope. Chairman Peter Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul) will schedule further hearings to debate the relative merits of each bill and to hear public testimony.

GENERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE HEARS STUDENT SMOKING BILL

The Senate General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), met Tues. March 9 to consider a bill that would allow schools to have designated smoking areas. The measure (S.F. 354) authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) would allow school boards to designate a smoking area for students over 18 or having written parental permission. After extensive debate the measure was referred to a subcommittee for further consideration.

The committee approved a bill (S.F. 319) authored by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha) that would strike the current statute prohibiting liquor being served at public dances.

At a meeting Weds. March 9 the committee passed three bills. The first measure (S.F. 312), sponsored by Sen. Douglas Sillers (IR, Moorhead), would allow the Historical Society to establish an interpretative center in Moorhead. The second bill (S.F. 383), sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would lift the five year residency requirement for the commissioner and certain officers of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The final measure (S.F. 257), authored by Sen. Edward Schrom (DFL-Albany), would allow snowmobiles to use county state aid highways at designated areas to get around natural obstacles.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARS BELL PRESENTATION

The Senate Education Committee met Tues. March 8 to hear a presentation on special education by representatives of BELL (Better Education Legislative Liason). Speakers outlined the problems and the goals and objectives of special education services in both the regular and special education classroom situation.

Chairman Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood) then directed the committee's attention to a subcommittee report dealing with a measure (S.F. 185) exempting Montessori Schools from day care regulations. The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), would shift the regulatory authority for Montessori Schools from the Department of Welfare to the Department of Education. The bill was approved and re-referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

TAX COMMITTEE CONTINUES TAX INCREMENT FINANCING HEARINGS

Chairman William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) gathered members of the Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws together Wed. March 9 to continue discussion on tax increment financing.

Testimony was taken from representatives of municipalities, such as St. Paul and Duluth, currently involved with tax increment financing as a means of financing urban redevelopment. The committee also discussed alternative methods of redevelopment financing in conjunction with a presentation given by the League of Minnesota Cities and National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations (NAHRO).

#### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE PASSES UNIFORM MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY BILL

The Senate Elections Committee culminated a series of hearings by approving Sen. David Schaaf's (DFL-Fridley) Uniform Local Government Election Day bill on a 7 - 4 roll call vote at the Tues. March 8 meeting.

The bill (S.F. 350) calls for all local government elections, except those of township officers, to be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in November of each odd numbered year.

At a meeting Thurs. March 10 the committee, headed by Chairman Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.) heard and approved three bills.

A measure (S.F. 157) introduced by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), calls for the state to reimburse each county and other local government units for the cost incurred for a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislature or Congress.

Sen. Otto Bang (IR-Edina) sponsored a bill (S.F. 335) that would allow an individual to serve as an election judge in a precinct other than his own.

The final bill (S.F. 456) heard by the committee would allow municipalities the option to open polling places at 6:00 a.m. on election day. The bill's author is Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.).

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