

briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 20, 1979

PAGE ONE: A NEWS SUMMARY

Stadium options explored at special meeting

Senators attending a special five hour joint meeting of the Taxes and Governmental Operations Committees Wednesday night got some — but not all — of the answers they were seeking regarding possible stadium alternatives.

Some, but not all, because some, but not all witnesses were there. Present were representatives of the Stadium Commission, the University of Minnesota, the cities of Minneapolis and Bloomington, the State Planning Agency, the Met Council, bond counsel, and Minnesota Kicks President Freddie Goodwin.

Conspicuously absent were any representatives of the Minnesota Vikings or Twins who instead issued a joint one page press release that said all the alternatives had already been explored and discussed, and not-so-subtly concluded with a reminder that each of them had only one year remaining on their current leases.

Senators, including Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) clearly were not happy. Coleman said that the Vikings had given no firm commitment to appear but the Twins had.

And one of the Twins key management personnel, Calvin Griffith, apparently felt he had something more important to do — appear on a now-defunct sports talk show on a local radio station.

But despite this absence, some key findings emerged.

- Minneapolis officials said they are now ready and willing to institute new back-up taxes on both hotel and motel receipts and liquor by the drink in Minneapolis.

(Continued on back page).

Minimum wage bill approved

A bill to raise the state minimum wage was approved on a strict partisan vote Wed. April 18 meeting of the Employment Committee. Chief author, Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), added a major amendment, making three key changes to the bill, in an attempt to gain administrative support for the measure. The amendment delayed effective dates in the bill for six months, reinstated the 10 percent youth differential and deleted a provision changing the number of hours required for overtime pay. Other amendments offered by committee members (to exclude very small businesses from having to pay the minimum wage, to index the tip credit to the minimum wage and to include a student exemption) were all defeated.

As approved by the committee, the bill (S.F. 352) now provides for an adult minimum wage of \$2.90 an hour in Jan. 1980, \$3.10 an hour in Jan. 1981, and \$3.35 an hour in Jan. 1982.

Drive-in obscenity ban okayed

At its Thurs. April 19 session, the full Senate debated for almost three hours before giving preliminary approval to a bill (H.F. 13) authored by Sen. Marion Menning (DFL-Edgerton) which would ban showing obscene movies at drive-ins and provide substantial criminal penalties for violations.

Most of the debate centered upon two amendments.

The first, offered by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), would have restored a prior restraint provision previously deleted in Judiciary Committee deliberations. Under the provision local prosecuting attorneys could have sought a court injunction to prevent the showing of a movie if they believed it to be obscene under community standards criteria. Proponents of the amendment said that it would "prevent a crime from occurring" while opponents argued that it would be impossible or at least difficult to ascertain whether or not a movie was obscene or offensive to community standards when it had not yet been shown in that community. The amendment was defeated on a tie 30-30 vote.

The second amendment, offered by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman) would have added another entire bill to the Menning measure. Opponents argued against adding another bill which had not undergone the regular process of committee hearings but Olhoft replied that a virtually identical bill had been approved by the Judiciary Committee last year. After extended debate, the amendment failed by a 2-1 margin.

Preliminary approval was then granted on a 49-7 vote.

The Senate also gave final approval to three other bills at the Thursday session.

Abortion; family planning bills debated

In a dramatic personal appearance, national feminist leader Gloria Steinem testified before members of the Health, Welfare & Corrections Committee Thurs. April 19. At issue were two bills: S.F. 380, sponsored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park), would eliminate restrictions on medical assistance for abortion services; and S.F. 479, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), enacting a nonseverability clause to the family planning services grant program established last year.

The Lewis measure was defeated on a 6-8 roll call vote. The Merriam bill, which specified that if any part of the family planning act passed last year was found unconstitutional, the entire bill would become void was discussed for nearly three and a half hours. An amendment to delete the nonseverability clause was defeated 7-5; the entire bill was defeated on an 11-2 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

Agriculture and Natural Resources

A bill that would create an Executive Council made up of the governor and six elected officials to oversee designation of scenic rivers passed 8-7 out of the Senate's Agriculture and Natural Resources committee Tues. April 17.

S.F. 791, offered by committee chairman, Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), is considered a compromise between the present law which gives final designation authority to the state Natural Resources Department and people who would like to see either county boards or the Legislature have final say. (The word "wild" was deleted from the bill to lessen confusion with a federal law of the same title.)

The bill is expected to have little chance of passage this session because the chairman of the House agriculture and natural resources committee has said he would not support any change in the present law.

Also recommended for passage were: S.F. 1210, which would authorize the conveyance of certain state lands to Beltrami County; S.F. 732, which would raise the perch to the status of a game fish and allow a daily catch of 100; S.F. 1313, which would allow money from tax-forfeited lands in Beltrami County to be used for the promotion of the county; S.F. 1288, which would allow conveyance of certain state land to the Galilee Bible Camp in Kittson county; S.F. 797, which would allow nonresidents to set up portable fish houses on frozen Minnesota lakes; and S.F. 940, which would allow private landowners to install drainage tiles along and across highway right-of-ways.

Outstate crowd packs hearing room

About 30 people from outstate Minnesota came to the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee Thurs. April 19 to protest a bill that would have allocated \$1 million to the Department of Natural Resources for making a trail through one-third of southeastern Minnesota. Their attendance paid off as the committee deleted that portion of the \$15 million bill for state recreational and open space.

S.F. 1032, sponsored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), received favorable testimony with the exception of the trail section along the Root River.

Also recommended for passage was S.F. 519, which would allocate money to continue the state's shade tree program. Also recommended for passage were S.Fs. 1273, 1243, 1292, 302, 1144, 874, 768 and 851.

Commerce

Committee hurries to pass bills

A bill to require liquor stores and bars to carry liability insurance passed out of the Senate Commerce committee 7-6 Thurs. April 19.

S.F. 992, sponsored by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL-Mpls.), was opposed by persons who claimed small businesses cannot afford insurance and will be driven out of business by a requirement that they have insurance.

Also recommended for passage were: S.F. 1025, which would allow a single owner to maintain more than one on-sale liquor license; S.F. 1040, which would permit insurance policies to bear facsimile signatures instead of originals; S.F. 998, which would amend laws permitting cancellation of life insurance policies within 10 days of their purchase to provide for cash refunds; S.F. 744, which would require automobile insurance damage appraisals, adjustments and related repair practices; S.F. 693,

which would require insurance policies to be readable and understandable to the average reader; S.F. 895, which would allow Sunday liquor sales between 10 a.m. and noon if approved by the local unit of government; H.F. 219, which would allow irrigation installers to hold electrician's licenses for wiring around irrigation units; and S.F. 1000, which would allow one more wine license to the city of St. Paul.

Education

Bills move to Senate floor

Several bills advanced through the Education committee Tues. April 17 and Thurs. April 19. Some were moved straight to the consent calendar, others were referred to the Aids subcommittee for further study and still others were re-referred to other committees.

Sent directly to the consent calendar were S.F. 1110, which provides for the consolidation of the Golden Valley school district and S.F. 1180, which would allow the Bertha-Hewitt school district to accept a capital loan without first getting a vote approval by the community.

Sent to the Education Aids subcommittee were: S.F. 1105, which would allow the state department of education to hire a basic skills director to advise public and nonpublic schools about teaching listening, speaking, reading, writing and mathematics in grades 4-12; S.F. 1103, which would allow six school districts in the state to levy extra money because their land has a low-tax valuation from the high percentage of public lands within the district boundaries; and S.F. 1367, which would appropriate money for counselors, social workers, psychologists and school nurses in pupil support services.

Recommended for passage by the full Senate and sent to the floor were: S.F. 830, which would require the commissioner of education to respond within 45 days to any proposal for a new or additional program in an area vocational-technical institute; S.F. 333, which would add a representative of nonpublic schools to the council on quality education; and S.F. 770, which would require notification of the district of residence, the district of attendance and the commissioner of education before any child is placed into another district by the courts or a state agency.

Re-referred to finance were: S.F. 560, which would establish a state-funded scholarship program for financially disadvantaged students; S.F. 832, which would extend the educational grant program to veterans and orphans of veterans; S.F. 168, which would require the higher education coordinating board to develop plans for post-secondary education in the state; and S.F. 1265 which would appropriate money for computer-based education in course offerings that would not otherwise be offered by rural school districts and districts with declining enrollments.

Re-referred to taxes was S.F. 488, which would allow up to \$1,000 in tax deductions for taxpayers and their dependents who are fulltime post-secondary school students.

Aids subcommittee moves omnibus bill

A \$2 billion school aids bill that doesn't address Gov. Al Quie's class size proposal was recommended for passage by the Education subcommittee on education aids Wed. April 18.

Under the bill, the foundation aid level would be set at \$1,182 per pupil unit for the next school year and \$1,265 for the subsequent year. The current level is \$1,095. Foundation aid accounts for \$1.3 billion of the entire bill. The local levy required for a school district would dip from 27 mills in the current tax year to 22 mills for the following year, plus another one-mill drop the year after. This is to counteract sharply rising property values. Also, \$25 million would be added to the aid for schools

suffering declining enrollments. The bill was to be taken up today (Friday) before the full Education committee.

Elections

Hennepin County disclosure bill approved

At its Tues. April 17 meeting the Elections Committee approved S.F. 1010: Luther, the Hennepin County disclosure bill. (See April 12 Briefly for a discussion of the bill.) The bill, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), was amended so that it would apply only to communities of 5,000 or more (roughly half of the total number in Hennepin County). In addition, prosecuting authority for violations was transferred from the Hennepin County Attorney to the Attorney General.

Also approved Tuesday was S.F. 1157: Schaaf, which permits corporations to solicit its employees for political contributions and to pay for the associated administrative costs.

Political contribution credit doubled

At its Thurs. April 19 meeting, the Elections Committee approved a bill (S.F. 717) authored by Sen. George Pillsbury (IR-Wayzata) which would double the allowable political contribution credit on Minnesota state income taxes.

The credit for individuals would increase from \$25 to \$50 and for couples filing joint returns it would increase from \$50 to \$100.

Also approved Thursday was S.F. 1166: Dieterich, which establishes a uniform local election day in November of odd-numbered years for cities of the first class beginning in November of 1981 at earliest. (Since all other cities of the first class have already moved their elections to the time specified, the bill would actually only affect St. Paul.)

In addition, the committee approved S.F. 1013: Ueland, A., which clarifies when voters can be compelled to reveal their votes when challenged in cases of possible election fraud; and S.F. 1003, the massive election law recodification bill.

Employment

Business assistance center gains

A measure creating a business assistance center within the Department of Economic Development was approved at the Mon. April 16 meeting of the Employment Committee. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth), the center would consist of a bureau of small business which would provide assistance to small businesses in the state and a bureau of licenses to aid all businesses in obtaining state licenses and permits. The bill also requires a study, to be completed by Jan. 1, 1981, on licenses and license requirements needed in Minnesota. The purpose of the study is to eventually reduce the number and complexity of licensing procedures needed to do business in the state.

Employees of businesses closed by order of state or federal agencies or courts would be entitled to special benefits under a measure approved by the committee. Chief sponsor Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul) brought the bill (S.F. 999) before the committee because of the special situation at the Koppers Coke Company in St. Paul. Both bills were re-referred to Finance.

Committee members also approved a measure bringing state unemployment compensation laws into conformity with federal requirements. The bill (S.F. 1312) was sponsored by committee chairman Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston).

In other action this week the committee also approved a bill that would provide a mechanism whereby businesses and in-

dustries that are expanding or relocating will be assured short term training of needed employees. The bill (S.F. 1050), sponsored by Sen. Arnulf Ueland (IR-North Mankato), establishes a program for training to be coordinated by several state departments. A bill (S.F. 1314) limiting unemployment benefits paid to certain owners of seasonal businesses was laid over because of technical difficulties. The measure was sponsored by Sen. George Pillsbury (IR-Wayzata).

Energy and Housing

Nuclear waste bill approved

The Energy and Housing Committee Thurs. April 19 approved a bill regarding nuclear wastes (S.F. 657). The bill was authored by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope).

Under the bill, utilities could not receive certificates of need to build new nuclear power plants or expand existing ones until the state Energy Agency determined that radioactive wastes from the plants could be stored safely in a facility licensed by the federal government. The Energy Agency also would have to find that the costs of waste disposal would be reasonable. Spent fuel storage pools at reactor sites are excluded from the bill.

A spokesman for Northern States Power Company testified that although a site for the permanent disposal of high-level nuclear wastes may not be available until the 1990's, a government site for "long-term" storage may be ready much sooner.

Also at the meeting, the committee amended and approved an appropriation bill for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. The bill (S.F. 1139), authored by Sen. Franklin Knoll (DFL-Mpls.), was re-referred to the Finance Committee.

At a meeting Mon. April 16, the Energy and Housing Committee amended and approved S.F. 859 (Humphrey). In its amended form, the bill allows communities to establish local mortgage finance programs. The programs would help persons on low and moderate incomes to purchase single family housing. The bill sets criteria for the plans, and each plan must be approved by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Tues. April 17, the committee met and approved S.F. 205 (Luther), which provides an income tax credit for residential consumption of renewable energy and for energy conservation measures. A bill establishing a demonstration program for congregate housing for the elderly was amended, approved and sent on to the Finance Committee. Congregate housing was defined as residential housing with health, food and social services easily available. Also approved was S.F. 815 (Knoll), which changes the state building code to allow construction of earth-sheltered housing.

Finance

Allocations process on schedule

For the second biennium in a row the Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada), is right on schedule in the allocations process. In fact, according to committee staff, no major end of session log jam is anticipated, although slowness on the part of the House of Representatives in sending over miscellaneous appropriations bills could cause some delays.

Final allocations will be made today (Fri. April 20) in the Subcommittees on State Departments and Education. The first full Finance Committee meeting will be held Mon. April 23 to consider the appropriations for semi-state departments and education. Wed. April 25 the full committee will consider budgets for health, welfare & corrections and state agencies. The bills containing the actual appropriation figures will then be sent to the full Senate.

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

The following week the committee will consider the Governor's \$262 million bonding request. Of that \$262 million, the Governor has requested \$149 million be funded this year. (The bonding measure includes building and non-building projects which are funded through the issuance of bonds.) The decision on the construction of the new maximum security prison will be made in conjunction with the bonding request. Miscellaneous appropriations (bills re-referred from other committees) will be discussed after the committee resolves the bonding issue.

General Legislation & Administrative Rules

Two bills approved

The General Legislation and Administrative Rules Committee, chaired by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), met Tues. April 17 and Wed. April 18 and approved two measures. The first, S.F. 1215, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), started out as a total ban on night diving by scuba divers. However, testimony on the merits, and sometimes the necessity, of night diving by members of the Minnesota Diving Council and various diving companies convinced committee members to amend the bill substantially. As amended the bill prohibits night scuba diving and night skin diving unless the diver carries a diving flag and a diving light. The second measure, S.F. 1078 sponsored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman), would provide \$42,000 to aid Selective Television, Inc. of Alexandria in broadcasting public television programs.

Governmental Operations

Vets added to "protected" group

Four bills were approved at a Tues. April 17 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee (chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth, DFL-St. Paul), including S.F. 765, which would add veterans to the "protected class" for state employment purposes.

Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), author of the bill, said it would help young veterans who are often by-passed even though extra points are awarded to them since rules permit by-passing high scoring applicants in order to hire others on the protected list.

Also approved Tuesday were S.F. 107: Ueland, A., which would extend the state "Buy American" policy to include goods manufactured in Mexico or Canada; S.F. 1186: Olson, which provides for distribution of certain state publications to public libraries and state university libraries; and S.F. 555: Knoll, which changes methods of payment for certain public contracts and would allow periodic partial payments.

Bill changes "essential employee" definition

A bill that would strike general language from the definition of "essential employee" for purposes of mandatory arbitration and the right to strike for state employees, was approved at a Wed. April 18 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee.

Author Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill was necessary to clarify legislative intent following recent court decisions which have defined essential employee quite broadly and included court employees, for example. Chenoweth said if additional groups beyond firefighters, police, guards at correctional institutions, and employees of public hospitals, are to be included, then it should be done by specific legislative action not by court interpretation.

Also approved Wednesday was S.F. 1264, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), which abolishes the board of abstractors and eliminates certain vague licensing requirements regarding "good moral character," and also eliminates certain restrictions regarding advertising.

Another Chenoweth bill, S.F. 326, which increases the time period necessary for vesting of legislative pensions from six to eight years, was also approved, as was a third (S.F. 1387) which accelerates a program utilizing micrographics to preserve state records and appropriates \$200,000 for that purpose. The latter measure was re-referred to the Finance Committee.

Health, Welfare & Corrections

Block grants for social service gains

A bill providing for the distribution of social services funds through block grants to counties was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee at a Wed. April 18 meeting of the Health, Welfare & Corrections Committee. Controversy at an earlier hearing centered on the exclusion of mental health services from the bill (S.F. 651). An author's amendment, offered by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park), was adopted that provided \$6 million for mental health services.

The committee also approved a measure raising grants for AFDC, General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid recipients by 12 percent. (The Governor had recommended an increase of only seven percent.) Proponents of the measure (S.F. 661), sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), cited high rates of inflation and the increased costs of utilities as the reason for the increase. The measure was re-referred to Finance.

In other action, the committee approved S.F. 1301, sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), exempting hospitals that hold their charges below a figure set by the commissioner of health from rate review. A bill (S.F. 1053-Keefe) establishing a research program for the therapeutic use of marijuana was not approved by the committee.

Hospital moratorium bill fails

A bill placing a moratorium on the construction of hospitals or hospital beds in the metro area failed to gain approval at the Tues. April 17 meeting of the committee. According to chief author, Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), the bill (S.F. 970) would be a step in reducing the costs of health care. Committee members, however, disagreed that more regulation would actually be beneficial in reducing costs.

A bill requiring doctors to advise pregnant women over the age of 40 of the risks of pregnancy was approved on a close (7-6) roll call vote. The bill (S.F. 701), sponsored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis, also requires physicians to tell pregnant women over 40 of the risks and availability of amniocentesis and other medical tests used to detect chromosomal abnormalities.

In other action the committee approved: S.F. 844, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Gunderson (DFL-Mabel), providing grants for semi-independent living programs for mentally retarded (Finance); S.F. 1051, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), excluding education loans made by the Bureau of Indians Affairs from income to determine AFDC; S.F. 1141, sponsored by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth), establishing services for the hearing impaired; and S.F. 1150, sponsored by Lewis, a department of corrections housekeeping bill.

Judiciary

Higher drinking age rejected

The Judiciary Committee, at its Wed. April 18 meeting, rejected a bill that would have raised the drinking age from 19 to 21; approved a bill that would require unmarried couples to have a written contract before one could sue another; and approved a bill relating to privacy.

The first bill, raising the drinking age, was authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR-Burnsville). It was narrowly defeated on a 5-5 vote.

Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) authored the so-called "Marvin" bill. It would prohibit the courts from honoring verbal agreements between unmarried couples. (The bill gets its name from the now famous suit filed by actor Lee Marvin's former girlfriend.)

Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL-Mpls.) authored the privacy bill (S.F. 1213). It relates to emergency classification of data as private (particularly records relating to personnel, medical, education or welfare matters). The bill extends for one additional year the provisions allowing emergency classifications until legislative enactment of a comprehensive bill.

Lobbyist disclosure rejected

At its Mon. April 16 meeting, the Judiciary Committee heard and approved several bills but also voted to reject a bill that would have required lobbyists to disclose the amount of compensation they are paid for lobbying purposes.

The bill was authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

Approved were: S.F. 445, S.F. 1158, and S.F. 134.

Local Government

Several bills advance

A bill designed to help bring county and regional jails in line with state Department of Corrections demands was recommended to pass Wed. April 18 by the Local Government committee and re-referred to the Finance committee.

Sponsored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), S.F. 376, would appropriate \$3 million in an attempt to improve corrections facilities. The bill drew some static from senators who believe the state requirements for jails make them "rural Holiday Inns."

Another bill recommended to pass was S.F. 1299, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan). It would require candidates for sheriff to complete an eight-week course by the peace officer standards and training board before running for office.

Two bills were moved directly to the full Senate's consent calendar by the committee. S.F. 1388, authored by Sen. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park), would create a position in the Hennepin County sheriff's office for a chief civil deputy sheriff who would be responsible for everything within the office that is not ruled by the chief criminal deputy sheriff. S.F. 1391, sponsored by Sen. Carl Jensen (IR-Sleepy Eye), would allow some land in Murray county that is owned by the city of Currie to be sold to a private developer for an apartment complex.

Other bills recommended for passage were: S.F. 824, which would allow a municipality to spend up to \$5,000 a year for the maintenance of cemeteries; S.F. 1044, which would require the county auditor to charge any unpaid garbage collection fees to the county tax rolls; and S.F. 1309, which would allow local public bodies to set their own mileage allowances for local governmental officers and employees (the limit is now 15 cents a mile).

Laid over was S.F. 1099, which would up the rate allowed to be charged by newspapers for the publication of legal notices and constitutional amendments. The bill is expected to be amended to reduce the amount of notices required to be published.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Individual housing account bill approved

At a Wed. April 18 meeting, the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee (chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon, DFL-St. Paul) approved a bill (S.F. 49) authored by Sen. Robert Benedict (DFL-Bloomington) that would allow non-homeowners to set aside up to \$2500 annually into an "individual housing account" to be used as a downpayment toward the purchase of a first residence.

The amount set aside (up to a maximum of \$10,000) would be exempt from state income taxes as would any interest earned as long as the money was used for the purpose intended. If it was used for any other purpose, it would then be subject to taxation and a 10 percent penalty. The funds would have to be utilized within 10 years.

The bill was heard earlier in February but was laid over for technical improvements.

Other bills approved

Also approved Wednesday were S.F. 947: Solon, which extends for 21 months an extra one percent sales tax levied by the city of Duluth; and S.F. 1184: Schmitz, which would allow the city of Shakopee to levy a one percent tax on amusements to cover extra police costs associated with the location of several major amusement parks in that city.

Approved Mon. April 16 was S.F. 1211: Dieterich, which relates to St. Paul utility franchise fees.

Transportation

People mover gets okay, sent to Finance

A bill (S.F. 1261) authorizing necessary state funds for the St. Paul Downtown People Mover Project easily won the approval of the Transportation Committee at a Tues. April 17 meeting.

The bill, authored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), an earlier opponent of the project, had been approved by a subcommittee last Thursday (April 12th).

While federal funds would provide 80 percent of the \$90 million necessary to construct the project, the Legislature must authorize 10 percent, or \$9 million in funding. (The remaining 10 percent is the St. Paul share.)

Amendments adopted Tuesday clarified who would have the ultimate operating authority and also who would be responsible for operating deficits in excess of projections. The operating authority was placed in a joint St. Paul-MTC board and limited private guarantees were specified regarding operating deficits.

While several opponents testified against the bill, saying that it was not cost-effective and would have a high per vehicle operating cost, the bill was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

Measure would index gasoline tax

Hearings began Thurs. April 19 on a bill that would allow the state gasoline tax to be tied to the inflation rate so that the tax would rise automatically with increases in the Twin Cities Consumer Price Index.

(Continued on back page).

preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Editor's note: Because today is the deadline for committees to hear bills originating in the same body and because many bills are still pending in the House, the Senate schedule for the week is somewhat abbreviated. Bills originating in the House of Representatives will be heard by Senate Committees the week of April 23-28. For more specific information please consult the Senate Hotline at 296-8088 or the Senate Public Information Office at 296-0504.

Monday, April 23, 1979

Judiciary Subcommittee on Judicial Administration, Chrmn. Allan Spear

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 643-Davies: Marriage dissolution corrections.

Finance, Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 123 Capitol

Agenda: Education; Semi-State and Transportation appropriation bills.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Legislative Coordinating Commission Subcommittee on Science and Technology, Chrmn. Wayne Olhoft

5:00 PM Room 125 Capitol

Agenda: Progress of S and T bill; S and T slide presentation; Discussion of SSET report; Discussion of resource council comments on House Select Energy Committee Report; Discussion of S and T research procedures; Discussion of S and T topical survey and implications for interim.

Tuesday, April 24, 1979

Forestry Committee of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Chrmn. Gerald Willet

7:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Review acquisition of parcels in the Memorial Hardwood Forest.

Commerce Subcommittee on Insurance, Chrmn. Jack Davies

10:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 227-Tennessee: Home owners insurance, redlining; H.F. 536-Davies: Auto appraisers, licensing; H.F. 1256-Laufenburger: Fire insurance, appraisals.

Energy and Housing, Chrmn. Jerald Anderson

10:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation of Al Johnson, Minnesota Energy Agency.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules, Chrmn. Howard Olson

1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: G.A.L. Number 82: Appointment of Katherine Murphy to the State Board of Arts; H.F. 107-Willet: Exempting certain constables from licensing requirements.

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chrmn. Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 67-Ueland: Blue Earth County ditch bill; H.F. 191-Vega: Lease of lands to Hastings; H.F. 623-Kleinbaum: Conveyance of state land to St. Cloud; H.F. 627-Bang: Conservation easement bill; H.F. 31-Johnson: Taconite companies re eminent domain; S.F. 1224-Lessard: Conveyance of lands in Beltrami County.

Wednesday, April 25, 1979

Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Law, Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:30 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 300-Wegener: Hit and run offenses.

Judiciary, Chrmn. Jack Davies

9:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 606-Merriam: Controlled substance; H.F. 99-McCutcheon: Peace officer immunity; H.F. 317-Wegener: Passing a stopped school bus.

Finance, Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 123 Capitol

Agenda: Health, Welfare and Corrections; State Departments appropriations bills.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Various sales tax bills: S.F. 6-Nichols; S.F. 28-Peterson; S.F. 42-Setzepfandt; S.F. 83-McCutcheon; S.F. 182-Sieloff; S.F. 190-Kleinbaum; S.F. 229-Chmielewski; S.F. 246-Schrom; S.F. 249-Ashbach; S.F. 299-Schrom; S.F. 335-Wegener; S.F. 515-Hanson; S.F. 518-Kleinbaum; S.F. 547-Olson; S.F. 556-Merriam; S.F. 633-Peterson; S.F. 932-Olhoft; S.F. 1038-Brataas; S.F. 1253-Peterson; S.F. 297-Chmielewski.

Thursday, April 26, 1979

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chrmn. Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Judiciary Subcommittee on Judicial Administration, Chrmn. Allan Spear

3:00 PM Room 125 Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 656-Davies: Probate-witness requirements; H.F. 458-Davies: Contributory fault; H.F. 677-Dieterich: Interest rate on judgements; H.F. 206-Staples: Construction contracts; H.F. 198-Sikorski and McCutcheon: Tort indemnification-political subdivisions.

Friday, April 27, 1979

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Stadium — from PAGE ONE

Proceeds could raise an estimated \$2.2 million annually—enough to cover the anticipated \$1.6 million annual operating deficit for the Minneapolis domed stadium (assuming the estimate is accurate).

- On the other hand, Bloomington officials said they could not cover anticipated operating deficits without some kind of outside assistance.

- The University of Minnesota estimates that it would cost about \$63 million to renovate and dome Memorial Stadium, but this cost includes about \$12 million in extra student recreational facilities. However, University officials didn't have any firm idea if Big Ten rules against facility use by professional teams could be waived, and indicated no definite answer would be available until May 25 — four days after the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn.

- Kicks President Freddie Goodwin said the Kicks wouldn't play at the Minneapolis stadium while he operated the franchise, period.

- And bond counsel indicated that stadium financing costs may not necessarily increase if the project is delayed, since interest rates could be lower in a year. (However, construction costs would almost certainly rise.)

No formal conclusions were drawn at the midnight close of the hearings.

But it was clear that IF Minneapolis legislators actively back the city tax plans, and IF enough opponents can be convinced that this is an acceptable way to proceed, and IF the 90 percent blackout rule is waived for the Vikings, and IF the 30 year lease requirement is waived for the Twins, then the Minneapolis proposal MAY yet be approved.

Evening session held

An evening session of the full Senate Mon. April 16 brought final passage to some twenty-five bills. Among the more major bills passed was S.F. 550, a measure regulating campaign financing. Under the bill, sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), spending limits for election campaigns would be increased to \$800,000 for governor, \$10,000 for a state House race and \$20,000 for a state Senate race. The bill also would allow candidates to exceed spending limits if one candidate in a particular race chose not to accept public financing.

Another major bill gaining passage was the so-called "Son of Sam" bill. The measure (S.F. 186), sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would bar convicted criminals from profiting through the sale of rights to their stories. Under the bill, profits from books, TV, or movies must be paid to the Crime Victims Reparations Board which, in turn, would have to seek out the people who were victims of the criminal's acts. The money would then be given to the crime victims.

A bill extending the floating usury rate on conventional home mortgages for an additional four years was also passed. The measure (H.F. 486), sponsored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), would allow the maximum interest rate to be calculated monthly based on two percent over the monthly index of long term U.S. government bond yields two months earlier.

Finally, the Senate, concurring with a minor House amendment, sent to the Governor a bill allowing pets in nursing homes under rules set by the state Health Department.

For further information on the bills receiving final passage, please consult the Senate Journal for Monday, April 16.

Senate Public Information Office
Room B29 — State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

(Continued from Committee Capsule).

The bill (S.F. 1390) is authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston) but is also backed by Gov. Al Quie.

Proceeds from the increased revenue derived from the tax would enable the state to keep up with escalating highway maintenance costs.

A vote on the bill is scheduled to be taken today (Friday, April 20).

Veterans' Affairs

Tuition exemption gains

A brief Veterans' Affairs meeting Wed. April 18 saw approval given to a measure creating a tuition exemption program for Vietnam era veterans. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Tim Penny (DFL-New Richland), would apply to post secondary institutions operated by the state of Minnesota. Under the bill (S.F. 1160) the veteran could enroll, tuition free, for a maximum of 36 months at an eligible educational institution. However, the bill also states that a veteran cannot receive the exemption beyond ten years after the veteran's last discharge or the exhaustion of federal education benefits. The measure must be heard next in Finance before going to the Senate floor.

briefly/preview

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briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 6, 1979

PAGE ONE: A NEWS SUMMARY

Stadium liquor tax repealed

The controversial stadium liquor tax repeal measure was again the subject of heated debate at the Thurs. April 5 session of the full Senate. Final repassage came on a close 36-25 vote.

The bill, S.F. 20, was before the Senate again because a slightly different version of the measure passed the House of Representatives earlier in the week. Since bills must have identical language in order to become law, the technical amendment placed on the bill had to be agreed to by the Senate.

The debate was largely on the procedural question of whether or not to accept the amendment. (If the Senate had voted not to concur the bill would have been sent to a conference committee, at which point substantial changes could have been made.)

Chief author, Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), argued that "to send the bill to a conference committee would violate the integrity of the legislative process". "It was the position of this legislature that we did not want to mandate a tax to guarantee an income assistance to the teams that would be playing there," Chenoweth said.

Opponents of concurrence, led by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), responded that the issue would still be before the Senate and that the Senate would have to resolve it. "We won't resolve the stadium issue by eliminating the two percent liquor tax," Purfeerst said.

Other Senators agreed that the issue of a new stadium would not be resolved by passage of the bill. Several Senators contended that there is still time, this legislative session, for a new stadium bill to make its way through the legislative process and resolve the issue. (In fact, a new stadium bill was introduced near the end of the day's session. The bill, S.F. 1214, is sponsored by Purfeerst.)

In other action the Senate gave final approval to H.F. 493-Willet, authorizing the city of Bemidji to issue bonds approved at a special election last November.

Various bills approved

At its Mon. April 2 session the full Senate gave final approval to 14 bills and preliminary approval to another eight.

Only one of the bills up for final approval inspired extended debate. Narrowly approved on a 34-25 vote was a measure (H.F. 444) which would allow clubs or organizations in existence for 10 or more years (or affiliated with national groups in existence that long) to obtain liquor licenses (subject to local approval).

Senate author David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley) said that the bill changed very little, but its major opponent, Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) said that the measure would allow "instant" licenses because a new local group could organize, affiliate with a national group that met the 10 year criterion, and immediately apply for a liquor license. Schaaf replied that the local approval requirement would eliminate any such problems since a community could still reject the license application if it wished.

Among the eight bills winning preliminary approval was the Moorhead housing finance agency bill which was debated and then progressed last week (see Briefly for March 30). Sen. David Schaaf cleared the way for approval of the bill when he agreed to withdraw his amendment which would have included Fridley under the provisions of the act. (NOTE: It was incorrectly reported last week that Moorhead would be the sixth city to establish a housing finance program. In addition to the five others listed last week, Bloomington also has such a program and thus Moorhead would become the seventh.)

One other bill on the General Orders Calendar sparked some controversy. S.F. 373, authored by Sen. Roger Strand (DFL-Cyrus), would allow labeling of Minnesota homegrown and processed agricultural products.

Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) spoke against the bill, saying that Minnesota has to "get along with its neighbors." Anderson, who chairs the Senate's Energy and Housing Committee, said that he thought that such legislation might have an adverse effect on Minnesota's efforts to win the Iowa Legislature's approval of a proposed pipeline which would travel through Iowa enroute to Minnesota. Anderson proposed an amendment which would have included the entire five state upper midwest region in the bill but after some discussion it was withdrawn.

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Appointments; bills approved

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee met Tues. April 3, and approved the appointment of Tom Kalitowski as chairman of the Water Planning Board. The committee approved S.F. 544 (Anderson), which requires that the Commissioner of Natural Resources be notified when tax-delinquent real estate is forfeited and sold. If the land is outside any incorporated municipality and contains standing timber, the value of the timber and land must be appraised before the land can be sold. The committee also approved S.F. 737 (Lessard), which prohibits tampering with legally set traps, and S.F. 681 (Lessard) which regulates the commercial taking of rough fish. Laid over was S.F. 799 (Lessard), which changes the conditions for revocation of game and fish licenses after conviction of game and fish violations.

At its Thurs. April 5 meeting, the committee recommended for confirmation the reappointment of Joseph Alexander as Commissioner of Natural Resources. The committee approved S.F. 350 (Johnson), which removes certain lands from Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, and S.F. 525 (Knoll), which allows certain non-residents and aliens to obtain resident hunting licenses.

Commerce

Banking bills gain

Members of the Commerce Subcommittee on Banking, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), met Tues. April 3 and approved six banking measures.

Most controversial was a bill (S.F. 704) allowing mutual savings banks to open suburban branches. (Farmers & Mechanics is the only mutual savings bank in Minnesota.) Opponents of the measure claimed that a special law for F&M will lead to a proliferation of branch offices by national banks. Proponents countered by saying Farmers & Mechanics is a state chartered institution but competes with federally chartered savings and loan institutions that have many suburban branch offices.

In other action the subcommittee approved: S.F. 273, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), allowing maximum interest rates on residential contracts for deeds to float the same way conventional home loan rates float; S.F. 913, authored by Sen. Robert Tennesen (DFL-Mpls.), allowing 18 percent interest charges on banks if no annual fee is charged to card holders; S.F. 624, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Sikorski, providing for the use of the Federal National Mortgage Association index for a floating ceiling on conventional home loans; S.F. 489, authored by Sen. William Luther, outlining the conditions under which a credit transaction is subject to Minnesota laws; and S.F. 320, by Sikorski, amending the provisions regulating the acquisition and leasing of personal property by state banks.

Insurance bills gain

Three insurance bills were forwarded to the full committee by the Commerce Subcommittee on Insurance Thurs. April 5. S.F. 992, sponsored by Sen. Robert Tennesen, would require liquor retailers to file proof of financial responsibility in connection with the dram shop liability as a condition for liquor license renewal. S.F. 1040, authored by Sen. Jack Davies, permits facsimile signatures on insurance policies under certain conditions. S.F. 998, by Davies, outlines procedures for the cancellation of variable benefit life insurance contracts.

Education

Variety of bills discussed

At its Tues. April 3 meeting, the Education Committee considered S.F. 625 (Merriam), which would require school districts to give teachers extended (2-5 years) leaves of absence unless the district would not save money or unless it could not find a replacement for the teacher. Currently, the school boards have the option of granting such leaves but are not required to do so. The bill failed 7-5.

The committee also on Tues. considered S.F. 486 (Hughes), which changes the requirements for membership on the state university board and community college board. Those boards now have at least one member who is a student at or recent graduate of the state university or community college system. Under S.F. 486, each board member would have to live in a different congressional district, and three of the board members (in addition to the student or recent graduate) would have to be a graduate of the state university or community college system. The bill was laid over.

Five bills dealing with "pairing" of school districts also were heard by the Education Committee Tuesday. Pairing allows two or more school districts to agree to combine certain grades to save money lost through declining enrollments. The pairing bills heard were H.F. 487 and S.F.s 108, 220, 230, and 496. The first four were laid over; S.F. 496 was referred to the Subcommittee of Education Aids.

Thursday, April 5, Governor Quie appeared before the Education Committee to explain his proposal for improving elementary instruction in the kindergarten through third grades. His proposal (S.F. 938, authored by Sen. Douglas Sillers IR-Moorhead) reduces class size in grades K-3, and provides grants for teacher training, instructional materials and parent-teacher consultation. The bill provides experimental programs involving up to 50,000 students in the 1979-80 school year. The program would become effective over the entire state the following year.

Education aid work continues

The Education Subcommittee on Education Aids met Mon. April 2, and heard Gerald Kleve of the Department of Education present the community and adult education budget. The group discussed but laid over S.F. 879, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids). That bill would increase state aid to school districts for operating certain community school programs, and would increase the amount districts could levy for such programs.

At its Wed. April 4 meeting, the Education Aids Subcommittee heard the Department of Education transportation budget as well as a presentation by consultant Dr. Gary Mohrenweiser on transportation proposals. S.F. 248 (Nelson), which would increase transportation aid for handicapped students was laid over.

Employment

Workers' comp bill amended

Members of the Employment Committee continued their deliberations on S.F. 917, the workers' compensation bill, this week. The committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), considered amendments to the bill at hearings Mon. April 2 and Wed. April 4. Most of the amendments were of a technical nature.

Two of the more controversial sections of the bill will be discussed and voted upon today (Fri. April 6). The sections deal with raising the maximum compensation rate to 200 percent of

the statewide average weekly wage and with the establishment of a state reinsurance fund.

Small business bills gain

In other action, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, chaired by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth), approved six bills aimed at helping small businesses. All six measures were sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). S.F. 929 increases from 10 to 20 percent the total state procurement set aside for small business. The bill also increases the percentage of the set aside which should, if possible, be awarded to small business owned by socially or economically disadvantaged persons.

S.F. 934 appropriates \$45,000 for each of the next two fiscal years to be used as matching grants for small business institute programs at various state and private colleges. S.F. 935 provides that the University of Minnesota set aside 20 percent of its procurement contracts for each fiscal year for small business. S.F. 936 provides for tuition aid for enrollment in adult small business management courses at area vocational technical institutes.

S.F. 951 defines small business as having 20 or fewer full time employees or not more than \$1 million in annual gross revenues. (This definition places 55 percent of all Minnesota businesses in the small business category.) S.F. 952 reduces the rate of corporate income tax by providing for a rate of 6 percent on the first \$50,000 of corporate taxable income and 12 percent on the taxable income above \$50,000.

Energy and Housing

Energy assistance act dealt setback

At its Tues. April 3 meeting, the Energy and Housing Committee heard and defeated a bill that would have given low-income households financial assistance to pay rising fuel bills.

The bill, S.F. 685, authored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.) would have assisted low-income families by providing a cash payment to cover any form of energy expense (coal, wood, gas, or propane).

The program would have cost an estimated \$35 million a year and would help up to 317,000 eligible low income households.

Committee members were concerned whether the bill would encourage energy conservation and about the cost of the program. The recipient would still be paying a portion of the fuel bill, however.

Tennessen indicated later that he may ask the committee to reconsider the matter at another meeting.

In other action the committee passed S.F. 474, a compromise energy tax bill. It would allow a Minnesota income tax credit of 20 percent of the first \$10,000 expended on renewable energy sources. The bill was re-referred to the Tax Committee.

General Legislation & Administrative Rules

American Indian bills approved

Three bills concerning American Indians were approved at the Tues. April 3 meeting of the General Legislation & Administrative Rules Committee. S.F. 712 would change the name "native American" to "American Indian" anywhere the former term is found in Minnesota statutes. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), is the result of a resolution passed by the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board as well as

current sentiment among the Indian community. A second Chmielewski measure (S.F. 759) extends the terms of office of at-large members of the intertribal board from two to four years.

A bill sponsored by Sen. James Ulland (IR-Duluth) provides for the protection of Indian burial grounds. Under the measure (S.F. 975) the Minnesota Historical Society and the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board will make recommendations for the preservation or the removal of any human burials or remains which may be endangered by construction or development activities. In addition, the bill specifies that all human burial grounds, regardless of ethnic or cultural backgrounds of the deceased, will be afforded equal respect and legal protection. The measure was approved and re-referred to Finance.

In other action the committee approved: H.F. 395, sponsored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), allowing the Minnesota Historical Society to contract for local management and operation of state owned historic sites; and S.F. 847, authored by Sen. Peter Stumpf (DFL-St. Paul), providing financial support for the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Uniform color bill approved

At the Wed. April 4 meeting, committee members approved a bill (S.F. 364) to require statewide standardization of uniform colors. The bill, sponsored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), provides for specific colors for peace officer uniforms according to level of government. Municipal police would have blue uniforms, county sheriffs would have brown, the highway patrol would have maroon and conservation officers would have green uniforms.

A bill that would prohibit off duty peace officers working as bouncers in on-sale liquor establishments was debated and laid over for further consideration. The bill, S.F. 75, is sponsored by Sen. B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park).

Governmental Operations

Spending plans to be reviewed

A bill requiring legislative review of state agency plans for expending federal funds was approved by the Governmental Operations Committee at a Wed. April 5 meeting.

The measure (S.F. 430), authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada), would assert legislative control and authority over federal funds which have become an important element in state agency budgets during the last decade. The bill was re-referred to the Finance Committee where its author said there would be additional public hearings.

Also approved Wednesday was a bill (S.F. 30) authored by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.) which clarifies that legislative inaction regarding suspended administrative rules should not be interpreted as a sign of legislative intent.

Hearings began on S.F. 618: Hughes, which would transfer certain functions of teacher licensing from the board of education and the commissioner of education to the board of teaching. Because of time constraints, no action was taken.

No action was taken on any of the other bills before the committee.

Health, Welfare & Corrections

Moratorium on hospitals debated

A bill placing a moratorium on the construction or modification of hospitals or hospital beds in the metropolitan area was debated and laid over at the Tues. April 3 meeting of the Health, Welfare & Corrections Committee. The measure would, accord-

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

ing to author Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), be one method of health cost containment. "There is already an estimated excess of 2000 hospital beds in the metro area," Anderson said. Opponents of the measure argued that the bill presumes the local planning process has been a failure which is not the case. The bill was laid over for further study.

Committee members approved a measure bringing Minnesota certificate of need laws into conformity with federal laws. The measure, S.F. 477, was sponsored by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth). Also approved were: H.F. 145, sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), eliminating the requirement for annual tuberculosis examinations for school employees; and S.F. 757, sponsored by Staples, clarifying that medical assistance benefits would be available for chemical dependency treatment.

Judiciary

Initiative-referendum debate continues

The Judiciary Committee at its Wed. April 4 meeting heard opponents to the proposed initiative-referendum bills that would amend the Minnesota Constitution.

The proponents had been heard at an earlier meeting. The Minnesota Public Research Interest Group testified in support of the proposed legislation.

Ken Peterson of MPIRG said he supports indirect initiative-referendum "because of the possibility it offers for wider participation by citizens in their government."

The following groups had representatives speaking against the legislation: AFL-CIO; Urban Coalition; Minnesota Soft Drink Association; Jewish Community Relations Council; Minnesota Education Association; Citizens League.

The thrust of the testimony was that initiative-referendum would require "yes" or "no" responses to complex issues and that the issues would not have the chance for deliberation as they do now in the Legislature; initiative-referendum encourages "single issue" politics and might give wealthy individuals and groups a disproportionate influence in determining results.

The Judiciary Committee will take up the bills today (Fri. April 6) at 8:00 AM.

Other bills approved

The Judiciary Committee, at its Mon. April 2 meeting, recommended passage of five bills, including S.F. 186, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), known as the "Son of Sam" bill.

S.F. 186 would require that any profits made from the sale of a criminal's story be used to compensate crime victims.

(The bill is often referred to as the "Son of Sam" bill since it was precipitated after the New York killer came close to reaping considerable profits from the sale of his story. The New York legislature passed a similar bill in response.)

Also passed were S.F. 866, 980, 835, and H.F. 610.

S.F. 866, authored by Sen. Chmielewski, requires erroneous real estate records to be corrected; S.F. 980, authored by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.) provides for removal of certain actions to district court in Hennepin and Ramsey county municipal courts; S.F. 835, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul) changes a reference in the statutes; H.F. 610, authored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul) would allow ante-nuptial agreements.

S.F. 251, authored by Sen. Davies would permit cooperatives to elect directors by mail.

Reapportionment commission bill approved

At its Fri. March 30 meeting, the Judiciary Committee recommended passage of S.F. 129, the reapportionment commission

bill, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center). An amendment was added to the bill by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul) that would give the legislature the option of appointing a reapportionment commission, or accomplishing the reapportionment on its own.

Local Government

Five bills forwarded to full Senate

The Senate Local Government committee recommended for passage five bills Mon. April 2 and Wed. April 4.

The most comprehensive of the bills, S.F. 491, sponsored by Sen. Marv Hanson (DFL-Hallock), would authorize cities engaged in gas distribution to secure gas by individual or joint action. It would also authorize the creation of municipal gas agencies by defining their powers and responsibilities and allow the issuance of bonds to support such agencies.

H.F. 493 (S.F. 598), sponsored by Sen. Gerald Willett (DFL-Park Rapids), would allow the city of Bemidji to sell bonds for a new city hall and new fire equipment. The bonds were already approved at a special election.

S.F. 478, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would provide for the upkeep of a cartway (road) connecting a plot of land greater than five acres to a public road. Under the bill, the township involved would have the option of declaring such an access road as public and paying for its upkeep or designating it private and forcing the individual owner to maintain it.

S.F. 839, sponsored by Sen. David Rued (IR-Aitken), would allow the city of Brainerd or Crow Wing county to sell general obligation bonds to finance their jointly-owned airport. S.F. 884, sponsored by Sen. Jim Nichols (DFL-Lake Benton), would allow the city of Marshall to issue revenue certificates totaling up to \$10 for each person residing in the city to finance its airport. Currently the limit per person is \$3.

The committee discussed and laid over S.F. 962, sponsored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), which would allow townships and cities to establish speed zones in residential areas.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Indexing plans discussed

Members of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee heard several presentations regarding tax indexing at a Wed. April 4 meeting and the topic may have turned out to be a bit more complicated than most of them imagined.

First the committee heard from Earl Craig, representing the Urban Coalition. The thrust of Craig's testimony was directed at the fact that inflation has a greater impact on lower income families because the costs of necessities such as food, fuel, and housing have risen more rapidly than costs of discretionary items. In 1978, for example, Craig said that while the overall Consumer Price Index rose 9.0 percent, necessities rose at a 10.8 percent rate and non-necessities rose only 6.4 percent. Craig suggested that any indexing plan approved should employ a graduated scale to reflect this situation.

Next the committee heard from Barbara Newman of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, who explained how the Consumer Price Index is calculated and what it does and does not do. She also explained that there are specific city indices, regional, national, "old" and "new" consumer indices.

(The CPI underwent a major revision in 1978 which was designed to improve the index so it reflects more accurately the

real impact of inflation on a wider group of consumers. This is the "new" CPI. For comparative purposes the old CPI is also being calculated and published.)

Kathy Gaylord, executive director of the Tax Study Commission, then explained various possible indexing plans and the theoretical shortcomings of each. Measured against the objective of keeping tax liability at a constant in terms of real dollars and as a proportion of income, mere indexing of state tax brackets is inadequate because it does not adjust deductions and credits or compensate for changes in federal tax liabilities, she said.

Several indexing plans have been proposed and bills on the topic will be heard in the next weeks.

Taxes on pensions, military pay, discussed

Retired persons and others on active duty in the U.S. armed forces jammed the hearing room at a Mon. April 2 meeting which was devoted to a background discussion of taxes on pensions and military pay.

Currently, a Minnesota law passed in 1977 exempts from taxes the first \$7200 in pensions (less Social Security income) but taxes any amount in excess. Retirees, particularly those who have had many years of federal service, often have pensions in excess of that amount and are thus subject to taxation. Testimony urged a higher exclusion threshold and complete exemption of any social security income.

Another change made in 1977 subjected military personnel to higher taxes by eliminating another income exclusion provision. Prior to the 1977 change the first \$3,000 of income for those serving in Minnesota and the first \$5,000 of income for state residents serving elsewhere, was excluded from state tax. The committee heard testimony from persons on active duty in favor of restoring this provision.

Bills dealing with other topics are still under consideration

Transportation

The great caboose debate

What on the surface might appear to be a simple, non-controversial bill (S.F. 610) requiring cabooses on freight trains moving in Minnesota, instead sparked an almost classic debate at the Tues. April 3 Transportation Committee meeting.

It was regulation vs. laissez-faire, unions vs. management, and safety vs. the bottom line — all classic and continuing conflicts.

Labor union representatives testified that having cabooses on trains aided in safe operation, since observers stationed in them could spot problems not visible to those in the engine.

Management representatives said that the safety record of a Florida railroad operating without cabooses was just as good as any other railroad. In addition, a management representative said that many railroads simply do not have enough cabooses available to comply and that the capital costs to acquire them would be prohibitive, leaving no option but curtailment of service.

Because inadequate time remained for opposition testimony, the bill, sponsored by Sen. Tim Penny (DFL-New Richland), was laid over.

In other action Tuesday, the committee approved S.F. 906: Laufenburger, which authorizes an increase in the Mn/DOT employee complement to provide additional technical assistance to home rule and charter cities. The bill, which appropriates \$800,000, was re-referred to Finance.

Yngve recommended for confirmation

Also on Tuesday, the committee recommended the confirmation of John Yngve as MTC chairman. Yngve, a former legislator and former U of M regent, will serve part-time in the post.

Other bills approved

At its Thurs. April 5 meeting the committee approved three measures: S.F. 4: Nichols, which exempts gasohol produced and sold in Minnesota from excise taxes (re-referred to Taxes); S.F. 481: Humphrey, which provides a \$200,000 operating subsidy to the Medicine Lake Transit Service (re-referred to Finance); and S.F. 680: Olson, which defines fertilizer applicators as instruments of husbandry and provides for safety standards regarding their movement.

Performance funding discussed

Members of the Subcommittee on Transit, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), met Mon. April 2 and informally discussed possible ways of improving performance funding plans. One of the more important innovations suggested would involve establishment of an "incentive pool" of additional funds that could be drawn down to establish additional routes or runs. Participating in the discussions with the subcommittee members were representatives of the MTC and Mn/DOT.

Veterans Affairs

Vets bill approved

A bill providing for the inclusion of veterans in the protected group for the purpose of the statewide affirmative action program was approved Wed. April 4 by the Veterans Affairs Committee. Under the measure (S.F. 765), sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), veterans would be placed in the protected group (women, handicapped persons and minorities) when considered for classified employment with the state.

An amendment, offered by Sen. Robert Dunn (IR-Princeton), which would have restricted the bill to Vietnam era veterans failed to gain approval. The bill was then re-referred to the Governmental Operations Committee.

preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 9, 1979

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 AM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Cancellations from previous agendas.

Employment, Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger

8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Governor's appointments: Rolf Middleton as Commissioner to the Department of Economic Security; Peter Obermeyer as Director of the Bureau of Mediation Services; S.F. 917-Keefe, S: Relating to workers' compensation.

Judiciary, Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 286-Luther: Lobbyist disclosure.

Session

10:00 AM

Transportation Subcommittee on Transit, Chrmn. Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1061-Schaaf: Relating to regular route transit.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

1:30 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1059-Rued: Sparsity; S.F. 820-Johnson: Sparsity.

Finance Subcommittee on Education, Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: University of Minnesota allocations.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Department of Agriculture budget.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Informational meeting on elimination of limited market value and energy credits and deductions.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: Vocational education article: S.F. 89-Nelson: AVTI tuition age limit; S.F. 836-Nelson: AVTI tuition.

Employment, Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger

7:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 929-Peterson: Increasing the state procurement to small business; S.F. 934-Peterson: Providing matching grants for small business institutes at certain colleges and universities; S.F. 935-Peterson: Relating to the University of Minnesota, requiring establishment of a small business set aside program for certain university procurements; S.F. 936-Peterson: Restricting tuition for adult small business management programs; S.F. 951-Peterson: Establishing a uniform definition of small business; S.F. 952-Peterson: Reducing the rate of corporate income tax.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Secretary of State; Minnesota Zoological Gardens.

Tuesday, April 10, 1979

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 AM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Complements.

Education, Chrmn. Jerome Hughes

8:00 AM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 939-Brataas: Foundation aid formula; S.F. 1148-Anderson: Eliminating the computation of certain pupil units; S.F. 486-Hughes: State university system board membership; S.F. 602-Knaak: Gifted pilot program; S.F. 495-Hughes: Program data collection.

Transportation Subcommittee on Transit, Chrmn. Conrad Vega

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: This is an open hearing with proposed legislation on the Downtown People Mover to be presented by Sen. Schaaf.

Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Chrmn. Robert Tennesen

8:30 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Privacy (Tennesen); S.F. 873-McCutcheon: Criminal justice records.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Water Resources, Chrmn. Jim Nichols

10:00 AM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 47-Lessard: Requiring legislative designation of wild and scenic rivers; S.F. 916-Chmielewski: Requiring legislative designation of wild and scenic rivers; S.F. 791-Willet: Requiring executive council designation of wild and scenic rivers, authorizing legislative review of the designation of wild and scenic rivers, etc.; S.F. 180-Johnson: Requiring approval by affected county boards of designation of wild and scenic rivers; S.F. 808-Nichols: Redefining public waters, defining wetlands, providing new procedures for the determination of public waters and wetlands, reappropriating money; S.F. 1109-Willet: Reducing local match required for dam repair and reconstruction grants, authorizing loans for local share of project costs.

Commerce, Chrmn. Robert Tennesen

10:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 436-Benedict: Graduated payment home mortgages; S.F. 513-Keefe, S: "One beer"; S.F. 807-Sikorski: Liquor, off sale Washington County; S.F. 843-Ulland: Wine licenses, beer sales; H.F. 116-Bang: Detached facility activation period; H.F. 928-Willet: Home solicitation motor vehicles; H.F. 937-Spear: Liquor licenses local control; S.F. 624-Sikorski: Financial institutions interest index; S.F. 320-Sikorski: Banks, authorized leasing; S.F. 489-Luther: Open end finance charges territorial application; S.F. 704-Davies: Mutual savings banks; S.F. 913-Tennesen: Usury, bank credit cards; S.F. 273-Peterson: Usury, Contract for deed.

Energy and Housing,Chrmn. Jerald Anderson

10:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 657-Humphrey: Nuclear waste management and disposal; Testimony from George DeBuchananne, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia; and Dr. Terry Lash, Natural Resources Defense Council, San Francisco.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules,Chrmn. Howard Olson

1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Taxes and Tax Laws Subcommittee on Tax Increment**Financing**,Chrmn. Neil Dieterich

1:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 452-Humphrey: League of Cities bill; S.F. 977-Hanson: Senate position.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Subc. on Fish and**Wildlife**,Chrmn. Collin Peterson

2:00 PM Room 237 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 732-Willet: Modifying the definitions of rough fish and minnows; S.F. 797-Nichols: Authorizing, licensing, and regulating nonresidents' fish houses or dark houses; S.F. 864-Rued: Authorizing the taking of antlerless deer by elderly licensees; S.F. 940-Penny: Allowing private landowners to install drainage tiles along and across right-of-way under certain conditions, prescribing a penalty.

Health, Welfare and Corrections,Chrmn. George Perpich

3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1055-McCutcheon: Migrants in Action program; S.F. 651-Lewis: Grants to counties for social development; S.F. 1034-Solon: License of midwives; S.F. 888-Kirchner: Fees for lab service by Health Department; S.F. 666-Knutson: Fees for lab service by Health Department.

Agriculture and Natural Resources,Chrmn. Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 801-Knutson: Requiring laboratory examination of certain beverages; S.F. 799-Lessard: Revocation of and ineligibility for game, fish licenses upon conviction for game, fish violations; S.F. 1015-Wegener: Establishing a temporary joint legislative committee on agriculture and forest land preservation; S.F. 1109-Willet: Reducing local match requirements for dam repair and reconstruction grants, authorizing loans for local share of project costs; S.F. 808-Nichols: Redefining public waters, defining wetlands, providing new procedures and determination of public waters.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids,Chrmn. Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1120-Merriam: Requiring the school district providing instruction to a non-resident to pay transportation costs in certain cases; S.F. 241-Merriam: Declining enrollments; S.F. 379-Nelson: Four year averaging of declining units; S.F. 612-Knaak: Four-year averaging of declining units; S.F. 496-Hughes: Secondary school plan (subcommittee report from Education Organization).

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments,Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Public Safety; Electricity Board; Department of Commerce; Governor's Office.

Commerce,Chrmn. Robert Tennesen

7:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: Complete committee action on bills remaining from 4/10/79 morning agenda.

Agriculture and Natural Resources,Chrmn. Gerald Willet

7:30 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Agriculture Department and Commissioner Seetin, international promotion program.

Wednesday, April 11, 1979**Finance Subcommittee on State Departments**,Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 AM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Information Systems Division budget.

Employment,Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger

8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 221-Vega: Study commission on migrant labor; S.F. 406-Keefe, S: Full employment; S.F. 562-Dieterich: Relating to labor, master and apprentice; S.F. 579-Chmielewski: Employer to provide certain podiatric treatment and supplies and podiatric orthotics; S.F. 915-Ashbach: Relating to workers' compensation, providing for apportionment in cases of pre-existing conditions; S.F. 983-Keefe, S: Relating to workers' compensation, providing for recovery of insurance premiums against certain third parties; S.F. 1047-Pillsbury: Providing for settlement of claims in workers' compensation; S.F. 1149-Penny: Permitting the partners of a partnership owning a business or farm to elect workers' compensation coverage.

Judiciary,Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 706-Schrom: Township mutuals-indemnification; S.F. 153-Wegener: Husband-wife conveyance; S.F. 303-Wegener: Littering from vehicles; S.F. 552-Anderson: Human rights; S.F. 119-Davies: Fencing; S.F. 133-Davies: Limited partnerships; S.F. 971-Davies: Creditors remedies-exempt property.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife,Chrmn. Collin Peterson

10:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 155-Purfeerst: Modifying certain trespass laws; S.F. 313-Setzepfandt: Clarifying the definition of agricultural lands for the purpose of restricting trespassing; S.F. 675-Engler: Redefining "agricultural lands" for the purpose of restricting trespassing; H.F. 60-Purfeerst: Modifying certain trespass laws.

Employment Subc. on Economic Development,Chrmn. Emily Anne Staples

10:00 AM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 787-Staples: Creating a business assistance center within the Department of Economic Development, appropriating money; S.F. 1050-Ueland: Providing for training of certain employees, appropriating money.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids,Chrmn. Gene Merriam

10:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 735-Olson: Minimum aid; S.F. 243-Merriam: AFDC aid account; S.F. 164-Ueland: Aid to schools with advanced staff.

Energy and Housing Subc. on Energy,Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

1:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 657-Humphrey: Nuclear waste management and disposal.

Finance Subcommittee on Education,Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Treasurer; Public Service; Human Rights; Labor and Industry; Minnesota Housing Finance Agency budgets.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Informational meeting on corporate income or excise tax.

Thursday, April 12, 1979

No meetings were scheduled at the time we went to press.

Friday, April 13, 1979

No meetings will be scheduled for Fri. April 13.

Senate Public Information Office
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briefly/preview

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briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 30, 1979

PAGE ONE: A NEWS SUMMARY

Wisdom of local housing bond use debated

A bill authored by Sen. Doug Sillers (IR-Moorhead) that would allow the city of Moorhead to establish a housing finance program and issue \$20 million in revenue bonds to finance middle- and low-income housing, ran into trouble on the Senate floor Thursday as several senators rose to express concern over the lack of a statewide policy governing such programs.

(Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, South St. Paul, and Albert Lea have already been granted similar authority and have issued a total of \$115 million in bonds. Moorhead would be the sixth Minnesota city authorized to issue housing bonds if the Sillers measure is approved.)

Sillers argued that Moorhead needs the program because of its special situation as a border town forced to compete with the larger city of Fargo, ND.

Several members of the Energy and Housing Committee, including its chairman, Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) and its Housing Subcommittee Chairman Franklin Knoll (DFL-Mpls.) supported the Sillers bill. Anderson said that a statewide policy bill would be forthcoming within 30 days and Knoll said that he had reservations about the bill originally but had been satisfied after two full days of committee hearings.

Several senators offered amendments to include their own cities in the bill. All but David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley) agreed to withdraw their amendments. After additional discussion, Sillers progressed the bill.

Hiawatha resolution approved; Solem confirmed

In other action Thursday, a resolution urging the federal transportation department to reverse its recommendation to discontinue passenger service on the Amtrak Northcoast Hiawatha line was approved by a 49-7 vote.

Senate author Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud) urged passage of H.F. 472, saying that the reason railroads are in trouble is that they do not receive subsidies of the magnitude granted to other transportation forms. Kleinbaum said that a total of \$80 billion a year is spent on highways and noted that one section of freeway currently under construction in Los Angeles is expected to cost about \$4 billion. "That's enough to run Amtrak for two years," Kleinbaum concluded.

Only one senator, George Pillsbury (IR-Wayzata) spoke against the resolution, saying that railroads are outmoded for passenger transportation and that they are best utilized for transportation of heavy loads over long distances.

In other action, the Senate Thursday confirmed James Solem as director of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency without opposition.

Utility shut-off bill has first hearing

A bill to stop independent and municipal utilities from cutting off power to nonpaying customers in the winter had its first hearing before the Commerce subcommittee on publicly regulated industries Tues. March 27. S.F. 48, sponsored by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook), would prohibit power shut-offs between Sept. 1 and April 30.

In December, the Minnesota Public Service Commission (PSC) prohibited power and fuel shut-offs between Sept. 1 and April 1 but the PSC can only enforce the ban on utilities it regulates.

About one-third of the people in the state are served by utilities beyond the control of the PSC— municipal and cooperative utility companies and independent fuel-oil and natural-gas suppliers.

Open end credit bill gains

A bill to raise interest rates on charge account sales from the current 12 percent annual rate to 18 percent annually was approved by the full Commerce Committee Thurs. March 29. The measure (S.F. 285), sponsored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), also changes the way the average daily balance is calculated to determine the finance charge on open end credit sales. Under the bill there would be a "free credit" period of 30 days. (Open end credit sales are credit card and charge account sales.) The bill was approved on a nine to four roll call vote.

Two dozen bills acted upon

Action on over two dozen bills was taken by the full Senate during sessions Mon. March 26 and Thurs. March 29 as the legislative pace quickened perceptibly this week.

Final action was taken Monday on only one bill on the Calendar. Approved was H.F. 416 (Senate author: Luther), which relates to replevin of personal property and establishes legal procedures for recovery of personal property when its ownership is subject to dispute.

Sixteen additional measures were given preliminary approval Monday, none of which engendered extensive debate or serious controversy.

On Thursday the Senate took final action on six bills and granted preliminary approval to another half dozen.

(For additional information if needed, consult the Journal of the Senate for a complete description of the bills passed.)

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

Agriculture and Natural Resources

A complex bill designed to regulate the future of pipelines crossing the state was discussed at length Tues. March 27 by the committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources but was laid over when the senators could not agree on a property tax credit proposal.

S.F. 332, sponsored by Sen. A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island), sets requirements for public hearings and notice, negotiation of easements, depth and safety of pipes, inspection fees, liability of land owners and environmental qualifications.

Recommended for passage by the committee were S.F. 708, allowing the harvest and sale of ginseng; S.F. 905, regulating land exchanges; S.F. 439, providing payments in lieu of taxes to counties and townships in which certain natural resources lands are located; and S.F. 626, abolishing consolidated conservation areas fund.

Wild and scenic rivers act discussed

Opponents of the Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers Act testified Tues. March 27 before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources subcommittee on public lands and water resources in favor of three bills modifying the law passed in 1973. The act gives the Department of Natural Resources authority to hold public hearings and protect rivers from excessive development.

Under the law, portions of the Mississippi, Kettle, North Fork of the Crow River, the Minnesota River and all of the Rum River have been included in the wild and scenic rivers system.

The bills under consideration, S.Fs. 47, 916, 791 and 180 would change the procedures used in designating wild and scenic rivers, or would give local authorities power to overrule any such designation.

Swine disease research center okayed

At a Thurs. March 29 meeting, the full Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee approved a measure (S.F. 165) authored by Sen. A.O.H. Setzepfandt (DFL-Bird Island) that would establish a swine disease research center at the University of Minnesota.

The bill, which would appropriate \$300,000, was re-referred to the Finance Committee.

In other action Thursday, the committee completed work on S.F. 332, also by Setzepfandt, which relates to pipeline routing. Discussion centered on landowner and pipeline company liability. After adoption of several amendments, the bill was recommended to pass.

Also approved were S.F. 709: Olson, which establishes a season on badgers; and S.F. 682: Chmielewski, which would allow the taking of small game with handguns.

Commerce

Several measures approved

In addition to approving the open end credit bill, the committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennessen (DFL-Mpls.) also approved several other measures.

S.F. 346, sponsored by Tennessen, authorizes Hennepin County to self-insure against any type of liability claim or loss except life, health, and long term disability. Another Tennessen bill, H.F. 360, clarifies that the exemption from usury provisions for loans over \$100,000 applies with respect to all other state interest rate limitations. S.F. 687, by Tennessen, authorizes state banks and savings banks to charge interest on any loan at rates

up to one percent in excess of the discount rate on 90 day commercial paper in effect at the local federal reserve bank.

S.F. 766, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), expands the functions for detached banking facilities to include making loans. Another Solon measure, S.F. 767, would allow detached banking facilities in townships and at the Twin Cities International Airport as well as organized municipalities. An amendment to the bill would allow state banks to make second mortgage loans. S.F. 779, sponsored by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), would require building movers operating in Minnesota to be licensed by the Public Service Commission.

A final measure, S.F. 342 authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), was approved and re-referred to Governmental Operations. The bill redefines land surveying for purposes of the registration requirements under present law and increases the membership on the Board of Architecture by giving one additional representative to the licensed land surveyors.

Education

Support services report heard

A report on student support services, presented by Harold Hebl, led off the Thurs. March 29 meeting of the Education Committee. Counseling services, health services and school psychological services on the elementary and secondary school levels were all profiled. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for support services at the elementary level to aid in preventing potential problems such as drug abuse and later behavioral disorders.

In other action the committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), approved S.F. 719. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Carl Jensen (IR-Sleepy Eye), would allow a school district to auction a building constructed by students as a class project rather than advertise for bids on the building.

Several measures were discussed and laid over for further consideration. S.F. 486, sponsored by Hughes, would change the requirements for membership on the state university board and state board for community colleges to include a member from each congressional district and three alumni members. S.F. 495, also by Hughes, would require the department of education to itemize and define the elements of data currently being collected by the department and then report to the legislature on their findings. S.F. 625, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), would require school boards to grant teachers extended leaves of absence of from three to five years. The measure further specifies that the board may deny a request for an extended leave if the board could not find an adequate replacement or if the leave would not save the district money.

Bills approved; discussed

Two measures were approved at the Tues. March 27 committee meeting. S.F. 640, sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) would provide block grants and matching grants for public television stations. The bill was re-referred to Finance. A bill requiring the commissioner of education to sponsor an annual meeting of the state board of education and selected members of school district boards was also approved. The purpose of the measure, according to chief author Hughes, is to encourage communication between various levels of educational boards.

Two measures were discussed and laid over. S.F. 560, sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), would establish a scholarship program for financially disadvantaged students. S.F. 333, sponsored by Merriam, would add a member to the council on quality education to represent non-public schools.

Aids subcommittee pursues omnibus bill

The secondary and adult vocational aids budget was reviewed and several bills were discussed in the Education Subcommittee on Education Aids Mon. March 26 and Wed. March 28.

Mel Johnson, department of education, gave a presentation on how state aids are distributed for secondary and adult vocational schools.

The subcommittee attached S.F. 631, which would allow the Virginia school district to transfer \$290,000 from its debt service fund to its capital expenditure fund for making building and site improvements to enhance fuel and energy conservation to the omnibus school aids bill, S.F. 315. The subcommittee laid over S.F. 487, which would prohibit a school district from borrowing money or issuing bonds to pay off certificates or debts. Also laid over was S.F. 648, which would prohibit a school district from using tax levies to make payments into an unemployment compensation fund for a teacher who is expected to be rehired within one year.

Elections

Hearings open on massive recodification

Hearings on a 172 page bill (S.F. 1003) recodifying major portions of Minnesota election laws opened this week in the Elections Committee.

The measure, carried by Sen. David Schaaf (DFL-Fridley), is the result of a one year study of election laws by a task force organized by the Secretary of State and including election law administrators and representatives of major political parties.

The purpose of the project was to simplify language, eliminate archaic language and obsolete provisions, and regroup related laws in a logical fashion. No substantive changes were made unless the task force found such changes necessary to make an existing provision more workable or effective.

Completion of the page by page review of the bill is expected to take several additional hearings.

Employment

Discussion continues on workers' comp

Members of the Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), heard public testimony this week on S.F. 917, the workers' compensation bill.

Representatives of several labor groups testified at an evening meeting Mon. March 26 against provisions of the bill which might reduce benefits. Business, medical and insurance representatives spoke Wed. March 28 on provisions of the bill they felt might be harmful to their concerns. After public testimony is completed today, March 30, committee members will begin offering amendments to address the problems identified by various speakers.

Earlier meetings Fri. March 23 and Mon. March 26 were devoted to a section by section discussion of the bill, which is sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.). Some of the major provisions of the bill include: a lump sum payment for permanent partial disability when an injured worker returns to work; expanding the appeals commission from three to five members; increasing the maximum benefits up to two times the statewide average weekly wage; changing the presumption of dependency provisions; setting forth a plan for the rehabilitation of injured workers; and establishing a state reinsurance fund.

Minimum wage raise gains

A bill to raise the minimum wage to \$2.90 an hour beginning June 1, 1979 was approved and sent to the full committee by the Subcommittee on Labor Fri. March 23. The measure, S.F. 352 sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), provides for additional wage increases to \$3.10 an hour in 1980 and \$3.35 an hour in 1981. A section providing for overtime pay after 40 hours a week rather than the current 48 hours is also included in the bill.

Subcommittee members met Wed. March 28 and approved two additional bills, S.F. 221 and S.F. 406. The first measure would establish a study commission on migrant labor. Chief author Conrad Vega explained that the bill would require the commission to investigate actual working conditions in the field. The second measure, S.F. 406 sponsored by Sen. Steve Keefe (DFL-Mpls.), would establish an advisory council to study structural unemployment problems in Minnesota.

Energy and Housing

Alternative energy credits discussed

The Energy and Housing Committee at its Tues. March 27 meeting met to consider its policy regarding energy tax credits.

There are three bills (S.F. Nos. 205, 474, 591) that would provide a state income tax credit for installation of renewable energy sources, including solar systems. The authors were asked by Committee Chairman Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) to attempt to incorporate the various provisions into one comprehensive and consistent measure.

Other action

S.F. 590, authored by Sen. Doug Sillers (IR-Moorhead) would provide an exemption for solar energy devices on sales and use tax. It was approved and re-referred to the tax committee.

In other action, the committee recommended passage of S.F. 867, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Ada), which would allow a housing and redevelopment authority to exercise powers in a county or municipality where there is no active HRA.

Reports heard

The Energy and Housing Committee at its Thurs. March 29 meeting heard two reports. One came from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency on energy conservation in rental units. Another came from the Institute of Gas Technology on peat gasification.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules

Arts bill gains

A bill that would set aside one percent of the construction costs of new state buildings for the purchase of art work was approved Tues. March 27 by the General Legislation and Administrative Rules Committee. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth), specifies the one percent be used for acquisition of works of art or landscaping which would be an integral part of the building or its grounds. However, if the building was deemed inappropriate for works of art by the Minnesota Arts Board in consultation with the Dept. of Administration, the monies could be used to purchase works of art for existing state buildings. "The purpose of the bill is to see that Minnesota's public buildings approach private buildings in attractiveness" Staples said. The measure (S.F. 567) was re-referred to the Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE CAPSULE

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), also approved a measure appropriating \$1.75 million for a Mississippi River historical center in Winona. The bill (S.F. 499), sponsored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston), was also re-referred to Finance.

S.F. 127, also sponsored by Staples, repealing archaic language relating to the Minnesota Historical Society was approved and recommended for the Consent Calendar.

Uniform colors discussed

A bill to color-code peace officers' cars and uniforms according to level of government was discussed extensively and then laid over at the Wed. March 28 committee meeting. Under the proposal (S.F. 364), authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), municipal peace officers would have blue uniforms, county sheriffs would have brown, highway patrolmen would have maroon and conservation officers would have green uniforms. Private security guards could have any color uniform except those listed for peace officers.

In other action the committee approved a bill, also sponsored by McCutcheon, which would mandate that each firing of a firearm by a security guard while on duty be reported to the chief of police or county sheriff. The bill, S.F. 363, further specifies that the reports be forwarded to the BCA, which would then compile the reports and publish them annually.

Governmental Operations

Three bills bumped to subcommittee

The Metropolitan Transit Commission would be allowed to borrow up to \$9 million for buses and other capital improvements under a bill passed out of the Governmental Operations committee Wed. March 28. H.F. 186, sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow the MTC to seek notes, certificates or bonds from private institutions.

The committee recommended for passage S.F. 741, which would allow the governor to declare a five-day peacetime emergency in cases of natural disaster or major accident. The committee also passed S.F. 437, which would allow the transfer of the Willmar State Hospital sanitary sewage pumping station to the City of Willmar.

Re-referred to subcommittees were S.F. 263, which would allow the commissioner of transportation to grant variances from rules and engineering standards for state-aid highways and streets; S.F. 21, which would establish a temporary joint legislative and public commission on public pension policy; and S.F. 580, which would prohibit teachers on certain extended leaves of absence from receiving retirement service credit for teaching part of a year.

Health, Welfare & Corrections

Aid for chronically mentally ill gains

A bill establishing a grant program for treatment of the chronically mentally ill was approved at the Thurs. March 29 meeting of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), the commissioner of public welfare would make grants to existing local mental health boards. The local boards would be required to provide specific services spelled out in the bill.

The types of treatment services to be offered include: treatment centers in nursing homes; residential treatment including developing daily living skills and short-term intensive care; indi-

vidual treatment for those in group living situations; therapy and crisis intervention for persons who enter safe houses; private residential treatment for individuals living in single family settings; emergency crisis management; and transportation when needed.

A number of mental health advocacy groups testified in favor of the measure (S.F. 800), before committee members unanimously approved the bill and re-referred it to Finance.

In other action the committee approved: S.F. 802, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), modifying the laws regulating the occupation of physical therapist; S.F. 480, sponsored by Sen. Emily Anne Staples (DFL-Plymouth), establishing a statewide poison information center; and S.F. 755, authored by Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), authorizing Anoka County to enter into shared service agreements with the Anoka State Hospital for community mental health services. The latter two bills were also re-referred to Finance.

Bills approved; re-referred

At the Tues. March 27 meeting committee members approved two measures and re-referred them to Finance.

S.F. 659, sponsored by committee chairman George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm), would appropriate \$200,000 to the U of M for funding the Minnesota Regional Sleep Disorders Center at the Hennepin County medical center. According to testimony at the meeting "significant sleep disorders affect some 12 to 15 percent of the general population."

S.F. 750, sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), would raise the personal needs allowance of nursing home residents from \$30 to \$50 per month.

Judiciary

Reapportionment bill again heard

The Judiciary Committee, at its Wed. March 28 meeting, again considered the reapportionment bill, S.F. 129 (authored by Sen. William Luther, DFL-Brooklyn Center). The bill would provide a referendum to amend the Minnesota Constitution by providing for congressional and legislative reapportionments by a commission.

The Committee considered amendments to the bill. One would allow the Supreme Court to make appointments if the Legislature failed to do so. Another amendment broadened the qualifications of the public members of the commission.

The Committee is expected to complete work on the bill today (Fri. March 30).

Other action

The Judiciary Committee, at its Mon. March 26 meeting, recommended passage of three bills, and laid two bills over.

S.F. 450, authored by Sen. Ron Sioff (IR-St. Paul) is a technical bill, changing language in a self-proved will form.

S.F. 728, authored by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), would control telephone communications in certain emergency situations by allowing police to prevent unauthorized telephone use. According to bill proponents this could prove particularly important in situations where a person is holding another hostage. The supervising police officer could "order the telephone company to cut, reroute, or divert telephone lines" to control telephone communications. To date, police have not had trouble getting through by phone to the person holding hostages, according to Larry McDonald, Head of St. Paul Police Hostage Negotiating Team, but such a situation could arise unless safeguards are taken, he indicated.

S.F. 607, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) would provide penalties for possession of controlled substances

on school grounds. Any person 18 years of age or older possessing a controlled substance on school premises would be punishable, under the bill.

No action was taken on S.F. Nos. 971 and 119.

Local Government

Several bills recommended to pass

A 19th century land survey would be redone to modern measurements and geodetic monuments would be erected at approximately six mile intervals throughout the state under a bill recommended to pass Mon. March 26 by the Local Government committee.

S.F. 355, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Olhoft (DFL-Herman), would appropriate money from the state's deed tax fund to the counties to preserve and remonument the U.S. public land survey. The bill was referred to the Tax committee.

Also recommended for passage were S.F. 668, authorizing Blue Earth County to make installment purchases of real or personal property; S.F. 876, authorizing Fillmore County to collect \$1 per capita to help the Red Cross Blood Mobile collect blood; H.F. 167 (S.F. 294), allowing the city of Virginia to apply for state money to improve a city street that was once a trunk highway; H.F. 297 (S.F. 408), exempting the Chisholm volunteer fire department from the civil service commission; and S.F. 605, permitting the Anoka county board of commissioners to function as the county human services board.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Tax theory, "income splitting", discussed

A background discussion on income taxes preceded testimony on possible "income splitting" plans at a Mon. March 26 meeting of the Tax Committee.

Principles such as horizontal and vertical equity, the frequent conflict between equity and simplicity, "tax expenditures", and differential taxation rates on different kinds of income were discussed by committee staff.

Dan Salomone, department of revenue research office, then testified regarding departmental research into costs of income splitting plans.

(Income splitting would allow a husband and wife to split their incomes for tax purposes as if each had earned half. This results in a lower tax rate since the incomes are taxed at lower rates.)

Salomone said his research had revealed that the expenses to the state would total an estimated \$423 million for the next biennium. Given the prohibitively high cost of a 50-50 income split, Salomone said his department had looked at possible 67-33 or 75-25 income splits but had concluded that those plans would be administratively complex and not practicable.

Impact of federal tax changes discussed

Changes in federal tax laws that result in lower federal taxes (and hence higher Minnesota adjusted gross income) could result in a \$75 million windfall to state revenue coffers, Wes Skjegstad, a Minnesota department of revenue official told the Tax Committee at a Wed. March 28 meeting.

But, Skjegstad added, if the 1979 Legislature enacts similar tax reducing provisions, the net increase from these federal changes would be reduced to only \$34 million.

Two of the more expensive possible state changes would involve adoption of the federal provision allowing a 60 percent capital gains exclusion (instead of the current 50 percent), and also adopting the new federal provision allowing a one time

\$100,000 exclusion of gains made on a sale of a personal residence for persons over age 55. (Minnesota law permits an exclusion on only \$35,000 and limits the benefit to persons over 65.)

These provisions would have a biennial cost of approximately \$25 million and \$9 million respectively, according to revenue department estimates.

Transportation

"Omnibus" railroad bill approved

A major bill that attempts to deal with the many problems related to railroad abandonments was approved by the full Transportation Committee at a Mon. March 26 meeting.

The bill, S.F. 851, authored by Sen. Tim Penny (DFL-New Richmond), was the product of extensive subcommittee hearings during the last interim and during the first months of the 1979 session.

The 14 page bill:

- empowers the commissioner of transportation to make grants and loans to rail users;
- provides for the acquisition and repair of rolling stock for use on light density lines;
- establishes a program for capital improvement demonstration grants;
- provides interest rate subsidies;
- establishes a rail bank program under which the department of transportation may acquire abandoned rail lines for future conversion for other transportation or energy related purposes;
- and gives adjacent property owners along proposed abandonments first acquisition rights.

Under a compromise amendment offered by Sen. Robert Lessard (DFL-International Falls), the department of natural resources could acquire abandoned lines for proposed recreational use only with specific legislative approval. (DNR plans to convert abandoned lines into recreational trails have encountered stiff opposition in prime agricultural areas in southern Minnesota. Without the Lessard amendment, no further DNR acquisitions would be possible.)

The bill was re-referred to the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee.

Braun confirmed, bridge bonding approved

Confirmation of Richard Braun as commissioner of the department of transportation and approval of a \$54 million bridge bonding bill were the major items on the Transportation Committee agenda at its Tues. March 27 meeting.

Braun, a career highway and transportation department employee (except for a brief period in private consulting), was recommended for confirmation without opposition as his appointment was praised by both DFL and IR senators, including Committee Chairman Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault).

The bridge bonding measure (S.F. 664), authored by Sen. Roger Laufenburger also won easy approval. The bill provides for issuance of some \$54 million in general obligation revenue bonds over a four year period. Proceeds will be used to aid counties, townships, and municipalities in replacing substandard or deteriorated bridges.

The funds will also enable the state to qualify for some \$73 million in federal funds, Laufenburger indicated.

A witness said that the state has 4658 deficient bridges and that the estimated replacement cost totals approximately \$370 million. The new bonding measure continues a program of bridge replacement that has been in effect several years and has proven highly successful, Laufenburger indicated.

(Cont. on back page.)

preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 2, 1979

Employment, Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger

8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 917-Keefe, S: Relating to workers' compensation.

Judiciary, Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 186-Chmielewski: Commercial exploitation of crime; S.F. 866-Chmielewski: Erroneous recordings-real estate; S.F. 835-Dieterich: County courts-unlawful removal reactions; S.F. 303-Wegener: Littering from vehicles; H.F. 610-Sieloff: Ante-nuptial contracts; S.F. 980-Davies: Hennepin and Ramsey municipal courts; S.F. 251-Davies: Cooperatives-voting by mail.

Local Government, Chrmn. Myrton Wegener

8:00 AM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 491-Hanson: Authorizing cities engaged in gas distribution to secure gas by individual or joint action, authorizing the creation of municipal gas agencies, defining their powers, responsibilities, authorizing the issuance of bonds.

Session

10:00 AM

Taxes and Tax Laws Subcommittee on Military Tax, Chrmn. Ed Schrom

1:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 297-Chmielewski: Exempt certain sales of bingo cards by veterans groups from sales tax; S.F. 299-Schrom: Exempt sales to certain veterans groups from sales tax.

Transportation Subcommittee on Transit, Chrmn. Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1061-Schaaf: Performance funding of certain public transit systems.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

1:30 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Community and adult education article. S.F. 879- Merriam: Community school.

Finance Subcommittee on Education, Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Department of Education-allocations.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Informational meeting regarding taxation of all pensions and military pay.

Transportation Subcommittee on Rural and Commercial

Transportation, Chrmn. Tim Penny

3:00 PM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 680-Olson: Relating to implementation of husbandry, defining "fertilizer applicators".

Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Personnel in conjunction with the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, Chrmn. Eugene Stokowski

5:00 PM Room 83 State Office Building

Agenda: S.F. 958-Stokowski: Statewide public safety member retirement funds, continued membership for certain non-sworn personnel; S.F. 810-Stokowski: Volunteer firefighters' relief associations, prohibiting coverage for certain fire chiefs; S.F. 811-Stokowski: Teachers retirement fund associations in cities of the first class, codification of coordinated program; S.F. 771-Stokowski: Actuarial reporting, implementation of a thirty year amortization period; S.F. 809-Stokowski: PERA, administrative bill; S.F. 918-MSRS, miscellaneous benefit modifications; S.F. 901-Stokowski: PERA, miscellaneous benefit modifications.

Tuesday, April 3, 1979

Education, Chrmn. Jerome Hughes

8:00 AM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 560-Keefe, S: Establishing a scholarship program; S.F. 486-Hughes: Changing requirements for membership on state university system; S.F. 658-Anderson: Actions against school district; S.F. 625-Merriam: Leaves of absence.

Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Law, Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 803-Dieterich: Law officers-seized property; H.F. 99-McCutcheon: Peace officer immunity; S.F. 769-McCutcheon: Security guards-deadly force; S.F. 739-McCutcheon: Vehicle tabs, parking laws; S.F. 492-Hanson: County attorneys' omnibus bill.

Transportation, Chrmn. Clarence Purfeerst

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation of John Yngve as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Transit Commission; S.F. 610-Penny: Requiring the use of a caboose on freight trains, providing penalties; S.F. 597-Merriam: Requiring an identification number on vehicles used in enforcing highway traffic safety regulations; S.F. 906-Laufenburger: Authorizing an increase in the approved complement of the department of transportation for certain services, providing for reimbursement for the services.

Commerce Subcommittee on Banking, Chrmn. Sam Solon

10:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 273-Peterson: Contract for deed interest; S.F. 320-Sikorski: Banks-authorizing leasing; S.F. 624-Sikorski: Usury, interest index; S.F. 913-Tennessee: Usury, bank credit cards; S.F. 489-Luther: Finance charges-territorial application; S.F. 704-Davies: Mutual savings banks.

Energy and Housing, Chrmn. Jerald Anderson

10:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 685-Tennessee: Energy emergency assistance act; S.F. 760-Knoll: Publicly assisted property development; Compromise energy credit bill.

Judiciary Subcommittee on Law Reform, Chrmn. Gene Merriam
10:00 AM Room 237 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 445-Perpich: Court standing of range association; S.F. 482-Sieloff: Corporation insurance; S.F. 1016-Wegener: Passing a stopped school bus; S.F. 301-Nichols: Medical assistance eligibility.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife, Chrmn. Collin Peterson
11:00 AM Room 15 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 377-Olson: Regulating placement of boats, blinds, and decoys; S.F. 887-Olson: Allowing associations to undertake emergency conservation projects upon petition to the commissioner of natural resources; S.F. 773-Gunderson: Prohibiting possession of firearms while shining wild animals.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules, Chrmn. Howard Olson
1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 847-Stumpf: Support for the Minnesota Humanities Commission; S.F. 712-Chmielewski: Providing for the use of the nomenclature "American Indians" in Minnesota Statutes; H.F. 395-Anderson: Minnesota Historical Society, authorizing historic site management contracts; S.F. 975-Ulland, J: Preservation of burial grounds.

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chrmn. Gerald Willet
3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol
Agenda: Appointment of Tom Kalitowski to the Water Resources Planning Board; S.F. 544-Anderson: Tax delinquent real estate; S.F. 737-Lessard: Set traps; S.F. 799-Lessard: Revocation of and ineligibility for game and fish licenses; S.F. 681-Peterson: Removal of rough fish.

Finance Subcommittee on Semi-State and Transportation, Chrmn. Jack Kleinbaum
3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol
Agenda: Semi-state allocations.

Health, Welfare and Corrections, Chrmn. George Perpich
3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol
Agenda: H.F. 145-Nelson: Changing requirements for school employee tuberculosis examinations; S.F. 477-Staples: Certificate of need for health care facilities; S.F. 970-Anderson: Moratorium on construction of certain hospital beds; S.F. 757-Staples: Clarifying MA benefits for chemical dependency treatment programs.

Wednesday, April 4, 1979

Employment, Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger
8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 917-Keefe, S: Relating to workers' compensation.

Judiciary, Chrmn. Jack Davies
8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: Initiative-referendum hearing for opponents: S.F. 31-Benedict; S.F. 100-Benedict; S.F. 296-Chmielewski; S.F. 339-Knutson; S.F. 367-Rued; S.F. 553-Benedict; S.F. 582-Benedict; S.F. 599-McCutcheon; S.F. 1018-Chmielewski.

Legislative Coordinating Commission, Chrmn. Rod Searle
9:00 AM Room 95 State Office Building
Agenda: Senator Coleman's report regarding educational services; Rep. Knickerbocker's report on joint rules; explanation of S and T bill by Senator Olhoft; inter state cooperation commission budget request.

Employment Subcommittee on Economic Development, Chrmn. Emily Anne Staples
10:00 AM Room 15 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 929-Peterson: Relating to small business, increasing state procurement from small business; S.F. 934-Peterson: Providing matching grants for small business institutes at certain state colleges and universities; S.F. 935-Peterson: Requiring establishment of a small business set-aside program for certain university procurements; S.F. 936-Peterson: Restricting tuition for adult small business management programs; S.F. 951-Peterson: Establishing a uniform definition of small business; S.F. 952-Peterson: Reducing the rate of corporate income tax.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam
10:00 AM Room 118 Capitol
Agenda: Transportation article. S.F. 248-Nelson: Increased transportation aid for handicapped.

Veterans' Affairs, Chrmn. Florian Chmielewski
1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 765-Chmielewski: Including veterans in "protected group" with women, handicapped and minorities for purpose of statewide affirmative action program in state civil service.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules, Chrmn. Howard Olson
2:00 PM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 75-Lewis: Prohibiting employment of police officers for maintaining law and order in bottle clubs.

Finance Subcommittee on Education, Chrmn. Roger Moe
3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol
Agenda: Not available at this time.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III
3:00 PM Room 123 Capitol
Agenda: Crime Control Planning Board; Pollution Control Agency.

Taxes and Tax Laws, Chrmn. William McCutcheon
3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol
Agenda: Informational meeting regarding tax indexing.

Thursday, April 5, 1979

Transportation, Chrmn. Clarence Purfeerst
8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 4-Nichols: Providing refund or credit of the excise tax paid on certain gasoline; S.F. 481-Humphrey: Appropriating money to the department of transportation for the purpose of providing operating subsidies for Medicine Lake Transit Service; S.F. 680-Olson: "Fertilizer applicators".

Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Chrmn. Robert Tennessen
8:30 AM Room 118 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 873-McCutcheon: Criminal justice-administration.

Commerce Subcommittee on Insurance, Chrmn. Jack Davies
1:00 PM Room 112 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 636-Tennessen: Insurance redlining; S.F. 992-Tennessen: Liquor, financial responsibility; S.F. 998-Davies: Cancellation, variable benefit contracts; S.F. 1040-Davies: Facsimile signatures.

Joint Subcommittee on Revenue Bond Financing for Housing, Chrmn. Jerald Anderson and John Chenoweth
1:00 PM Room 118 Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 859-Humphrey: Exempts certain projects from the municipal industrial development act. Testimony from the financial community.

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chrmn. Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 525-Knoll: Licenses for deer or bear; S.F. 350-Johnson: Split rock lighthouse state park; S.F. 188-Schmitz: Exempting certain existing skeet, trap and shooting and sports clubs from noise standards; S.F. 689-Gunderson: Sale of former railroad rights of way.

Finance Subcommittee on Semi-State and Transportation, Chrmn. Jack Kleinbaum

3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Department of Transportation-allocations.

Health, Welfare and Corrections, Chrmn. George Perpich

3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 702-Lewis: Requiring nursing home pre-admission screening teams; S.F. 856-Staples: Waiver of HMO requirements for demonstration projects; S.F. 872-Laufenburger: Limit cost of care for mentally retarded children; S.F. 723-Staples: Changing income regard provisions for MA and supplemental aid recipients.

Judiciary Subcommittee on Judicial Administration, Chrmn. Allan Spear

3:00 PM Room 125 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 134-Davies: Uniform Parentage Act; S.F. 557-Davies: Statutes-judicial modification; S.F. 868-Dieterich: Landlord-tenant termination notices; S.F. 783-Spear: Unlawful detainer.

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

7:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Attorney General; Energy Agency.

Friday, April 6, 1979

Employment, Chrmn. Roger Laufenburger

8:00 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 917-Keefe, S: Relating to workers' compensation.

Judiciary, Chrmn. Jack Davies

8:00 AM Room 112 Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation of appointments to Board of Judicial Standards. Initiative-referendum senate bills: S.F. 31-Benedict; S.F. 100-Benedict; S.F. 296-Chmielewski; S.F. 339-Knutson; S.F. 367-Rued; S.F. 553-Benedict; S.F. 582-Benedict; S.F. 599-McCutcheon; S.F. 1018-Chmielewski.

Finance Subcommittee on Education, Chrmn. Roger Moe

3:00 PM Room 120 Capitol

Agenda: Not available at this time.

Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, Chrmn. Hubert H. Humphrey, III

3:00 PM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Department of Revenue; Supreme Court.

Taxes and Tax Laws Subcommittee on Inheritance, Estates, and Trusts, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

3:00 PM Room 15 Capitol

Agenda: Death tax structure in the state of Minnesota: S.F. 36-Peterson: Eliminating the inheritance tax and gift tax; S.F. 101-Sieloff: Clarifying certain deductions; S.F. 116-Sieloff: Changing provisions for Commissioner's certification of satisfaction of tax lien; S.F. 156-Dieterich: Estate tax bill; S.F. 853-Sieloff: Estate tax bill; S.F. 1102-Merriam: Requiring payment of interest on certain inheritance tax; Proposed estate tax bill (Merriam).

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Saturday, April 7, 1979

Education Subcommittee on Education Aids, Chrmn. Gene Merriam

9:30 AM Room 118 Capitol

Agenda: Vocational education article.

(Cont. from Committee Capsule.)

Other action

Also approved Tuesday was S.F. 842: Willet, which authorizes transfer of \$750,000 to a fund dedicated for construction of hangar facilities at municipal airports, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 (Setzepfandt) which urges federal agencies to assist the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad company in maintaining current rail services.

At a Thurs. 29 meeting the committee also approved three additional bills: H.F. 87: Senate author Keefe, S., which allows local governments to grant franchises to private companies to construct and maintain bus shelters; S.F. 561: Hughes, which extends handicapped parking privileges and clarifies certain provisions regarding their use (re-referred to Finance); and S.F. 506: Chmielewski, which prohibits consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages at waysides, rest areas, or tourist information centers.

briefly/preview

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