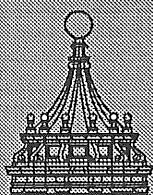


# Session Weekly

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 1, 1991 • Volume 8, Number 4





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## Flashback

We can thank former President Warren Harding for introducing the word "normalcy" to the English language. According to political lore, Harding misread the text of a speech which actually said "normality" — a word that was in fact a real one.

Whatever the word's origin, the House this week seemed to be a textbook definition of it. The committee meetings were filled with continuing overviews of various state departments and programs, and there was scarcely a bill passed out of committee.

That's nothing unusual for the last week in January. But it seemed a marked departure from the flurry of activity during the first three weeks of session.

The first week was dominated by the usual pomp and circumstance surrounding the opening day of Session. But there was also a new lieutenant governor who got to share the State of the State limelight with her boss.

Midway through the second week, all eyes were focused on the Persian Gulf as war broke out. Affairs of state government seemed so trivial in comparison, and several committee hearings were canceled.

The third week was perhaps the most unusual. The DFL-controlled House speedily approved Gov. Arne Carlson's budget-trimming package with just a few amendments.

But the pace has slowed, with only the St. Paul Winter Carnival to offer a deviation from the doldrums of winter. The ice slide on Cedar Street has been providing some amusement for the children of Capitol complexions.

And there have even been a few unconfirmed reports of state bureaucrats having fun on the slide.

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**On the cover:** As if winter at the Capitol weren't exciting enough, the St. Paul Winter Carnival has been thrilling visitors with an ice toboggan slide built on the Capitol grounds. The slide will remain in operation until Feb. 3.

Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

## Support the troops

Two weeks ago the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee approved a resolution calling on President Bush to further negotiate with Iraq in an effort to avert war.

On Jan. 31, the full House voted 113-6 to approve a resolution supporting the troops in the Middle East. And although the vote was lopsided, there was plenty of discussion on the issue.

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) suggested that the resolution should contain words of empathy for the troops.

"I'm not saying Saddam is right . . . but we could have taken care of him differently," says Jaros. "Why do we have to do it militarily?"

Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin), the author of the resolution that originally called on the president to continue negotiations with Iraq, says, "We cannot support the troops without supporting their commander-in-chief. We have a legal and ultimately moral responsibility to support our president."

But Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) disagrees. "The best way to support our troops is to bring them home," she says. "We can support our troops and not the president."

Although the bill was approved Jan. 31, the resolution was also debated on the House floor Jan. 28. Several amendments were approved, including one by Rep. Sylvester Uphus (IR-Sauk Centre) that reaffirms that the Legislature deplores the burning or disrespectful use of the American flag.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), who told the body Jan. 28 that "to be anti-war is not to be anti-American," asked to be removed as a co-author of the resolution.

She labeled the measure "rhetoric," adding that it had "substantially changed" from the original resolution.

## Ethanol renaissance

The war in the Persian Gulf and pollution in the Twin Cities has renewed interest in ethanol, which is produced from corn.

Ralph Groschen, director of marketing for the Department of Agriculture, touted the benefits of ethanol at a Jan. 30 Energy Committee hearing.

Groschen says that when ethanol is mixed with gasoline, it enhances combustion and reduces carbon monoxide emissions by 17 to 33 percent, depending on the vehicle.

He says that both Minneapolis and St. Paul have carbon monoxide levels in violation of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and will be required to implement an "oxygenated fuel program" by 1992. He says adding ethanol to gas would be the best way to boost the oxygen levels.

In 1990, the Twin Cities metro area was ranked as the 11th most polluted area in terms of carbon monoxide emissions out of 44 cities that are exceeding EPA standards.

Groschen says that ethanol contributes needed octane to gasoline, and adds that it also has a detergent additive that helps keep fuel systems clean.

In addition, Groschen says that increased use of ethanol could reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil.

"Since the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein, many Americans have started talking about alternative fuels and realized once again how dependent our country is on foreign oil," says Groschen.

Critics of ethanol, however, say we should be using our corn for food instead of fuel.

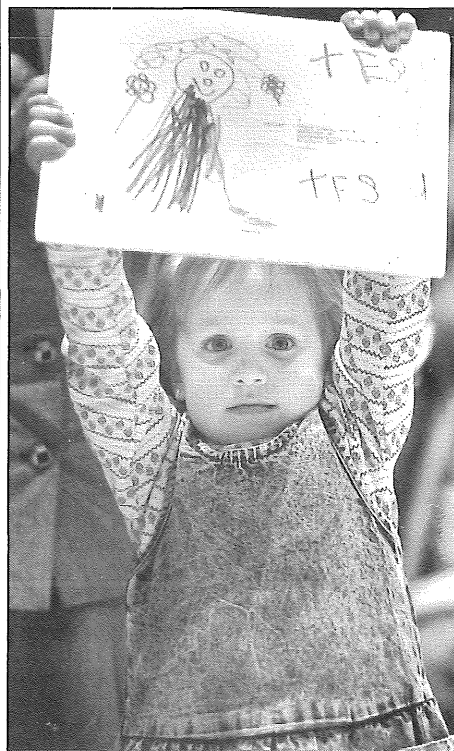
## Affordable housing

The housing crisis in Minnesota is having a direct impact on women and children and impoverishing their lives, says Mary Vogel, assistant research director at the University of Minnesota's Building Research Center.

Vogel told lawmakers at a Jan. 28 Housing Committee meeting that women and children have special housing needs. She says they are often economically disadvantaged, because women generally earn less than men, and women are usually the primary caregivers to their children.

Because women and children are environmentally vulnerable, they need to live in safe neighborhoods, says Vogel. She says that 25 percent of Minnesota's children are growing up in poverty, adding that all too often they don't have the stable environment needed for their development.

Vogel says that as a direct result of the cutbacks in housing programs in the 1980s, more and more children are being



Tessa Lynch, 4, got a helping hand from her mother, Rep. Teresa Lynch of Andover, when she displayed her artwork Jan. 29 during a "mother and apple pie" reception in the Capitol rotunda. The reception was sponsored by Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, an advocacy group working to improve conditions for low-income, pregnant women, and their children.

housed in emergency shelters.

And Jim Solem, commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, told committee members that affordable housing — not supply — will be the key housing issue in the 1990s.

Solem says alternative financing is one way to reduce the cost of housing, but adds that investors don't want to provide low-income housing because of the risks involved.

Solem says investors have many other investment options besides housing — “particularly housing for people who don't have a lot of money.”

He says the challenge of housing agencies will be to figure out ways to manage the risk factors.

### Safeguarding milk

To ensure that it's safe, Minnesotans could pay a fraction more for the milk they buy.

Agriculture Commissioner Elton Redalen, citing increased concern from consumers about contaminated milk, says he will push for a new fee to help pay for dairy inspections.

The proposal, a priority item in his 19-point legislative agenda, was unveiled Jan. 28 by Redalen to the Agriculture Committee.

Under the proposal, producers of dairy products would be charged one-third of a cent for every hundredweight of milk they collect from farms.

While the proposed fee itself could add only a fraction of a cent to the cost of a gallon of milk in a grocery store, Redalen suggested that consumers might “need to share the pain” of guaranteeing safe dairy products.

Adding a new fee on top of milk prices that have plummeted in the past year might be a tough sell, but Redalen believes guaranteeing safe milk is important to the state's dairy industry.

If consumers are nervous about the quality of milk, Redalen told the committee, “that eventually hurts every producer in this state . . . . The consuming public has to be assured that everything that's on that shelf is safe.”



Agriculture Commissioner Elton Redalen testified Jan. 28 before the Agriculture Committee about his legislative priorities. Seated next to Redalen is Deputy Commissioner Newell Searle.

### University budget cuts

A student regent at the University of Minnesota accused certain politicians of wanting to “pull the rug out” from under the university's administration and students.

Regent Tim Wolf told members of the Appropriations Committee's Education Division Jan. 28 that cuts in university funding contained in Gov. Arne Carlson's budget-cutting plan will hurt many students.

Wolf says Carlson's proposal to cut back college grant programs and to rescind millions of dollars that had been earmarked for higher education will make it economically impossible for many people to attend college.

“This double-edge sword cuts deeply and it hurts,” Wolf told division members, who met at the university's Minneapolis campus.

Wolf says the university's budget was trimmed \$8.8 million in the governor's budget-trimming package for fiscal year 1991. Despite improvements in the quality of education, students and the university will be penalized by having the budget reduced.

“I worry about escalating tuition costs and the fact that many students will be priced out,” he says.

Wolf says that he doesn't believe the answers to state budget problems “lie in a quick-fix attempt of castrating post-secondary funding.”

### Education collision course?

Minnesota's high schools and colleges may be on a “collision course” that catches students in the middle, according to a House Research Department report on college student retention.

While the state's colleges are requiring more specific coursework to improve college preparation, the State Board of Education and local school boards are “rushing” toward a “learner-outcomes” approach, says the report.

There have been efforts to improve coordination between secondary and post-secondary systems, but students are receiving “mixed messages that may not be helpful in their college careers,” Kerry Fine, a researcher with the House Research Department, told members of the Education Committee Jan. 28.

The “learner-outcome” approach to education attempts to determine *what* a student has learned, rather than basing their level on classroom-hour groupings and courses taken.

But Marsha Gronseth, executive director of the State Board of Education, says the report “wrongfully assumes that the two systems are going down these two tracks with little or no communication.”

“The board feels, unequivocally, that this doesn't reflect what is going on,” she says.

In contrast to being rushed, she says the “outcome-based” system is to be phased in over 10 years.

## **'Graying' engineers**

Retirement havens like Florida and Arizona could be the chief culprits in Minnesota's loss of high-tech engineers and science faculty during the 1990s.

Up to half of the engineers now working for the state's high technology businesses are expected to retire in the next 10 years. The State University System estimates that up to 71 percent of its mathematics and science professors will soon step down, while about half the faculty at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology is also nearing retirement age.

But the graying of the state's high-tech workforce could be a blessing in disguise, some industry officials say.

"Those are great opportunities; it means there will be a substantial number of jobs available if we have a workforce prepared to take those jobs on," Steve Watson, Minnesota High Technology Council president, told the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee Jan. 30.

He estimates that 7,500 to 10,000 engineering jobs may go unfilled in the state during the next nine years because of a lack of qualified applicants. But Watson says the demand for workers will not be limited to engineers, noting that for every engineer hired, five or six technically-trained support people are also employed.

## **Graduation rate still #1**

When it comes to graduation rates and college participation, Minnesota is at the head of the class.

According to a report by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), Minnesota ranked first nationally for high school graduation rates in 1988 — a ranking it has consistently held since 1984.

The report to the governor and the Legislature also indicated that approximately 89 percent of Minnesota high school graduates enroll in some form of post-secondary education, either full-time or part-time, within six years of completing high school.

David Powers, executive director of the HECB, told lawmakers at a Jan. 30 meeting of the Appropriations

Committee's Education Division that Minnesota is "doing a good job." He says the state ranks fourth nationally in terms of financial support for higher education.

Total state appropriations increased 141.4 percent between 1978 and 1991, says the report. But when measured in constant dollars, which factor in inflation, the increase was only 7.5 percent.

The study says the impact of the increase in funding has been diminished by the record number of students who are enrolling in college programs.

Between 1983 and 1989, the full-time enrollment at Minnesota's four public college systems increased by 5.7 percent, while part-time enrollment increased by 91 percent during that time, according to the study.

## **Teachers' pension in trouble**

The Minneapolis Teacher's Retirement Fund Association (MTRFA) is in trouble, says Larry Martin, executive director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

Martin told members of the Governmental Operations Committee Jan. 30 that the teacher's fund will go broke in the year 2011 unless something is done.

Currently, the association is operating with a \$16 million contribution deficiency, meaning retirees are taking more money from the fund than current members are paying in, says Martin, adding that the deficiency is growing at a rate of 14 percent per year.

He characterized the teacher retirement fund situation as "a most serious funding problem."

He said steps can be taken to avoid the problem, but it's unclear which route to choose to solve the problem. Historically, deficiencies have been satisfied by increasing employer contributions.

However, such a move would place "a direct burden on the school districts," says Martin. Other possible solutions include increased state contributions to the fund, or a property tax levy at the local level — a levy currently not allowed under state law.

Likewise, the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) is also operating at a \$16 million contribution deficiency. But PERA has more than 100,000 members while MTRFA has only

6,000, so the situation is not considered as serious, says Martin.

Although the outlook is not good for the MTRFA, the Minnesota pension system is in good shape overall, says Martin. He said unpaid pension liabilities stand at just over 24 percent, a drop of almost 3 percent from a year before.

Martin says his goal is to eliminate the unpaid liabilities by the year 2020.

## **School work before job work**

Students wanting a part-time job after school soon may have to prove they've done their homework first.

Rep. Ken Nelson (DFL-Mpls) says he'd like to develop a way to link students' performance in the classroom with work after school.

He says teachers and other school officials are becoming concerned that many high school students are spreading themselves too thin by working long hours after school.

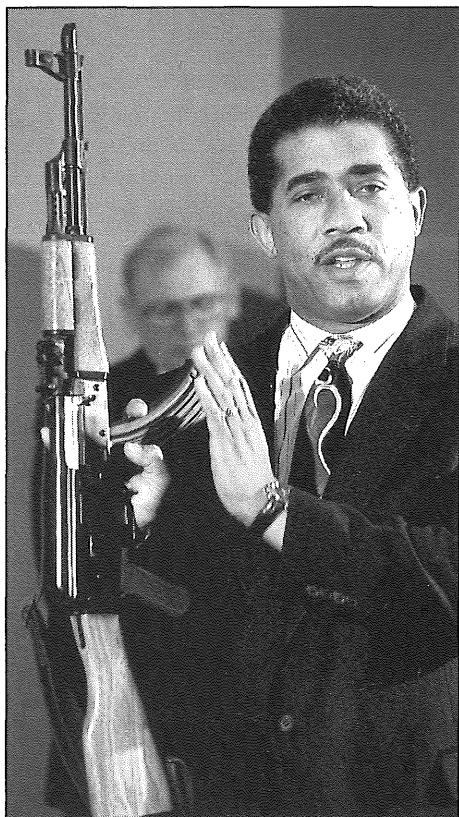
House members have twice passed a student employment curfew bill, but each time the measure died after reaching the state Senate.

This year, House members may instead push a bill which would curb potential employers from hiring students unless they can first prove they are succeeding in school, says Nelson, chair of the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee.

Tom Triplett, executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, told members of Nelson's committee Jan. 28 that business owners are also seeking ways to balance students' educations with their desire to earn money.

"We've heard over and over again at these hearings we've held around the state that the high degree of student employment in high school, and the length of that employment, is really a barrier to learning," says Triplett. "More and more teachers and principals tell us that kids come to [school] tired, that they haven't worked on homework. Their minds are elsewhere."

Triplett says voluntary incentives, rather than legal measures, likely would spur employers to hire only those students who can adequately take on both school work and work on the job.



St. Paul Police Captain William Finney displayed an AK47 assault rifle during a Jan. 29 Capitol press conference held by Citizens for a Safer Minnesota. The rifle is commonly used by drug dealers. Rep. Howard Orenstein of St. Paul is expected next week to introduce a bill, drafted by the citizens group, that would ban assault rifles in Minnesota.

### 'Gene therapy' headquarters

Minnesota could become a center for "gene therapy" if current experimental treatments are effective, says Arthur Caplan, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Biomedical Ethics.

The University of Minnesota is experimenting with medical treatments that alter the structure of human cells in a way that is designed to destroy malignant tissue.

Caplan says gene therapy is something that Minnesota could do "as fast as anywhere in the country" because of the state's experience with transplants — specifically bone marrow transplants which Caplan calls "a natural predecessor" to gene therapy.

In one experiment with gene therapy, white blood cells from malignant tumors were withdrawn, genetically altered, replicated, and then injected into the

body. The altered cells contain a gene that stimulates production of a toxin that destroys tumor tissue.

Caplan gave an overview Jan. 30 of the ethical and policy implications of genetic testing before the newly formed Standards and Regulations Subcommittee of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Caplan says genetic testing is currently used to screen for a narrow range of rare diseases. But using genetic testing becomes a major ethical issue, says Caplan, when you screen for diseases that can't be treated. The question becomes: Why tell someone they have the potential to contract a disease for which there is no cure?

In the last year alone, genes were pinpointed for cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, kidney disease, rare forms of Alzheimer's, and colon cancer, says Caplan. However, very little can be predicted if someone is carrying a potentially "lethal" gene.

### Hospital privacy

A representative from the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) says a key component of the much-talked about health care access bill may be unpalatable to some hospitals and doctors.

Dr. Alvin Schultz of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) says establishing state oversight of medical costs and practices would be very costly, duplicate existing efforts, and raise serious privacy issues.

"The MMA cannot support a data collection system that does not protect the privacy of individual institutions," says Schultz.

The Subcommittee on Health Care Access and Delivery is hearing a portion of the health care access bill (HF7) that would create a "health care analysis unit."

The measure calls for the establishment of a uniform data base for greater cooperation between the state and health care providers. The goal is to improve efficiency, the quality of care, and to reduce costs.

The concept behind the proposed measure is referred to as "outcomes management," a new approach that hopes to provide physicians and patients with better information about the outcome of

medical treatment, say backers of the health care access bill.

But one of the major stumbling blocks toward creating such a system is getting the necessary data. Health care providers are reluctant to release the information because of privacy concerns for individual health care institutions — an industry that is very competitive.

Schultz co-chairs the MMA's Minnesota Clinical Comparison and Assessment Project (MCCAP), which established a data-collection and feedback system for hospitals in 1988.

He says doctors have a "concern and distrust of what that data will be used for. They see it being used as a club against them."

### Mental health intervention

The need for statewide, interagency coordination is necessary if children with mental health problems are to be helped early in their lives, say social service officials.

"We can no longer tolerate turf," John Haines, director of Kandiyohi Social Services, told a joint panel of the Legislature Jan. 31. "[Interagency cooperation] is the key to making this work."

Several social service workers and parents from across Minnesota say children are often entitled to services in one agency, but not in another. They say a statewide policy must be set to ensure that mentally disturbed children get the same access to help.

Haines says schools play a very important role in the screening of young children, but the need for early intervention remains.

"If a child fails childhood, we've got major league troubles in the future. The earlier that we can intervene, the better off we are," says Haines.

Case management for mentally disturbed children is also an issue, say several people who testified at the joint meeting of the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division and the Education Committee's Education Finance Division.

Parents are often faced with the responsibility of being their own child's case manager, which can pose a heavy emotional and financial burden.



## Kudos to Appeals Court

Thanks partly to an efficient computer system, Minnesota's Court of Appeals is one of only two intermediate appellate courts in the nation that are not hindered by a backlog of cases.

Court officials say the system keeps a detailed accounting of the appeals made to the court and their status, which ensures that the Court of Appeals justices keep on top of the caseload.

"Every one of our judges is prodded by this inhuman, uncaring computer," Chief Judge D.D. Wozniak told the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division Jan. 30.

Wozniak says the accomplishment is even more remarkable because Minnesota is the only state that requires its appellate decisions to be handed down within 90 days of a hearing.

But the court would have it no other way, says Wozniak. Other states have paid the administrative arm of the court \$500,000 to acquire the pushy computer system, which issues a bi-weekly status report on the dispensation of judges' caseloads.

The court heard 2,470 appeals in 1990 and 2,066 in 1989.

The division, which is chaired by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) is conducting a review of government agencies that are under its funding purview.

## Genetic fingerprinting

A soon-to-be-operational crime lab will put Minnesota on the cutting edge of forensic crime-busting techniques.

Mark Shields, director of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, says the state's forensic crime lab will be ready to perform DNA testing in two to three months.

The samples will then be presented in Minnesota district courts as evidence in criminal prosecutions. The Legislature funded the creation of a DNA lab in 1989 with a \$1.3 million appropriation.

Shields told the Judiciary Committee Jan. 28 that district prosecutors currently must send samples to private labs in other states for DNA fingerprinting at a cost of more than \$1,000 per sample.

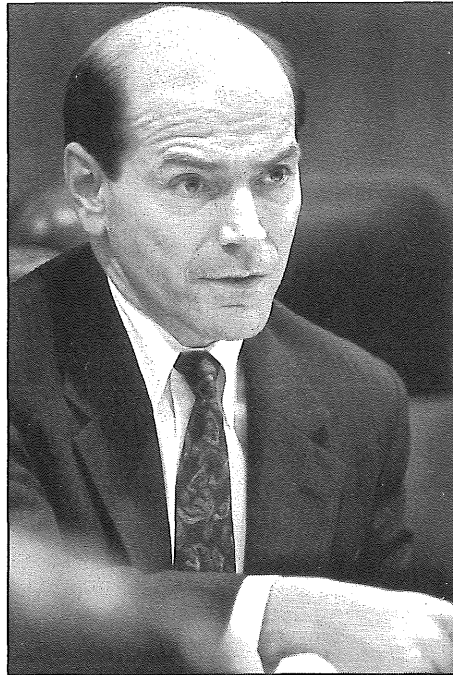
DNA, detectable in tissue such as skin, hair, and blood, is increasingly being

used in criminal investigations in much the same way as traditional fingerprints.

Rep. Art Seaberg (IR-Eagan) asked if there is a backlog of cases the lab will need to handle.

"There are several cases, and probably more than several cases, that would be right for DNA analysis," says Shields. "Those are the cases we are going to have to review and talk to law enforcement officials about to determine which goes first."

Minnesota's lab will also function as a pilot facility for developing a national DNA databank, a system that will make genetic samples from convicted sex offenders available to all law enforcement officials through the FBI, says Shields. More than 1,100 DNA samples have already been collected from Minnesota sex offenders.



Mark Shields, director of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, testified Jan. 28 before the Judiciary Committee about DNA testing in the state's crime lab.

## Hmong marriages

Traditional Hmong marriages should be legally recognized in the same way Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Quaker, and American Indian weddings are acknowledged by the state, says Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

Currently, Hmong couples — like

everyone else — are required to apply for a marriage license. But, unlike members of other faiths, they are also required to undergo a civil marriage ceremony.

The same was once true for Quaker and American Indian couples until the law was changed to recognize those marriages as legally binding.

A bill authored by Dawkins would give Hmong *Mej Koob* — elders who officiate over religious marriage ceremonies — the same rights and responsibilities as priests, rabbis, and others who perform weddings. And that, he says, would help educate the Hmong community about Western marriage restrictions.

Dawkins told members of the Judiciary Committee's Family Law Subcommittee Jan. 30 that some Hmong elders are unaware of Minnesota laws prohibiting bigamy and underage marriages.

Several Hmong addressed the subcommittee in support of the legislation, including 18-year-old Pa Shoua Her, who says she was forced into a marriage when she was 15 — a ceremony over which a *Mej Koob* presided.

"This life in America is very hard because we have to change [our] whole culture. In Laos, we don't have to sign a paper — we don't have any rules or laws that you can't be married until you're 18," she says.

Dawkins bill, HF91, would also legalize traditional Buddhist ceremonies if passed. And existing Hmong marriages — those that were performed by *Mej Koob*, but met state requirements otherwise at the time of union — would be made retroactively valid by filing a certificate with the courts, signed by six witnesses present at the original ceremony.

## Watching the DNR

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Rod Sando wants to make his department more accountable and accessible, and lawmakers from northern Minnesota sound like they'll hold him to his word.

Sando, appearing Jan. 31 before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, says he wants the DNR to increase communication with interest groups, better relationships with farmers, and improve coordination with local governments.

But the DNR's accountability drew fire from three northern Minnesota legislators who questioned recent policies on deer hunting and timber sales.

Rep. Joseph Begich (DFL-Eveleth) complained about the DNR's decision to open the 1991 deer hunting season one week later than usual, a move he claims ruins plans for hundreds of taconite industry workers who had to schedule vacations before the start of the season was announced.

Roger Holmes, chief of the DNR's wildlife section, says no policy change has occurred. The deer season starts on the first Saturday in November, as long as that day falls after Nov. 2. This year, the first Saturday falls on Nov. 2, so opening day has been pushed back to Nov. 9. Last year, the season opened Nov. 4.

Concerning timber sales, Reps. Robert Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) and Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) expressed concern about a DNR decision to increase revenue and ensure fairness by using auctions rather than informal sales of timber harvesting rights.

Johnson said that his community had no input on the decision, while Rukavina suggested the auction system would benefit big logging companies at the expense of small operators.

"You're going to do nothing but make those people lackeys of the timber industry," Rukavina told Sando.

## Old growth forests

Protection of "old growth" forests could become a big issue in Minnesota and Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) warns that the state should work with private landowners to manage the resource.

Rukavina, a member of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, says the state should provide incentives to landowners to not harvest old growth forests.

Last summer the old growth issue "exploded" in the Pacific Northwest and now has come home to Minnesota, Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, told the committee Jan. 31.

Old growth forests are basically those that have never been harvested or otherwise disturbed by man. In northern

Minnesota, probably less than 200,000 acres of old growth forests remain.

Acknowledging that protection of old growth forests is important, Rukavina says the state should look at incentives to help preserve trees that are on private land.

Rukavina says that when he drives home to Virginia he sees stands of old growth forests in people's back yards. He's concerned that no incentive exists for those people to preserve the trees. "They can make big money right now selling that [timber]," Rukavina says.

The old growth forest issue heated up in Minnesota last year when the state sold timber rights to lumber companies in old growth forests in the Ely and Big Fork areas.

## Superfund's super-shortfall

The state's Superfund could face a super-shortfall of up to \$27 million two years from now, a House committee learned Jan. 30.

The figure is the most pessimistic one offered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), which oversees the fund that is devoted to cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

From an optimistic point of view, the shortfall in fiscal year 1993 could be only \$9 million, says Rodney Massey, director of the MPCA's groundwater and solid waste division.

Massey presented the Superfund report, first released last November, to the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee.

The report calls on the Legislature to address the shortfall "to ensure the continued success of the Superfund." The fund, created in 1983, could be overseeing 200 hazardous waste sites by 1993, Massey says.

The shortfall represents only Minnesota's portion of hazardous site cleanup costs. Federal Superfund dollars also are used by the state, and many sites are cleaned up by the people or businesses that created the hazardous wastes.

## MPCA 'gift' questioned

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) should not be chastised for accepting a \$300,000 "gift" from a major refinery, says Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul).

But the Legislative Auditor's Office, which recently unveiled a critical report of the agency, says the Inver Grove Heights-based Koch Refining Co.'s donation — intended to speed up its application for a pollution permit — sets a bad precedent.

The MPCA accepted the money in August and plans to hire consultants to review the Koch application. Koch is one of the state's largest sources of air emissions.

"I thought we did a really good thing in getting Koch to cough up 300 grand to help us to do some monitoring of a terrible situation," Osthoff said during a Jan. 29 meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee.

While the Legislative Auditor's Office doesn't question the MPCA's motives, it has recommended that the Legislature amend the agency's rules to prohibit such gifts.

"In our view, soliciting funds from regulated parties or accepting those funds . . . is not good public policy," said Tom Walstrom, a project manager with the Legislative Auditor's Office.

## Pining for dollars?

What do Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis counties have in common?

They received more than \$24 million in state grants during the 1980s to help maintain and develop forest lands, says Olin Phillips, supervisor of cooperative forestry management programs for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The money, funneled through the DNR, has been earmarked for 2.7 million acres of tax-forfeited lands during the past decade, Phillips told the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the House Appropriations Committee Jan. 28.



And using that money, the northeastern counties have improved wildlife habitat and built snowmobile trails, among other projects, according to Harry Fisher, a Duluth area forester and representative of the Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners.

The 14 counties are the only ones in the state that have their own land departments, but many other counties have land that was lost in tax forfeiture cases in the 1920s and 1930s. These are some of the best forest lands in the state, Fisher says.

### Minnesota recycles

Minnesota is a leader in curbside collection of recyclable trash and is destined to become a Midwestern hub for the growing recycling industry.

Mike Robertson, departing director of the Office of Waste Management, told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 29 that 2.2 million residents now have access to curbside collection of recyclables.

By 1993, the state wants to recycle a quarter of Greater Minnesota's trash and 35 percent of trash in the seven-county Twin Cities area. Robertson says Minnesota is on target to meet that goal:

"I don't know of any state . . . that can say that more than half of the population of the state has access to curbside recycling. It's a significant accomplishment."

The success of recycling, however, has not come without problems. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), committee chair, says he's concerned about small trash haulers who are being forced out of business because of recycling fees.

And Rep. Robert A. Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) says his trash hauler raised collection fees and blamed lawmakers in St. Paul for the increase.

The SCORE legislation passed in the 1989 Special Session did extend the sales tax to garbage collection to fund a variety of recycling programs in Minnesota counties.

### \$1,000 campaign limit

A candidate for governor can now receive a \$60,000 campaign contribution from a single source under Minnesota law, but a public interest group wants that figure pared to \$1,000.

Jim Ketcham, Common Cause Minnesota president, says that initial analysis of 1990 campaign contributions showed that between 20 and 30 contributions to gubernatorial candidates exceeded \$10,000 and two donations were for more than \$50,000.

"We think that this [\$1,000 limit] will reinstate the purpose of the contribution limits . . . to prevent excessive influence by wealthy individuals and well-heeled special interest groups," says Ketcham.

The idea is to make statewide candidates depend more upon greater numbers of small contributors.

Common Cause is not proposing to alter the existing limits of \$750 for representatives and \$1,500 for senators, which were established in 1990.

But Rep. Ben Boo (IR-Duluth) thinks that bringing the limit down to \$100 for representatives would be a good idea, and Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester) agrees.

"A \$750 contribution, quite frankly, does get a legislator's attention," says Gutknecht.

Ketcham says the rationale for leaving contributions for legislators at the current \$750 and \$1,500 level is that legislative candidates have a much smaller base to draw from.

Current contribution spending limits were set in 1978 at \$60,000 for governor, \$12,000 for lieutenant governor, \$10,000 for attorney general, and \$5,000 for secretary of state.

Under the Common Cause proposal all of these limits would be set at \$1,000, and would apply to both individuals and special interest groups.

### Dialing for dollars?

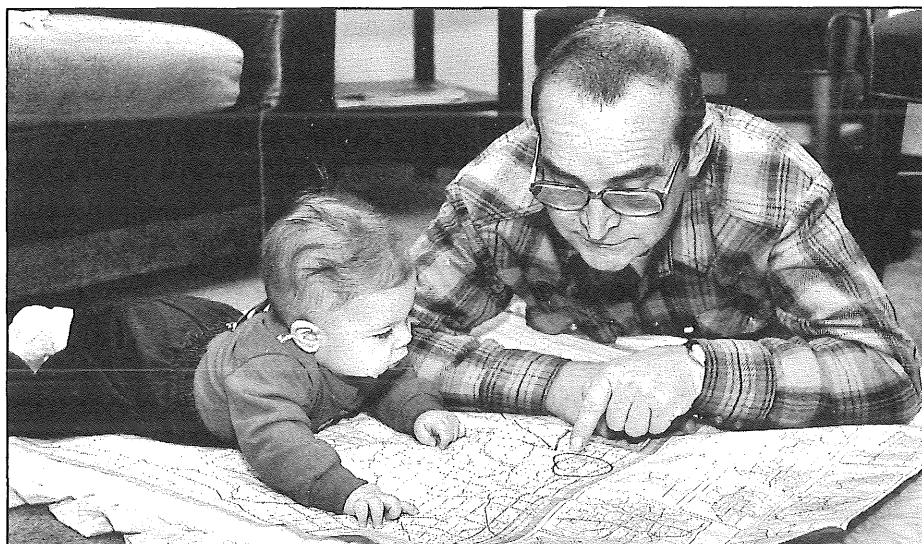
With cuts in state aids to local governments being eyed as one way to trim spending, state lawmakers want to know how much money cities and other units of local government are paying out to get the money they're spending.

A recent report by the Legislative Auditor's Office showed that local governments spent about \$4.6 million for lobbying efforts at the state Legislature in 1989, the latest year for which figures are available.

John Yunker of the Legislative Auditor's Office told members of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 29 that local governments have come to rely more and more on state aid to help pay for services. Consequently, they are hiring lobbyists to make sure they are getting their share of the tax pie.

In addition, Yunker says many local governments have had success lobbying the Legislature for money, which has spurred others to give it a try.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) says

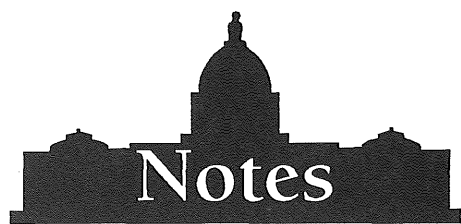


Rep. Henry Kalis of Walters showed his grandson, Caleb, the location of District 29B.

that although he doesn't necessarily like the lobbying, it may be inevitable that local governments do so.

"If states can go into Washington D.C. and lobby the federal government, it seems to me that it's only fair game for local units of government to have the opportunity to go to their state government and lobby for their own [funding]," he says.

But Anderson, chair of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, says he doesn't know if it's appropriate for the Legislature to place restrictions on the practice.



Minnesota is the first state in the nation to establish a legislative forum to address issues of biomedical ethics such as genetic testing. The newly formed Standards and Regulations Subcommittee of the Health and Human Services Committee has a two-part mission, one of which is "to look, in a more general sense, at some of the theoretical, philosophical, and moral issues before us these days on bio-ethics," says Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), chair of the subcommittee. The panel, which held its first meeting on Jan. 30, will also focus on health and human services regulations.

The heat was on Jan. 28 when Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls) asked new Agriculture Commissioner Elton Redalen what he thinks of the wetlands protection issue. The issue is sure to pit farmers against environmentalists, but Redalen told the Agriculture Committee that the two camps must work together to ensure that farmers get adequate compensation for their land. Redalen is no stranger to the tension between the two camps. He authored a section of the 1989 Groundwater Protection Act, a bill marked by some skirmishing between the two groups.

Minnesota teacher salaries showed a net increase of 2.7 percent since 1974, according to a House Research Department report that was released to the Education Committee Jan. 30. The net figure assesses buying power and is adjusted for inflation, the increasing urbanization of the teacher workforce, and the increasing levels of teacher training and experience. Minnesota's teachers are still 5 percent below their peak buying power of 1970-71, and rank 15th nationally in teacher salaries at 3.5 percent above the national average, says the report. It concludes that teacher salaries appear healthy, but says the state should not lose the salary gains of the 1980s.

The fastest growing county in Minnesota during the 1980s was Dakota County, says State Demographer Tom Gillaspay. He told members of the House and Senate Redistricting committees Jan. 29 that the inner ring suburbs actually suffered population losses in the last decade, while the counties of Anoka, Scott, and Sherburne continued to boom at a rate significantly higher than the rest of the state.

Although there have been some recent bank failures on the East Coast, Minnesota banks are strong, says Art Rolnick, director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis. Rolnick told the Economic Development Committee Jan. 29 that 1986 — not '90 or '91 — was probably the worst recent year for Minnesota banks. In '86, 20 percent of bank loans statewide were losing money; now that figure is 7 percent, says Rolnick. Overall, Rolnick predicts a short-lived recession — locally and nationwide. "You don't see an economy go into a recession period and stay in one during wartime," he says.

First-term House member Hilda Bettermann already is learning one of the first axioms of politics: Help those who help you. A State Office Building custodian recently saved the Brandon Independent-Republican from a more serious fall after she slipped on ice outside the building. And now — at least facetiously

— she's promised her benefactor to introduce a statewide "Janitors' Day" resolution on the House floor. The measure would require state lawmakers to take over cleaning duties in government buildings while custodians get a well-deserved day off. "But I still won't do windows," she says.

Thirteen percent of Minnesota prisoners are there because of gambling-related offenses, according to Tony Bouza. The gaming commissioner told members of the General Legislation Committee Jan. 31 that gambling, even in a legal form is "fundamentally sinful." He also told members the best way to destroy gambling is to leave it alone, that "it will destroy itself." An estimated \$1.6 billion was wagered on Minnesota's three legal forms of gambling in 1990.

An estimated \$1.6 billion was wagered in 1990 on Minnesota's three legal forms of gambling, but not all of it is ending up in the right places. Tom Anzelc, executive director of the Gambling Control Division of the Department of Gaming, told members of the General Legislation Committee Jan. 31 that there are indications "something has gone seriously wrong" with lawful gambling in Minnesota. Of 40 recently conducted audits of licensed gaming operators, Anzelc says not one of the organizations was in full compliance with department rules and state statutes. In half of these cases, inspectors found evidence that makes further departmental investigation necessary for either tax reasons or other criminal activity.

What do the CIA and the Minnesota Legislature have in common? They both use the same plotter, of course. These state-of-the-art mapmaking machines will be used to assist members in creating new legislative district maps during the next year. The main plotter can create a multi-colored, 36-inch by 48-inch map in about 15 minutes. In 1980, the last time lawmakers attempted to redraw the district lines, technology wasn't as advanced. Then it took nearly six hours to get the same results.

## 1991 House Leadership Series . . .

# Dempsey hopes to avoid 'arm-twisting'

Rep. Terry Dempsey (IR-New Ulm) laughs off any comparison between being a foster parent and now being the House Independent-Republican Caucus leader.

But it's easy to argue there are similarities between overseeing a home filled with headstrong children and presiding over a caucus of headstrong representatives.

Dempsey's house has been home to 15 foster children between 1968 and 1982. Now he has the sometimes difficult task of convincing the 53 Independent-Republicans in the House to toe the party line.

"I'm not really an arm-twister," says Dempsey. "I don't like to have my arm twisted, and I don't like to do unto others something I don't want them to do to me."

Instead, Dempsey, a partner in the New Ulm law firm of Somsen, Dempsey and Schade, hopes the simple power of rational persuasion will do the job.

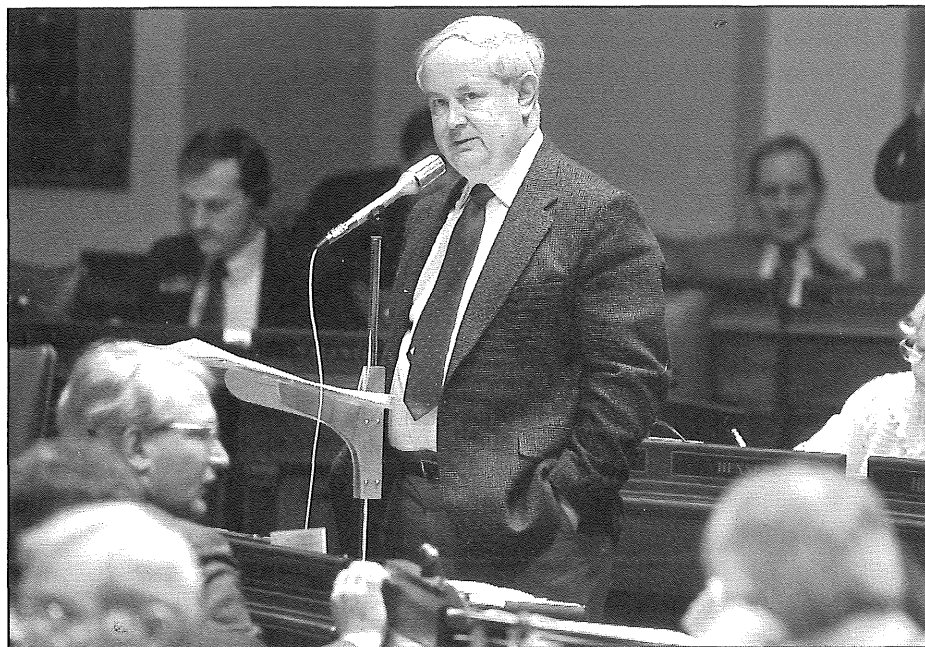
"I'm hopeful that most of the people in this caucus are rational, practical people and I think my job is more to convince them a certain position or vote is the proper thing to do — the proper thing as political individuals and the proper thing to do as Republicans in the state of Minnesota," he says. "I hope reason and logic will prevail over coercion and threats."

It's a style that appears to be working. Dempsey is 1-0 in big legislative battles in the opening weeks of his term as minority leader, helping shepherd Gov. Arne Carlson's budget-reduction bill through the DFL-controlled House.

Dempsey, now in his seventh term, is quick to point out that he had a lot of help in ushering the bill through the process. He gives a lot of credit to his caucus leadership team.

But he also points out that having a governor of the same party makes leading the minority caucus a much easier task. The governor gives a forceful voice to issues that are important to party members, and can provide staff and other resources to help implement that agenda, he says.

And then, there's also the power of



Minority Leader Terry Dempsey

the governor's veto.

"Having Gov. Carlson in office . . . makes this job a lot more palatable," Dempsey says. "When you're in the absolute minority, with no executive branch support, you're really at a loss to have a lot of clout in the process."

"You still don't have enough votes to pass things, you still lose legislative battles, but at least you know there's that backup system in the governor's office. It gives you veto power and it gives you all of the (state agency) commissioners and everybody else arguing for your side of the case."

Dempsey expects wrangling over the expected \$1.2 billion deficit in the next biennium to dominate the 1991 Session. But he says it's still possible for other issues — cleaning up the environment and expanding health care insurance — to rise to the top of the legislative agenda.

More likely, however, Dempsey says legislators may have to be satisfied with "planting the seeds" to correct those problems in the future when more money is available.

"I don't think it will be a failure not solving a problem in its entirety the first year of this biennium," he says. "If we can define the problem, structure a solution, and begin the process to build that

structure, we will have accomplished something."

And it's getting the job done — partly through tact, and partly through the power of his position — that appeals to Dempsey in serving as minority leader.

"There's that feeling that you're just a little bit more than just one vote out of 201 at the Legislature," he says. "The sphere of influence is just a little greater. And that's why we're here — to influence decisions and mold outcomes."

—Dave Price

## Feb. 6, 1862

On this day, Redwood County was established and named for the red cedars and willows in the area.



## Looking back . . .

# Was nonpartisan Legislature an accident?

For 60 years, Minnesota was a party-pooper.

Although DFLers and IRs in the Legislature today often are at loggerheads over politically charged issues, from 1913 until 1973 the House of Representatives and the Senate were — at least on paper — devoid of partisanship.

Riding a national wave of political reform in the early 1900s, the Legislature in 1913 enacted a law calling for all state legislators and county elected officials to run on nonpartisan tickets.

That meant the 104 Republican, 20 Democratic, one Public Ownership (the name for the Socialist Party in Minnesota), and one Prohibition Party members serving in 1913 became generic representatives in the House.

The process leading to the nonpartisan Legislature, however, was not entirely driven by a desire to clean up state government. In fact, it could be argued that the shift to a nonpartisan Legislature happened by accident.

In 1912, the Legislature stripped the state courts and elected officers of cities of the "first class" of their party designations.

During the 1913 Session, Sen. Julius E. Haycraft of Madelia, a progressive Republican, introduced a bill to extend the nonpartisan election law to all judges and city and county officials. But in an attempt to kill the bill by making it unpalatable, a group led by Senator A.J. Rockne, a conservative Republican from Goodhue County, amended the bill to include the Legislature.

Approved by the Senate, the bill was sent to the House, where Senate opponents were sure the measure would die. But to their surprise, the House approved it.

For all the wrong reasons, the bill became a flashpoint for anti-prohibition, anti-Socialist, and other forces in the House, according to Charles R. Adrian, who wrote about the origins of the nonpartisan system in a 1952 edition of the magazine, *Minnesota History*.

Because the Legislature was controlled by conservative, "dry" Republicans, the liquor and brewery industry saw the

nonpartisan bill as a way to break the grip of the anti-"wet" forces and derail efforts to bring prohibition to Minnesota.

And because the bill also called for only the top two vote-getters to emerge out of a primary election, urban legislators concerned about the rise of the Socialist Party saw the proposed law as a way to squelch the left.

Other reasons for approving the bill also were offered but, according to Adrian, "The Minnesota legislature had

inability of voters to learn the political shading of their representatives.

But many people argued that the Minnesota experiment had proven itself. "Non-party legislators are not as vulnerable to defeat on each occasion when voters change the political party in control of the state offices or the national administration," wrote former state Sen. Daniel S. Feidt of Minneapolis in a pamphlet he published in 1957.

Some Conservatives saw the push for a

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"After six decades of masquerade, hypocrisy and sham, lawmakers in Minnesota will be required to show their political stripes."

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—*Worthington Daily Globe*

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become nonpartisan without a single word of debate on the merits of the question."

The nonpartisan system had its champions as well as its detractors, but it only applied to elections. In the Legislature, members quickly split up into their political caucuses. By the early 1970s, before the Legislature returned to partisan elections, members organized themselves into Conservative and Liberal caucuses. The media often would add further coloring to a member's political stance, for example, reporting that a representative or senator was a "Liberal-DFLer."

By late 1972, amidst calls for greater openness in state government, the push for election reform became strong. Hailing the proposed changes, the *Worthington Daily Globe* said in an editorial, "After six decades of masquerade, hypocrisy and sham, lawmakers in Minnesota will be required to show their political stripes." Complaints about the nonpartisan system focused on the

"label law" as a way for the new Liberal majority in the Legislature to gain a firmer foothold in state government.

Regardless, in 1973 a bill was passed returning the Legislature to partisan elections.

Today, only Nebraska, which adopted its law in 1934, elects its legislators from a nonpartisan ballot.

—*Andris Straumanis*

# Bettermann 'always wanted to be involved'

It may seem trivial today, but Rep. Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon) says an incident from her high school days helps illustrate the role she has played in her community.

When administrators at her high school canceled a homecoming activity, Bettermann gathered signatures on a petition to have it reinstated.

She was ultimately unsuccessful, but she says she always tries — even when the causes seem hopeless — to do what she can to bring about needed change.

"I've always wanted to be involved," she says. She's been active in a variety of local organizations. At different times, she has served as the chair, secretary, and finance director for the Douglas County Independent-Republican Party.

But she hasn't always been a Republican. Bettermann says she was a DFLer until the late 1960s, when she became disenchanted with the late Hubert Humphrey's presidential candidacy.

Although being an elected official was never at the top of her list of priorities, she says she has always wanted to be a part of government. So it's not surprising that she made the transition from Girls State in high school to the Minnesota



## Hilda Bettermann

District 11B

Home: Brandon

Occupation: Legal secretary instructor, Alexandria Technical College

District traits: 11B includes Grant County and portions of Douglas and Stevens counties, areas dominated by farming and tourism. The district favored the Bush-Quayle ticket by a 55.1-percent-to-44.9-percent margin over Dukakis-Bentsen in 1988.

House now.

In addition to being active in politics, Bettermann has another skill that will no doubt prove useful at the Capitol. She has worked as a legal secretary instructor at the Alexandria Technical College for the past nine years, and has also worked as a legal secretary for 16 years.

So making sense of the legalese should be a bit easier for her.

Hailing from a town with a population of about 400 just northwest of Alexandria, Bettermann says farming is a major issue to her constituents.

But tourism is also important, for her district lies on the edge of where the lake country meets the southeastern tip of the

vast, flat farms of the Red River Valley.

Yet despite the predominantly rural flavor of her district, Alexandria — its population center — is becoming the commercial hub of the region.

There is a 3M plant in Alexandria. There's also a Kmart and a Wal-Mart is being built, she says.

She adds that she hopes to spur economic development in rural Minnesota by enticing industry to locate outstate. But perhaps one of the greatest concerns in outstate Minnesota is health care.

"We're losing doctors there and we aren't attracting any replacements," she says.

## Drawing the line

When drawing new legislative boundaries, lawmakers have a long list of things they need to avoid.

*Packing* is definitely in violation of the law, as is *fracturing*. *Gerrymandering* could send a plan all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court, where judges would examine *ideal populations* as well as the *overall range* of the legislative proposal.

Confused? You aren't alone.

These and a host of other terms and acronyms were introduced to lawmakers and staff of the Redistricting Committee at a Jan. 29 orientation at the historic James J. Hill House in St. Paul. This "boundary language" needs to be understood to even begin the lengthy and arduous task of shaping the new legislative districts.

That will probably take at least a little more time.

"Hopefully, we'll leave here today with an equal operating base of knowledge," says Rep. Jerry Knickerbocker (IR-Minnetonka), vice chair of the Redistricting Committee.

That base includes not only a mastery of the legislative proceedings, but a host of judicial jargon as well.

Lawmakers listened to members of both House Research and Senate Counsel outline the judicial history of cases filed on the redistricting issue.

The final redistricting plan passed by the Minnesota Legislature will need to survive any legal challenge, or it will be declared invalid. Should this occur, and if time constraints prohibit the Legislature from redesigning the plan, the courts will draw up the new districts — just as they have drawn the last three redistricting plans in Minnesota.

And for those wondering what those odd-sounding terms really mean, here's a brief explanation:

- **packing:** creating legislative districts that concentrate minority party members, packing them into as few districts as possible.

- **fracturing:** breaking up the minority party voting population, spreading them among as many districts as possible.

- **gerrymandering:** intentionally drawing boundaries of odd shapes to create an unfair partisan advantage.

- **ideal population:** the total state population divided by the number of current legislative districts. About 32,500 people will compose each House district in 1992.

- **overall range:** the difference in population between the largest and smallest legislative districts.

# Family concerns prod Farrell to seek office

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) was a House page in 1977 and continues to work as a Ramsey County public defender, but neither of those experiences served as the catalyst to get him to the Minnesota House.

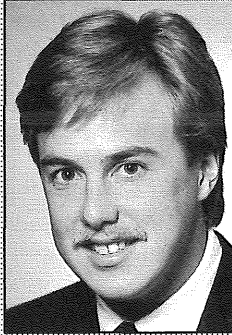
Instead, it was the death of his father in 1989, and the subsequent troubles experienced by his mother, that spurred him to enter the race in District 67A.

"When my dad died, my whole world changed," says Farrell. "All of a sudden I had a mother who was extremely dependent on my father . . . she never drove and she hadn't worked in over 30 years. We discovered there were going to be problems with getting his railroad pension, as well as problems with her getting health insurance because of her severe arthritis. Suddenly people told me to quit complaining about what was happening to my mom and do something."

"That's when I said, 'Alright, I'll run.'"

Now that he's a state lawmaker, Farrell says he'll work to iron out some of the glitches in the system so others won't suffer the same experience his mother did.

And problems with pensions and health care are probably greater in his district than many others, he says. It's a



**Jim Farrell**

District 67A

Age: 30

Home: St. Paul

Occupation: Ramsey County public defender

District traits: 67A includes a large portion of St. Paul's working class. The heavily DFL district voted for Dukakis-Bentsen over Bush-Quale by a 71.3-percent-to-28.7-percent margin in 1988.

blue collar neighborhood — one that he describes as a cross between the Iron Range and northeast Minneapolis — where many breadwinners once worked for employers such as Whirlpool, which has since closed its St. Paul plant.

And many of the residents are older. Farrell says the average age of people who voted in the 1990 primary was about 50. Many people in his district are concerned with the cost of health insurance — particularly the cost of supplemental insurance to cover what Medicare and Medicaid doesn't, he says.

With about 3,000 union households in his district, Farrell says workers' compensation is also a big issue with his constituents. Like most Minnesotans, the district is also concerned about education and

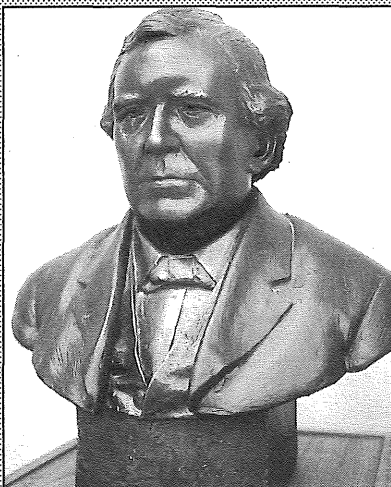
housing.

Although it was the troubles his mother experienced that led him to elective office, it isn't as if his stint as a House page wasn't interesting, says Farrell.

He recalls listening to a "hot" 1977 debate on the House floor about gun control when a member summoned a page.

"I remember being so mad because I couldn't listen. I thought he was going to ask me to get research or something . . . but instead, I had to go get an ice cream sandwich for him."

Farrell says he's glad members can no longer eat on the floor so this session's pages won't suffer a similar indignity.



The bust of Ignatius Donnelly stands in the north wing of the Capitol.

## *It's a fact!*

Ignatius Donnelly was unelectable during the final 30 years of his life. Still, the "Sage of Nininger" was renowned nationally as the voice of rural populism during the reform-minded 1870s and '80s.

Ousted from his seat in Congress in 1869 by his one-time mentor, Alexander Ramsey, Donnelly retaliated by taking on the railroad, lumber, and milling interests then ruling the state.

And as a perennial — but often reluctant — candidate for Congress, he led a slate of state lawmakers who approved some of the country's first anti-monopoly laws and helped spark the Greenback, Populist, and Fusionist movements.

Although Donnelly is remembered as a radical, he began his career in the political mainstream. His first elective office was as Ramsey's lieutenant governor.



Planning to be in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area soon? You might block out some time for a visit to the state Capitol, particularly when the Legislature is in session.

The Minnesota Legislature is divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House has 134 members; the Senate has 67.

The Legislature can meet up to 120 days during a biennium (a two-year period which begins on odd-numbered years). Beginning in January of the first year of the biennium, the Legislature convenes for up to five months. The second year's session usually begins early in the year and lasts between two and three months.

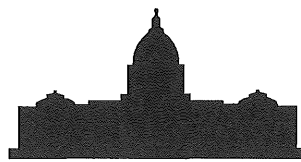
During the first half of each session, legislators spend most of their time in committee meetings; they spend the latter half meeting as a full body in the House and Senate chambers. All committee meetings and House and Senate sessions are open to the public.

## The Capitol location

The Capitol complex is to the north of I-94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the south and north on I-35E.

### To arrive at the complex:

- On I-94 eastbound, exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.
- On I-94 westbound, exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.
- On I-35E southbound, exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and enter Parking Lot D.



# Come to the Capitol

- On I-35E northbound, exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

## Parking at the Capitol

Public metered parking is available at Lot Q, north of the complex at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building at Aurora Avenue and Rice Street; and the orange level of the Centennial Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and in the Centennial ramp. Public street metered parking is available along John

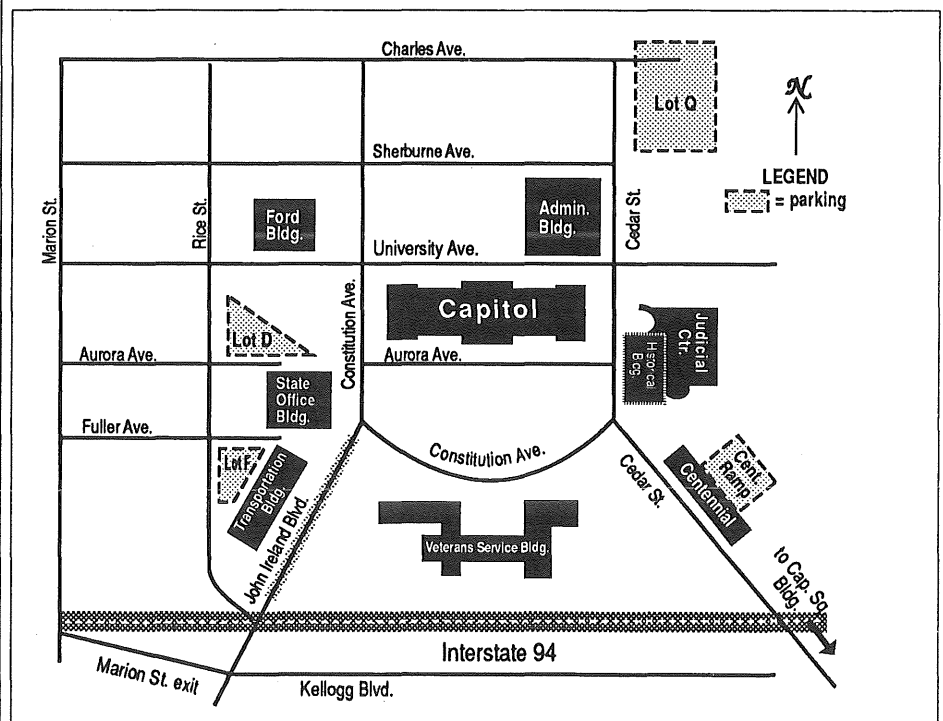
Ireland Boulevard and Fuller Avenue, which are near the Transportation Building. St. Paul meter patrols will issue tickets for expired parking.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Call the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), (612) 827-7733, for specific route information.

## The Capitol complex

The Capitol, designed by architect Cass Gilbert and famed for its four golden horses, is the cog of the Capitol complex. The Capitol, bound by University and Aurora avenues on the north and south, and Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue on the east and west, is central to the other buildings on the hill.

House of Representatives' offices are in the State Office Building at 100 Constitution Avenue, just in front of the Capitol. Committee meeting rooms, the House Public Information Office, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the



House Research Department, the Legislative Reference Library, and most of the legislative commission offices are also in the State Office Building.

Other office buildings in the Capitol complex (see map) are:

- **Ford Building**, 117 University Ave. Minnesota's Bookstore, Consumer Division of the Attorney General's Office.
- **Administration Building**, 50 Sherburne Ave.

Department of Administration (including Materials Management Division).

- **Minnesota Judicial Center**, 25 Constitution Ave.

Minnesota Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Law Library, Clerk of Appellate Courts, Attorney Registration Office.

- **Historical Society Building**, 690 Cedar St.

Minnesota Historical Society, Exhibits, Museum Shop.

- **Centennial Office Building**, 658 Cedar St.

Department of Finance, State Planning Agency, Health Care Access Commission, Legislative Advisory Commission.

- **Veterans Service Building**, 20 W. 12th St. and Columbus.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota Veterans Homes Board, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. State Headquarters, Disabled American Veterans.

- **Transportation Building**, John Ireland Blvd. (between Wabasha and Rice streets).

Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services, Office of Drug Policy.

A tunnel system links the Capitol complex buildings. Entrances are on the lower levels of each building. The tunnel system closes after business hours.

The **Revenue Building** is in River Place Plaza on Fillmore Avenue at Plato Boulevard, near the Lafayette Bridge and I-94. It houses the Department of Revenue.

The **Capitol Square Building** is on Cedar and 11th streets. It houses the Department of Education, State Board of Education, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, State Board for Community Colleges, Higher Education Coordinating Board



## Capitol tours

The golden horses. Civil war relics. Weathered documents. Tattered state flags.

Symbols of Minnesota's heritage grace the Capitol. Visitors may learn more about the state in general and the statehouse in particular by taking a Capitol tour conducted by the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Site Program.

Society tour guides lead the free, 45-minute tours on the hour during the business day. Tours are given from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. The tours begin at the society's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the Capitol's main entrance. Brochures in several languages, including Japanese, German, and Spanish, are also available here.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building's art and architecture or state government. Tours also may be customized for senior citizens or grade school children.

Historical Society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call in advance to reserve a tour time.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Minnesota Historical Society, (612) 296-2881.



## Representation

Visitors can find out who their representatives are at the House Public Information Office in the State Office Building. The office has directories that list representatives' office room and phone numbers, home and work addresses and phone numbers, committee assignments, and biographical information.

The information office also can provide names and addresses of the state's members of Congress.

House members' offices occupy most of the State Office Building. The offices of Independent-Republican (IR) legislators are generally on the second and third floors, while the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) members are on the third

through fifth floors.

The offices of the House speaker, majority leader, and most of the assistant majority leaders are on the fourth floor. The offices of the minority leader and most assistant minority leaders are on the second floor.

There is a floor-by-floor listing of representatives near the elevators on all floors. This listing does not have room numbers. Floor receptionists are at the north and south ends of each floor to help visitors.



## House Information

The House of Representatives Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, offers publications and brochures on House activities and the legislative process in general.

The office publishes a newsletter called the *Session Weekly*. It includes a digest of House committee action, bill introductions, bill status, and a number of feature articles. The office also produces "Today" and "This Week," daily and weekly committee schedules with meeting times, places, and agendas.

Visitors also may use a computer terminal to check on the status of a bill if they know the subject or have a bill number.

The information office makes available chamber seating charts for House and Senate members, legislators' office room numbers and phone numbers, and legislative and staff directories.

The office also publishes brochures on how a bill becomes law, the state governmental process (a seven-part series), and an introduction to the House of Representatives. And it offers a youth-oriented brochure on how a bill becomes law, and a coloring book of Capitol landmarks for pre-school and elementary school children.



## Chief Clerk's Office

Visitors can get answers to questions on House proceedings and copies of bills and resolutions at the Chief Clerk's Office in Room 211 of the Capitol building.

The office, located next to the House chamber on the second floor of the Capitol, also has copies of House agendas available before the House convenes. The agendas — the Calendar, General Orders, and Consent Calendar — carry an explanation of their content.

The office also publishes the *Journal of the House*, the official daily record of legislative action.

Next to the Chief Clerk's Office is the House Index Department. The computerized index available in this office allows visitors to get information about a bill's author, status, or committee assignment. House Index lists bills by committee and by more than 150 topics (such as education, agriculture, health) on a computer screen that is available to the public.

House Index also lists bills that the governor has signed into law.



## House sessions

All members of the House of Representatives can debate bills when the House is in session.

In the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are debated. At about the session's midpoint, however, the pace and debate pick up.

The House meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. during the first few weeks. Floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning. As the session nears the end, however, the House will meet several times every day, often into the night.

Bills the House will consider are on agendas called Consent Calendar, Calendar, and General Orders, among others. The calendar indicates what action, if any, will be taken on measures listed on it. Debate and amendments

occur on General Orders bills.

All House floor action is open to the public. Visitors interested in observing House floor action may call the Chief Clerk's Office or the House Public Information Office to find out the schedule. Spectators may sit in the gallery on the third floor.



## Committee meetings

When many people think of the Legislature, they may have visions of flashy oratory and impassioned speeches on the House or Senate floor. But actually, most of the important changes in bills occur during committee meetings.

Committees consider bills usually several weeks after the session starts. Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the House Public Information Office to find out what the agenda is, for each day. Agendas also appear in each issue of the *Session Weekly*.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, secretary, and administrator. A list of all committees and their membership is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175 of the State Office Building.

Committee meetings are open to the public. If a public hearing is scheduled, the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony depending upon their size and workload. Some committees hear general testimony at the subcommittee level, while others allow general testimony during meetings of the full committee. Information that committee members receive during meetings or hearings is considered public and is available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Controversial or major proposals, such as open enrollment or groundwater legislation, often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

The committee system starts at the beginning of the session. The first few meetings generally are informational. During these meetings, delegates from organizations or other state agencies provide legislators with information about the topic in question.

Committees consider bills shortly after the informational meetings end. Also, committees face deadlines on when they may hear, refer, or vote on House or Senate bills. The deadlines help ensure that a bill receives as thorough an airing as possible before the full House votes on it.

The committee meetings are usually held in the State Office Building or the Capitol. The House Public Information Office provides daily committee meeting schedules to those interested. Advance committee schedules also appear in the *Session Weekly*.



## Dining at the Capitol

All buildings in the Capitol complex have their own cafeterias. The Capitol and State Office Building dining areas are in the basement. The Transportation and Centennial cafeterias are on the ground floor of each building. The Veterans Service Building cafeteria is on the fifth floor, and the Capitol Square Building's dining area is on the lower level. The Capitol also has a snack bar on the second floor (where the House and Senate chambers are located) during session.

Visitors may dine away from the Capitol complex. Several restaurants are within two to three blocks' walking distance *north* on Rice Street. Other restaurants are within an easy walk or drive west on University Avenue.

Visitors also may eat in downtown St. Paul by riding an MTC bus for a dime. Board a 94 or 16 bus at the bus stop on Constitution Avenue between the State Office Building and the Transportation Building, and get off the bus on Cedar Street at either Seventh or Sixth streets. To return to the Capitol area, board a 94 or 16 bus on any corner along Minnesota Street (one block north of Cedar) and get off at the bus stop on Constitution



# Bill Introductions

HF0115-HF0173

## Monday, Jan. 28

### HF0115—Winter (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Watershed administrative fund limit increased and natural resource protection fund established.

### HF0116—Pugh (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Alcohol use authorized at private school social or fund-raising events.

### HF0117—Trimble (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Ferrets; domestic European ferret classified as a domestic animal.

### HF0118—Trimble (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers killed while working on a public construction project honored and money appropriated.

### HF0119—Schafer (IR)

#### Education

Independent school districts Nos. 649, 733, and 735 allowed permanent fund transfers after consolidation.

### HF0120—Jaros (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Health professionals required to report wounding of victims by dangerous weapons.

### HF0121—Jaros (DFL)

#### Education

Volunteer corps for USSR and East Central Europe program established and money appropriated.

### HF0122—Jefferson (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Chiropractors allowed to practice in state correctional institutions.

### HF0123—Jefferson (DFL)

#### Housing

Elderly tenants allowed to keep certain pets.

### HF0124—Scheid (DFL)

#### Education

Teachers; termination, discharge, or demotion hearing before an arbitrator allowed.

### HF0125—Onnen (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Stairway chair lifts authorized for use in churches.

### HF0126—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Transportation

Paul Bunyan Expressway designated from Little Falls through Cass Lake to Bemidji.

### HF0127—Reding (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Police and firefighters relief associations allowed to make investment-related post-retirement adjustments.

### HF0128—Reding (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Water detention devices or practices required for developments covering more than one acre.

### HF0129—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased.

### HF0130—Jaros (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Duluth seaway port authority employees extended coverage under the state employees insurance plan.

### HF0131—Dille (IR)

#### Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Meeker county board authorized to build an addition to the county hospital.

### HF0132—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Energy

Incandescent lighting prohibited in internally illuminated exit signs.

### HF0133—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Housing

Landlords liable for undisclosed or uncorrected conditions.

### HF0134—Swenson (IR)

#### Education

Community education levy authorized to provide parent education programs.

### HF0135—Sparby (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Beaver abatement and control appropriated money.

### HF0136—Bauerly (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Towns notified of timber removal permit.

### HF0137—Scheid (DFL)

#### Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Candidate withdrawal provisions provided.

### HF0138—Sviggum (IR)

#### Taxes

Political contribution tax credit repealed.

### HF0139—Begich (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased.

### HF0140—Osthoff (DFL)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Medicare supplement insurance plan policy requirements extended.

## Thursday, Jan. 31

### HF0141—Welle (DFL)

#### Taxes

Planting services and sales exempted from taxation.

### HF0142—Gutknecht (IR)

#### Education

Physicians eligible for rural physician loan forgiveness program after first year of residency.

### HF0143—Greenfield (DFL)

#### Appropriations

Veterans homes board authorized to transfer money for certain projects.

### HF0144—Greenfield (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 1987 adopted.

### HF0145—Wagenius (DFL)

#### Education

Compulsory education requirement moved up to 1991-1992 school year.

### HF0146—O'Connor (DFL)

#### Commerce

Real estate brokers and salespersons prohibited from requiring the use of particular closing agents.

### HF0147—Morrison (IR)

#### Judiciary

Domestic abuse protection orders exempted from filing fee.

**HF0148—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Uniform probate code small estate value increased to \$10,000.

**HF0149—Omann (IR)**

**Education**

Maximum effort school loan bonds authorized for capital improvements and money appropriated.

**HF0150—Omann (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Merchant marine and coast guard veterans authorized to purchase prior service credit in the teachers retirement association related to employment in the Red Wing and Winnebago school districts.

**HF0151—Valento (IR)**

**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Maplewood police chief exempted from jurisdiction of police civil service commission and system.

**HF0152—Olson, E. (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Mahnomen and Mahnomen county authorized special levies for county hospital.

**HF0153—Morrison (IR)**

**Commerce**

Real estate appraisers to receive temporary licenses.

**HF0154—Scheid (DFL)**

**Commerce**

Uniform commercial code amendments adopted for leases and bulk sales.

**HF0155—Bishop (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Towing of unlawfully parked vehicles authorized if lawfully parked vehicle movement is obstructed.

**HF0156—Jacobs (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Child labor prohibited after 11 p.m. and penalties provided.

**HF0157—Lieder (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Crookston authorized to establish special service districts.

**HF0158—Begich (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Dislocated worker fund sunset provision repealed.

**HF0159—Steensma (DFL)**

**Transportation**

Towns authorized to receive assistance for bridge projects.

**HF0160—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Toxic air pollutant list and monitoring and reduction program established by the pollution control agency and money appropriated.

**HF0161—Solberg (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Nashwauk police relief association authorized to increase benefits to surviving spouses and children.

**HF0162—Carlson (DFL)**

**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Dogs; dangerous dog owners to post symbol.

**HF0163—Solberg (DFL)**

**Education**

Sparsity revenue; secondary sparsity revenue increased.

**HF0164—Solberg (DFL)**

**Education**

Aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) pupil unit computation changed.

**HF0165—Bishop (IR)**

**Judiciary**

State board of public defense created.

**HF0166—Begich (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Minimum wage increased.

**HF0167—Segal (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Mental health advisory council to select chair and money appropriated.

**HF0168—Gutknecht (IR)**

**Taxes**

Rochester permitted to impose a sales and motor vehicle excise tax and to issue general obligation bonds.

**HF0169—Rodosovich (DFL)**

**Education**

University of Minnesota board of regents memorialized to postpone its decision on whether to close the Waseca campus.

**HF0170—Begich (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Pesticide application prohibited without prior written approval and other limitations provided.

**HF0171—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Animals; stray animal disposition requirement changed.

**HF0172—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Housing**

Manufactured home park closure notice required and residents right to purchase provided.

**HF0173—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Education**

University of Minnesota bargaining unit structure to include an administrative unit.



**Who makes up the staff? What are their duties? How many of them are there? How has the staff grown since 1972?**

Back in 1972 when the Legislature met only once every other year, there were only about 60 full-time House employees. That number jumped to more than 100 in 1973, when the Legislature went to annual sessions.

Since then, House full-time employment has grown to about 250. The staff's job is to ensure that any work necessary for the operation of the House is completed.

House employees work for the Chief Clerk's Office, the House Research Department, the Sergeant's Office, the Public Information Office, and Administrative Services. Employees working for these offices, among other things, help run floor sessions, committee meetings, and provide information to the public.

In addition, staff working for the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Reference Library, and the various legislative commissions, serve both the House and Senate.

Staff members working in all of the above departments are considered non-partisan.

Both political caucuses also have their own staffs. Caucus employees work as writers, researchers, administrative assistants, secretaries, and receptionists.

Although it can be argued that the staff increase is attributed to yearly sessions, state legislatures across the country have experienced large staff increases.

According to *The Book of States*, legislative staffs, on average, grew 24 percent between 1979 and 1988. Most of the increase was for full-time professional staff, while session-only employment decreased by 12 percent during that period.

The states with the largest staff in 1988 were, in order, New York, California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Illinois, and Michigan.

Coming up Next Week . . . Feb. 4-8, 1991

## Committee Schedule

This schedule is subject to change.  
For information updates, call House  
Calls at (612) 296-9283. All  
meetings are open to the public.

### MONDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

#### Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Higher Education Facilities Authority (HEFA) overview. Proprietary schools overview.

#### EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

**Agenda:** HF0003 (Bauerly) School district debt service and referendum levy equalizing. Future choices and getting ready: Higher Education Coordinating Board.

#### Government Structures Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor

**Agenda:** Overview by a member of the governor's staff.

8:30 a.m.

#### Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources parks division studies: American youth hostel study, parks status report, and an update on the parks reservation system.

#### Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Public testimony on the legislative auditor's report on nursing homes.

#### State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Agency overview: Attorney General's Office.

10 a.m.

#### AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** Russ Bjorhus, state director of Farmers Home Administration: an overview of the Farmers Home Administration and farm credit issues. Dr. Pat Borich, director of the Minnesota Extension Service, University of Minnesota. Overview of the Minnesota Extension Service.

#### \*\*\*JOINT MEETING\*\*\*

#### House Veterans Affairs Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION,

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING and Senate VETERANS & GENERAL LEGISLATION

112 Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Pat Beard & Sen. Joe Bertram

**Agenda:** Hearing regarding Silver Bay Home.

#### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Commissioner Ralph Church, Department of Public Safety.

#### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Agency overviews by the Department of Public Service, the Public Utilities Commission, and the Residential Utilities Division, Office of the Attorney General.

11 a.m.

#### Subcommittee on Family Law/ JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** Visitation centers. All members invited. Kim Cardelli, Nadine Brabeck and David Sawyer of the Children's Safety Centers Network. Kristen Forsberg, Pillsbury House.

12:30 p.m.

#### Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

**Agenda:** Putting incentives into the K-12 education system. Public testimony by business, education representatives.

#### Banking Division/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

**Agenda:** Information meeting. Presentations by: Independent Bankers Association, Jack Hillstrom (president), Al Olson, Jerry Schoenfeld; Minnesota Bankers Association, Mike Lillehaugen (president), Truman Jeffers, John Jackson; Minnesota Department of Commerce, Bert McKasy (commissioner), and Jim Miller (deputy commissioner).



## HOUSING

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Guiding principles presentations: Homelessness, Sue Watlov-Phillips; Rural Minnesota, Kathy Kremer; Disability communities, Margot Imieka (Council on Disabilities), Bill Conley (Department of Human Services, Mentally Ill), Ann Henry (Legal Services, Developmentally Disabled); Communities of color, Lester Collins (Council on Black Minnesotans), Eduardo Wolle (Spanish Speaking Affairs Council), Roger Head (Indian Affairs Council), and Dr. Albert DeLeon (Council for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans).

## LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joseph Begich

**Agenda:** Andy Meuwissen, president, State Fund.

HF0037 (Welle) Volunteer rescue squad workers organized under authority of a political subdivision defined as employees for purposes of workers' compensation.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

3:00 p.m. or after session

## Subcommittee on Child Care/

### Education Division/

#### APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (MHECB) overview of child care grant program. Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board report to the legislature on child care program.

## Hennepin County Delegation

500N State Office Building

**Agenda:** Election of new co-chairs.

6 p.m.

## Legislative Commission on Waste Management

10 State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Gene Merriam

**Agenda:** Presentation and discussion of the 1991 Waste Management Act Amendments.

TUESDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

## Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Medical Alley: High technology overview.

## Environment & Natural Resources Division/

### APPROPRIATIONS

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

**Agenda:** Department of Agriculture Lab tour. This tour will return at 10 a.m.

## Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Presentation of Small Area Analysis project: Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

**Agenda:** Department of Employee Relations (DOER) overview: Linda Barton, commissioner; Lance Teachworth, deputy commissioner; Elaine Johnson, deputy commissioner; and Bob Cooley, employee benefits manager.

## TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren

**Agenda:** HFXXX (Olson, E.) Mahnomen County Hospital Levy.

Minnesota's property tax system overview by House Research.

8:30 a.m.

## State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Agency overview.

10 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Sealing of abandoned wells update: Department of Health; Overview, Board of Water & Soil Resources (BOWSR). Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) report. There is a joint meeting with Agriculture at 3:00 p.m. today.

## Subcommittee on Health Care Access & Delivery/

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF0002 (Ogren) Health care plan for uninsured established. The full committee is invited to attend this hearing.

12 noon

## Legislative Water Commission

15 Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steve Morse

**Agenda:** Legislative Water Commission recommendations to the Legislature on funding of wastewater treatment facilities. Presentations by PCA and the Department of Trade and Economic Development. Presentations by the Board of Water and Soil Resources on Groundwater Act implementation; 1991 legislation; report on environmental agriculturalist program; local water plan implementation grants; and well sealing cost share.

12:30 p.m.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** Continuation of overviews of local government organizations from Jan. 31 meeting.

3 p.m.

**\*\*\*JOINT MEETING\*\*\***

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE**

200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Willard Munger &  
Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Informational wetlands meeting.  
A question and answer period.

4 p.m.

New member orientation. 10 State  
Office Building. Presentation by Regents  
Candidate Advisory Council.

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**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6**

8 a.m.

**Education Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Presentation of House Research  
report on student retention.

**Environment & Natural Resources  
Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

Tour

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Minnesota Zoological Gardens  
tour. This tour will return at 12 noon.

**Human Resources Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of Health Care  
Access report.

**EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

Agenda: Student assessment: planning,  
evaluation and reporting program.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: Administrative Rules (continua-  
tion): Maryanne Hruby, executive  
director of Legislative Commission to  
Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR);

and Martha Casserly, Attorney General's  
Office. The use of unclassified state civil  
service positions: Mark Shepard, House  
Research; Greg Hubinger, director of  
Legislative Commission on Employee  
Relations (LCER); Eliot Seide, AFSCME,  
council; and the State University System.

8:30 a.m.

**State Government Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Agency overview.

10 a.m.

**Higher Education Division/  
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: University of Minnesota: Details  
and discussion of reallocation plans/  
program cuts.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &  
INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Property and casualty insurance  
overview.

**Criminal Justice Division/  
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: P.O.S.T. Board (Various reports  
to the legislature.)

HF0098 (Seaberg) Ex parte judicial  
release orders prohibited during the  
emergency hold period.

12:30 p.m.

**ENERGY**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Large electric utilities: Northern  
States Power Company, Minnesota  
Power, Otter Tail Power Company,  
Interstate Power, United Power Associa-  
tion, and Cooperative Power Association.

**TRANSPORTATION**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Review of the Transportation  
Study Board report. Tom Johnson,  
Transportation Study Board and Dick  
Braun, Center for Transportation Studies.

2:30 p.m.

**Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Services provided by the  
Faribault Academies and the Minnesota  
Center for Arts Education.

**Subcommittee on Standards &  
Regulations/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: HF0036 (Welle) Physician  
licensing requirements changed for  
reciprocal licensing of physicians from  
other states and foreign medical school  
graduates; and cancellation or  
nonrenewal of license provided.

Duty of non-profit hospitals to provide  
service to their communities: Marianne  
Miller, Minnesota Department of Health;  
Sheila Fishman, Minnesota Attorney  
General's Office; Minnesota Hospital  
Association.

HFXXX (Orenstein) Requiring non-profit  
hospitals to have community service  
plans. (Discussion only)

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**THURSDAY, Feb. 7**

8 a.m.

**Education Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: To be announced.

**Environment & Natural Resources  
Division/  
APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Continuation of Federal Clear  
Air Act Amendments; PCA agency/board  
response to legislative auditor's report.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

**Agenda:** Public Corporation Structure overview. Greater Minnesota Corporation: Mark Shepard, House Research (overview), Jacques Koopel (president), Elaine Hansen, controller/treasurer and Patty Billing (director of financial service). The Minnesota Zoological Garden, Kathryn Roberts, general director and Richard Buske, director of operations.

## TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren

**Agenda:** Continuation of House Research overview, if necessary.

8:30 a.m.

## State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Agency overview.

### \*\*\*JOINT MEETING\*\*\*

## Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION &

## Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson & Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Children's mental health; Medical Assistance reimbursement.

10 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF0001 (Munger) Wetland enhancement, preservation, and protection act of 1991 adopted.

## Subcommittee on Health Care Access & Delivery/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Simoneau) Blue Cross/Blue Shield proposals for small business. The full committee is invited to attend this hearing.

12:30 p.m.

## International Trade & Technology Division/

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Minnesota World Trade Center

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

**Agenda:** Tour and overview of the Minnesota World Trade Center Corporation.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** Metropolitan Park and Open Space Commission, Larry Kitto; and Metropolitan Airport Commission, David Dombrowski.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

## FRIDAY, Feb. 8

12:30 p.m.

## JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Orientation to judicial system for all new legislators. Chief Justice Sandy Keith, Minnesota Supreme Court; Chief Judge Wozniak, Minnesota Court of Appeals; Judge Lawrence Collins, chair, Conference of Chief Judges; Judge Thomas Howe, president-elect, Minnesota District Judges Association; Judge Kevin Burke, Minnesota Fourth Judicial District (Hennepin County); and Sue Dosal, state court administrator.

1 p.m.

### \*\*\*JOINT MEETING\*\*\*

## House Veterans Affairs Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING and Senate VETERANS & GENERAL LEGISLATION

107 Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Pat Beard & Sen. Joe Bertram

**Agenda:** Regarding MIA/POWs. Prior to hearing there will be a MIA/POW rally on the capitol steps starting at 12 noon.

2 p.m.

## Minnesota Compensation Council 500N State Office Building

**Agenda:** The council sets the salaries of legislators, judges, and constitutional officers.

## Do you know?

Blue Earth County is named for the blueish-green mud once used as paint by the Sisseton band of Dakota, or Sioux, Indians who lived in the area where Mankato now stands.

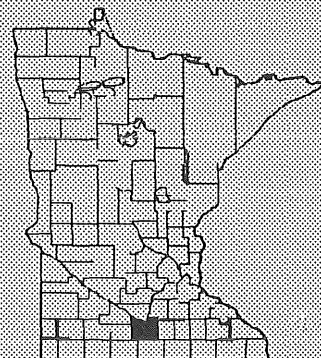
French explorer Pierre Le Sueur found the mud in the bluffs of the Blue Earth River about three miles upstream from where it empties into the Minnesota River.

He mistakenly believed the soil contained copper, and upon returning home, procured the French royal commission and a crew to work the mines.

Le Sueur's crew of 17 miners dug up about two tons of the blue earth and transported it to New Orleans, where Le Sueur and the French governor for the region sailed home to France, their bounty in hand.

Little is known today of the king's reaction to receiving 4,000 pounds of colorful, but worthless, dirt. Nor is there any trace of the mine or a nearby garrison established by Le Sueur.

But the Dakota names for the region — Maka To, which became Mankato, and the Anglicized version of the Dakota words for blue earth — remain.



Minnesota House of Representatives  
Public Information Office  
175 State Office Building • St. Paul, MN 55155-1298  
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Speaker of the House: Robert Vanasek  
Majority Leader: Dee Long  
Minority Leader: Terry Dempsey

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Health Care

Minnesota population (1990 census): 4,387,000

Number of uninsured Minnesotans .....	370,000
Percentage of employed uninsured Minnesotans .....	86
Number of underinsured Minnesotans .....	366,000
Number of Minnesotans refused care for lack of insurance, 1990 .....	11,000
Infant mortality rate in the Twin Cities for those with private insurance, (per thousand) .....	6
Infant mortality rate for those without insurance (per thousand) .....	31
Health insurance cost ratio of 30-year-old female compared to 30-year-old male .....	2:1
Percentage of Minnesota employers that don't provide health benefits .....	41
Percentage of hospital expenditures that account for administrative costs, nationwide .....	18
Percentage of total Minnesota health care dollars spent on administration .....	25

Source: *The MN Health Care Access Commission Final Report to the Legislature, Jan. 1991*

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