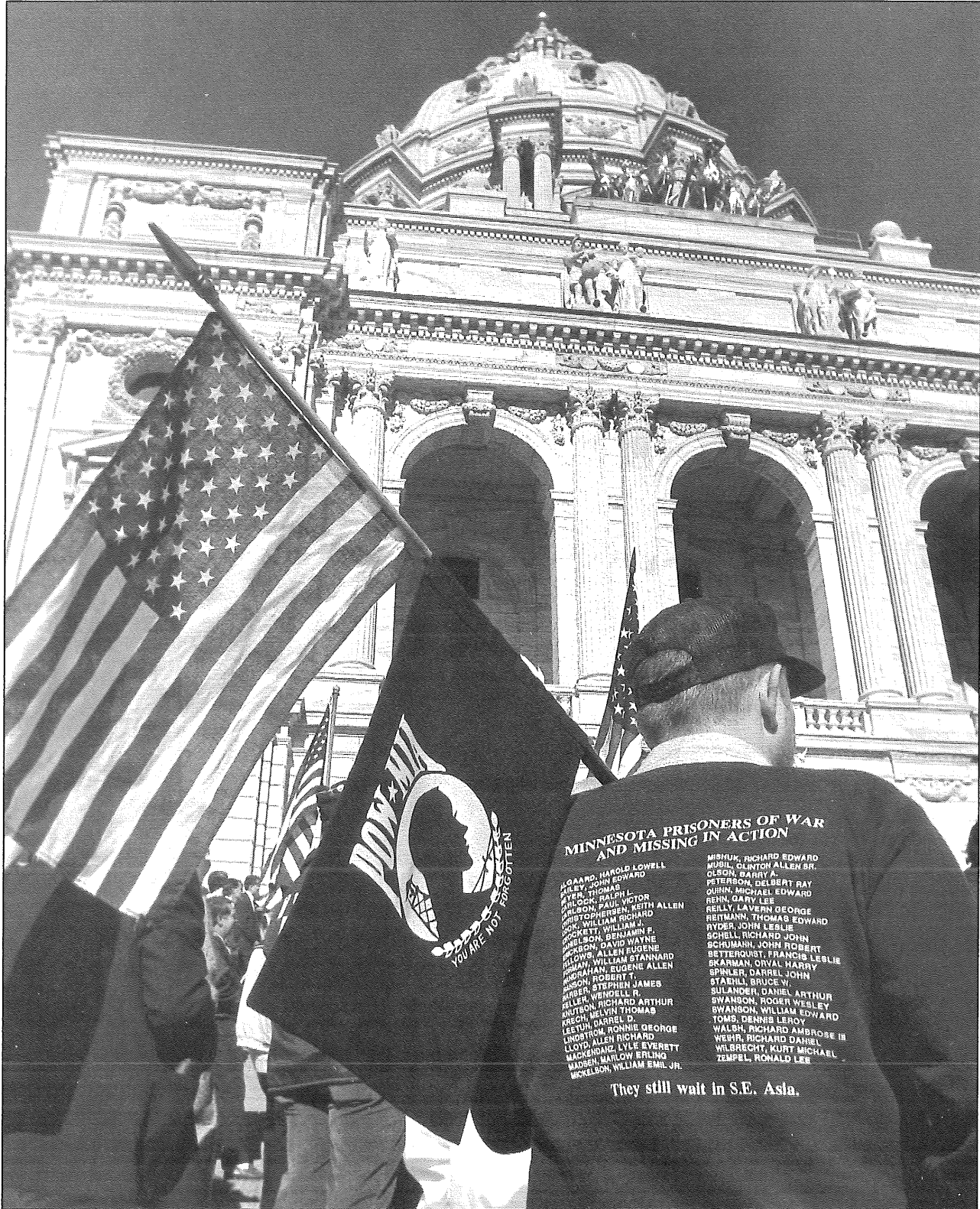
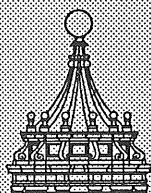


Session Weekly

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 15, 1991 • Volume 8, Number 6



They still wait in S.E. Asia.



Session Weekly

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Flashback

It was just two weeks ago that Session Weekly published a small insert titled, "Come to the Capitol," a quasi-survival guide for the many people and groups who descend on St. Paul to push their respective causes.

We just hope the throngs that came to the Capitol this week made good use of the guide, or at least looked at it before they arrived. This week seemed by far one of the busiest this session.

There was a horde of students from the Minnesota State University System at the Capitol on Feb. 13. They urged lawmakers to keep tuition in line and to improve basic university facilities such as libraries.

On Feb. 14, county commissioners were omni-present as they arrived from all points of the state. Foremost on their agendas, no doubt, were the steep cuts in local government aid included in the recently approved cost-cutting budget bill for the current two-year spending cycle.

Local government officials have, in essence, repeated a refrain once made popular by Popeye: "I've had all I can stands, I can't stands it no more." In other words, counties have suffered enough; don't cut any more state aid from the 1992-93 biennial budget.

But commissioners also probably had a thing or two to say about Rep. Phyllis Kahn's proposal to trim the number of Minnesota counties from 87 to 10. The idea revealed this week sounds outlandish, but students of history remember that the Minnesota Territory in 1849 had only nine counties. And Minnesota was a lot bigger then, taking in all of present-day North and South Dakota east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers. You'll find that 1849 map in the Highlights section of this issue.

There were other groups at the Capitol this week, including Arc Minnesota, an advocacy group for people with developmental disabilities.

Now, all eyes are on Feb. 20. That's the day Gov. Arne Carlson is scheduled to release his budget for the next two-year spending cycle. Expect a lot more activity at the Capitol from then on.

— Grant Moos

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On the cover: Wearing a jacket listing the Minnesota military personnel still missing in Southeast Asia, R.A. Gilbertson joined about 250 veterans and supporters at the Capitol on Feb. 8. They called on legislators to adopt a resolution that asks Congress to approve a measure requiring release of information about POWs and MIAs.

(Photo by Tom Olmscheid)

Highlights

POWs in Southeast Asia

While national attention is focused on the Persian Gulf, the ghosts of wars past were discussed at the state Capitol Feb. 8.

Prisoners of war remain in Southeast Asia, say several people who testified at a joint meeting of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs committees. And they hope to continue to pressure the U.S. government to do more about it.

Tracy Usry, a lead investigator commissioned by the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says there is conclusive evidence that American servicemen remain alive and in captivity in Laos.

"Has the government acted improperly in discrediting sources who claim live sightings of American servicemen? Does the government have knowledge of POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia? And has the government failed to act on this knowledge? The answer to all three questions, unfortunately, is yes," says Usry.

Of the 569 airmen shot down over Laos during the Vietnam War, not one has been returned to the United States, dead or alive.

The State Department disagrees with Usry, and since April 12, 1973, has categorically denied the presence of captive American servicemen in Southeast Asia, saying there is "inconclusive evidence" of their existence.

Two resolutions designed to bring support to the POW/MIA cause have been introduced by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) and Rep. Pat Beard (DFL-Cottage Grove).

The first asks Congress to continue funding investigations on troops listed as missing in action and possibly held as prisoners of war. The second, now known as the "truth" bill, mandates that federal agencies and departments disclose all information about the issue.

State bonus for reserves

State employees called to active duty in the Persian Gulf would be entitled to the same salary they left behind under a bill approved by a division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee Feb. 12.

HF59 would provide reserve members who are also state employees with a salary adjustment; the difference between their state and military salaries would be paid by the state.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), would cover employees activated by the military since Aug. 1, 1990. Back pay would be awarded in one lump sum.

Garcia says she designed the bill to be a model for the state, hoping other employers — both public and private — would follow suit.

"This war has caused a great deal of disruption of household income and family hardships," says Garcia. "I hope this bill serves as a leader for all employers to help our military personnel."

Several companies, including NSP and

U.S. West, and at least one Minnesota city, Eagan, have adopted similar policies, says Garcia. She says her bill would affect 38 people.

An estimated 700 active reservists work in state government, according to Jim Lee, compensation manager for the Department of Employee Relations.

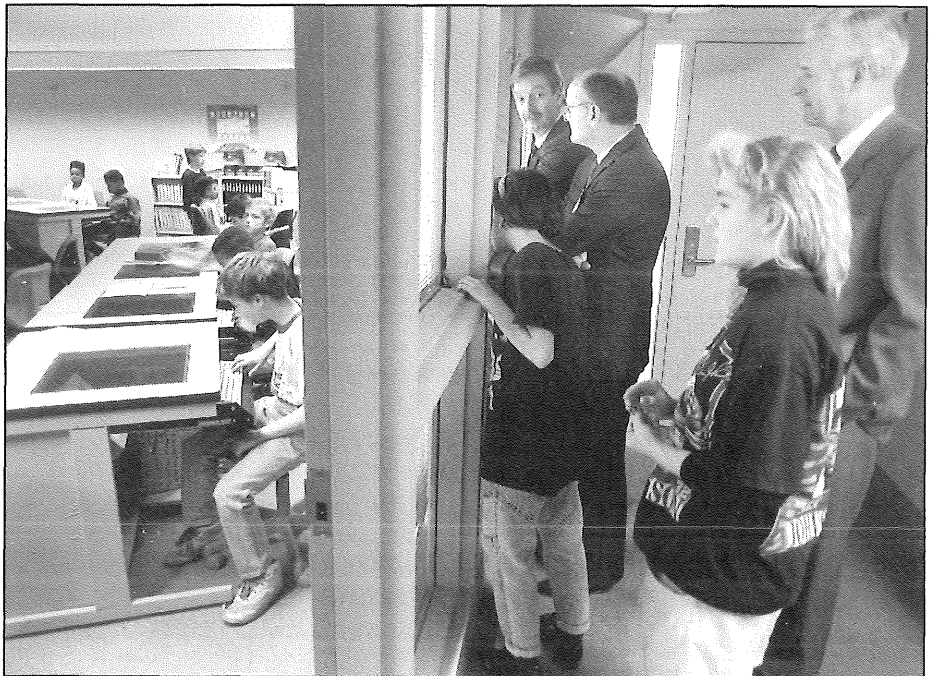
After members of the Veterans Affairs Division approved the bill, it was referred to the full committee.

Where are the fatigues?

Are the troops now serving in Operation Desert Storm properly equipped? Rep. Loren Thompson (DFL-Waubun) wants to ensure they are.

A resolution (HF97) sponsored by Thompson and approved by a House division Feb. 12 calls for the troops to be given adequate supplies and medical support.

Thompson told members of the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming



Members of the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee watched a computerized classroom during a Feb. 11 student-guided tour of St. Paul's Saturn School.

Committee his concerns stem from a constituent who objected to some troops' lack of desert fatigues.

"After six weeks, they were still in forest-green Minnesota camouflage," says Thompson. "They stood out like a tree in the desert."

He also produced newspaper articles, which, in part, detailed how families of military personnel are supplementing field issue equipment with supplies purchased in surplus stores.

"Our government selected the time, it selected the place [for the war]. It would seem there would be little excuse for not having them equipped with basic survival gear and services," says Thompson.

"This resolution is not to point fingers. It is only to indicate that the people of Minnesota want our sons and daughters equipped properly."

Tom Ryan of the Department of Military Affairs told committee members that "to the best of my knowledge the two units assigned from Minnesota are properly fitted and equipped."

But, he explained, once troops are activated, they fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The division re-referred HF97 to the full committee.

Wetlands bill progresses

Rep. Willard Munger's (DFL-Duluth) wetlands protection bill has cleared its first hurdle, but several concerns about the measure remain.

Suggesting a \$10 million annual appropriation to compensate landowners who would be prevented from filling or draining their wetlands, HF1 was recommended to pass as amended Feb. 14 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Consideration of the bill now moves to the Agriculture Committee, where it is expected to run into opposition from farm groups.

Earlier in the week, farm lobbyists and local government officials criticized parts of the bill in testimony before the committee.

While they say they support the goal of wetlands protection, their concerns include loss of local control, maintenance of drainage ditches, and how much replacement of wetlands should be required.

Doris Hanson, a Koochiching County commissioner, argued Feb. 12 for more local control: "Decisions made for local areas should be controlled by local people . . . What works for Hennepin [and] Ramsey is not similar to what will work in Koochiching County."

Answering some of those concerns, the environment committee Feb. 14 tacked four amendments onto HF1.

The bill left the environment committee with some lawmakers questioning one amendment that changed the penalty for illegally filling or draining a wetland.

The amendment, by Rep. Steve Dille (IR-Dassel), removed a maximum \$100,000 civil penalty for violations of the wetlands law. Dille told the committee that Department of Natural Resources regulations already make it a misdemeanor — with maximum punishment of a \$750 fine and a 90-day jail sentence — to illegally fill or drain a wetland.

But Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) says she's concerned that the wetlands bill now would treat violators under criminal rather than civil law. "We're never going to put a watershed management organization in jail, are we?" Wagenius asked.

Glendalough State Park

Minnesota's 66th state park would be established in Otter Tail County if a bill approved Feb. 14 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee becomes law.

The committee approved HF18, which calls for the establishment of the 1,930-acre Glendalough State Park 20 miles east of Fergus Falls.

Land for the park, which is appraised at \$2.4 million, was donated last year to the Nature Conservancy by Cowles Media Co., owner of the Star Tribune newspaper. The Nature Conservancy, a private conservation organization, is donating the land to the state.

The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (IR-Ottertail), would appropriate \$750,000 for some additional land acquisition and for staff and equipment for the state park.

The park includes 10 miles of undeveloped shoreline on six lakes. Fishing and limited hunting would be allowed in the park.

HF18 was recommended to pass and referred to the Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

Calling Johnny Appleseed

Planting more trees in Minnesota could reduce global warming and help homeowners save energy, according to a report presented Feb. 11 to members of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee.

The report recommends the Legislature approve spending \$13.5 million each year to plant trees around the state. Also, the report says a "Minnesota Releaf" program should be set up to encourage volunteer planting of trees.

Concerned about carbon dioxide emissions and the effect on global warming, lawmakers last year called for the study. The study was done by the Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with other state agencies, the University of Minnesota, and private utility companies.

Trees and other plants breathe carbon dioxide in their life-sustaining process. If more trees were planted, carbon dioxide levels could be reduced, Michael Phillips of the DNR's forestry division told the committee.

In cities, the report says, the number of trees should be doubled. Minnesota communities now have an estimated 3.6 million trees.

Minnesotans also should be encouraged to plant trees around their homes to help cut fuel bills, says Margaret Sand, a University of Minnesota landscape architect.

That could be most important in southern Minnesota, where proper planting of trees around a home could trim year-round heating and cooling costs by up to 2 percent, Sand told the committee.

Low wages at nursing homes?

A report from the Legislative Auditor's Office concludes Minnesota nursing homes aren't in the depths of a crisis, but one state representative says one reason a majority of the homes turn a profit is because staff wages are so low.

"How long are we going to force them

to keep the wages down so that they can make a profit," asks Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), referring to tight state controls on the nursing home industry. "To say that 70 percent of them are in the black, doesn't really identify the problems."

The report concludes that between 60 and 75 percent of the state's nursing homes broke even or turned a profit between 1986 and 1989.

The report says that although the industry is "under considerable stress, there is no immediate financial crisis facing Minnesota nursing homes."

Representatives from several nursing homes, however, testified before the Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 12 to criticize the report.

"This report fails to address the implications of the 21-month disallowance," which forces a home to fund new staff and equipment for 21 months before the state begins reimbursement, says Dennis Kamstra of Care Providers.

Kamstra calls the reimbursement delay "a recipe for disaster."

Bill Ward, from the Minnesota Association of Homes for the Aging, runs a 64-bed facility in Dassel that has lost \$233,000 in operating costs since 1987. He attributes most of the losses to the 21-month disallowance, noting that his facility doesn't meet the report's criteria for being financially stressed.

The report's author, Marilyn Jackson-Beeck, expresses concern for the delay, but adds, "this is the price of cost containment."

The 126-page report concludes that there is "no major crisis of care" resulting from the state's reimbursement system.

Affordable housing needed

Supporters of increased funding for Aid to Families with Dependent Children families hope a tour of Gail Wright's small St. Paul apartment will show just how little money is left for kids after the bills are paid.

Wright, a two-year recipient of AFDC who lives in a non-subsidized house in St. Paul, says that after she pays the \$395 a month rent plus utilities, she and her two daughters end up with about \$40 for the rest of the month.

Wright's apartment and two other housing units were toured by a group



Members of the Human Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee filed into Gail Wright's small apartment in east St. Paul as part of a Feb. 12 housing tour.

Feb. 12 that included several members of the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division.

Wright told lawmakers of the need for more affordable housing and more housing subsidies.

The group also toured the Mary Hall Emergency Shelter, a homeless shelter for families with up to two children in downtown St. Paul. A subsidized, high-rise apartment building on St. Anthony Avenue was also toured.

Laura Kadwell, senior program associate for the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota led the tour.

Early childhood screening

When the state can't get the first level of children's health care services to work, it causes all the next levels to be ineffective, says Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee).

Kelso's remarks came Feb. 14 during a joint meeting of the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division and the Education Committee's Education Finance Division at which several people said many school districts aren't promoting the state's voluntary Early Childhood Screening program for 3-year-olds.

In order to catch health care problems earlier, the program was restructured in 1989 to target 3-year-olds instead of 4-

and 5-year-olds.

But because it has been so hard for school districts to get reimbursement from their health care plans for the service, many aren't pushing early screening for 3-year-olds, say several people who testified.

"I have to say that cost recovery efforts have been a major reason why school districts are reluctant to move into the restructured program and screen 3-year-olds," says Ruth Ellen Luehr, an early childhood screening specialist with the state Department of Education.

Luehr says policy structure in health insurance plans such as health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and state and federal assistance programs result in school districts not being permitted to recover their costs.

Luehr says part of the problem is because the program is voluntary and many insurance companies will only reimburse for health-related care that is considered necessary.

Several recommendations were offered for improvements in the program, including one that calls for school districts to be legally recognized as well-child service providers, which could aid school districts in the recovery of their costs.

Welfare families slipping

Imagine a family budget that allows just five stamps to be purchased per month, one bottle of 10 oz. hand lotion per year, one spiral notebook every school year per child, and a new polyester winter jacket every 10 years for mom.

Those are some of the spending restrictions the state of Minnesota authorizes and the reality that families on welfare must live with, according to a Department of Human Services report which, among other things, outlines a budget for a family of four.

"The idea of trying to achieve poverty escapes me," says Laura Kadwell, senior program associate of the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota. She spoke to the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division Feb. 12.

Kadwell says 157,000 Minnesota children are on welfare, 18 percent of whom live below the poverty line. Aid to Families with Dependent Children grants rose only 27 percent between 1980 and 1989, while the cost of living in the metro area rose 55 percent, she adds.

The report, mandated by the 1990 Legislature, deals with the statewide standard of need regarding AFDC funding.

The report is based on a 1985 study done by Nebraska and adjusted to reflect the cost of living in Minnesota. It concludes that the 1990 Minnesota standard of need is \$12,308, slightly below the federal poverty guideline of \$12,700.

Although several members say the need for an increase in welfare payments seemed obvious, they were also troubled by the common perception of welfare recipients as idle "takers."

"How do we get the truth out there?" asked Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault). "Somehow, we can't seem to get it [to the public] that 98 percent of these people aren't ripping us off."

Gang violence on the rise

Street gangs aren't a new trend or phenomenon nationwide, says Mike Scholein, a member of the Minneapolis Police Gang Unit. But he adds that their crimes are increasing in the Twin Cities.

Scholein says that gangs have existed

since the turn of century, adding that there are about 27 different street gangs in the metro area made up of various ethnic groups.

He told lawmakers at a Feb. 13 meeting of the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Division that, in 1989, the Minneapolis Police Department traced nearly 500 aggravated assaults, shootings, and stabbings to street gangs.

In addition, he says that during the first nine months of 1990 there were 16 gang-related homicides and nearly 400 shootings and stabbings.

Scholein says that about 40 percent of the drug trafficking in the city of Minneapolis can be blamed on street gangs and their organizations.

He says, however, that gang problems are not limited to the inner city; there are gangs in the suburbs as well. Scholein says gang members typically range in age from 14 to 24, but they're now getting older.

Scholein says studies show that people are getting involved with gangs at a younger age and staying longer, adding that it's becoming more common to see 40-year-old gang members.

In addition, he says "there are a lot of of 'wanna be's' . . . younger kids who just hang around gangs . . . but aren't really members."

Scholein says a total community effort is needed to contain the problem.

The Rev. Steve Floyd of "The City, Inc.," an at-risk youth services program in Minneapolis, told committee members that if youths understood their role in the community, they would be less tempted to join gangs.

Data Practices Act

Minnesota's Data Practices Act has become so complex that the law is probably violated every day, says Minnesota League of Cities spokesman Joel Jamnik.

Jamnik told the Judiciary Committee's Data Privacy Subcommittee Feb. 13 that state and local officials try to abide by the law, but are limited by their understanding of it.

Often public agencies, fearing liability if they have misread private data as part of the public record, will not release records they can by law give out, says

Jamnik.

Data privacy duties in Minnesota cities with a population of 5,000 or less are usually charged to the city clerk. These clerks, says Jamnik, are given just a one-hour primer on the state's data privacy law.

And every legislative session, approximately two-and-one-half pages are added to the already cryptic law, which was enacted in 1974, he says.

The Data Privacy Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), is considering the establishment of a commissioner's office that would hear requests for data access when a public official is uncertain of whether to release information.

Jamnik believes paying a commission to review disputed records and protect cities from defamation lawsuits would be public money well-spent.

"If it's \$300 and you get immunity for it, that's a bargain in today's system," he says.

Currently, the media and individuals or groups trying to obtain public records must get a court order if a government agency will not release them.

School closings pending?

An inventory of the state's K-12 education buildings to determine their safety will be completed by the end of March.

But some lawmakers say more needs to be done even though the cost to upgrade the buildings appears enormous — particularly with a projected deficit of \$1.2 billion in the 1992-93 biennium.

What to do? No one is quite sure. But limited state funding makes the prospect of school closings a possibility.

The 1990 Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the state Department of Education to inventory the state's school buildings and another \$200,000 to fund state fire marshal inspections.

But during a Feb. 11 meeting of the Education Committee's Subcommittee on School Facilities, the Department of Education's Kerry Leider estimated that upgrading all Minnesota schools to a high level of safety will cost between \$3 billion and \$4 billion.

Lawmakers aren't advocating that much money be spent to improve the

buildings, nor are they in favor of mass closings of schools that are in disrepair.

But Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) says she doesn't want to wait for a disaster that would force legislators to take action to improve the deteriorating structures.

She reminded lawmakers of an incident last April in an Ortonville school where a ceiling collapsed.

"If those children in Ortonville had been injured or killed, we would have a system [to upgrade schools] in place," she says.

Because many of the deteriorating school buildings are in property poor districts, more state aid to improve the structures would be needed, explained Leider.

That's because state aid for these purposes is "equalized," meaning that poorer districts with small property tax bases receive a higher percentage of state money than districts that can raise more funds through increasing local levies.

'Don't close Waseca campus'

The University of Minnesota's two-year agriculture school in Waseca should not be closed, students, farmers, and lobbyists told the Agriculture Committee Feb. 11 during a three-hour meeting.

But university President Nils Hasselmo says closing Waseca would free up millions of sorely needed dollars that would go to improving programs for students on other university campuses.

Most committee members signed a letter to the university's Board of Regents asking it to reject Hasselmo's proposal. Regents are expected to consider the proposal in March.

Although the Agriculture Committee's meeting was billed as a hearing on HF22, a resolution authored by Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) requesting that the Waseca campus remain open, lawmakers took no action on the measure. Two other resolutions in support of maintaining the Waseca campus also have been offered in the House.

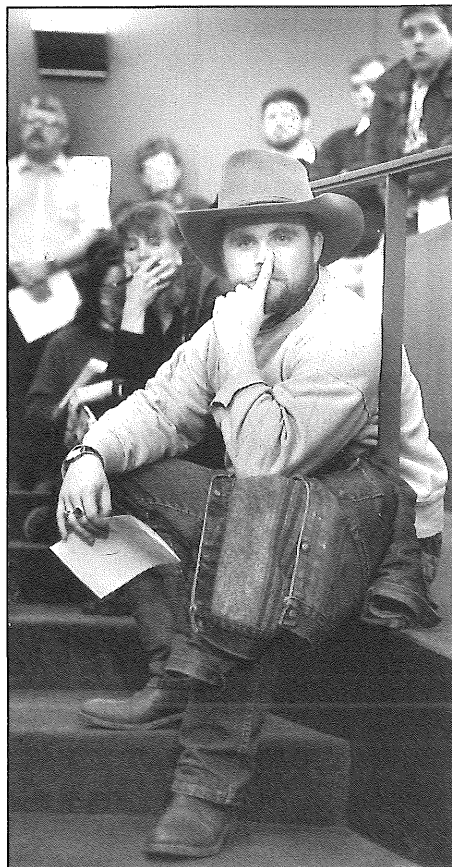
Hasselmo, saying he regrets the choice, told the committee that closing the Waseca campus would free up \$6.4 million that could be used elsewhere in the university system to benefit a greater

number of students.

He reminded lawmakers that they just trimmed his appropriation for the current biennium by \$8.8 million, and that state officials told him it would be fruitless for the university to ask for an extra \$54 million in appropriations for the next biennium.

Opponents of Hasselmo's proposal told the committee about the benefits of the two-year program at Waseca, saying the school has helped many young farmers get valuable education. Some say they see the move as an assault upon agricultural programs and questioned which ones would be the next to fall.

Tom Lindahl, chancellor of the Waseca school, asked for more time. "We should not allow this college to be phased out until we are sure it is the direction the state wants to go," he says.



Mike Mahon, a University of Minnesota - Waseca freshman, listened Feb. 11 during a hearing before the Agriculture Committee. Dozens of UMW students and staff attended the evening meeting to voice concern about a proposal to close the campus.

Outcome-based education

Educators from around the state enthusiastically endorsed the philosophy of outcome-based education at a Feb. 13 Education Committee meeting.

According to honor roll teacher Michael Tilman from Owatonna, this new approach to education has three basic premises:

- All students can learn. Through a variety of teaching approaches and repeated opportunities, all students can master basic learning objectives or outcomes.
- Success breeds success. Effort and difficulty must be weighed for each student in order for them to feel successful.
- Schools control the conditions.

Teachers and administrators must be able to diagnose a child's needs in order to provide educational wellness. Otherwise, no amount of presentation will help them.

"Outcome-based education is not a system," says Tilman. "There are beliefs and behaviors. What we have done in the past, in education, is frequently to mandate the behavior hoping that the belief [outcome] will be achieved."

Tilman says the Legislature should provide information about outcome-based education, but let the individual schools determine how their students can best reach those objectives.

Tilman says teachers aren't asking the state for billions of dollars. Instead, they're asking for a commitment to the outcome-based education beliefs, a program to teach the concept to teachers, planning time to design what is best for students, and intensive, ongoing staff development.

Feb. 17, 1881

On this day, because of the vast number of Norwegians who had settled there, the name Norman was adopted as that county's official name. The county's proportion of Norwegians was higher than any other county in the state.

U.S. grant for GMC?

Minnesota is one of four national finalists for a U.S. Department of Commerce matching grant that would fund the establishment of a regional manufacturing technology center in the state.

Jacques Koppel, director of the Greater Minnesota Corporation, says Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Michigan are Minnesota's remaining competition for one of two \$15 million technology center grants the U.S. Department of Commerce will award in late March.

The center would give small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies access to advanced technology and technical expertise — knowledge that is usually available only to industry giants.

Koppel told the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division Feb. 7 that the large number of thriving, small manufacturers in Minnesota — many of which employ less than 20 people — impressed Commerce officials.

"(Manufacturing) really represents, in many ways, the backbone of the state's economy," he says. "Manufacturing in the state has been growing, particularly in the rural parts of the state, at three or four times the pace of manufacturing in the U.S. as a whole."

Revenue from manufacturing makes up 20 percent of Minnesota's "GNP," Koppel added.

U.S. Department of Commerce officials will stop in Minnesota Feb. 20 and 21 before making final selections.

Focus on teaching

A Feb. 13 discussion on how the University of Minnesota fares in placing students in jobs quickly changed to a quiz on the job university professors are doing in the classroom.

The result was a bill challenging the "publish or perish" mentality at many schools receiving an unexpected first hearing before the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee.

While representatives from the university's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) and Institute of Technology (IT) testified on the merits of their respective job placement programs, several division members instead zeroed in on the number of hours university professors



Students from Winona listened Feb. 13 to speeches about higher education. They were attending the annual Minnesota State University Lobby Day at the Capitol.

spend in the classroom.

IT professors, on average, teach four classes during the school year, or about five to six credits per grading period, says IT Associate Dean Russ Hobbie. CLA professors generally teach five or six classes each quarter, says Elaine Tyler May, an assistant to the CLA dean.

As a rule, Minnesota State University System professors and Community College instructors teach three classes per quarter, officials of those systems report. The state's technical colleges use a different credit method than the other systems, but their instructors generally are in the classroom about 30 hours per week.

The measure (HF212) would require all public college instructors to teach at least 12 credit hours each grading period.

Because of the apparent reduced teaching load, professors at the University of Minnesota likely would be the only instructors affected by the bill.

If approved, it would require systems to report back to the Legislature next February to prove they are in compliance. College systems already meeting the standard would not have to report.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) says his bill is not intended as a slap against the university. "It's designed to put the primary emphasis back on teaching," he says.

Hobbie and Tyler-May, however, say those numbers fail to tell the whole story of professors' workloads. In addition to

actual class time, University of Minnesota professors also must spend a great amount of time preparing for classes, counseling graduate and undergraduate students, and conducting research, they say.

Student 'Lobby Day'

Minnesota State University System (MSUS) students want better libraries and equipment, fewer students per professor, and less need to rely on loans to get through college.

Students Feb. 13 again made their case for improvements at the seven MSUS campuses during their annual "Lobby Day" rally in the state Capitol rotunda and in earlier testimony before the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee.

MSUS student association chair James Stigman told lawmakers he had "a not-so-pretty picture of our universities."

Stigman says MSUS campus libraries are "woefully inadequate" for research purposes, often are understaffed, and contain outdated materials. Study equipment such as computers also is often lacking, he says.

But Stigman, a graduate student at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, says the most critical problem facing students continues to be the spiraling cost of higher education.

He and other students urged lawmak-

ers to maintain the state's current funding mechanism for colleges, which keeps students' tuition at or below one-third of the total cost of their schooling.

They also called on changes in loan programs which currently require students to pay on the principal of loans while they are still attending classes. Stigman says most students today cannot even consider graduate school because they must first pay off thousands of dollars of loan debts accumulated in acquiring a four-year degree.

Although sympathetic to their plight, several lawmakers warned college students they should not expect the Legislature to rectify all of the problems existing in higher education.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), herself a graduate of Bemidji State University, explained to Stigman how giving more money to the State University System likely would mean less money for other, and equally deserving, programs.

Replied Hasskamp, when told by Stigman that income tax increases and a temporary sales tax on clothing could be used to pay for college improvements: "I hope students will be willing to knock on some doors with us when we try to convince the public on that."

County streamlining

Should the number of Minnesota counties be trimmed to 10 from 87?

That's the idea being pushed by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) to streamline government and eliminate the duplication of services offered by the thousands of local governments in Minnesota.

"Wouldn't it be simpler if there were fewer counties — 10 instead of 87?" she asks.

Kahn made the remarks during a Feb. 12 meeting of the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division, which she chairs.

The discussion was triggered by state Auditor Mark Dayton, who discussed an automated information network that could provide legislators with up-to-date information about the spending practices of local units of government.

Kahn says there are many counties that, although large in territory, are small in terms of their operating accounts.

Reorganizing counties, perhaps along the lines of the state's 10 judicial districts, would make more sense, she says.

"I'm convinced we could have fewer counties, or one could do the work of five or 10 counties now, based on population," agreed Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley).

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) pointed out that Minnesota once had only five counties, and mandated the creation of new ones as population grew in pockets.

"Now that the population is shifting and declining in some areas, it would not be that strange . . . to suggest that we might continue to make changes in the counties," adds Trimble.

Kahn says the State Auditor's Office could be assigned the job of studying county consolidation.

"With the resources and staff to do it justice, sure, I would be glad to take that on," says Dayton.

Spurring degree completion

Minnesota college students are taking more time to complete their studies than ever and state officials are hoping to speed them along by removing institutional barriers.

A report completed by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) says there's no single reason for the increased time it now takes students to complete their degrees.

But it adds that the increased number of older students who juggle families and careers while attending school has been a major factor.

The report released Feb. 11 to the Appropriations Committee's Education Division says, however, that there are a few things the state's public college systems could do to move students along at a faster pace, which "presumably" would save state money.

The report recommends that the state's college systems schedule courses conveniently, monitor degree requirements more closely, integrate students into the academic community, and advise students more often to encourage them to finish their degrees more quickly.

It also suggests that the State Grant Program be altered to provide incentives that would encourage students to attend college 12 months a year. Currently, the program is designed for nine-month attendance.

The report states that there are incentives available to encourage students to attend summer school, but adds that "understanding the full implications of



Back in territorial days, Minnesota had nine counties, some of which stretched to the Missouri River in what are now the Dakotas.

Source: *A History of Minnesota*

providing financial incentives for encouraging summer session attendance will require further analysis."

It also says that "tuition banding," where full-time students pay a set amount of tuition regardless of how many credits they take above a minimum number, does not result in speeding student degree completion.

In Minnesota, only the University of Minnesota uses tuition banding.

In 1989, the Minnesota Legislature directed the state's public college systems to study impediments to students completing their programs in a timely manner, and to examine ways to reduce or eliminate the obstacles.

Minnesota is one of four states that is studying ways to encourage college students to finish their education more quickly; the others are California, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Redistricting guidelines

For the first time in Minnesota legislative history, lawmakers are trying to adopt a set of standards before they begin the redistricting process.

"Hopefully, if we can all agree on the standards used to address this task, it will be that much easier to do our job," says Rep. Jerry Knickerbocker (IR-Minnetonka), vice chair of the Redistricting Committee.

At a Feb. 12 meeting of the Redistricting Committee, Mark Shepard of the House Research Department said the adoption of the standards could help the Legislature's redistricting plan stand up in court should it be challenged.

But he added that even if the court throws out the Legislature's plan, it would abide by the legislative standards when drawing up the new boundaries.

One of the proposed standards articulates a well-established redistricting guideline that holds that the voting strength of racial or minority language populations mustn't be diluted. Another states that a county or city shouldn't be divided into more than one district unless that's necessary to keep the population levels of the districts the same.

Committee Chair Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault) believes the public should aid in shaping these standards.

Four meetings have been scheduled throughout Minnesota to serve as the forum. Members will travel to Rochester Feb. 19, to Hermantown Feb. 26, and to Willmar and St. Cloud, with both meetings to be held March 5.

Those interested in attending any of the above hearings should call 1-800-657-3550 for more information.

Stairway to the STARS

Glowing recommendations aside, some state lawmakers may be thinking a statewide telecommunications system — STARS, to its proponents — is simply pie in the sky.

STARS proposes to link most of the state's schools, colleges, and government agencies into a comprehensive data-retrieval and video-conferencing network. Officials also anticipate extensive use by individuals and private companies.

The proposal was outlined Feb. 11 during a meeting of the Regulated Industries Committee.

Department of Administration officials, who are shepherding the project during its first five years of operation, say STARS ultimately will move the state's telecommunication system into the 21st century. They say the state-managed but privately owned network also will result in added jobs for Minnesotans in the growing information and communications industry.

There is a catch, however. The Legislature would have to contribute about \$3.4 million a year during STARS' first two years of operation until it starts to turn a profit through its fee system.

Several lawmakers, including Rep. Brad Stanius (IR-White Bear Lake), are saying the pricetag is just too steep during a time of tight state finances.

And during a Feb. 14 Governmental Operations Committee meeting, Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) questioned what the effect would be on smaller telephone companies in the state.

Judy Pinke, assistant commissioner for the Department of Administration, says 12 companies, including AT&T, IBM, US Sprint, and MCI, are expected to bid on the contract.

"What does that do to the nine small telephone companies in my district?" asks Cooper.

Several other outstate legislators expressed concern about the possible effect on small communication networks.

Department officials intend to ask for loans, which would be repaid within six years, from the state's general fund to cover STARS' projected two-year deficit. The loan request is expected to be included in the governor's budget that is to be released Feb. 20.



Great seats, but no ball game: Members of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee got a look at the Metrodome Feb. 14 as part of a tour of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission's offices.

Garage door law update

In the past three years, three children have been killed in Minnesota from garage door opener accidents, and one has been severely brain-injured.

Those incidents are what prompted the 1990 Legislature to pass the first law in the nation that regulates garage door openers.

A bill (HF104) approved Feb. 12 by the Commerce Committee would clarify the 1990 law and outline what is expected of garage door opener installers.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Robert Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), would prohibit the service or repair of automatic garage door opening systems in residential buildings that have automatic reversing systems that fail to meet state standards.

In addition, the bill would require a warning label to be attached to the automatic garage door opening system if the system does not pass an on-site test.

The measure also requires the firm that attached the label to notify the occupant of the building within 10 days that the system does not meet the safety standard.

The bill, however, does not impose a penalty for failing to bring a system up to standard. Milbert says that this is "an education effort . . . we're not going to put anyone in jail."

HF104 was recommended to pass and referred to the House floor.

Clarification

In a photograph on page 10 of the Feb. 8 issue of *Session Weekly*, the woman in the background is Janet Shaddix Elling; the woman in the foreground is Martha Casserly of the Attorney General's Office.

Stuck at the station?

Light rail transit advocates admit legislative support for a \$1.6 billion funding package is, at best, shaky. But they are clinging to the hope "anything's possible until the gavel comes down."

The Regional Transit Board (RTB) is proposing a bill authorizing a 1-cent sales tax to finance construction of light rail transit (LRT) lines in the Twin Cities. Half of the anticipated \$212 million generated annually by the sales tax would be used for LRT; the remaining half for other transportation projects.

With adequate support, says RTB Chair Michael Ehrlichmann, such a bill still could be introduced this session. But he says board members have no interest in sending up trial balloons to gauge support.

"You don't want to fire the gun unless its loaded," he says.

LRT is scheduled to receive its first legislative scrutiny Feb. 18 before the Senate Transportation Committee. A House subcommittee of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs panel is expected to be selected soon to also study light rail.

Counties in the seven-county metropolitan area now have authority to levy about \$42 million yearly to help get light rail rolling. But the bulk of money needed for the far-reaching plan would have to come from the Legislature, and so far, few state lawmakers appear willing to get on board.

Support for LRT has become so thin in recent weeks that Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), chair of the Transportation Committee, says he is "pessimistic" any light rail legislation will even be introduced this session.

Says Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), "If the RTB really wants this, they're going to have to be the ones to spearhead it."

A joint House-Senate study on state transportation needs, released last month, tentatively gives its support for building two light rail lines in the region during the next 20 years — if adequate funding can be found.

The study commission also concluded LRT could reduce congestion and automobile-related pollution in the Twin Cities, lead to increased transit use by the public, and eventually pay for itself.

Since the study came out, however, a separate Hennepin County study indicated LRT construction costs would likely far exceed earlier projections.

Gov. Arne Carlson has since suggested that any talk of funding light rail be postponed until the 1993 Session, and the Citizens League slammed the RTB proposal, labeling it "expensive and ineffective" and "an answer in search of a problem."

Opponents say LRT in other cities has not attracted large numbers of new transit riders, and that it is doubtful it could ever become totally self-sufficient here. They also question whether the state should impose an added sales tax at a time when other new taxes may be needed to right today's budget crunch.

And even ardent supporters are wondering if they can justify a billion-dollar-plus rail line when other transit systems, such as bus services, are in line for probable cuts.

But Kalis, a member of the legislative study group, says environmental concerns, rather than strict transportation issues, ultimately could be the fuel that gets LRT going:

"We have to start thinking about the next generation, protecting the resources we have today. Light rail could be one more link to that program of stewardship."

Ehrlichmann says transit board members already are rethinking portions of the LRT proposal, hoping to make it more palatable to the Legislature. He says the RTB may instead ask lawmakers to give it bonding authority, rather than the sales tax, to finance the project.

He also says the board may scrap its plan for a pilot line paralleling University Avenue between downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul and go with a line connecting the Twin Cities airport with Minneapolis, a plan that could be financed in part with federal funds.

The key aspect, Ehrlichmann says, is that the RTB remains flexible in adapting its plans to fit the economic and political climate.

"It's just too early to tell," he says of the possible success of an LRT bill in 1991. "Anything is possible until the gavel comes down on the last day of the session."

Capitol overseer overshadowed by architect

"The death of Channing Seabury inflicts upon St. Paul the loss of one of the city's progressive, successful business men and public-spirited citizens."

So wrote the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in a 1910 editorial eulogizing on the Oct. 28 death of one of the driving forces in the construction of Minnesota's State Capitol.

For all the things Channing Seabury did to ensure that the \$5 million Capitol building would be constructed correctly and efficiently, his role in the monumental project has been overshadowed by that of the guy he hired.

Seabury was chair of the State Capitol Board of Commissioners, the panel established in 1893 to guide the development of the new Capitol. The board hired architect Cass Gilbert to design the building and oversee its construction.

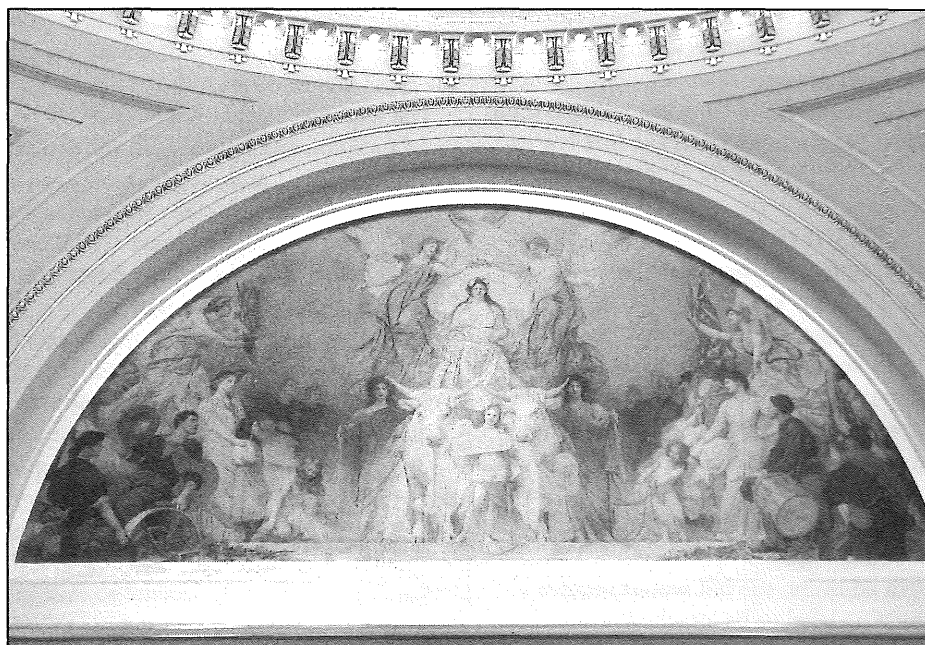
"The influence that Mr. Seabury had on my father's career will never be told," Gilbert's son wrote to Seabury's widow in 1934, according to the Seabury family papers stored at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Although Seabury's part in keeping the project on financial track has been credited in histories of the Capitol, his role otherwise appears lost in the annals of Minnesota. While reams have been published about Gilbert and his artistic vision, little has been written about Seabury.

Seabury was born in 1842 in Massachusetts. After working as an errand boy in New York, at age 18 he moved to St. Paul to escape, according to his sister Caroline, the "family disease" of tuberculosis. During the Civil War, he worked for J.C. and H.C. Burbank & Co., a wholesale clothing business that later was acquired by Amherst H. Wilder, the St. Paul entrepreneur for whom the well-known foundation is named. Seabury eventually became a partner in the company.

Seabury would become a well-to-do and influential St. Paul businessman, but his early years — particularly during and just after the Civil War — were difficult. In one letter to his uncle back east, he wrote of his yearning for a house of his own.

From 1867 to 1872, Seabury served as



Where's Channing Seabury? And Cass Gilbert? Their portraits are part of this mural in the Capitol's Senate chamber.

treasurer of the Northwestern Union Packet Co. in St. Paul, and then spent 10 years with C. Gotzian and Co., a wholesale boot and shoe manufacturer.

Seabury entered the wholesale grocery business in 1882, becoming a partner in Maxfield, Seabury & Co. In 1892, the company became known as Seabury & Son.

Seabury was married twice. In 1870, he married Frances W. Cruft in Terre Haute, Ind. After his first wife's death, he married Elizabeth P. Austin in 1883 in Milwaukee. Seabury had three sons, John, Gerald, and Paul, and one daughter, Edith.

Although Seabury had served on some public bodies prior to being named to the Board of Capitol Commissioners, nothing prepared him for the years of duty and exposure he would see on the new panel.

Seabury's title officially was vice president — the governor served as president — but it was clear that Seabury ran the show. At times, Seabury's determination to ride herd on finances and deadlines strained relationships on the commission.

Describing Seabury as "a tough-minded, tenacious man," Capitol historian Neil B. Thompson wrote in *Minnesota's State Capitol*, "It was he who directed the board's political strategy

through six legislative sessions and five different governors; it was he who patiently dealt with architect Cass Gilbert; it was he who cracked the whip and brought the world-famous painter John La Farge [creator of the murals in the Supreme Court chamber] into line."

Even Gilbert realized Seabury's significance, writing in 1917 to Seabury's widow:

"I hold his memory in most sincere affection. I have the highest respect for his unflinching devotion to duty and for the great personal sacrifice at which he performed that duty. . . ."

—Andris Straumanis



Gilbert (foreground) and Seabury can be found along the left edge of the arch.

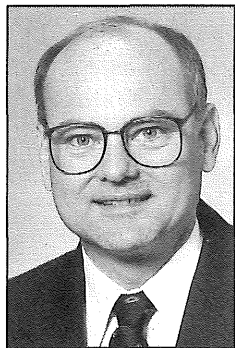
Assistant leaders act as 'two-way conduits' for DFL

Many people are probably aware of the role assistant majority leaders play during House floor sessions. They're the ones who do the "head counts" to ensure their party has enough votes to pass bills that are considered important.

Each assistant sits in a different "quadrant" in the chamber and is responsible for knowing how each party member will vote on particular bills.

And if a member isn't on the floor when a measure is brought up for a vote, it's the duty of the assistant assigned to that quadrant to track him or her down.

But few people realize that an assistant leader's job off the floor is also very important. Assistant leaders act as two-way conduits for the



Jerry J. Bauerly

caucus.

They are elected by their colleagues to the assistant positions, so it's very much their job to let the leadership know what individual members are thinking.

"That is truly the key to provide that open network of communication between members and leadership," says assistant leader Rep. Jerry Bauerly (DFL-Sauk Rapids). "It's not just relaying positions, it's more relaying reasons."

Assistant leader Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault) says the current leadership is very democratic.

"These particular leaders, [House Speaker Robert] Vanasek and [Majority Leader Dee] Long, have been very good

at soliciting ideas and information before a decision is made," he says. "We don't want to be surprised."

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), also an assistant leader, believes the process "retains a populist



Alice Johnson

"putting your own interest aside for the party good." He adds that most assistants are members who have served in the House between six and 10 years.

Although a primary task of assistant leaders is to perform "head counts" on the floor, that role probably is not as important this session as in most.

That's because the DFL holds a sizable 79-55 majority in the House, which provides a lot of leeway for the party to achieve the necessary 68 votes to approve a bill.

Rodosovich says it's the caucus leadership's job to secure those 68 votes, but it's up to the assistant leaders to offer members compelling reasons to support particular measures.

But generally, he adds, the leadership encourages members to "vote their district." The recently approved budget measure proposed by Gov. Arne Carlson,

however, was "very atypical," says Rodosovich.

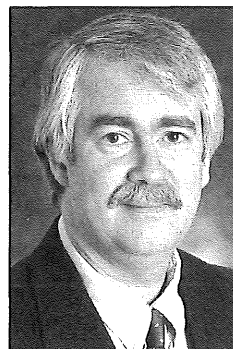
Bauerly explains that DFL caucus members were "on their own" for that vote.

So where exactly are these quadrants to which assistant leaders are assigned? Assistant leaders aren't saying. But Bauerly explains that the areas are determined "to the person."

And since the quadrants are generally in the immediate area surrounding assistant leaders' desks on the floor, a rough idea of their makeup can be sketched out by examining a House floor chart.

Although some assistants say the job is a demanding one and that it increases their visibility within the party, it's probably not as cherished as some other assignments at the Legislature.

"It's nice to be considered party leadership," says Trimble. But when asking colleagues to swap an assistant job for one as a committee chair, Trimble adds, "I haven't had any takers."

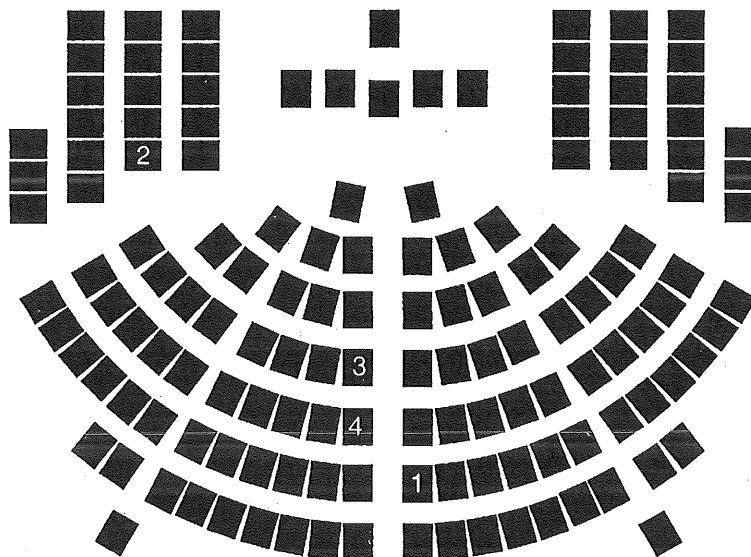


Steve Trimble

—Bob DeBoer



Peter Rodosovich



House chamber seating: 1-Peter Rodosovich, 2-Steve Trimble, 3-Alice Johnson, 4-Jerry Bauerly and their seats on the House floor, which are not yet finalized. DFLers sit on the left the chamber; IRs on the right.

Leppik pays 'close attention to constituents'

Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) says she's been on enough boards, councils, and task forces the past 14 years to know she'd "rather be making the decisions and making the votes" than have someone do it for her.

So last May when retiring Rep. Jim Heap asked her to consider taking over his job, she jumped at the chance. With only one child left at home, Leppik says she was ready for a change.

"I decided that if I was really committed to some of the ideas and ideals that I had, this is probably the most effective way to pursue them," she says.

With the new demands on her time, Leppik says she has had to cut back the time she has spent on some of the organizations to which she belongs, and had to resign from the State Board of the League of Women Voters, of which she was a past president.

"A lot of things have had to move into a slower mode in my life," she says.

And that includes time spent with her family. But there has been some good in that, too, she says.

Leppik says her campaign has helped her children become more interested in news and important issues, and that not being around the house as much has helped her youngest daughter become more independent.

Although the pace of her life has become more hectic, Leppik remains on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota



Peggy Leppik

District 45B

Age: 47

Home: Golden Valley

Occupation: Homemaker/Volunteer

District traits: 45B is known as a "swing district" with almost equal numbers of DFLers and IRs. In 1988, the Bush-Quayle ticket narrowly edged Dukakis-Bentsen by a 51.2-to-48.8 percent margin.

Opera. Leppik, a former president of the Minnesota Opera Association, says "opera is one of my dear loves."

Likewise, Leppik, a strong advocate for women's colleges, says she is still active in the alumnae association of her alma mater, Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

Married for 23 years with three children, there isn't much of North America that Leppik hasn't seen. She was born in New Jersey, grew up in California and has lived in Montreal, Canada; Connecticut; Pennsylvania; and Wisconsin before moving to Golden Valley in 1976.

Her husband, Ilo, is a physician specializing in epilepsy treatment and research.

Her district includes all of Golden Valley, plus portions of eastern Plymouth, and Medicine Lake. It's a "swing

area" that has been represented by both DFL and IR lawmakers. The western portion of the district in Plymouth is growing rapidly, she says.

She says her top legislative concerns are education and social issues, which mesh well with her committee assignments: Economic Development, Education, Education Finance Division, and Health and Human Services.

Leppik, who is also a member of the Optimists Club, a service organization that raises money for local youth programs, says she has two main goals.

"To become as knowledgeable as I can, and to pay close attention to my constituents. I like doing that because I like working with people and helping people. Sometimes it's very difficult, sometimes you really can't do much to help, but at least I'm going to try."



How do legislators vote on various issues?

Although people frequently call and ask for a legislator's "voting record," no such document exists. In reality, each legislator casts hundreds of votes on assorted bills that are subsequently recorded in the *Journal of the House*.

If you want to know how a legislator voted on a specific bill, the Chief Clerk's

Office and the Senate Information Office can help you.

Probably the best way to get a feel for a legislator's "voting record" is to contact any number of special interest groups that rate legislators based on issues that are important to them. Several business associations and environmental groups, for example, issue regular ratings.

Why does Minnesota need such a large legislature in comparison to other states which have a larger population and land area?

While it's true that Minnesota does have the largest state Senate in the

country with 67 members, the House is far from the top with 134 members.

Tiny New Hampshire has 400 House members, Massachusetts has 160, both Maine and Connecticut have 151 House members, and Vermont has 150 — the same number as Texas, according to *The Book of States*.

The size of the House in Minnesota ranks 12th in the country, and Minnesota, coincidentally, is also the 12th largest state in area. But in terms of population, Minnesota is the 21st largest.

States are free to set up any size legislature their inhabitants want. Alaska, geographically the largest state in the country, has only 20 senators and 40 House members.

'Interesting work' of House delights Orfield

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) may be one of the youngest and newest faces in the House this year, but he already has one of those classic resumes from which political careers are built.

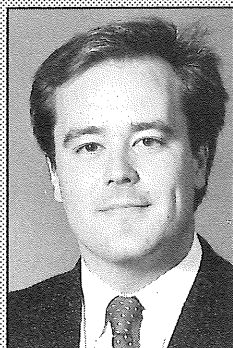
Orfield graduated summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota with bachelor's degrees in history and political science, did graduate work at Princeton University, and received his law degree from the University of Chicago.

He then served as a law clerk for a U.S. Court of Appeals judge, and later became an associate with the prominent law firm of Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis.

But Orfield, who during college worked as an intern for Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser and on three campaigns for former Sen. John Brandl, says he's always been interested in public service.

So when the job of special assistant opened in the state Attorney General's Office in 1989, Orfield applied. He now is on temporary leave from that job, but he says he loves the work.

"Public service is much more interesting than two big companies fighting over whether their accountants made mistakes while doing their bills," says Orfield. "I defended the rights of victims of sexual assault, prosecuted drunk drivers, all of those things are interesting things to do."



Myron Orfield

District 59B

Age: 29

Home: Minneapolis

Occupation: Attorney

District traits: 59B includes the immediate area surrounding Lake Calhoun in the uptown section of Minneapolis. The heavily DFL district voted for the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket by a 72.8-to-27.2 percent margin over Bush-Quayle in 1988.

For example, when former Gov. Rudy Perpich blocked Minnesota National Guard troops from training in Central America, Orfield co-wrote the legal brief defending the governor's action when the case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But as rewarding as writing a legal brief to the U.S. Supreme Court must be, Orfield says he believes being a representative will be even more interesting.

"I can't believe how interesting the work is," he adds.

And no one can accuse Orfield of not being in touch with the district he now represents. He grew up there.

The area, which was represented by former Rep. Todd Otis, ranges "from some of the richest parts of Minneapolis to some of the poorest," says Orfield. "It

is a very progressive, sensible district, independent and well-informed."

Orfield says he intends to concentrate on issues pertaining to the environment, education, and crime, while paying particular attention to developing ways to increase recycling and reducing toxic emissions.

Although Orfield has long had an interest in government, he says getting to the House had a lot more to do with timing and hard work on the campaign trail.

"A year ago I never would have guessed I'd be here," he says. "But I'm delighted to be here. Todd Otis . . . decided sort of at the last minute that he wasn't going to run again. I had to decide right then and there to do it. I'm glad I did."

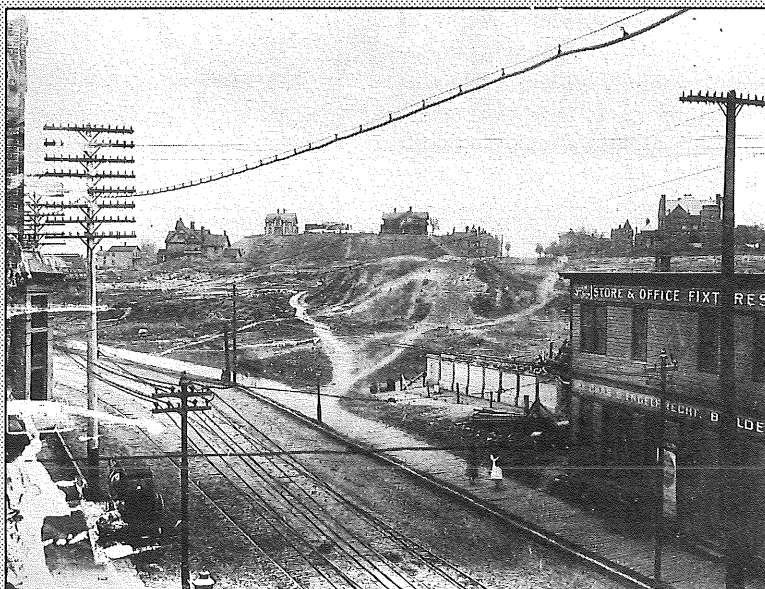
It's a fact!

For sale: Hilltop bldg site, near paved roads & utilities, downtown view.

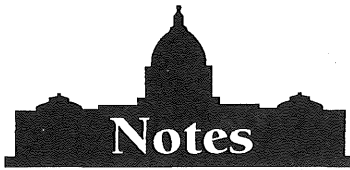
If the people who sold the land for the Capitol in 1893 had advertised in the newspaper, they might have hyped those amenities. The Board of State Capitol Commissioners liked the site, but it dickered about the price, slashing the cost from \$480,000 to \$285,225, says an 1895 report.

The site was one of four considered for the new building, which opened in 1905.

"It has as commanding a view as you probably could secure," St. Paul lawyer and landowner Robert P. Lewis told the board, according to Minnesota Historical Society records.



About 1895, looking north along Wabasha Street, the site of the new Capitol was just a mound of dirt. (Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society)



Budget II, Gov. Arne Carlson's \$15 billion fiscal epic set for a Feb. 20 premiere, may spawn a sequel. Independent-Republicans who have dubbed the governor's 1991-93 biennial budget package "Budget II" say if the March state revenue forecast is worse than anticipated, some script rewrites may be needed. Sneak previews offered last week hint Budget II cuts funding for higher education and local government aids and freezes spending for state agencies and K-12 schools. But if the recession and war in the Persian Gulf get an extended run, the producers say minor revisions — or a \$550 million reserve fund — may not be enough to carry it through. According to Minority Leader Terry Dempsey (R-New Ulm), who directed Budget I in the Minnesota House last month: "That's when you'd see Budget III."

The Minnesota lottery generated \$67 million in ticket sales during the last fiscal year, says Lottery Division Director George Andersen. This number exceeded projections by 20 percent. Andersen told members of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee Feb. 14 that his department spent more than \$12 million on advertising, with 28 percent of that figure going for television ads alone. Nationally, Minnesota ranks second in per capita sales of instant tickets, with each resident spending an average of \$1.31 per week. Massachusetts ranks first, with a per capita average of \$2.25 per week.

Taxpayers should know their rights, says the Minnesota Department of Revenue. And to prove they're sincere, officials from the department presented their efforts to the State Taxes and Tax Laws Subcommittee of the Taxes Committee Feb. 14. In response to a 1990 law, the department has trained all of its 1,200 employees in the new process of informing taxpayers of their rights. The department is also revising all of its forms

so they are easier to understand. "We are trying to tell taxpayers that this isn't a secret," says the department's Linda Geier. For a copy of Minnesota Taxpayer Rights, call the Department of Revenue at (612) 296-3781.

A change in chairs sat nicely with the Minnesota Compensation Council. During its first meeting Feb. 8, Ernest Lindstrom was unanimously elected chair after former chair Sidney Abramson nominated Lindstrom for the position. The 16-member council is in the process of reviewing the salaries of several state employees, ranging from Minnesota judges to constitutional officers. The council's next meeting is Feb. 22.

Children were ordered out of school buildings in eleven cases where fire officials discovered hazardous situations last year. And the state fire marshal's office also ordered that sprinkler systems be installed in 29 school buildings. The state fire marshal's office, complying with a 1990 law approved by the Legislature, inspected 78 school buildings last year. The 1990 law requires that all school buildings be inspected every three years. The Education Committee's Subcommittee on School Facilities heard testimony on the status of K-12 school buildings Feb. 11.

Elk in northern Minnesota are no longer a problem for farmers, says Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Holmes told an Environment and Natural Resources subcommittee Feb. 12 that the once-troublesome elk herd in Marshall County now numbers 19. In answer to farmers' complaints about crop damage caused by the elk, the state allowed a short hunting season in 1987. Two elk were killed in the hunt, but several more fell victim to poachers outside the season.

If you were to pack all the state's employees into one city, it would rank as the 15th largest city in Minnesota. The state of Minnesota currently employs 40,727 people in 92 different executive branch agencies, according to Linda Barton, the newly appointed Department of Employee Relations commissioner. Barton told members of the Governmental Operations Committee recently that these employees are divided into more than 2,000 classifications, and that their median salary is \$31,750. A profile report presented to the committee shows 4.4 percent of the state work force is composed of racial or ethnic minorities, while 53 percent of the total is male. Figures from the 1990 census show that St. Louis Park is the 14th largest city with 43,800 people, followed by Eden Prairie with 39,300 people, according to the State Demographer's Office.

State-chartered banks "are in relatively good shape," says state Commerce Commissioner Bert McKasy. He told a division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 12 that the number of problem banks in Minnesota has been reduced by more than two-thirds during the past five years. In 1990, 7 percent of the 465 state-chartered banks were on the department's "troubled list." That figure stood at 20 percent just five years ago. McKasy says the farm crisis which rocked banks during the 1980s "has pretty much worked itself out." Most banks today are more prudent in their lending, he adds.

Are your children tired of counting telephone poles during those long drives during summer vacation? Well here's something else for them to count, courtesy of a report from the Department of Natural Resources. Besides trees and animals, Minnesota's 65 state parks contain plenty of man-made features, including 450 registered heritage landmarks; 565 historic buildings; 51 archaeological sites; 7 scientific and natural areas; 4,000 campsites; 4,200 picnic sites; 75 group camps; 33 beaches; 43 visitor centers; 1,000 miles of trails; 95 water accesses; 335 miles of road, and 1,600 buildings.

In the Hopper . . . Feb. 8-14, 1991

Bill Introductions

HF0264 — HF0352

Monday, Feb. 11

HF0264—Hasskamp (DFL)

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

Flag desecration; memorializes Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF0265—Blatz (IR)

Judiciary

Officers, employees, and agents of school districts exempt from claims resulting from asbestos or hazardous waste.

HF0266—Peterson (DFL)

Energy

Ethanol; production payments changed and use required in unleaded gasoline.

HF0267—Kalis

Transportation

Pickups provided exception for vehicle inspection purposes and hazardous materials endorsement for certain loads.

HF0268—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs and Gaming

Unicameral legislature adopted and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF0269—Carruthers (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Chiropractic care providers included in comprehensive health maintenance services.

HF0270—Janezich (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Financial statement availability and content requirements modified for counties.

HF0271—Scheid (DFL)

Education

Debt service and referendum levies equalized and training and experience aid appropriated money.

HF0272—Ogren (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Carlton County employee authorized to purchase prior service credit.

HF0273—Ogren (DFL)

Governmental Operations

McGregor; employee of independent school district No. 4 allowed to repay annuity and resume active member status.

HF0274—Sparby (DFL)

Commerce

Motor vehicle contract transfers regulated.

HF0275—Farrell (DFL)

Commerce

Motor vehicle contract assignment regulated.

HF0276—Orfield (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

X-ray use prohibited in nondiagnostic care.

HF0277—Cooper (DFL)

Education

Independent school district No. 653, Olivia, authorized to transfer money for combination with independent school district No. 646, Bird Island-Lake Lillian, and operating debt levies authorized.

HF0278—Rukavina (DFL)

Education

Permanent university fund expenditures to include endowed chairs and outreach programs.

HF0279—Olsen, S. (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Hopkins authorized to issue bonds for environmental response costs at landfill, and money appropriated.

HF0280—Olson, K. (DFL)

Education

Fund balance pupil unit definition modified.

HF0281—Hanson (DFL)

Taxes

Homesteads; 3 percent property tax rate repealed on homes valued over \$110,000.

HF0282—Cooper (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Gas utilities exempted from prior rate regulation.

HF0283—Girard (IR)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation act proposed.

HF0284—Uphus (IR)

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

Legislative terms limited to 10 years and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF0285—Carruthers (DFL)

Judiciary

Driving while intoxicated; chemical test refusal provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF0286—Blatz (IR)

Judiciary

Volunteer service act; immunity from civil liability provided for injuries incurred from volunteer activities.

HF0287—Morrison (IR)

Judiciary

Teacher private data provided to attorney general and licensing regulations changed.

HF0288—Olson, E. (DFL)

Transportation

Regular and irregular route common carrier definitions changed.

HF0289—Skoglund (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Loss ratio minimums established for accident and health insurers.

HF0290—Ogren (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Sick leave donation allowed by state employees.

HF0291—Sarna (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Minneapolis and special school district No. 1, Minneapolis, authorized to require residency as condition of employment.

Thursday, Feb. 14

HF0292—O'Connor (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

St. Paul and independent school district No. 625, St. Paul, authorized to require residency as condition of employment.

HF0293—Rodosovich (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Traumatic brain and spinal cord injury registry created.

HF0294—Rukavina (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Municipalities allowed to permit on-sale nonintoxicating malt liquor licensees to sell intoxicating malt liquor.

HF0295—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Counselors to be licensed and licensing board created with money appropriated.

HF0296—Newinski (IR)
Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming
Congress to enact H.R. 3603 relating to disclosure of information concerning POW/MIAs.

HF0297—Dempsey (IR)
Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming
Veterans; memorializes the President and Congress to enact full benefits for military personnel called to active service.

HF0298—Nelson, K. (DFL)
Education
Minority teacher loan program established.

HF0299—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Surviving spouse benefits to continue after remarriage.

HF0300—Bodahl (DFL)
Taxes
Homesteads; 3 percent property tax rate repealed on homes valued over \$110,000.

HF0301—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries
Telephone companies having local exchange and competitive services to provide incremental cost study before lowering rates.

HF0302—O'Connor (DFL)
Commerce
Credit card transaction not to include providing personal identification information.

HF0303—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Waste management practices changed and emphasis placed on waste reduction and recycling.

HF0304—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employers not to make replacement workers permanent during a strike or lockout.

HF0305—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Parent-to-parent support programs to receive grants and money appropriated.

HF0306—Bishop (IR)
Judiciary
Perpetuities; common law rule modified and statutory rule repealed.

HF0307—Osthoff (DFL)
Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming
Racing commission members to receive increased per diem and pari-mutuel clerks at county fairs licensed.

HF0308—Henry (IR)
Health & Human Services
Social security numbers and proof of citizenship status required to receive general assistance, general assistance medical care, and work readiness.

HF0309—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Child support; counties to retain one-half share of money recovered.

HF0310—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion services covered by medical assistance and money appropriated.

HF0311—McEachern (DFL)
Commerce
Cigarette discounts not included as cost of doing business in unfair cigarette sales act and money appropriated.

HF0312—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employees to receive time and a half on Sundays and legal holidays.

HF0313—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Psychological associate and consulting psychologist licensing requirements clarified.

HF0314—Lourey (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Toxic air pollutant list, monitoring program, and emission reduction requirements established by pollution control agency and money appropriated.

HF0315—Farrell (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Students considered full-time if unable to carry a full-time course load because of illness, injury, or physical or mental disability.

HF0316—Segal (DFL)
Education
Sexuality education programs offered by school districts.

HF0317—Wagenius (DFL)
Judiciary
Child custody and support provisions clarified.

HF0318—Rukavina (DFL)
Transportation
Railroad corporations to build alternate town access roads.

HF0319—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary
Soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act filers not to pay fee.

HF0320—Brown (DFL)
Commerce
Auctioneer licensing requirement exemption modified.

HF0321—Vellenga (DFL)
Judiciary
Marriage dissolution summons to contain certain information and other provisions changed and money appropriated.

HF0322—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Solid waste management certification and training program established and money appropriated.

HF0323—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Deferred compensation plan investments restricted.

HF0324—Farrell (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Wages to include payments made to a vacation, health, welfare, or pension fund on behalf of the employee.

HF0325—Murphy (DFL)
Energy
Memorializes the President and Congress to reauthorize the low-income home energy assistance program and to increase its funding.

HF0326—Osthoff (DFL)
Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming
Primary elections; employees provided time off to vote.

HF0327—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary
Foster home placement and removal procedures established.

HF0328—Jefferson (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home residents to receive increased personal needs allowance.

HF0329—Beard (DFL)
Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming
Flag desecration; memorializes the President and Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to allow laws against the desecration of the American flag.

HF0330—Stanisius (IR)
Health & Human Services
Aid to families with dependent children recipients to provide financial statements at least every three months.

HF0331—Kinkel (DFL)**Education**

School board meetings allowed via interactive television.

HF0332—Steensma (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Flag desecration; memorializes the President and Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to allow laws against the desecration of the American flag.

HF0333—Segal (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Mental health case management rules adopted and revised.

HF0334—Gruenes (IR)**Education**

Shared time aid to cover pupils enrolled at post-secondary institutions.

HF0335—Limmer (IR)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Petroleum tank release compensation board to pay interest costs and require proof of payment.

HF0336—Swenson (IR)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Lawful purpose expenditure to include combined receipt tax payments, gross profit expenditure limit lowered, and pull-tab posting requirement repealed.

HF0337—Marsh (IR)**Judiciary**

Speeding ticket reporting requirement exemption repealed.

HF0338—Segal (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Clinical specialists in psychiatric or mental health nursing included as a comprehensive health maintenance service.

HF0339—Anderson, R. H. (IR)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Flag desecration; memorializes Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF0340—Janezich (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Recycling centers accepting metal required to accept hazard signs.

HF0341—Orenstein (DFL)**Judiciary**

Medical facilities; interfering with access prohibited.

HF0342—Orfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Memorializes Congress to enact the Right to Choose Act and write into statutes the standards put forth in Roe vs. Wade.

HF0343—Scheid (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Seized animal disposition regulated and bond requirements provided.

HF0344—Stanisus (IR)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Flag desecration; memorializes Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF0345—Vellenga (DFL)**Judiciary**

Statute of limitations extended and eliminated for sexual abuse crimes against minors.

HF0346—Vellenga (DFL)**Taxes**

Family-based services; counties allowed special levy for unreimbursed costs.

HF0347—Gruenes (IR)**Taxes**

Diseased tree removal services exempted from sales tax.

HF0348—Oschoff (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Gaming department and commissioner abolished.

HF0349—Vellenga (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

St. Paul authorized to increase its hotel-motel tax.

HF0350—McEachern (DFL)**Education**

Open enrollment procedures changed and public education provided a mission statement.

HF0351—Gruenes (IR)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health care plans established for residents not covered by other plans and minimum benefits provided with money appropriated.

HF0352—Begich (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Dislocated worker fund eligibility extended.

Do you know?

Polk County is a big county: Its land area totals more than 1.26 million acres, which is 10 times more than Ramsey County, home of the state Capitol.

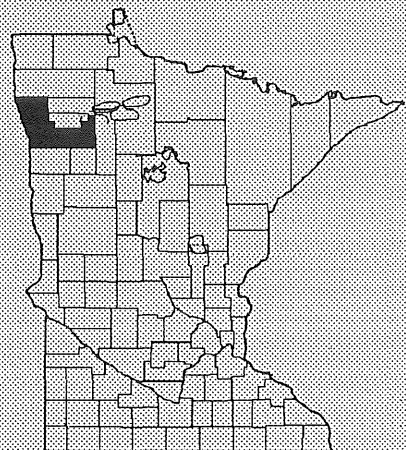
But Polk County — named for James K. Polk, the 11th president of the United States and the man who signed the act that created Minnesota Territory — used to be twice as big.

Created in 1858, Polk County was gradually whittled down to help form other counties, according to Thomas Montgomery McCall's *Centennial History of Polk County*.

Just four years after it was created, the mega-county lost a piece along its southern border when Clay County was established. In 1866, the eastern side of Polk was chopped off to create a part of Beltrami County.

To create Marshall County in 1879, another piece of Polk was pinched. Two years later, the southern third of what was left of Polk was taken to make Norman County.

Finally, in 1896, part of the north central and northeast sections were taken to create Red Lake County (which itself later was divided to form Pennington County).



Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 18-22, 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. 18

8 a.m.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Report on the Minnesota
Professional Police Officer Education
System.

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

Agenda: HF0350 (McEachern) Educa-
tion fiscal and policy reforms.

8:30 a.m.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Health Department 1991 report
on AIDS. Minnesota AIDS Project.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: HF0081 (Orfield) Name change
in mortgage satisfaction or release recital
considered evidence.

HF0055 (Orenstein) Soft body armor
costs not to be deducted from peace
officer clothing, maintenance, or similar
allowance.

HF0144 (Greenfield) Uniform anatomical
gift act of 1987 adopted.

HF0155 (Bishop) Towing of unlawfully
parked vehicles authorized if lawfully
parked vehicle movement is obstructed.

HF0165 (Bishop) State board of public
defense created.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: Overview: Office of Pipeline
Safety.

HF0116 (Pugh) Alcohol use authorized at
private school social or fund-raising
events.

HF0282 (Cooper) Gas utilities exempted
from prior rate regulation.

12:30 p.m.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Services provided by the
Minnesota Department of Education.

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: James Solem, commissioner,
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joseph Begich

Agenda: HF0156 (Jacobs) Child labor
prohibited after 11 p.m. and penalties
provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

3:30 p.m. (or immediately following
session)

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: House Rules: committee
deadlines. Temporary committee
budgets.

Subcommittee on Family Law/ JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Child support guidelines report
and background: Aviva Breen, director,
Legislative Commission on the Economic
Status of Women; Bonnie Becker,
director, and Anne Martineau, program
advisor, Office of Child Support Enforce-
ment, Minnesota Department of Human
Services.

TUESDAY, Feb. 19

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastruc- ture, and Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Humanities.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Minnesota Higher Education
Coordinating Board presentation on off-
campus sites.

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Continuation of LCMR budget hearings. Completion of Fish Hatchery Privatization Study.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Tour

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: Tour of the Minnesota Zoological Garden, Apple Valley. (The bus leaves from the State Office Building, east door.)

**Subcommittee on Property Tax/
TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: Truth in taxation.

8:15 a.m.

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Agency overview: State Planning Agency.

8:30 a.m.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS &
Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Lee Greenfield & Ken Nelson

Agenda: Early Childhood Family Education and Head Start Program.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF0146 (O'Connor) Real estate brokers and salespersons prohibited from requiring the use of particular closing agents.

HF0275 (Farrell) Motor vehicle contract assignment regulated.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Tour of Koch Refinery. Bus for members leaves State Office Building at 10 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Social & Family
Services/**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF0086 (Greenfield) Peace officers to notify parents or custodians of available social services when a child is taken into custody for shelter care placement; money appropriated.

HF0185 (Greenfield) Case management alternatives authorized for persons with mental retardation or related conditions. HF0193 (Greenfield) General assistance or supplemental aid negotiated agreement deadline delayed until March 1, 1991.

HF0233 (Greenfield) Patient rights include making advance declarations regarding mental health treatment.

12 noon

Legislative Water Commission

15 Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steve Morse

Agenda: Presentation by the Board of Water & Soil Resources on Groundwater Act implementation; 1991 legislation; the report on Environmental Agriculturalist Program; local water plan implementation grants; and well sealing cost share. Presentation by the Pollution Control Agency regarding Groundwater Act implementation; monitoring, etc. and 1991 legislation. Presentation by the Department of Health regarding Groundwater Act implementation; 1991 legislation; well code; and health risk limits, etc.

12:30 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

Agenda: Wy Spano, Business Developers Alliance: Coalition of four minority businesses assistance organizations. Abigail Mackenzie and David Leckey, Department of Trade and Economic

Development, on summary of Challenge to Change: Minnesota Businesses Appraise Current Conditions, Future Plans, and Government Roles in the 1990s.

**Elections Division/
GENERAL LEGISLATION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Linda Scheid

Agenda: HF0069 (Scheid) Political parties; executive committee to fill nomination vacancies.

HF0137 (Scheid) Candidate withdrawal provisions provided.

**Veterans Affairs Division/
GENERAL LEGISLATION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: HF0195 (Beard) POW/MIA special investigation; memorializing Congress to continue funding.

HF0196 (Beard) POW/MIA truth bill; memorializes Congress to enact the POW/MIA truth bill.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF0279 (Olsen, S.) Hopkins authorized to issue bonds for environmental response costs at landfill; and money appropriated.

1:30 p.m.

REDISTRICTING

City Council Chambers, Rochester

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Demographic information: Tom Gillaspay, state demographer. Review of concurrent resolution to establish standards. Open testimony.

2:30 p.m.

ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 13 meeting. Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy. Further discussion of legislative agenda. Discussion of proposed resolution regarding Federal Energy Assistance Program.

**Subcommittee on Civil Law/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF0236 (Solberg) Survey and inspection of land authorized before eminent domain proceedings begin. HF0260 (Farrell) Writ of certiorari in civil case provided security for costs.

7 p.m.

**Commission on the Economic Status
of Women**

Metcalf Junior High School, Room 100,
2250 Diffley Road, Burnsville
Chr. Sen. Pat Piper

Agenda: Are educational efforts in the area sensitive to the needs of women and girls? Do women have access to the programs they need? Do women have access to health care? Prenatal care? Insurance? Do women have access to legal help? Child care? Employment opportunities? How is STRIDE being implemented? How are child support enforcement efforts working? How is the community serving the needs of victims of domestic abuse? What are the special needs of older women?

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

**Economic Development, Infrastruc-
ture, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Center of Transportation, Richard Braun, director. Ethical Practices Board.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Student Lobby Day presentation.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Commission on the Economic Status of Women Task Force Report on Child Care. Ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation report on children's mental health residential treatment (Rule 5) programs.

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

Agenda: HF0124 (Scheid) Teachers; termination, discharge, or demotion hearing before an arbitrator allowed. HF0060 (Olson, K.) Independent school district No. 325, Lakefield, allowed to conduct levy referendum.

8:15 a.m.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS &
Environment & Natural Resources
Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Reps. Phyllis Kahn &
David Battaglia

Agenda: Department of Finance: Informational review on budget structures.

8:30 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: HF0053 (Brown) Public fire safety educator sunset provision repealed.

10 a.m.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

**House Higher Education Division/
EDUCATION &
Senate Subcommittee on Higher
Education/EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Mike Jaros &
Sen. John Hottinger

Agenda: Students from various higher education systems will present their concerns and legislative requests. Higher education systems represented: Univer-

sity of Minnesota, state universities, community colleges, Minnesota technical colleges, and private colleges.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Health insurance overview. Presentations by: Larry Frederickson, Northwestern National Life Insurance Company; and Lois Wattman, Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Lynn Grueber, executive director, MCHA, will present information about Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association.

**Criminal Justice Division/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Report from Minnesota Criminal Justice System DWI Task Force.

11:45 a.m.

The House will meet in session.

12 noon

Joint session for the governor's budget address.

**2 p.m. (or immediately following
budget address)**

ENERGY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Department of Public Safety report on technological developments and clarification of references presented at previous meetings.

2:30 p.m.

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

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: The ethical and policy implication of HIV testing for health care providers to patients. Witnesses: Michael Osterholm, state epidemiologist; Michael Moen, Minnesota Department of Health; and others to be announced. HFXXXX (Bishop) Requiring AIDS testing in certain circumstances. (Discussion only, no votes will be taken.)

THURSDAY, Feb. 21

8 a.m.

APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: Overview: Governor's budget.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Overview: The governor's biennial budget recommendations.

Government Structures Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor

Agenda: Public Utilities Commission chair, Darrel Peterson.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: A toxic pollution overview: Sources, transport, fate, risk assessment, and responses.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

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. HF0090 (Welle) Medical examiners board to have geographic representation. HF0100 (Cooper) Health coverage surcharge imposed; emergency medical services personnel account and incentive plan for ambulance personnel established.

HF0130 (Jaros) Duluth seaway port authority employees extended coverage under the state employees' insurance plan.

12 noon

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Robert Vanasek

Agenda: Overview of the governor's budget: Department of Finance.

12:30 p.m.

International Trade & Technology Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Gil Young, Committee on Science and Technology Research and Development.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF0059 (Garcia) State employees called to active duty as part of Operation Desert Shield to receive difference between active duty military pay and state employee pay and money appropriated. HF0097 (Thompson) Persian Gulf; President and Congress to express Minnesota's support for troops. (Any other bills passed by the divisions.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF0092 (Lasley) Mora deadline extended for negotiating municipal wastewater treatment facility contracts. HF0131 (Dille) Meeker County Board authorized to build an addition to the county hospital.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

3:30 p.m. (or immediately following session)

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren

Agenda: Governor's budget.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22

8:15 a.m.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Agency overview: Governor's office.

12:30 p.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: Continuation of the Monday, Feb. 18 agenda.

IR Davids wins special election

Independent-Republicans Feb. 12 made it a special election sweep, retaining a state House seat from southeastern Minnesota and chipping away at the DFL's still sizable majority.

Preston Mayor Gregory Davids topped Lanesboro City Council member Harlin Taylor, a DFLer, in a special election to fill the District 32B seat vacated by former Rep. Elton Redalen, the new state commissioner of agriculture.

Davids outpolled Taylor by a 63.6-to-36.4 percent margin. According to unofficial returns, Davids captured 3,370 votes to Taylor's 1,928. Socialist Workers Party candidate Henry Zamarron of Sargeant got 42 votes.

The win reduces the DFL majority in the House to 79-55. DFLers had held a 79-53 margin at the beginning of the 77th Session of the Legislature following the resignations of Redalen and Rep. Joe Quinn, a DFLer from District 50B.

Last week, Independent-Republicans picked up Quinn's seat when Phil Heir won a special election in District 50B, which includes portions of Anoka County.

Minnesota House of Representatives
Public Information Office
175 State Office Building • St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
(612) 296-2146 1-800-657-3550

Speaker of the House: Robert Vanasek
Majority Leader: Dee Long
Minority Leader: Terry Dempsey

MINNESOTA INDEX

State children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children

Percentage of AFDC recipients who are children	64
Percentage of AFDC recipients under age 7	53
Percentage of children on AFDC, food stamps living below poverty line ...	18
Number of refugees on AFDC in 1982	1,200
Number of refugees on AFDC in 1990	13,000
Percentage of children on AFDC who are white	66
Percentage of children on AFDC who are African-American	15
Percentage of children on AFDC who live in metropolitan area	68
Percentage increase of AFDC two-parent families from 1980-88	416
Percentage increase of AFDC single-parent families from 1980-88	6
Percentage of children on AFDC in separated families headed by women ..	95
Percentage of AFDC families that began with a teen birth	48
Approximate percentage of parent teenagers on AFDC	6
Number of children on AFDC using food shelves in 1985	16,776
Number of children on AFDC using food shelves in 1989	63,452

Source: Children's Defense Fund booklet, "157,000 Children: Facts And Feelings About Being On Welfare In Minnesota."

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

FAX: (612) 296-1563

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
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House Index Office
(612) 296-6646

24-Hour Recorded Information

For up-to-date committee meeting
times and agendas, call:
House Calls (612) 296-9283

For a report of the day's committee
action, call:
Committee Report (612) 297-1264

For Hearing Impaired

Electronic communication for hearing
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