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SESSION WEEKLY

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Flashback

There's been a lot of talk about "reinventing government." But it won't be long before legislators will be asked to do some reinventing of their own.

Of streetcars, that is. Amid a flurry of media coverage, the Minnesota Department of Transportation decided this week to proceed with the development of light rail transit between Minneapolis and Burnsville.

The decision, no doubt, may warm the hearts of long-time Minnesotans who fondly remember the golden era of Twin Cities streetcars in the 1920s. Mayors from Brooklyn and Boston reportedly once said, "This is the finest streetcar system anywhere in the world."

During rush hours on University Avenue, a streetcar stopped every 60 seconds and, in the daytime, the wait was seldom more than 10 minutes. The coaches were said to be the roomiest and most comfortable in the nation — supposedly large enough to accommodate Scandinavian feet.

Although the majority of the lines followed the traditional spoke system — with the two downtowns forming the centers — the coaches also traveled to the hinterlands. On Sundays, a Minnetonka-bound streetcar left Minneapolis every 10 minutes. Once there, riders could frolic at the beach or book passage to Big Island (amusement) Park.

Likewise, St. Paul residents could easily catch a ride to White Bear Lake to enjoy an afternoon at Wildwood amusement park. And, if more play was on the agenda, you could take another streetcar to Stillwater, "the queen city of the St. Croix."

Although the streetcars were replaced by buses in the 1950s, tokens with the modernistic Twin City Rapid Transit insignias are still in use today on MTC buses. Likewise, lawmakers have left the old streetcar laws on the books. For the record, conductors still have the authority to arrest intoxicated passengers.

Despite that link with streetcars' storied past, light rail supporters would be wise to remain cautiously optimistic. There are enough glowing reports about light rail, also known as a People Mover, in the library to fill a caboose. And buried in the avalanche of media coverage was one small detail: money, as in where it will come from. That is the issue that has a habit of derailing projects everywhere.

It was in 1979 that the following announcement appeared in the Sunday *St. Paul Pioneer Press*:

"Be the first to ride the People Mover. A drawing will be held to select local people to join local, state and national officials on the first People Mover ride through downtown St. Paul. To enter, clip and mail this coupon to . . ."

— Grant Moos

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On the cover: Members of both legislative bodies greeted Gov. Arne Carlson Jan. 14 as he entered the House chamber to present his third annual State of the State Address.

—photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

State of the State . . .

Carlson makes children Minnesota's top priority

Minnesota isn't playing fair with its children, Gov. Arne Carlson said, and has created a morass of ineffective programs and an education system ill-suited to train tomorrow's highly-skilled workers.

The governor focused his annual State of the State address Jan. 14 almost exclusively on those issues, outlining an aggressive agenda which he said would put Minnesota at the forefront of aiding its young people.

Topping his agenda is a proposal to create a Department of Children and Education Services, which the governor said would "address the needs of the total child, from infancy through teen-age years."

"It will mean that for the first time, there will be a single agency responsible for cutting through the bureaucratic tape on behalf of children," the governor said. "It will mean that a single agency head can be held accountable for producing better results . . . And it will mean that every child will have a better shot at success."

Forming the new department will mean major changes in existing agencies, and abolishing others, the governor added. The Department of Education would be folded into the new agency.

Besides the departmental reorganization, the governor will ask for \$10 million in incentive grants to get communities to improve ways they help children and families. Carlson said he envisions a partnership of local officials, agencies, schools and parents.

"We have talked about standards in education long enough," he said. "It is time to act. To set standards. To set them high, and to measure the results."

Under the governor's plan, the state will also back off from what he called micro-management, focusing only on outcomes. The proposed new department would set standards so that students will have mastered a rigorous set of academic skills by the 10th grade.



Speaker of the House Dee Long takes notes while Senate President Allan Spear listens to the governor present his State of the State Address to a joint session of the Legislature.

"We are going to let the local schools do their jobs," he said. "We will free teachers up to teach."

The second major initiative offered by the governor in his address was a proposal for a system of youth apprenticeships. Citing Germany as an example, Carlson said the program could provide technical training to young people, who would then have the option of going to college later.

Minnesota students also could take college preparation courses, or a combination of academic classes and hands-on training during their last two years of high school.

Finally, the governor said his budget message later this month will include a plan to establish "education and training accounts" for every young Minnesotan. The state will contribute funds for lower-income families, while private sources would also be tapped to pitch in. That program would also be run by the new Department of Children and Education Services.

Carlson added that he will be proposing legislation to limit young people still in

high school from working more than 20 hours per week during the school year. Minnesota leads the nation in the number of young people who are in the labor force, with 69 percent averaging 24 hours of work each week.

That time consumed at work has been proven to lead to a decline in school performance, Carlson said.

"We must introduce a new seriousness into the business of learning, and communicate that seriousness to our children," he said.

Carlson said his children's program, aimed at gearing the state for global competition, will require cooperative efforts on multiple levels and across party lines. But it is an integral part of the process to reinvent government.

"Our administration is committed to putting our customers first," he said. "And in Minnesota, children are our Number One customer."



Editor's note: "Competitiveness: foundations for the future" was the theme of Minnesota Horizons '93, the latest manifestation of a recurring conference for legislators sponsored by the Minnesota House of Representatives and Minnesota Senate.

The one-day conference at the Minnesota History Center encouraged lawmakers to challenge their traditional approach to policy issues given the changing, technologically advanced economy of the 1990s.

Members and staff heard nationally recognized experts in the areas of population trends and diversity in the workplace, and a panel discussion on the specific policy implications these issues have on Minnesota.

This year marks the sixth Horizons Conference since 1975.

'90s new realities

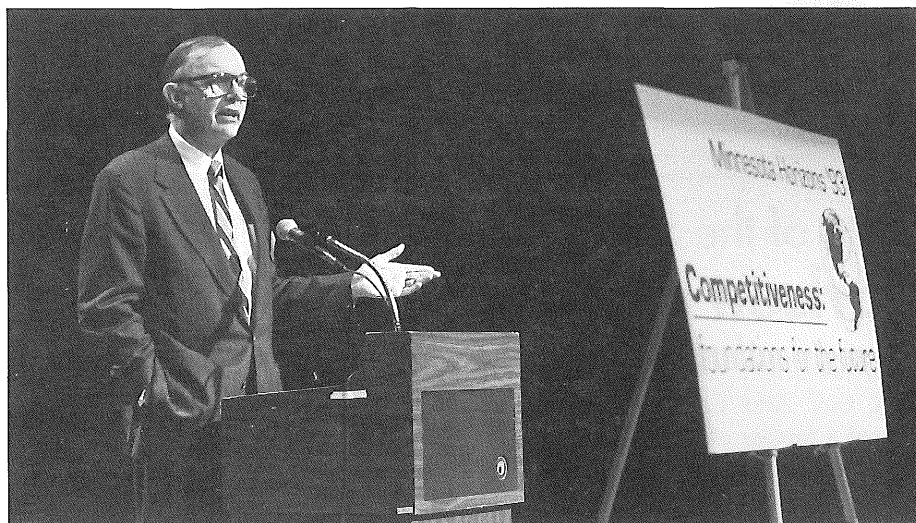
"The post World War II era has come to an end."

With that prophetic pronouncement, Hazel Reinhardt, a demographic consultant and former Minnesota state demographer, told lawmakers gathered at the Jan. 13 Horizons Conference that the 1990s will be a period of transition from one era to another.

And she advised legislators that the solutions from the 1960s and early 1970s won't necessarily apply to the "new realities of the 1990s."

Specifically, Reinhardt predicted four major trends in state population during the next decade:

- **Slower Population Growth:** Minnesota's population will increase during the 1990s at a rate half of that experienced during the 1980s, said Reinhardt. Because there will be not be as large an increase in the number of consumers, the state's economy will have to expand into other areas in order to prosper.
- **Aging Population:** Minnesota's "baby-boomers," who represent 30 percent of all Minnesotans, are "now solidly middle-aged." A resulting decline in the 20- to 39-year-old age group means we'll have to "do more than give lip service" to revitalizing the skills of middle-aged workers, Reinhardt said. "We're going to have to count on 40- to 50-year-olds" to "drive change" in the work force.



Lewis Branscomb, director of the Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, told Minnesota lawmakers Jan. 13 that competition between states to attract new business is becoming outdated in today's global economies. "The result is that astute companies play one state off another in search of the best deal," he said in his keynote address at the Minnesota Horizons Conference. "If states learn to cooperate, people would be better off."

- **Increasingly Diverse Population:** More immigrants entered the U.S. during the 1980s than at any time in history. While Minnesota doesn't have the diversity of California, Florida or Texas, Reinhardt said it does have a significant young minority population. Between 39 and 45 percent of the state's minorities are under 18, while only 26 percent the state's white non-Hispanic population is under age 18. "Never in our history has equipping young persons of color been more important," said Reinhardt
- **Population Centers:** As the U.S. population shifts away from the northeast and midwest, the "national agenda" will increasingly be set by issues in three "mega-states:" California, Texas, and Florida, where more than one-half of the growth is concentrated.

Likewise, Minnesota has "mega-regions:" the Twin Cities, and a St. Cloud-to-Rochester alley. Together, these areas account for 65 percent of the state's population. The state should look at the "enormous differences" in age, income, and education between residents within those regions and those in rural Minnesota, said Reinhardt. Rural per capita income, for example, is 25 percent less than the statewide average.

Education is good business

Minnesota's high-tech firms have been aggressive and innovative in working to keep their world-renowned competitive edge.

Leaders of some of those firms say it's about time the state does the same.

A panel of those leaders told legislators Jan. 13 that more supportive public policy is urgently needed to ensure that the state's hard-earned reputation for high-tech industry isn't lost. And that doesn't mean addressing only the "typical" business climate issues of tax and workers' compensation reform.

Education is the most important public policy issue to Medtronic Inc., said Winston Wallin, chairman of the medical device manufacturing firm. If Minnesota doesn't produce the technically-skilled workers needed for firms like his, it doesn't mean Medtronic will leave, but the state will lose in another way.

"What we'll simply do, we'll go to Japan and we'll go to Europe" to do the bulk of manufacturing, he said. A strong high-tech industry has advantages for the state: The jobs are high-paying, it's environmentally sound, and companies are stable.

Minnesota shouldn't merely focus on having a K-12 educational system that measures up to other states, but to other nations, added Jim Johnson, founder and chief executive of Amador Corp.

"The need for change today is even more

profound than at the time of the Great Depression," Johnson said, urging lawmakers to be as bold and creative as entrepreneurs.

A Minnesota kindergarten student in 1980 who will graduate from high school this June attended 170 days of school per year, compared to 250 for a student in Korea — a total of 2.5 calendar years less over the 12-year education period.

In resisting proposals to lengthen school years, "you've ignored this student and, I submit, you've ignored the state," Johnson told lawmakers. "... We've adapted; you should, too."

In 1991, however, the Legislature did approve a measure that will incrementally add 20 days to the length of the school year. Beginning with the 1995-96 school year, two more days will be added each year until Minnesota schools are open 190 days per year.

Better jobs, higher wages

A "silent depression" has fallen over Minnesota, causing large sectors of society to be persistently poor, Yusef Mgeni, president of the Urban Coalition, told legislators at the 1993 Minnesota Horizons Conference Jan. 13.

"The 'low skills, low wage' approach is not working," Mgeni said during a panel on "Policy Challenges for the Legislature." The lack of meaningful employment for the 70 percent of students who will not graduate from college is a dilemma the state must address, he said.

Among the legislative solutions Mgeni suggested were an increase in the minimum wage, development of more jobs that pay decent wages, and reform of the Eurocentric model of education that fails to interest many African-American students.

Mgeni also said the Legislature must be mindful that its proposed solutions actually address the problems they are intended to resolve.

The creation of enterprise zones in poor neighborhoods, for example, does not necessarily help the unemployed in those neighborhoods, he said.

He cited the line of cars belonging to white workers leaving jobs at newer companies in north Minneapolis each evening. Those workers return to the neighborhood only to work.

Mgeni reminded the almost exclusively white legislators that jobs that keep people in poverty do not just affect people of color. "Eighty percent of the poor in this state look like the people in this audience," he said.

Jobs were also a concern for panelist Terry Saario, president of the Northwest Area Foundation. Although Minnesota's schools do a good job of serving the college-bound, they must do a better job of helping noncollege-bound students develop vocational skills, she said.

Joseph Shuster, chair of the Minneapolis-based Teltech Resource Network Corp., echoed the call for strengthening education efforts, but in relevant fields, such as technology. He deplored the training of too many students in glutted fields, such as law. The United States has 40 percent more lawyers than it needs, he said.

"If all law schools were closed today, it would take 30 years to eliminate the excess."

Reinventing government

Where, author Ted Gaebler wanted to know, is Minnesota's state Office of New Ideas located? After all, an organization employing 39,000 people with a budget of more than \$15 billion surely must be constantly seeking ways to do its job better.

With a blend of insight and humor, Gaebler used that and other examples to illustrate the central premise of his best-selling book, *Reinventing Government*: There are good people working in government at all levels who are trapped in a bad system of management, where mediocrity is rewarded and innovation is stifled.

Gaebler's book, co-authored with David Osborne, has fast become required reading among state officials. His appearance at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 14, on the heels of an advisory session with British Prime Minister John Major, was arranged by legislative leaders as part of their effort to spark some creative thinking this session.

Though governments at all levels can stand some reinventing, Minnesota can take some comfort in knowing that it's well ahead of other states, Gaebler said. Minnesota was cited in his book as one of the top five states in improving government.

"There's always a lot of thinking going on," said Gaebler. "To contrast that, I'm

still waiting for my first phone call from Rhode Island and Louisiana."



Agriculture

AURI praised

Minnesota's Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), an affiliate organization of Minnesota Technology Inc., earned plaudits from several beneficiaries of its programs during the first meeting of the House Agriculture Committee Jan. 11.

Among those offering testimonials were Dan and Jennifer Tollefson of Glencoe, who developed a business marketing low-fat and low-cholesterol eggs and pork.

Likewise, Walter Eisner, vice president of Environmental Technology USA Inc., which develops products such as biodegradable packaging materials, had high praises for AURI.

The businesses, which use farm commodities in innovative ways, may not have gotten off the ground without AURI's help, they said.

Agriculture is Minnesota's "hidden industry," said Dr. Richard Nelson, AURI's executive director, with a role in the state economy even more significant than more-publicized Northwest Airlines.



Budget

State revenues climbing

Continuing climbs in tax revenues have some state officials saying that Minnesota may have turned the corner in its economic slump.

"If revenues remain high in looking at both [December and January] figures, the thing to conclude is that the [state] economy is doing better," said John Peloquin, staff economist for the state Department of Finance.

While January figures have yet to be calculated, state tax collections for the final two months of 1992 were \$75 million higher than expected, according to reports by the state departments of Finance and Revenue. The January figures will help state officials determine whether December's numbers were part of an up-

ward trend or more of a statistical aberration, said Department of Finance Commissioner John Gunyou.

The year-end 1992 revenue increases come on the heels of a \$274 million boost in tax collections during the preceding eight months and have bolstered hopes among some that the state will be able to "grow out" of its current budget problems.

But the latest rosy figures may be just a statistical quirk on the curve.

Peloquin said part of the jump in December collections may be the result of some taxpayers taking advantage of differences in state and federal tax policies to reduce their overall tax bill. Others, believing federal tax rates may be increased by Congress, could be paying taxes before the end of the year to drive down their 1993 taxable income, he said.

Gunyou told members of the Ways and Means Committee Jan. 12 that the continuing growth in collections is "an encouraging sign," but cautioned lawmakers to be guarded in their optimism. He said much more will be known when the Department of Finance's revised budget forecast is released in early March.

The department's forecasts assist the governor and lawmakers in assembling the state's budget. November's forecast showed that based on funding for current state programs, a \$769 million deficit would exist at the end of the next two-year budget cycle.



Education

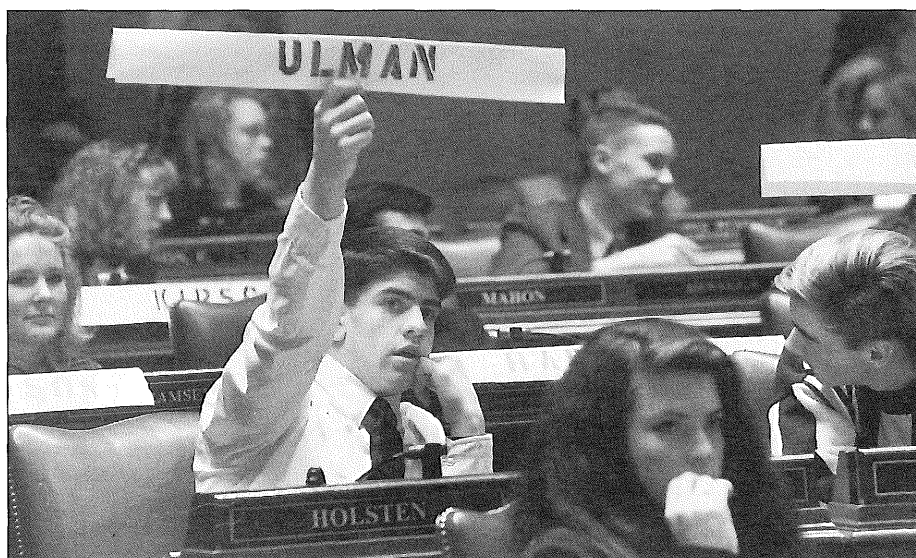
Minnesota moves

Minnesota is becoming more transient and ethnically diverse — a trend that will affect the way people support their schools and communities, said state demographer Tom Gillaspay.

"People don't live where they grew up," said Gillaspay. It's a trend that leaves Minnesotans less likely to know their neighbors and less inclined to believe that they have a stake in their communities, he said.

Gillaspay told members of the House Education Committee Jan. 12 that nearly half of all Minnesotans over age 5 moved between 1985 and 1990 — a trend also reflected in major shifts in the state's population.

While eight Minnesota cities more than



Patrick Ulman, a Mankato Loyola High School junior, signals the chair for recognition during a mock floor debate in the House chamber. More than 900 junior and senior high school students participated in this year's Youth in Government activities Jan. 7-10. The YMCA-sponsored program simulates most of the inner workings of the Capitol, with participants acting as legislators, constitutional officers, committee aides, lobbyists, and reporters.

Minnesota's Fast Growing Cities 1980-1990 (percentage growth above the population of 1980)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Savage | 150.5 |
| Eden Prairie | 141.7 |
| Eagan | 129 |
| Centerville | 122.5 |
| Albertville | 121.8 |
| Vadnais Heights | 116 |
| St. Francis | 114.4 |
| Shafer | 104.4 |
| Woodbury | 95 |
| Maple Grove | 88.7 |

doubled in population during the 1980s, 513 of the state's 854 cities lost residents, he said.

Since many people no longer live where they did even a few years ago, there is an attitude of "those kids aren't my kids." The result has been that people are less willing to support public schools, both financially and in other ways, he said.

Other factors that will strongly influence the role of education, Gillaspay noted, are Minnesota's increasing minority population and greater economic differences among students, as well as more transient and homeless children, and children with unofficial guardians.

"This fragmenting into groups means you will find a lot of 'characterization' of other people," said Gillaspay. "There's not a sense that there's this commonality. The result will be less understanding of other people."

Student growth

Elementary and secondary schools will face new challenges as more than 20,000 new students per year are added to the school system between 1991 and 1995.

That was one of several messages delivered to House Education Committee members by Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) officials Jan. 12.

In addition to those enrollment increases, school districts also are seeing higher numbers of students living in poverty, as well as significant increases in minority student enrollments.

While northeastern Minnesota schools will have the smallest growth in students by the mid-1990s (0.7 percent), the metropolitan and St. Cloud regions will see a rise of nearly 15 percent in enrollment, said Carol Hokenson, MDE data management team leader. She added that 60 percent of all Minnesota students were schooled in those two regions last year.

Minority students now represent 10 percent of Minnesota's K-12 school enrollment — up from 5.6 in the 1980-81 school year.

Of all minority groups, Asian students make up the largest bloc (36 percent), followed by African-American students (32 percent), Native American students (17 percent) and Hispanic students (14 percent).

In 1980-81, African-American students

were the largest minority with 36 percent, following by Asian students, who represented 26 percent of the minority population.

Nine percent — or some 67,000 students — live in families whose incomes fall at or below the poverty level, particularly in the state's northwest, northeast, and metropolitan regions.

For the 1991-92 school year, the state's public K-12 schools had 766,784 students enrolled.

U of M sets its course

"If the dust is flying, it is because we are using the broom to clean our own closets," University of Minnesota President Nils Hasselmo told members of the House Education Committee Jan. 14.

A major "restructuring and reallocation" effort begun in 1991 has shifted \$58 million within the university budget into high priority areas, he said.

Among the changes taking place, Hasselmo said, are reduced staff and management levels, higher high school preparation requirements, new faculty workload guidelines, improved teacher assistant training, and changes in the way large courses are taught.

The university, he said, also is stepping up its efforts to develop sponsored research — projects which bring \$273 million annually into Minnesota. The university ranks seventh nationally in this "highly competitive area," Hasselmo said, adding that the university is tightening its oversight of such projects.

The university also is focusing on giving each campus "a distinctive profile."

The university receives 28 percent of its budget from the state of Minnesota, about \$450 million annually.



Environment

Nuclear waste dumps?

A federal repository for high-level nuclear waste will never be built in the foreseeable future, a radioactive waste consultant told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 14.

Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, a physicist with a New York radioactive waste management

firm, said the federal government has consistently delayed the date for opening a permanent storage facility.

At issue in Minnesota is whether Northern States Power Company's (NSP) proposed storage of radioactive waste at its Prairie Island nuclear plant is "permanent," therefore, subject to the legislative process.

NSP wants to abide by a Public Utilities Commission ruling, which permits NSP to build a "temporary" storage facility consisting of 17 storage casks.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee has begun hearings on the issue of whether the Legislature should make that policy decision.

Resnikoff told legislators that the federal Department of Energy has been moving away from the concept of a federal nuclear waste repository in Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

Legislators also heard testimony that Minnesota should not rely on Nevada to store nuclear waste. Bob Fulkerson, executive director of Citizen Alert in Nevada, said that his state is "emphatic in its opposition" to a proposed federal nuclear waste repository in Nevada's Yucca Mountain region — a feeling, he said, shared by 75 to 80 percent of its citizens. He told the committee that an earthquake fault run-

ning through the region also will prevent the federal facility from being built.

Dr. Rosalie Bertell, president of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health in Toronto, questioned whether the nuclear industry's figures about nuclear waste safety are valid.

She said the figures don't address long-term health effects such as cancers with 10- to 20-year latency periods, or immune system depression. Children who are exposed to radiation for years will develop a larger proportion of cancer, she said.

Laura McCarten of NSP, however, testified that the nuclear facility is "safe, temporary, and economical." Ending nuclear power generation, she said, would mean increased carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, as well as higher electric rates and "lost jobs for the state of Minnesota."



Health

Health, housing challenges

State agencies providing services to the unemployed, the sick, and veterans must adapt to meet the challenges of the chang-



Naturalist Nancy Gibson shows off Othello, an American bald eagle, as part of state Department of Natural Resources activities calling attention to its non-game wildlife programs. Also on display at the Jan. 7 event in the Capitol rotunda was a peregrine falcon whose habitat is being restored.

ing economy of the 1990s, stage agency heads told members of a division of the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 12.

Tuberculosis, lead exposure to children, sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), immunization, and protecting the public from the health risks of indoor smoking are among the issues faced by the Minnesota Department of Health, Mary Jo O'Brien, deputy commissioner of the Department of Health, told members of the Health and Housing Finance Division.

For the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), the challenge is to ensure it has adequate reserves to repay its debts, even if a depression-type situation occurs, resulting in numerous defaults on home loans, said MHFA Commissioner Jim Solem.

The total debt of the agency — \$1.9 billion — is actually greater than the debt of the state as a whole. Only 6 percent of the agency's budget is from state funds, with more than half of its funding derived from the issuance of tax-exempt bonds.

Increasing unemployment among middle managers and computer specialists has led the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training to try to escape the stereotype that it serves primarily blue-collar workers.

R. Jane Brown, the department's commissioner, said the agency is encouraging the state's companies to list more professional jobs with the agency's job service. The sooner displaced white-collar workers find replacement jobs, the less the unemployment tax burden will be on the state's employers, she said.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs faces an aging population of veterans, as some Vietnam veterans now approach 50. The Gulf War has handed the department new medical challenges, such as treating veterans with petroleum poisoning or blood parasites, said Commissioner Bernie Melter.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes Board has made vast reforms since 1987, when care was found to be substandard. But residential care facilities for veterans are still cash-strapped. No direct state appropriation for new beds has been made for more than 23 years, said Richard Zierdt, executive director of the Veterans Homes Board. He added that some residents sleep in surplus beds from the U.S. Veterans Administration.

Under the 1993 House committee structure, the Health and Housing Finance Division will control the funding for each of the five state agencies outlining their concerns Jan. 12. Funding for specific programs will be discussed later in the session as bills are referred to the committee.

Controlling health costs

Legislators who must consider how to keep Minnesota at the vanguard of accessible and affordable health care heard the views of experts from the University of Minnesota's Institute for Health Services Research Jan. 11-12.

If costs continue escalating at their current rate, health care expenditures are expected to make up 36 percent of the gross national product (GNP) by the year 2020, as compared to 12 percent of the GNP in 1990, Dr. Robert Kane said.

Kane, a professor specializing in long-term care and aging at the institute, said the growing technological sophistication of medical care has a strong influence on cost. When expensive new technology is developed, either cost per use will be high or more patients than necessary will be induced to use the technology in order to spread out the cost, Kane said.

"There's hardly a person walking around Minnesota who hasn't been scanned by some machine in the past five years," he said.

Strategies to control costs can be aimed at both consumers and providers. For instance, requiring co-payments for services resulted in overall cost savings without a negative impact on health for the average person. However, one small group, those who were both sick and poor, saw their health status worsen under such a plan, said health economist Willard Manning.

At the provider level, regulations that slow acquisition of new technology or impose a fee schedule could cut costs.

Consumers who qualify for an employee group plan have a strong incentive to be insured, because they pay their share of insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. Another financial benefit to these consumers is the community rating given to companies buying coverage for a large group.

One result of this system is that whites, smokers, and high-income families—who make higher use of the health care system

—have their health costs subsidized at the expense of blacks, nonsmokers, and low-income families who are not community rated, institute experts concluded.

The institute made its presentation before the Health and Human Services Committee's Health and Housing Finance Division, and other interested lawmakers.



Housing

Affordable housing

"The big issues that face us are affordability, affordability, and affordability — and after that, affordability," the director of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) told the Housing Committee Jan. 11.

Because homes can't be expected to continue escalating in value during the 1990s, the agency must do a better job of identifying and managing risk, said MHFA Director Jim Solem.

The MHFA's mission is to provide financial and technical assistance to make housing affordable throughout Minnesota.

Committee members expressed concern about housing issues in their own districts. Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he was disturbed by the number of homes with "For Sale" signs in a neighborhood near the State Capitol.

In the college town of Northfield, the average home costs \$90,000, making home ownership unattainable for many of the city's blue-collar workers, said Rep. Kay Brown (DFL-Northfield). In the state's rural areas, meeting the changing housing needs of the elderly is a major concern.

Funding to address these problems won't be easy to find. Keeping the federal deficit in mind, Solem said, "We have to be realistic about what we can expect to get under the Clinton administration."



Insurance

Insurance hikes delayed

The Minnesota House gave final approval Jan. 11 to a measure that would delay expected premium increases for some out-state senior citizens who have insurance policies that are designed to supplement federal Medicare.



Progressive activists satirize Minnesota's corporate interests they contend are controlling the state. David Tilsen, center, played the role of "Big Business Guy" as the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action used a mix of political theater and speeches to support legislation to aid low- and middle-income people. The rally took place Jan. 7 in the Capitol rotunda.

The measure is designed to phase-in substantial insurance price hikes for some seniors — mostly women between the ages of 65 and 69 — caused, in part, by implementation of the 1992 MinnesotaCare law.

The dramatic increases for that group are expected because of the law's "community rating" provision, which requires insurance companies to set a single rate for all specific policy holders. The provision prohibits companies from considering age or sex when setting premiums.

Although the provision works to the benefit of older seniors who often have lower incomes, it is expected to cause dramatic rate increases for younger, healthier seniors.

Under the bill (HF22), one-half of the rate hikes will take effect March 1, with the remaining half to be added in January 1994.

Insurers and health maintenance organizations in the Twin Cities metro area and in Chisago County are exempt from the bill's requirements. Skoglund and other supporters said urban seniors generally have the option to choose another provider should their current supplemental premiums become exorbitant.

The House floor debate also allowed several House members who opposed MinnesotaCare to signal their lingering discontent. "It was an ill-conceived con-

cept," said Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston). "I'm going to vote for this because it gives us a chance to delay a bad law. Community ratings will never work."

The final vote in the House was 126-4. A floor vote on the bill in the state Senate was 62-2.

Holding down health costs

While nationally health care costs have been increasing by more than 13 percent a year, hikes in the overall cost of Minnesota's health plan for state government employees rose by less than 6 percent during the last fiscal year, said Bob Cooley of the Department of Employee Relations.

Cooley told members of the Governmental Operations and Gaming Committee Jan. 12 that the state's health plan insures more than half of all state employees and works on the "managed competition" principle.

The idea is to pool those people who buy a specific type of health coverage and then negotiate with health care providers for lower costs.

Under the plan, state employees get to choose from a variety of health maintenance organizations and other health care providers. Each option, however, typically carries a slightly different cost for the employee.

While the plan's process for selecting and regulating providers has at times been controversial, it has kept costs down, explained Cooley.



Transportation

Gas tax increase?

A 5-cent-per-gallon increase to the state's gas tax may not be enough to keep the state's trunk highway fund solvent for long.

Although the increase would raise an additional \$65 million for the state over the next two years, MnDOT Commissioner James Denn said that would be a "bare bones minimum" to maintain current projects.

Much more money is necessary to maintain the state's construction programs over the long haul, said Denn at a House finance committee meeting Jan. 11. Without it, MnDOT "will be back knocking on the door" for more funds, he added.

The current state gas tax is 20 cents per gallon — a level that has remained constant since 1988, when a 3-cent per gallon increase was approved.

Denn estimated that between now and the year 2000, an average of \$93 million in additional funds per year would be needed for the state's trunk highway fund.

If that amount were to be supplied by a gas tax increase under the current distribution requirements, the state would need to boost the tax between 20 to 28 cents per gallon, he said.

Rep. James Rice (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Finance Committee, emphasized that any tax increase for highway construction not be diverted to alleviate the state's budget deficit.

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), who chaired the House Transportation Committee from 1987 to 1992, added that state politicians failed to place the issue on the agenda during the 1992 campaign season, and that Gov. Arne Carlson's administration needs to adopt a stronger leadership role in supporting increased highway revenues.

For each dollar raised by the gas tax, 62 cents goes to the state trunk highway fund, 29 cents to the county-state aid highway fund, and 9 cents to the municipal state aid fund.

Low-key diplomat . . .

Welle seeks metro, rural, suburban cooperation

Mild-mannered. Soft-spoken. Hardly the expected attributes for the traditionally rough-and-tumble role of House majority leader.

Yet those are the most often-mentioned adjectives colleagues use to describe Alan Welle.

Effective is another. That's why the veteran Willmar DFLer was again elected by his caucus to hold one of the House's most demanding leadership posts — a job often putting him in political cross-fire.

After serving his first year as majority leader during the 1992 session, (one regarded by many as both productive and harmonious), Welle said he doesn't plan to change his approach.

"There were a lot of factors that went into the harmony of the last session," he said. "I

"I think the governor is being pushed by a number of members of his party, especially those in the Legislature, to be more confrontational than he was last session," he said.

"When the minority lost so many members after being cooperative, I think they perceive they weren't the beneficiaries of that," he added. "They're pushing the governor to draw more lines in the sand than he did last year."

Another of Welle's duties is often overlooked — that of chief executive of the House itself. As such, he's charged with administering a \$20 million budget and about 250 full-time employees.

In fact, Welle is surprised that his job can be more administrative than political. A year ago, he presumed the opposite to be true. His background in business and edu-

management, a lot of fires that occur because of the political atmosphere that exists in this place," he said. "So every day is kind of an adventure."

The complexion of the 1993 House also poses additional leadership challenges. There are 33 first-time members, 18 of them DFLers.

"Frankly, it's a different first-year group than I've experienced," Welle said. "Many of them were elected on a campaign platform calling for change in the way government operates."

The recent restructuring of House committees is aimed at this call for change with each House member now serving on both a spending committee as well as policy committees.

This session also has more representatives from the suburbs than ever before — and fewer from rural areas. Though bringing a strong rural background to the job, Welle also recognizes issues facing cities and suburbs, and the voting strength of each block of lawmakers.

"Rural members never had enough votes to pass a bill on their own before, and they still don't," he said. "But yet, there's still enough members that you can't pass a bill without them either. So I'm not so sure that, even though there's been a diminished number of [rural] people, the status really changes."

The difficulty, he said, is that urban, suburban, and rural constituencies each perceive their needs are being slighted in different ways.

Cities believe their special needs in dealing with crime and decaying infrastructure are being ignored, while rural areas claim not enough attention is paid to economic issues. Meanwhile, the suburbs argue that they have been gouged by high property taxes for long enough.

Welle's proposed solution, is typically diplomatic.

"The reality is that people are *state* representatives," Welle said. "And I think the challenge is for us to try to keep the rural, metro and suburban lines from being so clearly drawn, and to try to work together."

— Jim Anderson



House Majority Leader Alan Welle presides over a recent meeting of the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

just personally think you solve problems a lot easier without confrontation and conflict than you do with [confrontation]. So I try hard to affect things with that kind of style."

Welle senses that nurturing a cooperative spirit may be more of a challenge this session, however, because House DFLers gained ground in last fall's elections.

cation administration has come in handy for the role, which Welle said he enjoys.

And alongside the duties of administrator and chief DFL strategist on the House floor, add diplomat to Welle's job description. In addition to keeping the 86 DFLers rowing more or less in sync, his tenure has been marked by an ability to negotiate.

"There's a lot of what I would term 'crisis

Assistant majority leaders

It's impossible for the majority leader to solicit and listen to the opinions of all 86 DFL caucus members on a particular bill.

That's why a number of assistant majority leaders are elected — to serve as a constant channel of communication between individual members and leadership.

This session, four members were elected by their DFL peers to serve as assistant majority leaders. Their primary task is to conduct "head counts" during floor sessions to ensure their party has enough votes to pass important bills.

Each assistant is assigned a quadrant in the House chamber and is responsible for tallying the votes of members in their area. If a member in their assigned territory isn't on the floor when a bill is brought up for a vote, it's the job of the assistant leader to track them down.

When speaking to their caucus members, assistant leaders relay not just the position of caucus leadership on a particular issue, but the reasons for the position. While assistants need to be persuasive to maintain caucus unity, members are encouraged to vote their district.

The following members have been elected as assistant majority leaders for the 1993-94 biennium:

Mary Jo McGuire 54A Falcon Heights
Katy Olson 22B Sherburn
Tom Rukavina 5A Virginia
Steve Trimble 67B St. Paul

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It's a fact!

"Though you spend much seed on your field, you will harvest but little, for the locusts will devour the crop."

While Deuteronomy 28:38 accurately describes a series of Minnesota locust invasions, the Bible makes no mention of the term "hopperdozer."

Such a technological wonder couldn't have been foreseen in Old Testament times. But a committee appointed by former Minnesota Gov. Cushman Davis did.

Following the 1874 hopper invasion that ravaged 28 Minnesota counties, Davis' committee was urged to "investigate the [hopper] plague and try to find some remedy."

The hopperdozer was its answer. What was a hopperdozer? Essentially mobile fly paper on a grand scale, pulled by horses through hopper invested fields.

The hopperdozer was a "long strip of sheet-iron turned up on the back and ends, wrote Mary Carney in Min-

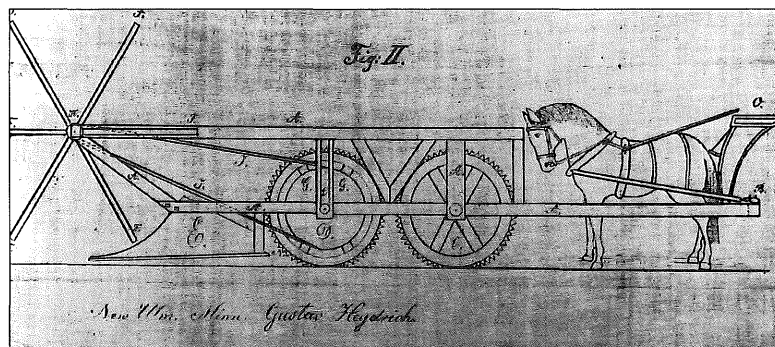
nesota, *The Star of the North*. "The entire inner surface was smeared with tar, and as the apparatus was dragged by horses across the fields, the young locusts sprang up before it and were caught in the sticky substance."

In 1877 alone, 28 tons of sheet iron and 3,000 barrels of coal tar — at state expense — were distributed to farm-

ers to assemble hopperdozers.

"Large fields were sometimes saved in this way," wrote Carney.

But by mid-August of 1877, the hopperdozers were no longer needed. Strangely the locusts began to disappear, "as if by common impulse, and flew away in different directions," wrote Carney.



A modified hopperdozer, designed by Gustav Heydrich of New Ulm, Minnesota, in 1876. The paddlewheel design never was implemented.

Photo courtesy Minnesota historical Society

Speaker's Youth Forum

Teaching today's youth how to grasp the levers of government was the goal of the first Speaker's Youth Forum held Oct. 15-17 at the State Capitol.

Coordinated by the Educational Programs Office of the House of Representatives, the seminar brought together about 60 high school students with public policy specialists.

The program's goal was to help students learn how to become better informed, more effective citizens, said Lee Lambert and Mike Speiker, forum coordinators.

The conference focused on developing both leadership and coalition-building skills and strategies for empowering youth. Topics of discussion also included individual rights, crime and justice, and the environment.

Distinguished panel members included U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, former Vice President Walter Mondale, House Speaker Dee Long, other state and local elected officials, and members of the media.

Similar forums will take place in May following adjournment of the state Legislature and again in October 1993.



Josie Johnson, University of Minnesota vice president for academic affairs, delivers the forum's key-note address, "Empowering Our Youth Through Challenge and Change."



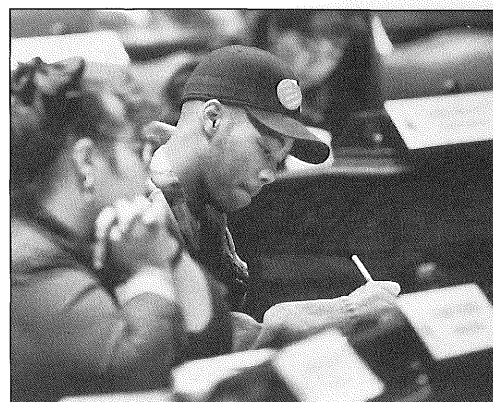
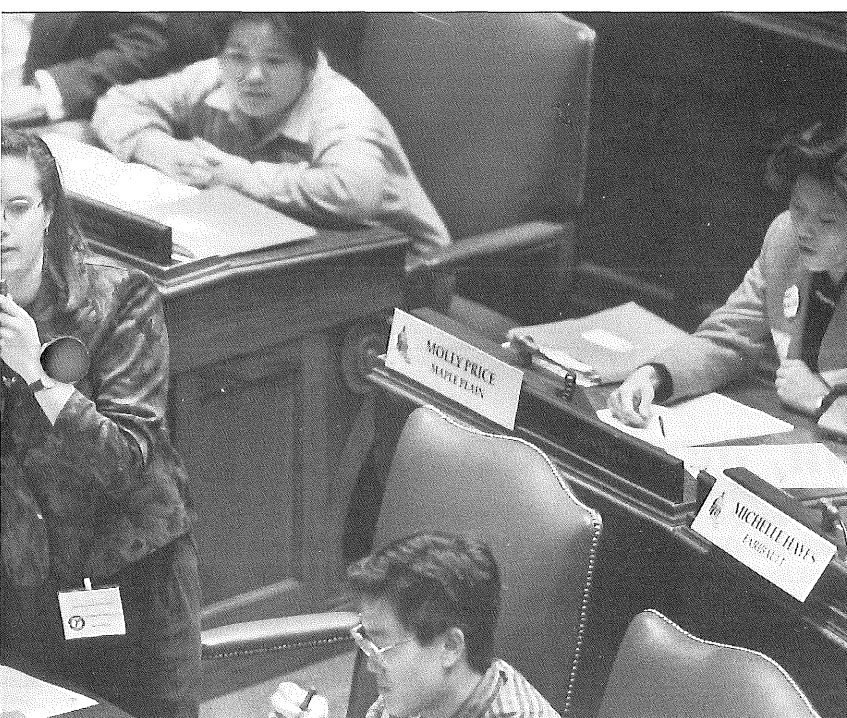
Kari Holmgren of Morris rises to debate during a mock session of the House.



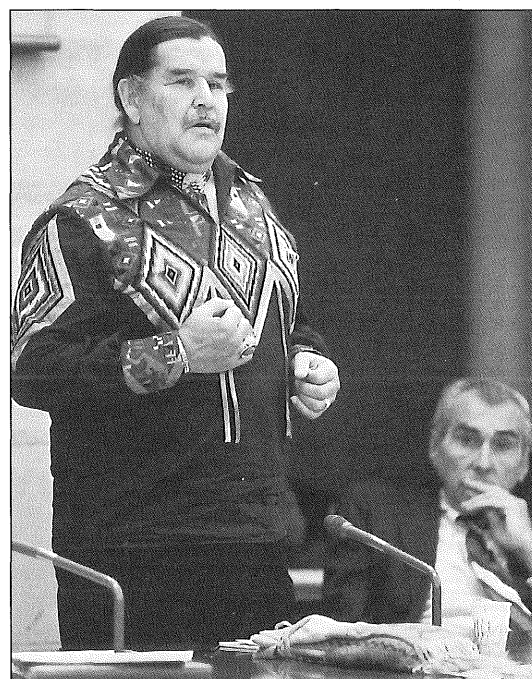
U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone, delivers the forum's closing speech: "Motivating Our Youth for Tomorrow."



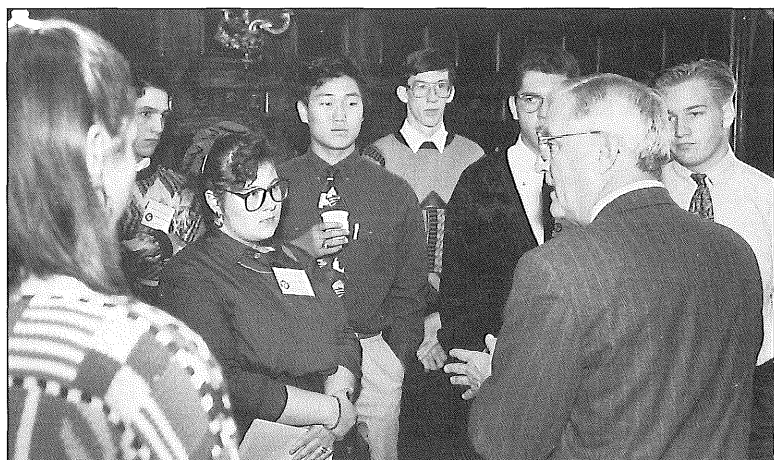
House Speaker Dee Long gives youth forum participants a closer look at her desk in the House chamber.



Shay Martin of St. Paul drafts a piece of legislation to present to his peers during a floor debate at the Speaker's Youth Forum.



Clyde Bellecourt, director of the American Indian Movement, left, speaks during a seminar entitled "Addressing Today's Issues for Tomorrow." Tony Bouza, former Minneapolis police chief, right, also participated in the discussion.

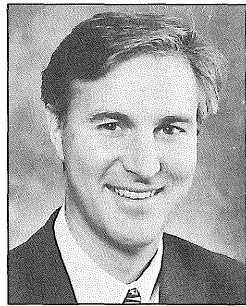


Former Vice President Walter Mondale speaks informally to some participants in the House retiring room.

After 20 years of waiting, Opatz takes a seat

Editor's note: For the next several weeks, Session Weekly will profile at least two of the House's 33 new members in each issue. Accompanying each profile will be a box of district traits, lending some perspective to each member's constituency. This is the first of those installments.

The first time Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) tried to run for public office, it took the U.S.



Rep. Joe Opatz

Supreme Court to stop him. It was the spring of 1972 and 18-year-olds had just been granted the right to vote. Opatz, then a 19-year-old college student, decided to run for a seat on the St. Cloud City Council.

But Minnesota law required office holders to be at least 21. Opatz challenged the law and appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled that the minimum age requirement was constitutional. So Opatz was kept off the ballot.

For nearly 20 years, Opatz put his dream of holding public office on hold as he pursued other

goals. Now 40, he is the author of three books on wellness and the workplace, director of the Atwood Center, (the St. Cloud State University student center), and an adjunct professor in the university's applied psychology department. His Ph.D., from the University of Minnesota, is in higher education studies.

With age no longer an obstacle, Opatz's biggest hurdle to being elected to the state House was his district's historical tendency to vote Independent-Republican. The last time a DFLer represented District 16A, which comprises Sauk Rapids and the northern part of St. Cloud, was in 1978.

In a vigorous campaign that included a lot of door-knocking, Opatz emphasized his strong family ties to his district. Unmarried, he is the second of 10 children and has numerous relatives in the area. Both an uncle and a brother own a business in Sauk Rapids.

People he met during the campaign were constantly saying, "I go to church with your grandma," or "I buy insurance from your brother," he said.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my family," Opatz said of his victory.

The campaign was exceptionally amicable. Opatz's opponent, Paul Bugbee, is a personal friend who contributed \$100 to Opatz's cam-

paign before being persuaded to enter the race as the IR candidate.

Opatz is bringing his expertise in the fields of health care and education to the Legislature. As the state implements MinnesotaCare, its newly authorized health care plan, Opatz said he wants to make sure the emphasis is on wellness and preventive medicine. He also plans to work on reform in higher education and in government.

"The bureaucratic model we use grew out of the '30s and '40s," he said. "We have to come up with a new model that is more consumer-driven."

— Ruth Hammond

District 16A

Population: 33,117

Counties: Benton, Stearns

Largest city: St. Cloud

Location: Central Minnesota

Largest employer: St. Cloud Hospital, 2,200 employees

Topography: A highly urbanized district, all 33,117 (100 percent) residents living within municipal borders

1992 presidential election results:

Clinton/Gore: 41.1 percent

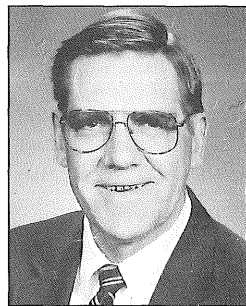
Bush/Quayle: 34 percent

Perot/Stockdale: 24 percent

Other: 0.9 percent

Ness seeks less government, more efficiency

"A genuine interest in public service" is what led Rep. Robert Ness (IR-Dassel) to run for the Legislature when the District 20A seat opened last year.



Rep. Robert Ness

The previous year, Ness, 57, retired following a 34-year career in education: 21 years as superintendent, 10 years as a principal, and 3 years as an industrial arts and health teacher. He is well acquainted with the effects that state

funding and regulations have on education. The recessionary year of 1982 was a particularly tough one, when hundreds of changes in government mandates, rules, and regulations had to be implemented, he said. At the same time, budget cuts forced the layoff of 50 employees in his district along with other cuts.

"I have had a growing concern about the amount of government in every phase of our life in our society," Ness said.

He is also concerned that government needs to

be more efficient. He cites, for example, a state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program that provides free fishing licenses to senior citizens — but only if they first pay for the \$4.50 license, save their receipt, and mail it to the DNR for a refund check. This reimbursement program also affects nursing home residents who may only go fishing once or twice a year, he noted.

"There's certainly a need for the government to assist for the betterment of the people and for the common good," Ness said. But, he added, when government goes too far, creativity and the entrepreneurial spirit are stifled.

Ness believes the breadth of his experience helped convince voters that he was the most qualified for the job. He grew up on a family farm and earned his master's and specialist degrees in education from the University of Minnesota. His present work, as a construction manager and consultant, gives him an appreciation of business interests. He and his wife Marianne have four grown children, three of whom work in the medical field — two as dentists and one as a surgeon — giving him a special familiarity with health care.

One of Ness' chief goals is to stimulate the rural economy. That goal coincides with his emphasis

on family values. People who commute an hour or more each way to daily jobs pay a price far greater than the cost of gasoline, he noted. A price is also paid in terms of time stolen from family life and community, school and church involvement.

"There's just no energy left," he observed. "It's not in the best interest of the state to require people to move or have to commute to make a living. We need to help the rural economy in every way we possibly can."

— Ruth Hammond

District 20A

Population: 32,916

Counties: McLeod, Meeker, Stearns, Wright

Largest city: Hutchinson

Location: South central Minnesota

Largest employer: Litchfield Precision Co., 325 employees

Topography: District almost evenly split between urban and rural areas with 17,564 residents (53.4 percent) living inside an incorporated city.

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle: 36.1 percent

Clinton/Gore: 34.1 percent

Perot/Stockdale: 29.4 percent

Other: 0.4 percent

Minnesota House of Representatives

1993-94 Committee Assignments

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| Limmer, Warren (IR-Maple Grove) 33B Education Higher Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources Judiciary | Milbert, Bob (DFL-South St. Paul) 39B Commerce & Economic Development International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Taxes | Olson, Mark (IR-Big Lake) 19A Commerce & Economic Development Tourism & Small Business Division Governmental Operations & Gaming State Government Finance Division Housing |
| Lindner, Arlon (IR-Rogers) 33A Commerce & Economic Development Tourism & Small Business Division Health & Human Services Health & Housing Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy | Molnau, Carol (IR-Chaska) 35A Agriculture Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs | Onnen, Tony (IR-Cokato) 20B Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services Health & Housing Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy |
| Long, Dee (DFL-Mpls) 60A Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Ways & Means | Morrison, Connie (IR-Burnsville) 36B Education Higher Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources Transportation & Transit | Opatz, Joe (DFL-St. Cloud) 16A Commerce & Economic Development General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations & Gaming State Government Finance Division |
| Lourey, Becky (DFL-Kerrick) 8B Commerce & Economic Development International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services Health & Housing Finance Division, Vice Chair | Mosel, Darrel (DFL-Gaylord) 23B Agriculture Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Governmental Operations & Gaming | Orenstein, Howard (DFL-St. Paul) 64B Education Higher Education Finance Division Judiciary, Vice Chair Judiciary Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs |
| Luther, Darlene (DFL-Brooklyn Park) 47A Commerce & Economic Development International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division Health & Human Services Human Services Finance Division Housing | Munger, Willard (DFL-Duluth) 7A Environment & Natural Resources, Chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration | Orfield, Myron (DFL-Mpls) 60B Environment & Natural Resources General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes |
| Lynch, Teresa (IR-Andover) 50B Environment & Natural Resources Finance Judiciary Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Rules & Legislative Administration | Murphy, Mary (DFL-Hermantown) 8A Commerce & Economic Development Tourism & Small Business Division Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division, Chair Labor-Management Relations Ways & Means | Osthoff, Tom (DFL-St. Paul) 66A Financial Institutions & Insurance Governmental Operations & Gaming Regulated Industries & Energy Taxes Transportation & Transit |
| Macklin, Bill (IR-Lakeville) 37B Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes | Neary, Pamela (DFL-Afton) 56B Health & Human Services Human Services Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy Transportation & Transit | Ostrom, Don (DFL-St. Peter) 24B General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Taxes Transportation & Transit, Chair |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Ozment, Dennis (IR-Rosemount) 37A Education K-12 Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources Regulated Industries & Energy | Rodosovich, Peter (DFL-Faribault) 25B Capital Investment Education Higher Education Finance Division, Chair Ways & Means | Sparby, Wally (DFL-Thief River Falls) 1B Agriculture Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Chair |
| Pauly, Sidney (IR-Eden Prairie) 42B Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Ethics, Vice Chair Transportation & Transit Ways & Means | Rukavina, Tom (DFL-Virginia) 5A Environment & Natural Resources Labor-Management Relations, Vice Chair Taxes | Stanisus, Brad (IR-White Bear Lake) 55A Capital Investment Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services Human Services Finance Division Ways & Means |
| Pawlenty, Tim (IR-Eagan) 38B Education Higher Education Finance Division Housing Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs | Sarna, John J. (DFL-Mpls) 59A Commerce & Economic Development, Chair International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division Tourism & Small Business Division Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy | Steensma, Andy (DFL-Luverne) 21B Agriculture, Vice Chair Capital Investment Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Transportation & Transit |
| Pelowski, Gene, Jr. (DFL-Winona) 32A Education Higher Education Finance Division General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Vice Chair Regulated Industries & Energy | Seagren, Alice (IR-Bloomington) 41A Education K-12 Education Finance Division General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations & Gaming | Sviggum, Steven A. (IR-Kenyon) 28B Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Ways & Means |
| Perlt, Walter E. (DFL-Woodbury) 57A Commerce & Economic Development Tourism & Small Business Division Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Labor-Management Relations | Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL-Burns Township) 50A Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Labor-Management Relations | Swenson, Doug (IR-Forest Lake) 51B Environment & Natural Resources Finance Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs |
| Peterson, Doug (DFL-Madison) 13B Agriculture Environment & Natural Resources Financial Institutions & Insurance Taxes | Simoneau, Wayne (DFL-Fridley) 52A Capital Investment Health & Human Services, Chair Health & Housing Finance Division Human Services Finance Division Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means | Tomassoni, David (DFL-Chisholm) 5B Education K-12 Education Finance Division Governmental Operations & Gaming Housing |
| Pugh, Thomas (DFL-South St. Paul) 39A Environment & Natural Resources Finance Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, Vice Chair | Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL-Mpls) 62B Education K-12 Education Finance Division Judiciary, Chair Judiciary Finance Division Ways & Means | Tompkins, Eileen (IR-Apple Valley) 36A Health & Human Services Health & Housing Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit |
| Reding, Leo J. (DFL-Austin) 27B Capital Investment Financial Institutions & Insurance, Chair Governmental Operations & Gaming | Smith, Steven (IR-Mound) 34A Commerce & Economic Development International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division Housing Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division | Trimble, Steve (DFL-St. Paul) 67B Agriculture Capital Investment, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration |
| Rest, Ann H. (DFL-New Hope) 46A Housing Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes, Chair Ways & Means | Solberg, Loren (DFL-Bovey) 3B Ethics Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means, Chair | Tunheim, Jim (DFL-Kennedy) 1A Commerce & Economic Development Tourism & Small Business Division, Chair Education K-12 Education Finance Division Ethics Regulated Industries & Energy |
| Rhodes, Jim (IR-St. Louis Park) 44B Elected Jan. 12, 1993 Committees not yet assigned. | Ex officio: Capital Investment Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Environment & Natural Resources Finance Health & Housing Finance Division Higher Education Finance Division Human Services Finance Division K-12 Education Finance Division State Government Finance Division Taxes | Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR-Plymouth) 34B Governmental Operations & Gaming State Government Finance Division Taxes |
| Rice, James I. (DFL-Mpls) 58A Commerce & Economic Development International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance, Chair Labor-Management Relations Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means | | Vellenga, Kathleen (DFL-St. Paul) 64A Education K-12 Education Finance Division, Chair Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means |

Vickerman, Barb (IR-Redwood Falls) 23A

Health & Human Services
 Human Services Finance Division
 Labor-Management Relations
 Regulated Industries & Energy

Wagenius, Jean (DFL-Mpls) 63A

Environment & Natural Resources
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
 Taxes
 Transportation & Transit

Waltman, Bob (IR-Elgin) 29B

Capital Investment
 Economic Development, Infrastructure &
 Regulation Finance
 Environment & Natural Resources
 General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Weaver, Charlie (IR-Anoka) 49A

Education
 K-12 Education Finance Division
 Environment & Natural Resources
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
 Ways & Means

Wejcman, Linda (DFL-Mpls) 61B

Housing
 Judiciary
 Judiciary Finance Division
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Welle, Alan W. (DFL-Willmar) 15A

Rules & Legislative Administration, Chair
 Taxes
 Ways & Means

Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL-Little Falls) 12B

Agriculture, Chair
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Financial Institutions & Insurance
 Labor-Management Relations

Winter, Ted (DFL-Fulda) 22A

Agriculture
 Environment & Natural Resources
 Financial Institutions & Insurance
 Taxes, Vice Chair

Wolf, Ken (IR-Burnsville) 41B

Economic Development, Infrastructure &
 Regulation Finance
 Environment & Natural Resources
 Labor-Management Relations

Worke, Gary D. (IR-Waseca) 28A

Financial Institutions & Insurance
 Health & Human Services
 Health & Housing Finance Division
 Regulated Industries & Energy

Workman, Tom (IR-Chanhassen) 43A

Housing
 Taxes
 Transportation & Transit



After serving 10 years as a principal and 21 years as a school superintendent, Rep. Robert Ness (IR-Dassel) is looking forward to serving on the House Education Committee. "I've been on the receiving end

of state education directives for many years. . . trying to make some sense of them. It's going to be really interesting to be sitting on this side," he told members of the committee Jan. 14.

HF1 emphasizes new committee structure

At first glance, the bill giving legislative leadership the authority to reassign the duties of a defunct committee to another panel may seem a bit unworthy of privileged House File 1 status.

But not necessarily, say supporters and legislative analysts who have studied the bill.

Although not as flashy as some of its House File 1 predecessors, the measure does emphasize the importance of the sweeping new committee structure adopted this session.

Last month, House Speaker Dee Long announced the creation of six finance divisions and two finance committees — a move designed to link the policy-making and fiscal committees to make the legislative process more efficient and accountable.

"It's a showcase [bill] in that it reflects the speaker's reorganization and new priorities for the committee structure," said chief sponsor Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. "It reflects the changes [Speaker Long] elected to make — to have the fiscal divisions a part of the policy committees. That's why it has a high profile."

The Ways and Means Committee essentially succeeds the former Appropriations Committee. Likewise, the six finance divisions and two finance committees replace the five Appropriations divisions under the old structure.

But the biggest change is that the funding decisions of those six finance divisions will now have to be approved by their respective policy committees before being sent to the Ways and Means Committee for review.

In the past, the funding decisions were made after the policy committees had made their judgments.

"Our objective is to establish a sensible structure that recognizes the relationship between policy decisions and fiscal implications," Long said last month.

In past years, HF1 often has reflected key Minnesota issues. In 1991, for example, the Wetlands Conservation Act was the first bill introduced. In 1983, the proposed Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment drew the honor.

And aside from the symbolic nature of the bill, HF1 accomplishes a necessary task. There are many statutory referrals — at least 60, according to the Revisor's and House Research offices — to the Appropriations Committee in the House. Most of them require that governmental reports, fiscal notes, and other documents be sent to the now non-existent Appropriations Committee.

Pending final approval, HF1 allows the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to strike all references in law to obsolete committees, and under direction of the speaker of the House (or the Senate Rules and Administration Committee when appropriate), substitute the name of its successor committee.

The measure was approved Jan. 14 by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Speaker Long, House Majority Leader Alan Welle, and House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum are co-sponsors of the bill.

Solberg said the task of carrying HF1 fell to him because as the new chair of the Ways and Means Committee, his committee was most affected by the bill.

"There are some things that the Appropriations [Committee] chair has to sign off on and that's kind of in limbo right now," he said. "So we have to pass it soon to take care of those administrative functions."

Legislative timeline

- Jan. 5** 78th Session convenes.
- Jan. 14** Gov. Arne Carlson's State of the State Address.
- Jan. 18** Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.
- Jan. 26** Governor to unveil budget plan for the next biennium.
- Feb. 2-8** Legislature to recess.
- Early March** Revised state revenue forecast released by state Department of Finance.
- April 2** First committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must have passed through at least one policy committee in either body by this date.
- April 6** Passover.
- April 9** Good Friday.
- April 11** Easter.
- April 16** Second committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must have passed through at least one policy committee in the other body by this date.
- May 13** Conference reports on omnibus appropriations bills due.
- May 17** Constitutional deadline for adjournment.

Non-voting members added to finance panels

In keeping with the committee realignment to make the legislative process more efficient and accountable, the revised House committee structure includes ex-officio, or non-voting members, on a number of House panels.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), chair of the Capital Investment Committee, have been appointed to each of the House's finance panels. They will have voting power in some committees, and are named ex-officio members to the remainder.

Their ex-officio status will allow them to participate in the ongoing development of state funding issues that will eventually come before their respective committees.

Kalis will have voting power in the Capital Investment, Ways and Means, and Economic

Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance committees. In each of the remaining finance committees or divisions, Kalis will be an ex-officio member.

Solberg will have voting power in the Ways and Means and Judiciary Finance panels. He will be an ex-officio member of each of the remaining finance panels, and the Taxes Committee as well.

Solberg's committee will ultimately approve all of the state's omnibus funding bills—an estimated \$17 billion over the next two year spending cycle.

Kalis' committee will be responsible for fashioning a bonding proposal to authorize funds for the construction and repair of state buildings and roads throughout Minnesota. Last year's bonding authority totaled \$274.8 million.

Do you know?

Robert C. Dunn was a self-educated Irishman who outlasted a State Supreme Court Justice to win the Republican nomination for governor in 1904.

That same year he also attacked a reporter with his umbrella.

"He had a low boiling point," wrote Charles Cheney of the *Minneapolis Journal*. It was Cheney who was on the receiving end of Mr. Dunn's pointed anger.

Early in the gubernatorial campaign of that year, Cheney and a friend crossed paths with Dunn in downtown St. Paul. The men were later joined by a few other reporters from the *St. Paul Dispatch*.

At the time, Cheney was the *Journal's* political reporter, and had been faithfully airing the views of Dunn's critics in a series of recent articles.

Conversation steered toward the *Journal*, and "Dunn saw red," wrote Cheney.

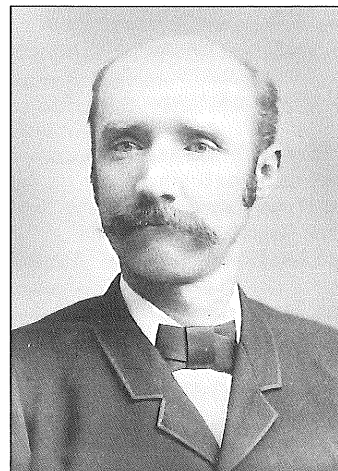
"I can buy that paper for 10 cents," Dunn told Cheney, adding that "I can buy you for 10 cents."

Cheney grew hot. "We both had umbrellas. As I started for him, shouting, 'Take that back,' I dropped my rain stick. Dunn swung his and knocked my derby hat off, but I reached him, and as he pulled back I connected enough to scratch my

hand on his sharp collar point."

The two men were separated, and Dunn stormed off. Cheney pleaded with his superiors to avoid coverage of the incident. Instead, they put the *St. Paul Dispatch's* version on the front page of the *Journal*.

Dunn lost the election and never sought higher office again. His feud with Cheney lasted six years until Dunn called a truce in 1910. Cheney forgave him, and would later write of Dunn, "Peace to his ashes. I wish to remember him as a friend."



Robert C. Dunn

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Bill Introductions

HF28-HF52

Monday, Jan. 11

HF28—Bertram (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Stearns County authorized to issue a combination off-sale and on-sale intoxicating liquor license to an establishment in Fair Haven Township licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption but not qualified as a restaurant.

HF29—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services

Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center.

HF30—Morrison (IR) Financial Institutions & Insurance

No-fault automobile insurance wage loss reimbursement coverage to consider insured's employment status.

HF31—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations & Gaming

Gender balance required in multimember state agency appointments.

HF32—Bettermann (IR) Taxes

Local government trust fund established for providing services and property tax relief with funding provided by dedicating part of the sales and use tax and local option sales and use tax, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF33—Davids (IR) Environment & Natural Resources

Raccoon permissible open season extended through January.

HF34—Simoneau (DFL) Governmental Operations & Gaming

Pari-mutuel horse racing bets without limitation authorized, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF35—Olson, E. (DFL) Education

Levy recertification authorized for qualifying school districts.

HF36—Anderson, I. (DFL) Taxes

Solid waste collection sales and use tax computation changed for political subdivisions providing collection or disposal services.

Thursday, Jan. 14

HF37—Beard (DFL) Health & Human Services

Foreign exchange student host families provided background checks.

HF38—Reding (DFL) Governmental Operations & Gaming

Volunteer firefighter supplemental retirement benefits provided a standing appropriation.

HF39—Bergson (DFL) Judiciary

Statute of limitation period to exclude time defendant is not a resident.

HF40—Waltman (IR) Judiciary

Flag mutilation; American or Minnesota flag mutilation or burning clarified and penalties increased.

HF41—Cooper (DFL) Education

Agriculture property tax classification rates changed, assessment/sales ratio study modified, school building handicap accessibility bonding program created, levies authorized, and money appropriated.

HF42—Kelso (DFL) Education

Faribault academies authorized a student activity account, and money appropriated.

HF43—Kinkel (DFL) Transportation & Public Transit

Town bridge replacement by culverts allocated funding.

HF44—Kinkel (DFL) Judiciary

Tobacco sales to American Indian children allowed for use in a tribal ceremony.

HF45—Bishop (IR) Judiciary

Health care durable power of attorney established.

HF46—Olson, K. (DFL) Transportation & Public Transit

Recreational vehicles; pickup truck, camper-semitrailer, and watercraft fifth-wheel coupling combinations authorized with certain restrictions.

HF47—Dawkins (DFL) Judiciary

Mortgage satisfaction or release following corporate mortgagee or assignee identity change clarified, and mortgage foreclosure notices provided.

HF48—Ostrom (DFL) Taxes

Local government aids to cities provided calculation and distribution.

HF49—Blatz (IR) Judiciary

Child abandonment provided felony criminal penalties.

HF50—Cooper (DFL) Agriculture

Apiary law repealed.

HF51—Evans (DFL) Commerce & Economic Development

Title branding regulated for damaged vehicles and junking certificates of title required.

HF52—Johnson, A. (DFL) Education

Community-based program development grants provided and money appropriated.



What's the outlook for state lottery sales? "Flat is optimistic," said George Andersen, director of the Minnesota State Lottery. He told the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) Jan. 8 that the lottery's "honeymoon ended last fiscal year. We're the little guy in town now." The \$3 billion to \$4 billion success of Indian and charitable gaming in Minnesota has had a dramatic impact on the state lottery, he said. But legalizing video gambling would mean "phenomenal money" to the state. "If video comes in, you would be hard-pressed to spend [the profits]," he said. Projected lottery sales for fiscal year 1993 are \$313.8 million, with \$71.9 million in proceeds going to the state.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 11 - Jan. 15, 1993

Committee Schedule

MONDAY, Jan. 11

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Overview of the Department of Transportation.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Overview of K-12 education system: Gene Mammenga, commissioner of education; Gary Farland, Department of Education. **K-12 Education Finance Division** will convene at 9:30 a.m.(same room) to consider HFXXXX (Vellenga). County auditors required to certify levies in the Verdi school district.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Introductions; judicial branch overview.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Budget instructions; performance measures; milestones.

12:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: HF0022 (Skoglund) relating to insurance; Medicare supplement; permitting phased-in compliance with community rating.

HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Committee member introductions, goals. Overview of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Jim Solem, commissioner.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: Overview of the Department of Labor and Industry: John Lennes, commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry; Nancy Christensen, assistant commissioner, Workplace Services; Gary Bastian, deputy commissioner; Leo Eide, assistant commissioner, Workers' Compensation.

1 p.m.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: Consideration of personnel and organizational resolutions.

2:30 p.m.

House meets in Session

TUESDAY, Jan. 12

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Overview of the Minnesota Historical Society.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HFXXXX (Vellenga) County auditors required to certify levies in the Verdi school district.

Overview of K-12 and postsecondary demographics.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tour - bus in front of Capitol

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Joint House/Senate Minnesota Chamber packaging tour.

Health & Housing Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: Report: The Model Revenue System for Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Revenue.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Discussion of issues related to state employment, Department of Employee Relations and the Legislative Commission on Employee relations.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

12:30 p.m.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Overview of the mission, structure and legislative agenda of the Metropolitan Council.

2:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Overview of budget process, November forecast, John Gunyou, commissioner, Department of Finance.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13

8 a.m.

MINNESOTA HORIZONS

Minnesota History Center

8:15 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Dept. of Agriculture
90 W. Plato Blvd.

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Tour and general information, Elton Redalen, commissioner. Transportation will be available in front of the State Office Building at 8 a.m., for departure at 8:10 a.m.

THURSDAY, Jan. 14

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INFRASTRUCTURE &
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Fiscal staff overview.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Overview of postsecondary education systems.

8:15 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd.

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Tour and overview, Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner. Transportation will be available in front of the State Office Building at 8 a.m., for departure at 8:10 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

Minnesota History Center Auditorium (Buses leave State Office Building at 9:20 a.m.)

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Speech and discussion: Ted Gaebler, co-author, "Re-inventing Government."

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Information panel: radioactive waste disposal and Minnesota.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: Organizational meeting. Health issues, Walt McClure.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

**COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: Overview of the Department of Trade and Economic Development, E. Peter Gillette Jr., commissioner. Presentation on economic development, Todd Otis.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Overview of the mission, structure and legislative agenda of the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Overview of the mission, structure and legislative agenda of the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission.

2:30 p.m.

House meets in Session

7 p.m.

Governor's State of the State Address

FRIDAY, Jan. 15

9 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Stillwater prison

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Leave the State Office Building at 9 a.m. for a tour of Stillwater prison and Oak Park Heights.

10 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

11:30 a.m.

RAMSEY COUNTY DELEGATION

Ramsey County Government Center West

50 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: Election of chair; county budget, levy and cost drivers; follow-up to study of the Ramsey County Local Government Services Commission; Ramsey County legislative package regarding transportation and environment; Ramsey County family violence initiative.

Do you know?

H.P. Hall was no medical doctor, but believed there was a biological explanation for a politician's tendency to sometimes bend the truth.

"I suppose that this is due to the excited and animated condition of the cerebellum, which causes the lymphatic nerves to engage in entangling alliances, out of which, obfuscation, the generating element of prevarication, is stimulated into being," wrote Hall in *Observations, Being More or Less a History of Political Contests in Minnesota*, published in 1904.

Hall, a lawyer by training but a newspaperman by choice, came to Minnesota from Ohio at the age of 24. He became editor of the *St. Paul Dispatch* in 1868.

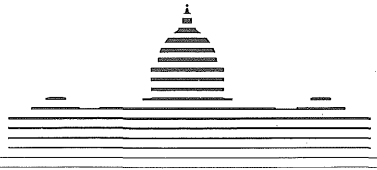
After a lifetime in the newspaper business, Hall had seen his fair share of political campaigning and modestly claimed "that not many now live who possess as much personal knowledge of the matters referred to as I do."

Hall wrote that he was "compelled, in the interest of morality," to offer his explanation because "I have heard of lies being told during political campaigns — yes, absolute lies."



H.P. Hall

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Dee Long
Majority Leader: Alan Welle
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Political potpourri

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of members, Minnesota House of Representatives | 134 |
| National rank | 12 |
| Minnesota population, national rank | 12 |
| Number of states with 100 or more House members | 31 |
| Number of members in New Hampshire House of Representatives | 400 |
| Annual salary for New Hampshire representatives | \$100 |
| Base annual salary for a Minnesota legislator, 1992 | \$29,658 |
| National rank | 11 |
| Base salary for a Michigan legislator | \$45,450 |
| Number of years a Minnesota member must serve before drawing a pension at age 62 | 6 |
| Gov. Arne Carlson's annual salary | \$109,000 |
| Pres.-elect Bill Clinton's former salary as governor of Arkansas | \$35,000 |
| Clinton's 1993 pay raise, effective 1/17/93 | \$165,000 |
| Percentage turnover in membership, state House, 1979-89 | 72 |
| state Senate, 1979-89 | 79 |
| Median percent of Minnesota House incumbents winning re-election, 1952-1990 | 78.4 |
| Percent of all state legislators, nationwide, who are Democrats, May '92 | 59.3 |
| Number of states that introduced more bills than the Minnesota Legislature during 1990 and 1991 | 11 |
| Number of states producing more new laws than Minnesota during that time frame | 34 |
| Number of veto overrides in Minnesota, 1991 | 0 |
| in Illinois | 51 |
| Number of states other than Minnesota with no special session in 1990 or 1991 | 16 |
| Number called in Arizona, 1990-1991 | 7 |
| Maximum number of bills a Minnesota House member may introduce | ∞ |
| in Alaska | 10 |
| Number of words in the Minnesota Constitution | 9,500 |
| in Alabama's | 174,000 |
| Number of current governors, other than Arne Carlson, who were not born in the state they govern | 16 |
| Number of current governors born outside the U.S. | 2 |
| Number of states without a secretary of state | 3 |

Sources: *The Book of the States*, 1992-93; "Reform the Election Process, Restore the Public Trust," Citizens League, June 1992.

For more information . . .

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
the status of a specific bill, call:
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 Hearing Impaired

Electronic communication for hearing
impaired persons. To ask questions or
leave messages, call:
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