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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Flashback

If a week is a generation in politics, then think what two decades must be. Judging by the headlines of 1973 and former Gov. Wendell Anderson's budget address of that year, it's hard to believe we're talking about the same state.

In comparison, the Minnesota of 20 years ago seems like the golden era of state government. Then the state faced a budget surplus of \$667 million and Minnesota was the talk of the nation.

"You cannot come across these fertile geometric fields from the Ohio to the Mississippi without feeling the strength and energy of these people, particularly in the state of Minnesota, where youth seems always to be in the saddle," wrote *New York Times* columnist James Reston that year.

Speaker of the House Martin Sabo was just 35 and Gov. Anderson was a youthful looking 40. Just one year earlier, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations had described Anderson's (and the Legislature's) historic 1971 school finance law as "The Minnesota Miracle."

"In the next few years, other states will struggle with the problem we agonized over in 1971," said Anderson in his 1973 budget address to the Legislature. "They will either attempt their own reform efforts or act under court compulsion. Or do nothing. Minnesota has done something."

Anderson, while not predicting that his own state would end up in court over the issue, even cited the key passage from the state Constitution that is the subject of that court dispute: a "general and uniform system of public schools." At that time, the state picked up about 70 percent of school costs — a figure that has slipped to about 55 percent today.

In addition to the increase in state funding for schools, the Legislature also granted massive property tax breaks by using the budget surplus to buy them down. "Homeowners' Tax Cuts Up to 19% Possible Here in '74," declared the *Rochester Post-Bulletin*.

That prediction seemed all the more noteworthy because prior to 1972, property taxes had been rising at a rate of about 15 percent per year. "Minnesota legislators seem to have achieved the unusual this year: They passed a tax bill that had benefits for just about everybody," stated the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

So it looks as if the state has come full circle. "Is the Minnesota Miracle still serving us well?" asked Gov. Arne Carlson in his budget address this week. "I say no." With that said, many lawmakers are bracing themselves for a resumption of major property tax increases in coming years — despite the governor's assurances to the contrary.

Others, however, may look to a former Republican Party chairman's statement of 20 years ago as proof that the spending pattern begun in 1971 is finally over. "He [Anderson] is attempting to use it to buy re-election," said Chairman David Krogsgen, referring to the 1973 tax bill. "But then watch out, because after this legislative session and the next election, we'll have an awesome tax tab to pick up."

—Grant Moos

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On the cover: Several students who oppose abortion took time to pray during a Jan. 22 rally that marked the 20th anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The event at the Capitol was sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

—Photo by Andrew VonBank

Highlights



House Speaker Dee Long expressed her reservations about the governor's proposed 1994-95 budget following Gov. Arne Carlson's budget address to the Legislature Jan. 26.

1993 Budget Address

No new taxes, wage increases, says Carlson

Renewing his pledge of "no new taxes," Gov. Arne Carlson proposed some modest spending hikes — mostly for education and children — in his budget address to the Legislature Jan. 26.

And he made it clear he wanted no state money to be used for pay increases for public employees, which could create a virtual pay freeze for those workers in the next year.

Those were among the highlights of the governor's proposed \$16.25 billion budget, which is designed to plug a \$769 million shortfall in the coming two-year spending cycle.

The plan represents a spending increase of just over 9 percent, the lowest growth in more than 20 years. The added revenue of \$1.3 billion would be distributed to every area of government, including K-12 education, higher education, tax relief, human services, and environmental programs.

The budget includes a hefty increase in spending for children's programs, which the governor outlined in his recent State of

the State Address. The increase would bring total spending on children to \$6.7 billion.

Carlson's plan hinges on the proposal already drawing the strongest reaction — the virtual pay freeze. Since two-thirds of the state budget goes to cities, counties, school districts and universities, and those entities spend most of their money on salaries, that is where most savings can be made.

The alternatives are more painful, the governor said.

"We could raise taxes," Carlson said, but that would take \$3.5 billion from taxpayers by 1999. "And the real tragedy would be the loss of jobs. Taxes are the poison that will kill job growth."

Cutting services, he said, would damage key programs like education, children's services and health care.

By choosing a virtual wage freeze, the elimination of 9,700 public jobs would be avoided, Carlson said. Providing no money for public employee pay increases would save more than \$600 million.

Carlson's proposal does not rule out wage increases for public employees altogether. If a city, county or school district wants to increase salary budgets, and that action requires additional property taxes to pay for it, the voters could decide whether to approve it in a local referendum.

If local governments choose to increase wages by making other cuts or drawing from reserves, no referendum is needed as long as property taxes aren't affected.

Beyond an outline for spending, Carlson said his budget marks the first step in tackling a fundamental flaw in the state's finance system: habitually spending more than it takes in. It also sets a course for "reinventing government," he said.

"Our government's financial problems stem from a structural imbalance — an imbalance that will only compound if we view our job narrowly as just balancing the budget," Carlson said. "We need more than a short-term solution. We need a strategic plan to redesign Minnesota government from the local level on up."

But House Speaker Dee Long said the budget proposal doesn't come close to being innovative. Like most other DFL leaders, she greeted the plan with skepticism.

"I think of it as a tourniquet," she said following the address. "When we need some long-term surgery on the patient, this provides a bandage to get us through this year. It doesn't provide for any long-term, structural change. And that's what we're looking for," she added.

Despite the governor's promises, Long said, the plan may contain hidden property tax hikes and threats to jobs.

"There are some elements in this budget that I find absolutely frightening," she said, including forcing the state into short-term borrowing for five of the biennium's 24 months.

That step would ruin the state's credit rating, costing taxpayers millions, Long said. It would be a "reckless and foolhardy" move.

Governor's budget under fire

Less than 24 hours after it was delivered, DFL legislators began a critical review of the governor's budget, addressing both its long- and short-term impact.

John Gunyou, commissioner of the state Department of Finance, presented the governor's case Jan. 27 by accentuating the positives in the 6,000-page fiscal blueprint for the coming biennium: new money for children's programs, reorganization at the Department of Natural Resources, and no new major taxes.

But committee members were quick to explore what they saw as "Band-Aid solutions," gimmicks, and gray areas in the governor's plan to "live within our means."

"Are we still going to be faced with a budget deficit in the next biennium?" Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) wanted to know.

Gunyou replied that although he calculates the governor's budget will cut the 1996-97 deficit in half, Minnesota will remain almost \$600 million in the red at the end of the next biennium.

Gunyou said that long term problems in budgeting must be addressed and that the \$600 million saved by a virtual one-year state employee salary freeze only "buys us time" to get Minnesota's fiscal house in

order.

Concern over \$200 million in proposed "inter-fund borrowing" also prompted questions from several members. Gunyou said that such shifting of funds between departmental accounts "should not be done lightly," but that it was a way of addressing a state cash flow problem without much risk of damaging the state's credit rating.

"It sounds to me like a numerical con game. It's great for [public relations], but I don't know exactly how it relates to the problems we have here in the state," said Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls).

Legislators also wanted to know how the proposed budget would impact funding for schools and students. While some savings would come from reductions in grants for higher education study, Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault) estimated that as many as 220,000 Minnesota students enrolled in higher education could experience tuition hikes as a result.

Majority Leader Allan Welle (DFL-Willmar) said that the governor had made a variation of former President George Bush's "read-my-lips" pledge on taxes, but that fee increases described by Gunyou, for example, actually constituted new taxes.

"I think there are significant proposals here to control costs in the long run," said Gunyou, but few of those savings will be realized in the current biennium.

Education changes

A proposed Department of Children and Education Services would manage \$5.7 billion in state funding for schools and children's programs, under the governor's budget. The new department would combine the Minnesota Department of Education and certain programs in the departments of Human Services, Jobs and Training, and Health.

Minnesota's elementary and high school programs would receive the largest share of the new department's budget — \$4.9 billion for the 1994-95 biennium. The figure represents some \$598 million more than current biennium spending for K-12 schools.

The K-12 budget reflects efforts by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to set priorities with limited resources, said Joyce E. Krupey, assistant commissioner of the department. She presented the budget to the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division Jan. 27.

More than 20 specific learner outcomes are tied to the proposed budget, Krupey said. Specific goals range from further "equalizing" property tax levies among school districts, to increasing the state's high school graduation rate.

The budget would increase aid to school districts in some areas, while reducing aid in others.

The governor's budget would also:

- give schools \$50 more in "general educa-



Gov. Arne Carlson presented his proposed budget to the Legislature Jan. 26. He plans to address the projected \$769 million budget deficit by asking state workers to forgo pay raises.

- tion formula" revenue for each student;
- increase funding for school debt payments and for formulas intended to "equalize" the referendum tax burdens among school districts by \$104 million;
 - slate \$8 million for developing and assessing graduation standards;
 - create locally governed youth apprenticeships for high school students;
 - provide \$1.4 million for school breakfast programs, currently not funded with any state funds;
 - provide \$2.7 million in matching funds for a national science grant which the state is hoping to be awarded. The grant would fund improved teacher training and student performance in math and science; and
 - provide \$3.8 million in increased state aid to schools for transportation—funds which would be used to reduce property tax levies.

Capital investment proposal

Aside from his general fund budget, Gov. Arne Carlson has also proposed \$138.7 million in capital projects funded through bond sales. Some of the bigger projects in the plan include:

- \$25.8 million for building a new prison at Moose Lake;
- \$20.3 million to continue construction on the Bloomington Ferry Bridge;
- \$19.9 million to build a new Marine Education Center at the Minnesota Zoo;
- \$13.7 million for combined sewer overflow construction work in the Twin Cities;
- \$9.8 million for building a new high school and remodeling an elementary school in Big Lake;
- \$7.5 million for an addition at St. Peter Regional Treatment Center to house mentally ill and dangerous people;
- \$7.4 million to build a psychopathic personality unit at Moose Lake regional Treatment center; and
- \$7 million to continue work on the Minnesota Judicial Center building.

Here come property tax hikes

Hennepin County has already identified at least \$8.5 million in budget cuts that would have to be made as a result of cutbacks in state aid to local governments under Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed 1994-95 budget, members of the Taxes Committee were told Jan. 28.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin and Detroit Lakes Mayor Larry Buboltz said the real effect of the budget on local governments flies in the face of the governor's assertion that property taxes wouldn't increase under his newly unveiled budget.

"The fact is, as we look at the proposal, there are some property tax increases that are implicit in the governor's budget," McLaughlin said.

Hennepin County expected to receive \$2.4 million in criminal justice aids from the state based on last year's anti-crime package, for example. The problem is no money is set aside for that program, said McLaughlin. "For us, it's a cut."

The county will also pay \$4.2 million to house county inmates in state prison, pay a new fee for garbage brought to its burning facility, lose recycling aid, and have aid for indigent hospital patients at the county hospital cut by at least \$2.5 million.

Statewide, local government aid (LGA) funding is cut \$20 million, said Buboltz, president of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

Current law calls for a 3 percent increase in LGA, but the governor's budget calls for a return to 1991 LGA levels. That anticipated increase in LGA payments is already in city budgets, Buboltz added, meaning a cut in services or a hike in property taxes.

LGA also isn't going to grow at the same rate as the Local Government Trust Fund, that portion of state sales tax receipts that provides money for LGA, Buboltz said.

Both McLaughlin and Buboltz praised the budget, however, for not eliminating LGA.



Agriculture

Raising price supports

A combination of poor weather, low crop prices, and a new administration in Washington has led to a resolution asking the U.S. agriculture secretary to fix the federal farm program.

The resolution (HF 20), approved unanimously by the House Agriculture Committee Jan. 25, asks the secretary to set higher price supports for commodities in order to protect farm income.

"I believe we are facing somewhat of a crisis out in the rural areas again," said Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), a farmer who is chief author of the resolution. In some areas, wet weather and a cool summer created a disastrous fall harvest, he said. Where the harvest was good, the grain quality was hurt by poor growing conditions.

In any case, Kalis said, current grain prices don't meet the cost of production.

"There are some real problems out there," agreed Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), chair of the panel. Farmers may be facing the same situation they did in the mid-1980s, he added.

A new administration, including new Agriculture Secretary Michael Espy, may present an opportunity for improving prices, Wenzel said. President Bill Clinton has broken tradition by naming a Southerner to hold the nation's top farm post, which usually goes to someone from the Midwest, he added.



Bonding

Bonding brouhaha

Legislators and executive branch officials are at odds over when capital project proposals should be submitted to the Legislature.

Members of the Capital Investment Committee want to review preliminary requests for state bonding projects when they are first received by state officials on June 15 of this year.

But the state departments of Administration and Finance, currently at work on a 20-year "reformed capital budget" plan, don't want to reveal the proposals until

their plan is complete — in February 1994.

Lawmakers don't want to wait that long.

"Can you give me some reasons why we shouldn't hold you in contempt?" Rep. Henry J. Kalis (DFL-Walters), committee chair, asked Dana Badgerow, commissioner of the Department of Administration. "The law says June 15," Kalis said, referring to a statutory deadline for bonding proposals to be submitted to the Legislature.

Others expressed concern that in waiting until 1994 for departmental officials to analyze the proposals, lawmakers would receive only the executive branch recommendations, and not all the proposals. It would also limit the ability of legislators to visit proposed project sites.

"We're going to get proposals that may not reflect what constituents want," said Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault). "We want to be part of that [evaluation] process. Certainly the citizens want to be part of it."

"If you want to set up a system of disaster, [create] two separate tracks that will never meet," Rodosovich added.

Hearing the complaints, Badgerow agreed to share proposals with legislators when preliminary requests are submitted by agencies on June 15 of this year — even though the proposals would not be analyzed by her staff or the Department of Finance.

Badgerow maintained that the "reformed capital budget process" will allow public officials to make better decisions when it is complete, and that it will provide "a long-range road map" for state agencies.

The Legislature and the governor have called for a reformed capital budget process in recent years.



Nothando Zulu captivated a Capitol rotunda audience with her storytelling during what was billed as the first annual "African American Lobby Day" Jan. 25.

ment budgeting.

After hearing a summary of the two laws Jan. 25, the Judiciary Committee listened to testimony from Deb Dailey, director of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. The commission recommends changes in standard prison sentences for felony offenses. Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake) reminded members that these recommendations become law unless the Legislature takes opposing action.

Dailey said that the guidelines seek to provide a uniform standard for judges to use.

"We maintain truth and certainty in our sentencing here in Minnesota" by placing the severity of the offense and the extent of the offender's criminal history on uniform scales, she said. This calculation corresponds to a "cell" within a grid which prescribes a sentence.

Minimum sentences required by law, however, override those prescriptions. For example, the 1992 omnibus crime bill mandated life sentences for certain repeat sex offenders.

Even with the additional \$4 million for the Department of Corrections contained in last year's crime bill, prison crowding remains a problem. And space is a consideration for the Sentencing Guidelines Com-

mission.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said that he recently met with a group of law enforcement officers who said that jail space was of greater concern to them than public safety in sentencing.

Dailey responded that there was a balance to be struck, but that the commission tried to come down on the side of "public safety" by increasing sentences. She also praised the Legislature for maintaining a corrections system that does not rely on "back door" early releases to avoid prison overcrowding. In fact, come August 1993, the state will no longer reduce sentences for "good time" served.



Development

GMC déjà vu?

The government-chartered economic development affiliates of Minnesota Technology Inc. (MTI) should remain independent and not be merged into a single agency, officials with those organizations said.

"We already had the Greater Minnesota Corp. (GMC)," joked Jacques Koppel, president of MTI, which took over many of the functions of the former GMC in 1991.

The suggestion that some of the quasi-public agencies merge in a cost-saving move came during a Jan. 27 hearing before the International Trade and Technology Division of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

"There are valuable results coming from all of the various programs. . . . But it seems as if there's a duplication in some of the areas," said Rep. Ron Erhardt (IR-Edina).

But an outright merger likely would result in few dollars saved, said Richard Nelson, executive director of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, one of the seven MTI affiliates.

"If there was any money to be saved, it would be in [cutting] duplication of administrative services," he said, later adding that a super agency incorporating several of the state-chartered groups "could stifle our ability to respond to entrepreneurial activities."

Koppel said "there is almost negligible overlap" in the organizations' mission to provide technological and organizational support to small- and medium-sized businesses. Most focus their activities on link-



Crime

Sentencing review

The get-tough-on-crime attitude of the Minnesota Legislature over the past few years has led to a closer analysis of any changes to the state's sentencing guidelines.

Since many criminal sentences were substantially lengthened in Minnesota with the passage of the 1989 and 1992 omnibus crime bills, sentencing policy has become a more salient issue for the Legislature in terms of both public safety and govern-

ing Minnesota products to new or expanding markets in specific sectors, such as agriculture, wood products, or minerals — or in the case of MTI, manufacturing.

"I think we've come up with a system that really limits the overhead," Koppel said.



Education

Struggling school districts

Delinquent taxes and growing success in property and commercial tax challenges will mean a loss of \$8 million for St. Paul schools this year.

Bill Larson, assistant superintendent of the St. Paul School District, told members of the Education Committee's finance division that nearly \$4 million will be lost because of successful property tax challenges.

Delinquent tax collections, which have slowed in recent years, will also cut \$4 million from the school budget, Larson told the committee. While St. Paul schools received \$2 million in delinquent tax payments in the 1989-90 school year, that figure will drop to around \$150,000 for 1992-93.

The losses occurred after the school district had set its budget and determined levy amounts.

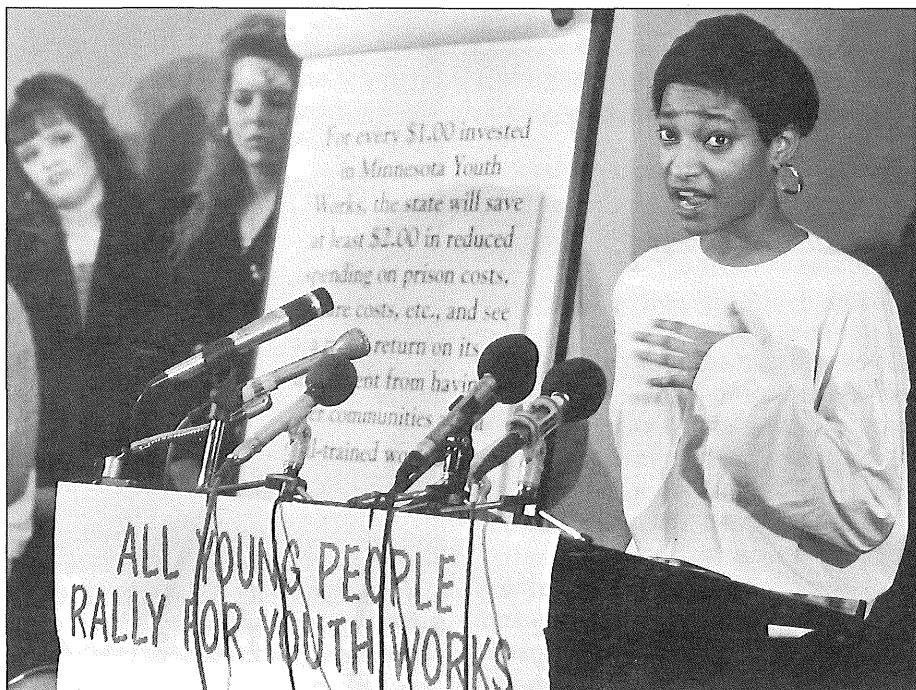
Larson was one of five school administrators invited to appear before the committee Jan. 25. Other administrators represented school districts in Barnesville, Elk River, Richfield, and Slayton.

And while many districts struggle to find adequate financing, their costs continue to escalate.

Increasing enrollments, special education programs, school violence, and rising health care costs for staff and retirees were cited by officials as factors contributing to rising school costs. As a result, some districts reported that they have deferred work on aging school buildings.

"Deferred maintenance is a nice term," said Cornelius Smit, superintendent for both the Slayton and Fulda school districts. "It should be called statutory neglect."

"The only thing we add [to the budget] is special education," Elk River Superintendent David Flannery told legislators. The district, he said, denies all other funding



Yolanda Granberry, a junior at St. Paul's Central High School, and six other teens spoke in support of the Youth Corps bill being introduced by Rep. Andy Dawkins. The bill (HF2) would create a type of youth apprenticeship program that would allow participants to do community service and, at the same time, earn financial credits for postsecondary education.

requests. The result is higher student/teacher ratios and discouragement of innovative educational programs, said Flannery. "We are one mistake away from statutory debt. It makes you reluctant to take chances."

School debts grow

The number of Minnesota school districts operating with budget deficits has grown steadily over the past five years; one in five districts now operates in the red.

A total of 82 school districts have budget deficits — up from 37 districts during the 1987-88 school year, said Steve Sandberg, finance specialist with the Minnesota Department of Education.

Of the 82 districts, 50 have exceeded the state's limit for deficit amounts. By law, a district's deficit cannot be more than 2.5 percent of its operating budget. Districts not in compliance with the state law are required to submit special operating plans to the commissioner of Education.

School districts in the state's south central (Mankato) region have struggled most, with nearly 21 percent of the region's districts exceeding the legal deficit limit.

At 3.8 percent, districts in the Staples region had the lowest percentage of districts exceeding the cap.

Sandberg said factors contributing to

school budget problems include declining enrollments for smaller schools, loss of students to other districts, and "unexpected events" such as large property tax abatements won by homeowners.

Not all districts are struggling. While 222 state school districts have seen their fund balances dip since 1987, 203 districts showed increased fund balances, said Sandberg.

But on a statewide average, school districts have only enough money on hand to operate for 21 days. Sandberg told the committee that it is preferable to have enough funds to cover one to two months of operation.

Higher balances, he said, help districts avoid the need to borrow money at the beginning of the school year.

Sandberg's report on the financial condition of schools considered only district operating budgets — not their non-operating budgets, which include such things as capital building expenditures and debt redemption.



Elections

Reinventing voting

Minnesota already has an enviable record of voter participation, but Secretary of State Joan Growe is urging legislation she says will further improve it.

Some of those recommendations will include holding presidential primary elections and party caucuses earlier in the year and on the same day, conducting the primary by mail, allowing voting by fax machine in some cases and setting uniform local elections, she told members of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Jan. 25.

Minnesota's new presidential primary last year did not have glowing results and, despite strong efforts, caucus participation also dwindled, she told the panel. Moving the primary to the last Tuesday in February and having it coincide with the caucuses would renew interest in the election process.

"It would sort of be 'participating [in] democracy day' in Minnesota," she said.

Growe said she will also recommend expanding absentee balloting procedures. Along with allowing limited voting by fax, she urged that voters be allowed to obtain an absentee ballot without first having to give a reason for doing so. In five counties where removing that requirement was

tested last fall, absentee voter participation increased 65 percent.

Growe also proposed holding local elections in November at standard times at set polling places to eliminate confusion among voters. In addition, she suggested that voters' guides be prepared and mailed to each voter.

The proposals, in bill form, are expected to come before the committee later this session.



Environment

Environmental shake-up

With more than 30 state agencies, departments, and boards having some role in administering Minnesota's environmental laws and regulations, initiatives to refine and merge those agencies are making the rounds this session. But the largest of those environmental agencies—the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)—has announced some changes of its own.

DNR Deputy Commissioner Ron Nargang told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 26 that his department has begun an internal restructuring which will eventually reduce the number of DNR middle managers and increase the number of regional staff who work directly with Minnesota residents. Currently, 2,100 of the DNR's 2,700 employees work in regional offices.

While top DNR administrators would focus on larger environmental issues, more decision-making authority would be shifted down through the organizational ranks. This is designed to help dispel the perception that the agency is "autocratic," Nargang said.

While specific plans are not yet complete for the reorganization, which would be phased in over the next three to five years, some DNR field offices would be consolidated. Shutting field offices will "have a profound impact" on the communities in which they are located, Nargang said.

The forestry division will be the first DNR area to be reorganized. Cuts there could save the state as much as \$3.5 million annually, he said.

While the DNR announced the proposed reorganization on its own, there are several other proposals before the Legislature that

call for major realignment of the state's environmental bureaucracy.

The Commission on Reform and Efficiency has recommended the consolidation of most entities into two agencies—a Department of Resource Management and a Department of Environmental Protection.

A Senate initiative (SF1) would transfer the duties of several agencies to a new Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. Last session, a similar proposal to consolidate several agencies won approval from two House committees, but then stalled.

The DNR, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Office of Waste Management are among the agencies which would be affected by these proposals.

Petrofund needs cleaning

The penny-per-gallon fee on wholesale petroleum should be doubled temporarily to cover the high costs of cleaning up petroleum tank leaks, the Office of the Legislative Auditor recommended Jan. 27.

"The state of the Petrofund is not pretty," Marilyn Jackson-Beeck told the Legislative Audit Commission. Minnesota is far ahead of most other states in cleaning up the environmentally damaging and unsafe sites, but the vigor of that effort has led to a \$34 million deficit.

The Petrofund, established by the Legislature in 1987, covers up to 90 percent of an owner's costs of site cleanup, whether that owner is a major oil company or a small resort. Leaks that have contaminated the water table have proven much more costly to remedy than leaks involving soil contamination alone, Jackson-Beeck said.

Because of the shortfall, claimants wait as long as a year for state reimbursement. Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) said that legislators must consider "what we're doing to the state's credit position."

Besides a temporary gas tax increase, the Office of the Legislative Auditor suggested in a report released to the commission that the Legislature could restrict the program by: scaling covered costs back from 90 percent to 75 percent, restoring a \$10,000 deductible payment by the owner (eliminated by the Legislature in 1989), or requiring large petroleum companies to pay



Secretary of State Joan Growe proposed several changes in how state elections are conducted during testimony before the General Legislation, Veteran Affairs & Elections Committee Jan. 25.



Chair Tom H. Swain delivered a summary report of the Minnesota Health Care Commission's cost containment plan to Gov. Arne Carlson and the Legislature Jan. 25. Lt. Gov. Joanell Dyrstad, standing to the left of Swain, and other commission members attended the press conference in the governor's reception room at the State Capitol.

a greater share of the cleanup costs than small businesses, government units, and nonprofit agencies do.



Family

Who should leave: parents or kids?

When the state takes action to break up a family because of domestic violence or alleged sexual assault, it is more often the child who is removed from the home, rather than the threatening parent.

But is that practice doing more harm to children who are already in abusive situations?

Legislators began to explore the difficult and emotional issues of domestic abuse during an overview of Minnesota's juvenile justice and child protection systems Jan. 27.

Dale Szyszka, director of Rice County Social Services, told the Judiciary Committee that courts and social service workers have the authority to remove abusing parents from the household but usually don't.

"There is still a view that the child is less of a citizen than the parent," Szyszka said. "That child is being abused by the removal [from the home], and that is being done by the system."

He went on to say that even after a parent is charged or even convicted of abuse,

children's instincts are usually to return home if given the chance. "There is a strong bonding [between parent and child] that seems to override the need for tranquillity within the household," he said.

It is unclear whether legislative action could change removal practices, since current law already allows for abusive parents — rather than children — to be removed from homes. Szyszka said attitudes need to change.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said that current policy sends a message "that the best thing that the poor, abused child can do is be quiet or run away. . . . I find that very disturbing."



Government

House approves HF1

A bill (HF1) allowing the Revisor of Statutes to strike all references in law to obsolete committees was passed 126-0 by the House Jan. 25.

The bill was necessary because of the reorganization of the House committee structure and will "help take care of those administrative functions," said sponsor Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey).

The proposal also allows the revisor, under the direction of House Speaker Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), to substitute the names of the new committees and divisions for

the now obsolete committees.

The Senate received the bill Jan. 26 and has referred the companion bill (SF38) to its Rules and Administration Committee.



Health

Controlling health costs

Minnesota consumers would be able to make cost-effective decisions on their own health care using government-prepared data, if a report offered to the joint Legislative Commission on Health Care Access is implemented.

The Minnesota Health Care Commission presented a summary of its cost containment plan to legislators Jan. 25. The commission was charged by the 1992 Legislature with slowing the growth in health care costs by at least 10 percent a year for the next five years. At the same time that the growth rate of overall costs is decreasing, access to health services in the state is expected to improve through expansion of the MinnesotaCare plan.

The 25-member commission offered a plan that could save Minnesotans \$6.9 billion over the next five years. One major component would encourage the development of competing Integrated Service Networks (ISNs), organizations akin to health maintenance organizations from which consumers would buy their health coverage.

Competition would be supplemented by regulation as twin strategies to keep costs down. Growth limits for all providers would be imposed through new legislation, and use of uniform billing forms would cut administrative overhead.

By July of this year, all health providers and health plans in Minnesota would be required to keep and report data on costs, revenues, and prices. The state, in turn, would then provide consumers with a comparative report on provider costs and quality.

Commission Chair Tom Swain said that the plan "is a strong, creative proposal for controlling costs without diminishing the very high quality of Minnesota's health care system."

A list of recommendations "to discourage high-risk activities" — each requiring legislative action — would provide short-

term cost savings. These include increasing taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, mandatory helmet laws, and making failure to wear a seat belt a "primary offense." Current law only allows a seat belt fine to be imposed if a vehicle is pulled over for another offense.

The commission's aim is universal coverage. A number of those currently uninsured are healthy people who could be sharing the cost of insuring others.

"If we cannot get everybody inside the tent, we will not be able to solve some of our cost problems," said commission member Peter Benner.

After receiving input on its initial report at six public hearings throughout the state, the commission will deliver a final, more detailed version of its cost containment plan to the Legislature in late February, Swain said.

Bills to address certain components of the plan are expected later this session.



Housing

Routes to homelessness

Some were highly paid executives. Others suffered through a violent relationship. Still others were emotionally ill or chemically dependent.

But they had one thing in common: They became homeless.

The ways in which a variety of people found themselves without a home were described in sometimes emotional testimony before the Housing Committee Jan. 25.

Some homeless people who are emotionally ill or chemically dependent would benefit by living in small community homes with resident managers to provide "gentle care" and structure, said the Rev. Don Rudrud, pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

The church, which has run an emergency overnight shelter for more than 10 years, recently purchased a home to serve as an interim residence for men who are seeking both jobs and sobriety. Our Saviour's expects to open another interim home for women soon.

"We do not need large warehouses to shelter people off the streets," Rudrud said. Instead, more affordable housing is needed.

Other witnesses described their own routes to homelessness. For some, escaping violent relationships led them to the streets. For one college educated woman, A.G. Huot, it was not any emotional or addiction problem but being laid off from a well-paid executive job that caused her and her three children to lose their home.

"I represent a segment of the homeless population that people never want to believe happens," Huot said.

For rural people, a car breakdown can trigger homelessness, said Huot, now a staff member of the St. Cloud Area Housing Coalition. Fixing the car leaves no money to pay the rent or mortgage. Not fixing the car means not having a way to get to work, job loss, and homelessness.

Joe Sullivan, chair of the North East Metro Coalition for Affordable Housing, described the hidden problem of suburban homelessness. A family shelter in Vadnais Heights turns away from 50 to 100 families a month because of lack of room, he said.

Because of limited services in the suburbs, "it's easy to see why the invisible poor in the suburbs eventually find their way into the inner city to seek out services," Sullivan said, even though they would prefer to remain in the suburbs where they were raised.

"Meanwhile their old neighbors and suburban legislators perceive that there is no affordable housing crisis out where they live."

A bill to help people in financial crisis avoid losing their homes and other bills to address the issue of affordable housing are expected to be introduced later in the session.



Human Services

AFDC costs

Although welfare programs tend to draw a good deal of attention whenever there is talk of trimming state spending, only 11 percent of state Department of Human Services (DHS) funds goes to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and other traditional welfare programs.

Health care services, by contrast, absorb two-thirds of the department's \$3.9 billion biennial budget, DHS Deputy Commissioner George Steiner told members of the Human Services Finance Division of the

Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 27.

He said Minnesota ranks among the lower half of states in use of AFDC, despite the fact its benefits are the 10th highest in the nation.

Minnesota is 30th in the nation in per capita use of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The rate of use in Minnesota is 38 per 1,000 state residents, as compared to 48 per 1,000 in neighboring Wisconsin, and 70 per 1,000 in Michigan.

Members of the division will be looking at how to keep human services costs from accelerating, and, at the same time, meet the basic human needs of those with insufficient resources.

Among the issues raised by committee members are whether something should be done to prevent the elderly from reassigning their assets in order to qualify for government-paid nursing home care, and whether it is appropriate to provide some financial or program support to family members who care for the elderly.

Committee members also asked whether programs devised to promote independence and cut costs are working. Field trials of the Minnesota Family Investment Program, a work incentive program for welfare recipients, are scheduled to begin next year.

That program is designed to ensure that going to work will increase the welfare-dependent family's income, something that is not always true today, said John Petraborg, assistant DHS commissioner, who heads the Family Self-Sufficiency Administration.



Insurance

No work no-fault

People who retire earlier than the traditional age of 65 may have a little extra money to pocket if a bill debated Jan. 27 in the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee is adopted.

The measure would exempt retirees as young as 55 from paying for the mandatory "wage-loss protection" cost that is required for all employed people under the state's no-fault automobile insurance law.

In 1987, the Legislature exempted retirees over 65 from the provision; this pro-

posals would simply extend that provision to include retirees as young as 55 — a class of retirees that has been growing steadily.

"Insurance is expensive enough," said Rep. Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville), chief sponsor of the bill. "People shouldn't have to pay for coverage they're not ever going to use."

Minnesota's no-fault car insurance law requires policies to include wage-loss protections, which reimburses an injured person up to \$250 per week for time lost from work.

Depending on where a person lives, dropping the provision could save a retired person between \$20 to \$40 per year, according to an insurance industry spokesperson.

In general, premiums are lower in out-state Minnesota and climb with population density, peaking in the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It's not known yet if the proposal would increase other drivers' insurance rates, "but we don't think it's going to be enough to be too concerned about," said Thomas Newcome, representing State Farm Insurance.

The committee postponed formal action on **HF30** to allow supporters to clarify the notification procedures for insurance agents. Members also are seeking more information on whether employed adult children living at home with their retired parents could receive wage protections if they are covered under a household policy.

costs to employers through a "managed care" system of treating injured workers, limits on the time those workers can receive benefits, and other reforms.

But several employer representatives told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Jan. 25 that insurance premiums have continued to escalate.

"For our members, if they have the same premiums they paid last year, they feel lucky," said Dave Olson, president of Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

Hickey directed some of the blame for higher costs at insurers who raised premium rates before the 1992 bill took effect. But he said the package also failed to adequately limit increases in supplementary benefits and those benefits paid to injured workers with permanent total disabilities.

"We need a total rewrite of the bill in [that] area," Hickey said.

Bernard Brommer, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, told members that unions would "vigorously" oppose any legislation that would reduce benefits for injured workers. He said many of the cost containment provisions in the 1992 law will require time to be fully realized and that lawmakers should "proceed with great caution" before considering major changes to existing law.

No workers' compensation legislation is currently before the committee.



Law

A case for funding

State court officials entered a plea for help in easing a burgeoning case load that is swamping the judicial system.

Thanks to recent improvements, district courts, the state Court of Appeals and the state Supreme Court are handling more cases — and cases of greater complexity, according to Sue Dosal, state court administrator.

But the number of cases, and more importantly, the number of complex cases requiring more time and judicial resources, is increasing sharply, she told members of the Judiciary Finance Division Jan. 26.

"We can't absorb these kinds of increases," she told the panel during an initial overview of the court system.

The number of felony cases has jumped 25 percent, fueled mostly by narcotics violations, which have more than doubled in recent years, she said. Gross misdemeanors, chiefly drunk driving-related cases, are up 45 percent since 1986.

The panel will consider specific funding requests for the state's court systems later this session.



Labor

Revisiting workers' comp

Legislative action taken last year to reduce workers' compensation costs was at best incomplete, business and employer groups told state lawmakers.

"The bill was pretty weak," said Mike Hickey of the state chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, which represents about 21,000 state companies. "It was a good first step, but it fell short. What we needed was a 25- to 30- percent reduction in worker's comp insurance premiums."

The 1992 legislation was intended to reduce by 16 percent insurance premiums and other workers' compensation-related



Glen Kleven, right, and Steve Petersen demonstrated some of the legal games of chance used by charitable gambling organizations around the state. Kleven works in the Roseville office of the Gambling Control Board's Office of Compliance and Technical Assistance; Petersen in the St. Peter office.



Metro Affairs

Declining inner suburbs

The decline of the core cities is moving into the inner-ring suburbs and beyond, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls).

He warned that without action, "our central cities will continue to decline, and the long-term prospects of many of our inner-ring and working-class suburban communities will be bleaker than the central cities that they surround."

This will happen, he said, because those suburbs lack some of the central city strengths that help alleviate the impact of poverty: the commercial/industrial tax base, the park system, and the availability of social services, for example.

The Twin Cities and many suburbs suffered a substantial loss of manufacturing jobs during the 1980s. While certain outer-ring suburbs — mostly those in the southwestern metro area with high investments in infrastructure — have added jobs and prospered, many have not been so lucky, and the result is further urban sprawl.

Maps based on the latest census data showed that the percentage of married family households with children declined in most suburbs during the 1980s, with declines of more than 33 percent in Bloomington, Fridley, and Golden Valley. The number of children living in poverty also increased in many of the suburbs, with much of the suburban poverty shown to be concentrated in apartment complexes located close to freeways, Orfield said.

Dramatic population shifts also accompanied the increase in suburban poverty during the 1980s. Michael Munson, the principal planner of the Metropolitan Council, said the metro area's white population increased by about 200,000, and the minority population by nearly 100,000. But because of Minnesota's low minority population — 43 states have more minorities than Minnesota — the metro area's white population grew by only 10 percent, while the minority population doubled.

The findings were presented to the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 26 in preparation for six bills Orfield plans to introduce aimed at shrinking the disparities between metro area communities. He expects the bills to be controversial, as were some of the conclusions

that could be drawn from the demographic data.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) questioned whether the in-migration of the poor was due to Minnesota's higher welfare benefits rather than a search for better job opportunities. Munson said no such Minnesota data exists, but a study in neighboring Wisconsin showed higher welfare rates had a negligible effect on migration.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said the statistics should not lead to a simplistic conclusion that the problems in the region are due to a growing minority or growing elderly population. His own Hispanic community and other minority communities have experienced "a long history of being blamed for the causes of urban decline," he said. "I think what we're looking at here [in the demographic studies] is something that's much more complex than that, and perhaps even makes it real clear that maybe we are more the victims of urban decline as opposed to a driver of it."



Taxes

Minnesota's aging future

If lawmakers face a ticklish problem in trying to balance the books and hold down taxes for 1993, just wait until the year 2010.

Dramatic shifts in the age and movement of the state's population will have profound implications for Minnesota's state and local tax structure in the coming years, experts told members of the Taxes Committee Jan. 26.

Minnesotans are getting older, the state Revenue Department's Robert Cline told the panel. Baby boomers, who comprise the largest chunk of the state population, are now at their peak earning and spending power, and will begin hitting retirement age in the next couple of decades, Cline said.

Since people over 65 spend more of their money on health care, food, clothes, and other services not subject to the sales tax, that base of revenue won't be growing as fast as it has through the 1980s. That means it may become more difficult to avoid expanding the sales tax, said Cline.

As for income taxes, it will become more expensive for the state to keep up its pref-

erential treatment of senior citizens since there will be fewer people in their peak earning years to tax, he said.

And changes in property taxes, the third of the state's "big three" sources of tax revenue, also will be affected by the aging population, Cline said. Regional differences in property value growth are already apparent, but "intergenerational tension" may add further complications.

Using property taxes to fund local school districts, for example, could find less support from growing numbers of seniors who no longer have children of school age.

The bottom line, said Thomas Stinson of the state Finance Department, is that long-range strategic planning is needed to cope with the coming changes.



Tourism

High stakes in tourism

American Indian gaming centers are damaging state businesses and any move to start the school year prior to Labor Day would only make matters worse, according to representatives of Minnesota's private tourism industry.

Al Brodie, director of the Minnesota Motel Association, said the Labor Day weekend, as well as the weeks leading up to the holiday, are crucial to keeping certain areas of the state's \$4.9 billion per year tourism industry vital. Brodie said this "extra" vacation time accounts for 20 to 25 percent of the motel industry business, and about 40 percent of the camping industry's business.

Should lawmakers allow schools to start before Labor Day, communities would "lose the tax dollars that come from the business that is generated" from vacationers' trips extending later into August, Brodie said.

Brodie testified Jan. 27 before the Tourism and Small Business division of the House Commerce Committee. His interest in protecting the hospitality industry's economic base is shared by colleagues in other tourist-related areas.

While Hank Todd, director of the state Office of Tourism, has said no statistical evidence exists to illustrate the impact of American Indian gaming centers throughout the state, members of the Minnesota Restaurant, Hotel, and Resort Association were blunt.

"The Indian casino gaming... has caused a lot of problems for a lot of our members in the immediate vicinity" of the gaming facilities, said Thomas Newcome, an association representative. "Restaurants in particular cannot compete with the food prices" found in casinos, Newcome explained, noting that some nearby restaurants have lost one-third to one-half of their business.

While Newcome said he had "no problem" with Native Americans running the casinos, "they're getting into the business that our people are engaged in. . . . They're beginning to move into private business, and that's where we have a lot of problems."



Transportation

'Branding' bill approved

A House committee Jan. 28 approved a "truth in labeling" bill aimed at helping used car buyers determine a vehicle's true history.

The proposal (HF51) would create a permanent "prior salvage" brand on a vehicle's title if the car has been classified as totaled by insurers. This would close a loophole that proponents of the measure say now allows auto rebuilders to bring wrecks in from other states for repairs and later receive an unblemished title from Minnesota authorities.

The bill also creates a new "junked" title classification for vehicles sold for parts — a provision designed to curb auto thieves from buying a wrecked vehicle so they can transfer its body identification numbers and clean title to a stolen vehicle.

Over the strong objections of auto rebuilders who say the proposed title branding will cost them jobs, the measure was approved on a voice vote by the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. It now moves to the House floor for consideration. Companion legislation is pending before the Senate Transportation and Public Transit Committee.

Auto rebuilders said that title branding would do little to better inform consumers, improve passenger safety or dissuade auto theft. Instead, they called for requiring title disclosures for any vehicle with damage over \$1,000 and for safety inspections to determine if a rebuilt auto is structurally sound.

"Why put a Band-Aid on the problem when you could be curing the disease," said Shelly Schmitt, an Inver Grove Heights body shop owner.

Schmitt said the proposal in its current form was patterned after a recently overturned Michigan law. She said the courts found that salvage branding cut a vehicle's resale value — erasing profits for the rebuilder — and was a primary factor used by financial institutions in refusing loans to potential used car buyers.

"If there's any reason for banks to believe a car is undesirable, they won't make the loan," Schmitt said.

The Minnesota Attorney General's consumer division estimates at least 11,000 wrecked vehicles were transported into the state in 1991 for re-assembly and resale.

But Schmitt and others said those cars are only a small fraction of more than 182,000 accident-damaged vehicles in the state, most of which will remain "unbranded" under the current proposal.

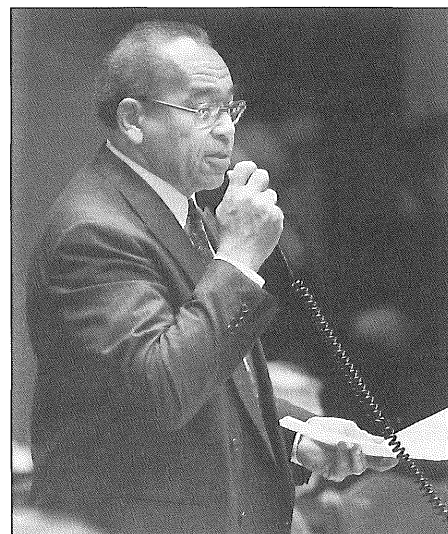
Inflow versus outflow

Where does all the money go? That's what some legislators wanted to know after hearing that the Clinton administration may propose a hike in energy taxes — including those on gas.

When questioned by Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) at a Jan. 22 hearing, officials from the Minnesota Department of Transportation explained that the annual \$15 billion tax collected largely from the federal gas tax goes to the national Highway Trust Fund. But the federal government usually appropriates less than it initially collects.

"It sounds like the feds are using dedicated funds to play with the deficit," said Frerichs, adding that any increase in federal fuel taxes would adversely affect the ability of the state Legislature to raise revenue for highways.

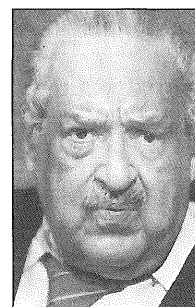
Frerichs made the remark during a hearing of the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.



Rep. Richard Jefferson offered a resolution honoring late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall Jan. 25.

In honor of Thurgood Marshall

A resolution commemorating the life and work of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was the first resolution to be approved by the House this session.



Thurgood Marshall

Marshall was the first African-American justice to serve on the Supreme Court. He died Jan. 24 at age 84.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) reviewed Marshall's lifelong accomplishments on the House floor Jan. 25.

Before his appointment to the nation's highest court in 1967, Marshall argued 32 cases before that court, winning 29 of them.

Among the civil rights cases he won is *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 decision which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. "Throughout his career on the court, in majority opinions and in dissents, he defended not only the cause of civil rights for people of color, but the broader cause of the rights of the individual, in particular the right of privacy and the rights of criminal defendants," Jefferson said.

A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Marshall's family.

Focus on children

A joint legislative forum "to help focus attention on the problems facing Minnesota's children and what we can do to help them" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m in the House chamber.

The forum, "Our Children, Our Families, Our Future: What is the Cost of Failure?" is sponsored by the Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families, and the Minnesota Coalition of Family Organizations.

Scheduled speakers include Dr. Sylvia Hewett, author and former professor of economics at Barnard College and Columbia University. She will speak on the "Cost of an Ineffective System."

Dr. Geraldine Brookins, a professor at the University of Minnesota, will provide an analysis of children and families in Minnesota.

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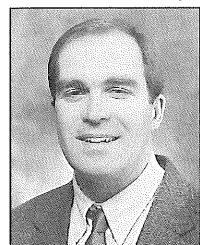
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Mosel's farm background reflects constituency

Darrel Mosel (DFL-Gaylord) is a political rarity on several counts.

He's one of only 16 farmers who now sit in the House; he defeated a firmly-ensconced incumbent in last fall's election; and he plans to stick by a promise to vote independently during his first term.



Rep. Darrel Mosel

It may be fitting that Mosel traces his political roots to the farm economy's collapse during the mid-1980s. The first-term DFLer now represents one of Minnesota's most rural districts.

Fresh out of college, he began farming in 1981. The timing couldn't have been worse. His crops flourished in the fertile Sibley County soil, but they weren't worth anything.

"Everything was falling. I had dairy, and even that was falling," he said. "And it all seemed to happen right after 1981. I don't know if it coincided with the [presidential] election or not, but for whatever reason everything started collapsing."

That economic concern crystallized into political activism. Mosel became involved in farm groups, started going to precinct caucuses, and eventually was recruited to run for the House in

1986, a campaign he describes as a learning experience.

He ran more aggressively — but unsuccessfully — two years later, and finally won on his third try last fall. His opponent in all three contests was Gary Schafer, who had served since 1980.

"There was a mixed bag of issues," he said of the last campaign. "Probably the biggest issue that helped me win this election was the perception that if anyone could help to bring a change in education financing, I could."

Like many other rural school boards, Sibley County school boards supported merging districts to cut costs. Now, there is a growing realization that it may not be working.

"Every school district in my district is concerned about what's going to happen down the road during the next five to 10 years," he said. "Most of us are convinced that bigger is not better. We've finally learned that some of the big high schools are in worse financial shape than some of the small ones."

On agricultural issues, Mosel said he doesn't sense a significant gap in understanding between the dwindling numbers of rural representatives and those from suburban and metro areas. Most lawmakers strongly support family farms, he said.

Mosel's agriculture-dominated district is also

mostly conservative. Having a DFLer as representative will be a new experience, but he knows what his constituents expect.

"I promised them that I would vote independently," he said. "And I think they like that. I also look forward to providing my district a better working relationship with the DFL majority."

"I do believe a representative has the responsibility to bring forth his ideas and his opinions, and legislate as a representative of the whole state, while still respecting where you come from."

— Jim Anderson

District 23B

Population: 32,258

Distribution: 85.6 percent of residents live in rural areas; 14.4 percent in urban areas.

Counties: Blue Earth, Brown, McLeod, Nicollet, Sibley

Largest city: Glencoe

Location: south central Minnesota

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle: 33.4 percent

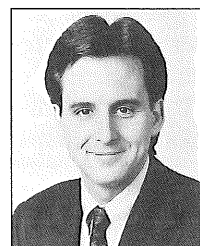
Perot/Stockdale: 33.1 percent

Clinton/Gore: 33 percent

Other: 0.5 percent

Pawlenty hopes to bridge suburban, urban concerns

Partisanship and polemics have always been present in politics. But Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan) isn't planning on investing in old ideas or past divisions. Pawlenty wants to build bridges across both partisan and economic lines.



Rep. Tim Pawlenty

"I would call myself a 'different kind of Republican.' I don't fall into any kind of traditional pigeonhole," he said. Pawlenty, a 32-year-old attorney, is a proud product of an ethnic, blue collar family that he said is largely apolitical. A self-defined "student of policy" and "a product of local government," he majored in political science at the University of Minnesota and went on to graduate from the university's law school. He then served on both the Eagan Planning Commission and the Eagan City Council. Pawlenty won district 38B's open seat when former Rep. Art Seaberg opted for a run at the state Senate.

Prior to the 1993 legislative session, Pawlenty worked with Minnesota's chapter of Common Cause — an organization working to promote

open government and political reform — to develop his legislative agenda. In fact, Pawlenty has already introduced (HF163), a bill aimed at reducing the influence of interest group contributions in political campaigns.

Changing the way Minnesota politicians think about public policy is another of Pawlenty's goals. Specifically, he wants others to realize that the entire metro area is linked by a common culture and an integrated economy.

"I feel very strongly that we would be remiss to simply focus on 'suburban issues' and a 'suburban agenda' when the core of the inner cities — the central, urban areas of St. Paul and Minneapolis — are suffering greatly. Suburbs need to have partnerships with the urban areas . . . because we're all in this together."

Pawlenty said that the homogeneous stereotypes of Minnesota suburbs are misleading. "We have a much more diverse population than people might imagine," he said. And increasingly, some suburbs also have more problems — housing decay and declining economic status among them.

Pawlenty made it clear that he wants to reach out to those troubled core areas, which are represented almost exclusively by DFLers.

"They can't do it alone," he said. "The problems are too big."

While DFLers seem receptive, Pawlenty said he believes members of his party "by and large have vacated the agenda" of the cities.

Republicans need to articulate a vision that appeals to the "mainstream" and to a more diverse coalition of voters, he said.

"I think that if the Republican party is ever going to be a majority party, particularly in Minnesota, it has to diversify. . . not simply focus on tax and spend issues and social issues."

— Adam Samaha

District 38B

Population: 31,928

Distribution: wholly urban; all residents live within a city.

Counties: Dakota

Largest city: Eagan

Location: south Metro

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle: 36.2 percent

Clinton/Gore: 38.2 percent

Perot/Stockdale: 25.2 percent

Other: 0.4 percent

'Woodchucks,' 'in the hopper,' and other Capitol jargon

To the uninitiated, the language of State Capitol committee rooms and corridors might as well be Swahili or High German. There, such words as *progress*, *garbage*, and even *woodchuck* become entirely new "animals."

Sometimes the terms are self-explanatory. There's an old folk tale about a lazy woodchuck dozing atop a woodpile in the warm sun. An unsuspecting woodsman reaches in for a piece of wood, mistakenly grabs the woodchuck,

and is promptly bitten. The moral? What you think you're getting isn't always what it appears to be.

Such was the case in 1971, when then Senate Majority Leader Stanley Holmquist was ac-



Woodchuck, *Marmota monax*

cused of trying to push a 'woodchuck' bill that had nothing to do with wildlife. The bill did, however, extend the terms of two Republican appointees to the state Board of Education. Some thought the author was trying to hide his true intentions beneath the obvious language of the bill, and hence the woodchuck label. Such a bill with surprise meaning "usually is to the author's advantage," said the *Minneapolis Star* in a related article.

Some of the terms are historical in origin, such as the legislative "hopper" perched atop the desk of the Chief Clerk on the House floor. The hopper is actually a wire basket where bills are deposited while awaiting their first reading before the whole body.

The term can be traced to colonial days, when a majority of lawmakers were farmers. A hopper, in agricultural terms, is a temporary storage container for grain before it's brought to market. Today, the term sticks for practical as well as historical reasons.

Pat Murphy, editor of the *Journal of the House*, says that when training new pages (those who assist members on the House floor), the term avoids confusion, and can avert disaster. Inevitably, says Murphy, lawmakers will hail a page and instruct them to deposit a new bill "in the basket." What they mean is the hopper, but more than a few fresh pages "have taken that to mean the wastebasket," says Murphy.

And then there's the Capitol doublespeak, where "possible funding strategies" become "viable resource utilization models," and that's no joke. Wade through many government reports and you're sure to find

similar indecipherable phrases.

In the not-so-distant past, the Minnesota Legislature has been accused of passing "Christmas tree" bills and, more recently, "garbage bills" in the session's waning days.

Although both terms generally refer to a bill that includes an assortment of odds and ends, the term "garbage bill" tends to refer more specifically to bills where the flotsam is added during the conference committee process.

While those terms have an easily-understood explanation, another one seems to defy logic — or at least common sense. When a bill is progressed at the Legislature, it doesn't move along its course.

On the contrary, it is laid over and receives no further discussion.

But don't think such double-talk is confined to Minnesota. President Warren Harding coined his own terms, including *bloviate*, which applies specifically to politicians and means "to orate pompously." According to William Safire, in his self-titled *Safire's Political Dictionary*, the word was later applied to Harding's own speeches.

Call it doublespeak, convolution, or even a series of red herrings, but the language of

the lawmaking can be interpreted with a successful mix of patience and determination.

Here's a small sample of past and present Minnesota terms:

appropriation: an authorization of funds.

Christmas tree bill: a term used often in the early 1970s that refers to a measure with several "ornaments," or amendments, added that are sometimes parochial in nature.

conference committee: a panel of three or five members from each chamber chosen to work out differences between different versions of a bill approved by the House and Senate.

[to] conferee: coined by *Pioneer Press* reporter Gene Newhall in 1961, it describes what members of conference committees do: "to sit around with a group from your own chamber, (House or Senate) and confer with, around, and part of the time against the other group from the other chamber."

consent calendar: that part of the House floor agenda limited to non-controversial items. (see **woodchuck**)

dandelion bill: one that "if given an inch, will take a yard." Coined by former Sen. Jack Davies in 1977.

Forest Lawn: nickname given to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee chaired by Sen. C.R. "Baldy" Hansen of Austin in the 1970s. "The final resting place for many bills," said a 1976 newspaper article.

garbage bill: a bill, usually passed in the waning moments of a legislative session, onto which a number of odds and ends — usually unrelated measures — have been amended. It generally refers to amendments added during the conference committee process.

hopper: a wire basket atop the chief clerk's desk in the House chamber where bills are placed to await their first reading.

in the hopper: refers to a legislative proposal that has officially been filed and has a House File number.

Drawing courtesy of Charles Schwartz and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Mae West bills: a phrase used in the 1930s that referred to bills that pitted business interests against one another. Named for the film star's popular quip, "come up and see me sometime."

micro-manage: to oversee or regulate from a position significantly removed from the target of scrutiny. Used often during the 1991-92 sessions.

nose count: informal polling by assistant majority leaders to determine sense of (dis)approval on a pending bill.

off the hook: turning a member loose to vote as he/she wishes when the needed number of votes has been garnered to secure passage or defeat.

omnibus bill: a single bill composed of many other bills.

[to] pickle: halting the progress of a bill by referral to another committee or by not permitting a hearing. "A polite way of killing a bill," former *Minneapolis Star* reporter Betty Wilson wrote in 1969.

progress: to lay over; stall; delay action on pending legislation.

regressive tax: one that decreases as the size of one's income increases.

woodchuck: a bill having surprise or hidden intentions behind its obvious language.

wood tick: coined by Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) during a 1983 workers' compensation debate, the term refers to rural DFLers who opposed more liberal reforms.

[to] zero: to strip an appropriation of all dollars. Attempted in the past as a way to eliminate the State Planning Agency, which is now the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning.

—John Tschida

Legislative doublespeak

legislative version: Undue multiplicity of personnel assigned either concurrently or consecutively to a single function involves deterioration of quality in the resultant product as compared with the product of the labor of an exact sufficiency of personnel.

layman's version: Too many cooks spoil the broth.

— Congressional Record, Oct. 27, 1971



Interested in a full-time job with no pay, long hours, grimy working conditions, and the probability of being sued to death? Consider becoming Minnesota's next state archaeologist. Since 1963, the state archaeologist, selected by the Minnesota Historical Society, has by law made environmental findings before some development projects — whether public or private — are allowed to continue.

Rep. Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin) said he was flooded with calls from constituents who couldn't sell a plot of land before the state archaeologist determined the extent of Indian burial grounds present on the property. But Minnesota's chief digger, who kept a full-time paid job in addition to her unpaid state duties, was so backlogged, she couldn't be found. In fact, she recently quit after 14 years of service.

"I couldn't believe it when I found out it wasn't a paid position," Waltman said during hearings Jan. 23. Unless a replacement is found by the spring construction season, the state and its developers are going to be in quite a hole, legislators were told. There is a current backlog of 80 cases.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), fully aware of his feisty reputation, is apparently getting accustomed to getting confused with Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter), a fellow member of the Taxes Committee. A witness inadvertently addressed Osthoff as Ostrom during a hearing, prompting both a correction and an apology. "As I've said before," said Osthoff, "don't apologize to me, apologize to Ostrom."

During a somewhat esoteric and lengthy discussion about the relationship between demographics and highway location, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) invoked the name of Colonel Sanders to make a point.

The Kentucky Fried Chicken founder was astute enough to move his first restaurant from an obscure junction to a site near the exit-ramp of a newly constructed interstate, Dawkins told members of the Taxes Committee Jan. 26. Sanders soon had a

string of restaurants along the highway, and the rest is fast-food history.

"So I think where you build highways has a lot to do where people go," he said.

"And chickens," interjected House Speaker Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

"The dead ones at least," Dawkins replied.

Don't even think about using alcohol around young boxers in training, unless you want to answer to Scott LeDoux, the state's most famous boxer and current Boxing Board member. Jim O'Hara, executive secretary of the board, joked with members of the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee Jan. 27 that he used the former heavyweight as an enforcer of board directives.

LeDoux, surprised by O'Hara's description of his duties as a public servant, interjected, "I always thought I was on the board for my good looks. Now I find out I'm a henchman."

Testimony also was given by the Barbers Examining Board the same day because "both of them do damage to people's heads," explained Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls).

The subliminal governor

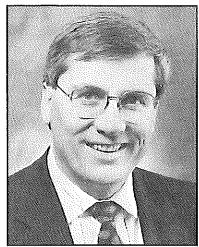
In the "not-so-subliminal messages" category, Gov. Arne Carlson used a number of key words and catch phrases in his budget message to the Minnesota Legislature Jan. 26. The following is a brief listing of the number of times each phrase or word was used by the governor:

"increase":	20
"reinvent," "reform," or "redesign":	11
Number of vows not to	
raise taxes:	5
"reduce" or "decrease":	5
"live within our means":	4
"spend smarter":	3
"wage freeze":	0

Dehler looks to 'plain common sense' for guidance

Rep. Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph) said he's through with "dinosaurs."

From running a "Mom and Pop" grocery store on a central Minnesota main street to duty years ago as a "printer's devil" — sweeping up after the pressmen operating hot-lead linotype machines — the first-term House member has worked his share of vocations now sliding into society's backwaters.



Rep. Steve Dehler

Dinosaurs, he calls them. Even a recent stint as a jailer at the Morrison County jail has its ties to history. While members of the sheriff's department were being trained to work in a new facility, Dehler and a colleague worked in the old county jail during its final six months in use.

"The experience was invaluable," he said. "There are not very many installations like it that exist anymore. The place had bars — most jails don't have bars any more. It smelled. The steam didn't work. All of the tables were made out of steel. It was safe. And secure. But it was a dinosaur, something that's almost extinct."

But life in the state Legislature is a step in

another direction. "I didn't take this state office job to be inside the belly of another dinosaur," Dehler said. "I like to think state government is still in its embryonic stage, that it is still developing."

The 42-year-old Independent-Republican intends to build on knowledge honed during his 16 years on the St. Joseph City Council and two years as the city's mayor to help him adjust to his new duties. One set of developed skills is having time and an ear for questions and complaints from constituents. But equally important, he said, was learning that no one has the monopoly on innovation.

"One thing I learned on the city council was to be open to new ideas," he said. "If a better way to get something accomplished came up during discussions, so much the better. Let's do it that way and get it done."

Dehler said he also has seen how state government officials can hamstring their colleagues at the local level.

"The state tries to force a lot of things on the cities but often doesn't provide them with the money to do them," Dehler said. "If the state is desirous of cities and towns to do these many things, then they should also fund them. If they don't have the funding, then they shouldn't

require them."

With an eye toward the evolving nature of the Legislature, Dehler said he arrived at the state Capitol with few preconceptions and a small agenda. He said his votes this session will reflect the concerns of his constituents — people, he said, who first care about their families, their schools, churches, and community.

Dehler also said he won't be afraid to rely on plain old common sense when making decisions. That's one dinosaur from times gone by, he said, that can't be allowed to fade away.

— Dave Price

District 14A

Population: 33,031

Distribution: 72.4 percent of residents live in rural areas, 28.4 percent in urban areas.

Counties: Benton, Morrison, Stearns

Largest city: Sartell

Location: central Minnesota

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle: 38.1 percent

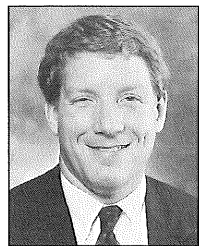
Clinton/Gore: 34.8 percent

Perot/Stockdale: 26 percent

Other: 1.1 percent

Kelley to focus on improved governmental services

Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) shares the same sweeping complaint about government that many voters expressed in 1992.



Rep. Steve Kelley

"There are things that the government could be doing a better job of for citizens — providing services to help make life better for individuals and families," he said.

Kelley said he found the Capitol an inviting place to help solve these problems: fitting for someone who has "always had an interest in public affairs" and who is educated in the law and public policy.

He began his legal career in 1979 after graduating from Columbia Law School, and his political start came a year later when he served on the DFL State Central Committee. In 1984, he made an unsuccessful bid for the House against former Rep. Sally Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park). When Rep. Olsen resigned to become a judge on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, he tried again.

"I think I was better at campaigning the second time," he said.

Kelley's west-suburban district includes all of Hopkins and portions of St. Louis Park and

Minnetonka. More than 50 percent of the area's residents live in apartments, Kelley said, adding that the district is home to both the poor and the very rich.

While campaigning, Kelley "mostly heard about the importance of education and concern about the property tax system" — two issues that are very much linked in the minds of his constituents, he said.

"Hopkins and St. Louis Park have traditionally had good schools and there are a lot of people who moved there for the quality of the schools," he said. "They're willing to pay some levels of property tax, but they're concerned about the fairness of the system."

Voters in the district wonder to what extent their taxes are subsidizing other areas. This session, Kelley intends to focus on intergovernmental relations to improve government services in the state.

"I'd like to see the Legislature create some incentives for greater cooperation and collaboration among different groups in government providing services to people so that we're more effective . . . while holding down the cost of government."

While Kelley conceded that his first few days in office have been relatively easy, he said he is looking forward to the hard part: "decisions

about how to allocate resources to people."

More optimistic than some, Kelley said he expects the Legislature will proceed with "a lot less acrimony than people expect."

Most legislators "realize that citizens are still looking for their representatives to be pragmatic and not excessively political," he said.

And that, he said, is what he intends to deliver.

— Adam Samaha

District 44A

Population: 32,773

Distribution: wholly urban; all residents live within a city.

Counties: Hennepin

Largest city: Hopkins (wholly contained within the district). Also contains a portion of Minnetonka.

Location: west Metro

1992 presidential election results:

Clinton/Gore: 48.2 percent

Bush/Quayle: 29.9 percent

Perot/Stockdale: 21.2 percent

Other: 0.7 percent

Bill Introductions

HF88-HF163

Monday, Jan. 25

HF88—McGuire (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

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

HF89—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

International Falls area cold weather resource center grants authorized to a nonprofit corporation, and money appropriated.

HF90—Hausman (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Off-label drug coverage included in health insurance policies.

HF91—Winter (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Solid waste management county fees paid for services to state-owned property.

HF92—Van Dellen (IR)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals eliminated, workers' compensation appeals heard by Court of Appeals, suitable job defined, and permanent total disability definition and compensation modified.

HF93—Jaros (DFL)

Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

Campaign public financing income tax checkoff amounts increased and contributions restricted for public subsidy recipients; and major party candidates provided equal paid and unpaid media access.

HF94—Lourey (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Snowmobile trailer manufacturer exempted from dealer license requirement.

HF95—Lourey (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Independent School District No. 577, Willow River, authorized to sell certain lands to correct an erroneous boundary assumption.

HF96—Tunheim (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Personal watercraft; water ski towing rearview mirror requirements clarified.

HF97—Rukavina (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Public employment labor relations act (PELRA) definition modified for confidential employee.

HF98—Leppik (IR)

Judiciary

DWI; driving while intoxicated drivers' license revocation periods increased and limited license issuance restricted to comply with federal standards, and alcohol concentration limit lowered.

HF99—Lasley (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Regional public library districts authorized by local governments and levy authority provided.

HF100—Blatz (IR)

Judiciary

Harassment and stalking crimes clarified and expanded, warrantless arrests authorized, arrest and detention required, pretrial release restricted and victim notification required, restraining order service clarified, and penalties provided.

HF101—Goodno (IR)

Health & Human Services

Social security number required for general assistance applicant eligibility, and county agencies to verify applicant citizenship or alien status.

HF102—Murphy (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Superior Vista trail construction appropriated money.

HF103—Skoglund (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Fort Snelling visitor center construction appropriated money.

HF104—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Otter Tail County landowners allowed to sell, subdivide, or transfer land without complying with certain shoreland standards.

HF105—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 676, Badger, allowed excess fund balance for five years due to payment of delinquent property taxes.

HF106—Krueger (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Cellular telephone services prohibited from collecting fees for 911 system emergency telephone calls.

HF107—Kelso (DFL)

Education

Early Childhood Family Education home visiting program levy funding replaced with a grant

program, home visiting program training provided to community outreach workers, and money appropriated.

HF108—Jacobs (DFL)

Taxes

Tax-forfeited land repurchase price for prior owner to include delinquent taxes and assessments, penalties, interest, and other costs.

HF109—Murphy (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Moose Lake state recreation area visitor center construction appropriated money.

HF110—Hasskamp (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Brainerd fire department relief association authorized increase in lump sum benefits.

HF111—Olson, K. (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

B. E. Grotum memorial highway designated in Jackson County.

HF112—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Child care special variances authorized for serving additional school age children.

HF113—Orenstein (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Pedestrians lawfully in a crosswalk with pedestrian control signals provided right-of-way.

HF114—Steensma (DFL)

Education

Independent School District Nos. 918, Chandler-Lake Wilson, and 504, Slayton, provided 1993 as their first year of cooperation.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

HF115—Rest (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Beaver dam damage liability imposed, county relief actions provided, and conciliation and district court actions allowed.

HF116—Kinkel (DFL)

Education

Alternative program pupil special levy authorized for school districts.

HF117—Kinkel (DFL)

Taxes

Tax-forfeited land repurchase price for prior owner to include delinquent taxes and

assessments, penalties, interest, and other costs; and refund provided.

HF118—Kinkel (DFL)
Education

Capital expenditure facilities revenue transfers authorized to capital expenditure equipment account.

HF119—Kinkel (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Tobacco use allowed in public schools by American Indians or other cultural groups for religious, artistic, spiritual, or cultural purposes.

HF120—Ness (IR)
Education

School year allowed to begin before Labor Day on September 1.

HF121—Battaglia (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 692, Babbitt, permitted an operating debt levy.

HF122—Bertram (DFL)
Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

Video lottery machines authorized in liquor establishments.

HF123—Ness (IR)
Education

Referendums allowed in May.

HF124—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary

Harassment and stalking crimes revised and simplified, and penalties increased.

HF125—Luther (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, permitted to adopt an alternating eight-period schedule and exempted from certain instructional time requirements.

HF126—Waltman (IR)
Education

Mandate compliance exemption provided to school districts unless compliance revenue is identified.

HF127—Bishop (IR)
Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Sheriff civil service commissions permitted to expand eligible lists for affirmative action hiring purposes.

HF128—Jefferson (DFL)
Education

Youth apprenticeship program established and money appropriated.

HF129—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary

Spousal maintenance delinquent payment withholding authorized from certain tax refunds.

HF130—Weaver (IR)
Judiciary

Jail credit reduction awards restricted to the offense for which the offender is currently being sentenced.

HF131—Ostrom (DFL)
Taxes

Earned income tax credit increased.

HF132—Mariani (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gaming

Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) allowed to accept grants and gifts for educational or other public purposes.

HF133—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary

Chiropractors allowed to practice in correctional institutions.

HF134—Vellenga (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Optometrists authorized to prescribe and use topical legend drugs.

HF135—Hausman (DFL)
Education

School year allowed to begin before Labor Day.

HF136—Bergson (DFL)
Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

Lottery board authority abolished to authorize additional compensation for the state lottery director.

HF137—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes

Snowmobiles; resort passenger snowmobile use provided exemption from motor vehicle gasoline excise tax.

HF138—Cooper (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Senior companion, foster grandparents, volunteer, and congregate and home delivered meals programs appropriated money.

HF139—Bauerly (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Santiago authorized to establish a detached banking facility.

Thursday, Jan. 28

HF140—Murphy (DFL)
Taxes

Disparity reduction aid modified to counties and taconite homestead credit extended to certain property.

HF141—Simoneau (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Small and private employer health insurance program eligibility requirements modified for family member participation.

HF142—Anderson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Nursing assistant competency evaluation program eligibility option to include enrollment in a licensed nurse education program.

HF143—Orenstein (DFL)
Judiciary

Firearm reckless discharge in a municipal residential area provided felony penalty.

HF144—Carruthers (DFL)
Commerce & Economic Development

Aircraft maintenance and repair facility construction bond authority repealed.

HF145—Steensma (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Physician reciprocity licensure to include temporary permits for physicians not currently licensed.

HF146—Reding (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Detached banking facility acquisition modified for bank and savings associations.

HF147—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gaming

State university and community and technical college teacher individual retirement account plan employer contribution rate increased and fund transfers provided from the teachers retirement association.

HF148—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Regular route passenger common carrier authority restricted for departing from authorized routes.

HF149—Bauerly (DFL)
Education

Referendum revenue program to include discretionary revenue, equalization aid increased, and supplemental revenue eliminated.

HF150—Winter (DFL)
Taxes

Property tax penalties and interest provided to taxing jurisdictions.

HF151—Cooper (DFL)
Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Town supervisor terms and road overseer and deputy treasurer employment clarified.

HF152—Cooper (DFL)
Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Town road and bridge report distribution eliminated to county auditor.

HF153—Pawlenty (IR)
Judiciary

Liquor illegal minor consumption venue of action provided in jurisdiction of consumption.

HF154—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Chief judges conference authority repealed for charging certain misdemeanors as petty misdemeanors.

HF155—Skoglund (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

No-fault automobile insurance reparation obligors authorized to offer medical expense benefits through managed care plans, and discrimination prohibited based on metropolitan geographic location of insured.

HF156—Anderson, R. (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Head Start minimum grantee funding required at no less than fiscal year 1993 funding and money appropriated.

HF157—Carlson (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Gaming**

Public employees retirement association police and fire fund prior service credit purchase authorized for two Minneapolis employees.

HF158—Vickerman (IR)**Education**

Independent School District No. 85, Springfield, authorized permanent transfer from the general fund to the debt redemption fund.

HF159—Tunheim (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 682, Roseau, time extended for entering into construction contracts.

HF160—Reding (DFL)**Taxes**

Furs; artificial furs and fur products imposed an additional sales tax to fund damage control costs for damage caused by beavers and other fur-bearing animals.

HF161—Trimble (DFL)**Commerce & Economic Development**

Targeted neighborhood revitalization programs appropriated money.

HF162—Osthoff (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Metropolitan sports facilities commission organization and membership modified.

HF163—Sparby (DFL)**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Campaign reforms; candidates limited to one campaign committee, challengers first time spending limits higher, contribution limit lowered, public matching subsidy provided, corporate contributions modified, and money appropriated.

Correction

A legislative profile on District 20A on page 14 of the Jan. 15 edition incorrectly identified the largest employer in the district. The largest employer is Hutchinson Technology Inc.

A legislative profile of District 50A on page 16 of the Jan. 22 edition wasn't really an accurate profile of District 50A at all. It described 50B. Lest you make the same mistake, be forewarned that the district numbers are transposed in the redistricting booklet titled "1992 Legislative Districts."

A story on a tour of the Minnesota History Center on page 4 of the Jan. 22 edition incorrectly reported the cost of the new building. The total cost for the building (including planning and land acquisition) was \$74 million.

Do you know?

Would you vote for a gubernatorial candidate who wrote a book arguing that the lost city of Atlantis really existed?

In 1892, Minnesota voters answered with a resounding "No."

The author was Ignatius Donnelly, a pugnacious Minnesota politician who was also an armchair scientist.

On the heels of his highly successful book, *Atlantis: the Antedeluvian World*, Donnelly penned *Ragnarok*, a treatise arguing that many catastrophic events throughout world history are the result of comets colliding with the earth.

Donnelly cited Plato, ancient Toltec legends, and even the Book of Job to back his theory. The general public was impressed. By 1899, the text had run through 19 American editions.

But several reviewers — and most scientists — refused to be charmed.

"Jules Verne in his most imaginative moments never thought of anything so irrational as *Ragnarok*," wrote the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *Popular Science Monthly* also lambasted Donnelly's theory, with the words "stupid" and "absurd" punctuating its critique.

Donnelly was miffed. He wrote to Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, a reputed Canadian geologist, asking for an honest critique of *Ragnarok*. Hunt noted that Donnelly's arguments contained "a fatal defect." Much of the evidence Donnelly cited could be explained "without invoking a comet," wrote Hunt.

Donnelly never did achieve his goal to become governor, but his diverse interests have left a more lasting impression than many famous political figures.

"He will long be remembered as the most meteoric of our political figures, a bewildering shooting star, whose orbit

was a guess," wrote James Baker, an author and former Minnesota Secretary of State.



Ignatius Donnelly

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

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. 1

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Testimony from the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, the Council on Spanish Speaking People, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Uniform Laws Commission.

Health Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of Department of Human Services budget overview.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget presentations by the Horticulture Society and the Harmful Substance Board.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Community College System presentation by Geraldine Evans, chancellor; Ronald Williams, vice chancellor; Ann Sidoti, director of student services; Craig Schoenecker, research associate.

9 a.m.

Subcommittee on Salaries & Budgets/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

400N State Office Building
Dir. Janet Lund

Agenda: Personnel matters concerning the Legislative Reference Library and the Office of the Revisor.

9:10 a.m.

Legislative Coordinating Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Report of the subcommittee; appointments, Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy; recommendation on vendor for cultural diversity training.

9:45 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

East side of State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Tour of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. Bus leaves at 9:45 a.m.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Statistical overview of crime in Minnesota, Dan Storkamp, director, Minnesota Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Minnesota Planning. Sentencing guidelines overview, Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing Guidelines Commission (continued from 1/25 meeting).

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: Reports from the Public Utilities Commission, Don Storm, commissioner; Attorney General's Office, Joan Peterson, manager, Residential Utilities Division; Department of Jobs and Training, David Geary, energy programs director.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

Department of Revenue

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Tour of the Department of Revenue. Bus will leave from in front of the State Office Building at 9:50 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

HOUSING

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Presentation of budget request of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Jim Solem.

Presentation of study outlining rural housing needs, Kathy Kremer, Minnesota Housing Partnership, Southeast Regional Network.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: Reports from the Department of Jobs and Training, Heidi Stennes, chief of staff, Gary Sorenson, assistant commissioner, unemployment insurance; Bert McKasy, commissioner, Department of Commerce; Patricia Johnson, president, Minnesota State Fund Mutual; Jay Benanav, president, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session

AFTER SESSION

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Public reaction to the governor's budget.

6 p.m.

Legislative Water Commission

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Discussion of 1993 agency legislative initiatives, well sealing, and LCMR 1994-95 project recommendations related to water.

TUESDAY, Feb. 2

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF0125 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, permitted to adopt an alternating eight-period schedule and exempted from certain instructional time requirements.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget presentations by the Science

Museum of Minnesota and the Animal Health Board.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Report: Common Vision Forum on Minnesota's Environmental Future, Skip Humphrey, attorney general. Overviews of the Legislative Water Commission and the Legislative Commission on Waste Management. Report on the Environmental Services Project, final recommendations, Minnesota Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE).

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Overview of the Attorney General's Office.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Debt capacity forecast by Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner, Department of Finance; Paul Schweizer, fiscal analyst, Minnesota House of Representatives.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: Reaction of school districts to the governor's budget proposals.

Health Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Medically fragile children. Continuation of Department of Human Services budget overview.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: Presentation by the Attorney General's Office on consumer protection through the Minnesota Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: Overview of the legislative auditor's report on the public defender system.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Presentation by Paul Erickson, Amateur Sports Commission; and Gary Grefenberg, Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board (CAAPB).

THURSDAY, Feb. 4 and FRIDAY, Feb. 5

Legislative recess. No committee meetings scheduled.

It's a fact!

When in doubt, lie to the jury, preferably in Latin.

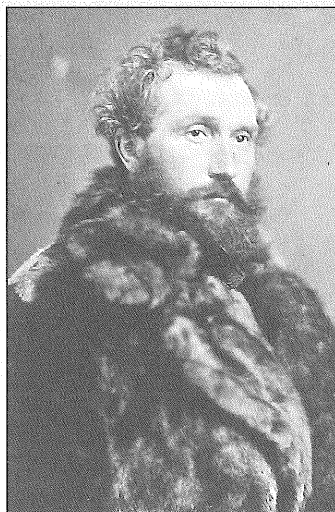
This maxim worked for Tom Cowan, an attorney at Traverse de Sioux in the 1850s.

Cowan was working on an insurance fraud case and wanted to impress the court by reciting a Latin phrase.

He didn't speak Latin, but didn't intend to tell the jury this. Instead, he sought the advice of his friend and mentor, state Supreme Court Judge Charles Flandrau.

After studying a book of Latin phrases, Flandrau suggested that Cowan recite "*Non haec in federe veni*," which means "I did not enter into this contract"—a phrase that had nothing to do with the case Cowan was about to argue.

The next day, on his way to court, Cowan was stopped by a man in need of legal counsel. The stranger had been



Tom Cowan

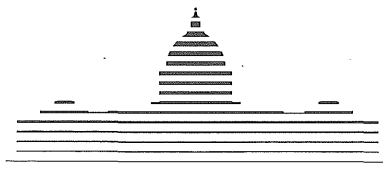
arrested for kicking a man out of his house. (The boarder had insulted the homeowner's family.) Cowan agreed to take the case, and returned that day at 4 p.m. when a jury had convened.

Cowan put his client on the stand and showed how the man was provoked into tossing the heckler from his home. After a while, Cowan stood before the jury box "struck a tragic attitude," and lied through his teeth.

"Gentlemen of the jury, it is indelibly recorded in all the works of Roman jurisprudence, '*Non haec in federe veni*,' which means there can be no crime without criminal intent."

The spoof worked and Cowan's client was acquitted. Flandrau would later recall "that the law was not an exact science."

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 W. Welle
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Children in Minnesota

Chances that a Minnesota child under 18 is living below the poverty line, 1989	1 in 8
Percent change in the number of kids under 18 living below the poverty line, 1979-1989	+24.2
Number of kids under 18 living below the poverty line in Hennepin County, 1989	30,918
Percent increase since 1979	55.3
Number of different households, statewide, using a food shelf, 1990	80,508
As a ratio of all Minnesota households	1 in 20
Average visits to a food shelf, per year, for each of those households	5.1
Percent of those households with kids	64.7
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Hennepin County, 1991	\$619
Average monthly AFDC grant, Hennepin County, 1991	\$433
Number of women on waiting list for the WIC program, Hennepin County, February 1990	0
in August 1991	1,409
Average number of Minnesota children sleeping in a homeless shelter, per night, 1985	323
in 1989	810
Average number of reported cases of child abuse, statewide, per year, during 1988-90	16,902
Percent increase over 1982-84 period	49
Percent change in the annual income of families with children, 1979-1990	-5
in families with no children, 1979-1990	+7
State spending on child care, fiscal year 1992, in millions	\$26.4
Average annual cost of infant care at a metro child care center, 1990	\$6,702
Non-metro, 1990	\$3,952
Average starting salary for a full-time teacher in a full-day center	\$12,542
Number of Minnesota counties paying child care teachers an hourly average wage of between \$4.35 and \$5.28 per hour	1 in 3
Estimated number of mothers who stay home to provide full-time care for their children	1 in 3
Percent of mothers of children under 6 who work outside the home, 1970	29
in 1990	58
Percent increase in licensed child care slots during the 1980s	250

Sources: *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Minnesota, U.S. Census Bureau, 1991*; *Children's Defense Fund, 1992 Leave No Child Behind Campaign*; *Resources for Child Caring: Child Care Trends in Minnesota — The Supply and Demand of Child Care in the 1990s*; *An Inseparable Dilemma: The Cost of Child Care and Child Care Workers' Wages*; *Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, Newsletter #174, July 1992*.

For more information . . .

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24-Hour Recorded Information

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