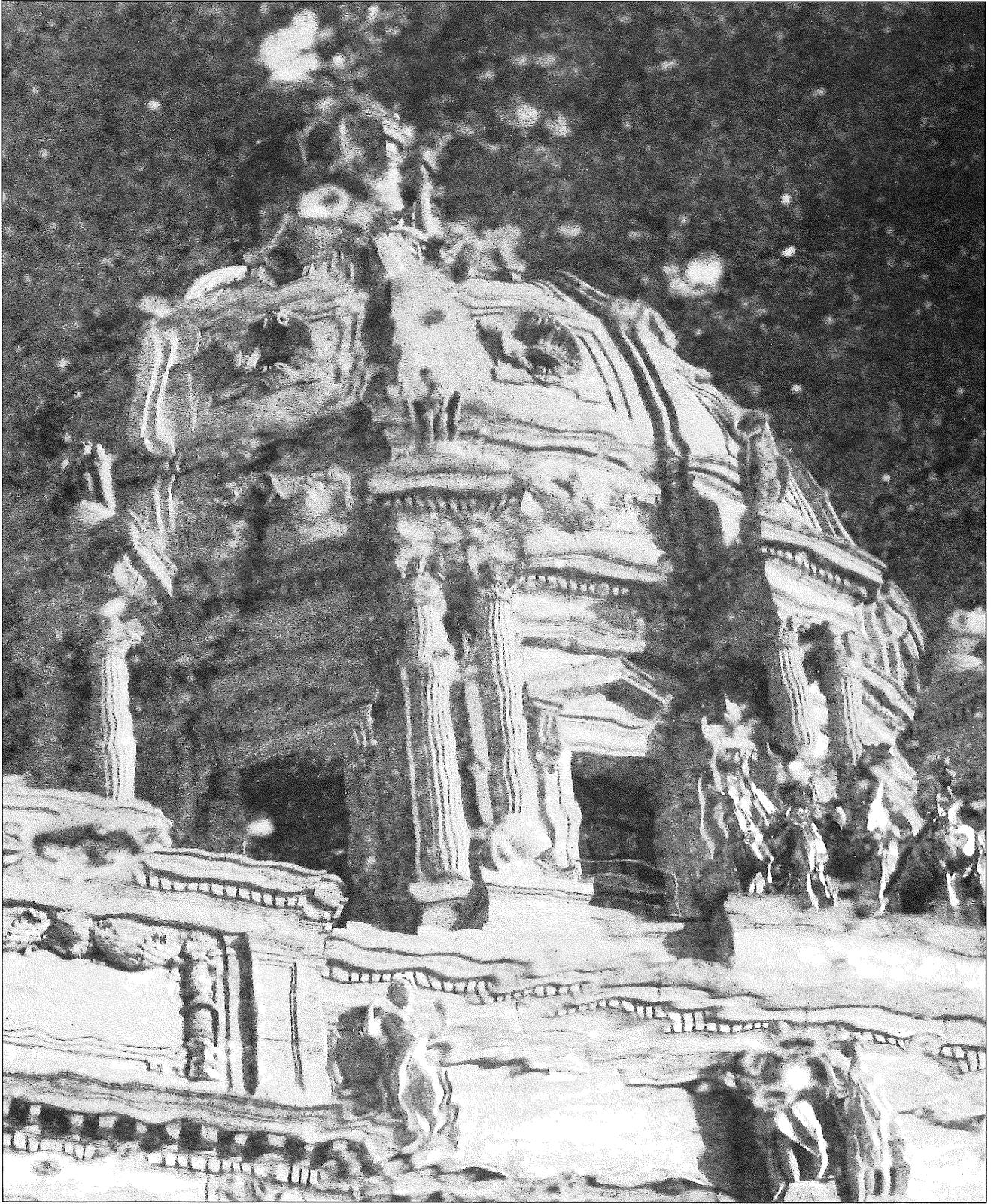


SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 5, 1993 ♦ Volume 10, Number 5



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Flashback

It's been a quiet week at the Capitol where lawmakers are on recess from Feb. 4-8. So it's a good time to look at events past, but not quite forgotten. Last week, a bill was introduced in the House to undo the controversial state financing package for Northwest Airlines that was approved in 1991.

While it's questionable whether such a move would be permitted under the state's constitution, there's no question that some are second-guessing the decision. The headlines have not been kind to Al Checchi and Gary Wilson since their 1989 leveraged buyout of Northwest, which had recorded record profits the year before.

While the layoffs of several thousand people and speculation about a possible Northwest bankruptcy have made the news, few have drawn parallels between Northwest's troubles and the demise of the Twin City Rapid Transit Co. (TCRT) in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It, too, was one of the largest employers in the state. And like Northwest, it, too, was once considered an industry leader and financially secure.

But in 1948, Charles Green, a Wall Street stock speculator, purchased 6,000 shares of TCRT stock in the hope of substantial dividends. When none came, he orchestrated a mutiny of stockholders and eventually gained control of the company himself.

"He immediately discontinued the rehabilitation program for equipment, laid off more than 800 employees, cut track maintenance to a minimum, and relentlessly cut schedules," wrote Russell L. Olson in *The Electric Railways of Minnesota*.

Green himself was eventually forced out of the company by TCRT board members who had tired of his heavy handed ways. In the process of selling his stock, Green made a cool \$100,000 profit by destroying what Olson and others maintain was one of the best railway systems in America.

The Northwest saga is not yet over, but the parallels between both transportation systems seem apparent. Instead of the \$100,000 made by Green, Checchi and Wilson are reported to have made a \$100 million profit. And while 800 Minnesotans lost their TCRT jobs in the late 1940s, several thousand Northwest employees have been laid off and the company's future is in doubt.

Hopefully, the Northwest story will have a happier ending.

When Green was forced out of TCRT, his attorney, Fred Ossanna, took over and scrapped the entire system by 1954 to make room for buses. Ossanna and his associates, however, were later found guilty of pillaging the system for illegal profit and all were sentenced to prison.

—Grant Moos

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On the cover: A Van Gogh-like reflection of the Capitol shimmers in a pool of meltwater during an unseasonable January thaw.

—photo by Andrew VonBank

Highlights

1994-95 budget

College officials say tuition hikes are likely

Student tuition could increase 24 percent at the state's seven public universities in 1994 if the State University System were to compensate for cuts in state aid.

That prediction by Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart was one of several dire scenarios outlined by education officials and others to members of the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 1.

While a total of 16 representatives of education, unions, business, and municipal interests questioned the governor's proposed budget, it was its possible effects on Minnesota's education systems that got the most attention.

Postsecondary education officials said that the budget proposal, if adopted, would prompt across-the-board tuition increases.

MacTaggart said that the governor's budget "cuts the base of the State University System by nearly \$42 million." If those cuts were made up by students, it would mean a \$500 increase per student per year in tuition, he said.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) noted that the governor did, in fact, offer increases in funding for higher education, and that money deemed "cuts" by university representatives would be returned in the form of financial aid to qualifying students.

The governor has proposed a 0.9 percent overall spending increase for higher

education, including an additional \$80 million for all forms of financial aid.

But MacTaggart and Nils Hasselmo, president of the University of Minnesota (U of M), told committee members that the proposed budget did not make up for losses in tuition support or fund cost increases.

state to improve education and that the proposed budget amounted to "a renegotiation" of that agreement.

"That [estimated \$28 million] cut raises serious questions [as to] whether we can continue to meet contractual obligations that we entered into in 1987," Hasselmo said.

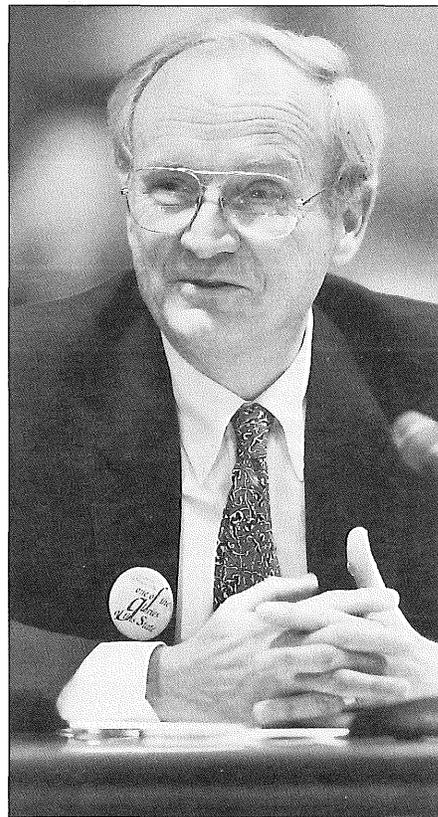
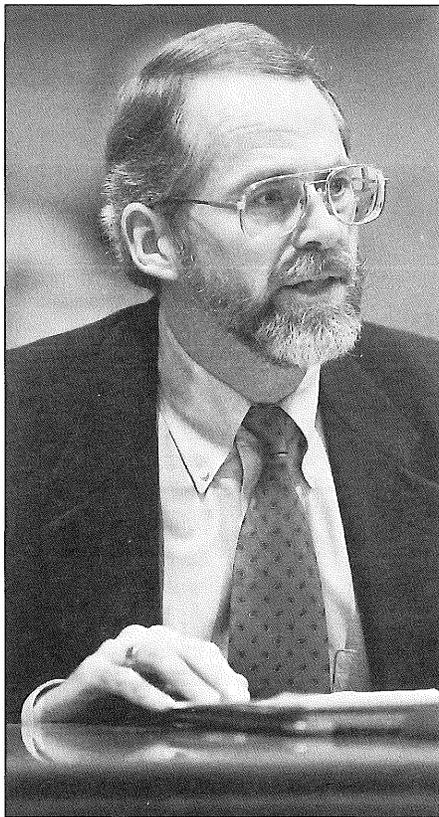
Carole Johnson, chancellor of the State Board of Technical Colleges, said that the budget would lead to "massive tuition increases" and program cuts. She said the technical colleges would suffer "the largest cut in higher education, for the [financially] poorest students," especially part-time students.

Johnson claimed that the redirection of some institutional grants to financial aid programs would not make up the difference in lost dollars.

MacTaggart estimated cuts for technical colleges at \$56.5 million, as well as a \$10 million shortfall for community colleges.

K-12 education officials also criticized the budget for its potential effects. Although public school funding is set to increase by 15 percent over the biennium in the budget proposal, Bob Astrup of the Minnesota Education Association said that increasing enrollment and other rising costs made the plan "unfair, unjust, and unworkable."

Astrup offered statistics showing that Minnesota has fallen into the bottom half



Terrence MacTaggart, left, chancellor of the Minnesota State University System, said that proposed increases in the "financial aid pot" would not cancel out cuts. Nils Hasselmo, right, president of the University of Minnesota, said that the university might consider changes in its reciprocity and recruitment policies to make up for potential losses in state aid. Both testified at a House Ways and Means Committee meeting Feb. 1.

MacTaggart said the proposed budget would require students to pay 43 percent of their educational costs by 1995, up from the current 33 percent.

Hasselmo added that since 1987 the U of M has increased student retention and graduation rates, cut staff positions, frozen pay for one year, and restructured its program. He said that the university has upheld its end of the "contract" with the

of the states in teacher pay and that Minnesota's ranking in per pupil expenditures has slipped from ninth to 17th during the last decade.



BUDGET

Science Museum funding

Managing the finances of the Science Museum of Minnesota, its president said, can be explained in simple physical terms.

Using an array of weights to represent the museum's diverse program activities, James Peterson showed the seemingly Herculean load to members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division Feb. 2. But by applying a little ingenuity and using one of the most basic of tools — a lever — lifting the heavy burden could be accomplished with no more effort than flipping on a light switch.

The lesson for lawmakers, Peterson said, was that continued financial support for the museum is "little money for big results."

The science museum is slated for just over \$2.1 million in state funding over the next budget cycle under the governor's proposed spending package. That's down \$110,000 from the current funding level. The museum could possibly absorb the 5 percent reduction without a drop in services, Peterson said, but it comes at a time when its other public contributors also are scaling back their support.

Ramsey County, for example, beginning in July 1991, cut its annual appropriation to the museum from \$1.3 million to \$500,000 per year. The state made up a sizable portion of that reduction with increased funding the past two fiscal years, and the museum obtained some additional help from the city of St. Paul through tax-increment financing. Private funding also was secured.

Those one-time sources of additional revenue will soon run out and will need to be replaced to avoid cutbacks, Peterson said. "As we lose funding, we have to pull in our horns a little bit more," he said.

The finance panel took no action on the budget request, but committee chair Rep. David Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors) suggested that additional state dollars could be available for the museum when the panel assembles its final funding package later this year.



Rep. Teresa Lynch lent her little finger as James Peterson, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, used a lever to make a point during his budget presentation before members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 2.

Battaglia, however, told Peterson those funds also could come with some strings attached, including creating a set formula linking the state contribution to those from city and county sources.



BUSINESS

Problem spending

State government should focus on restraining spending to wipe out the red in the upcoming budget, members of Minnesota business organizations told the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 1.

Tom Triplett, executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, applauded Gov. Arne Carlson's inclusion of government "restructuring" in his budget proposals, but said that more must be done in the future to avoid continuing fiscal crunches.

Triplett also praised the executive budget plan for its lack of major revenue increases. However, "It's not enough to say, 'Don't raise taxes,'" Triplett said. "You must offer an alternative."

The Minnesota Business Partnership supports maintaining spending at a 9 percent rate of increase, while reducing costs in health care, K-12 education, and public employee compensation. Triplett stressed the importance of these changes because, he said, the governor's budget "is still not in balance."

Gov. Carlson has proposed \$200 million in "interfund transfers" (dollars "lent" between government agencies) to help balance his budget.

Bill Blazar, vice president of government affairs and public policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, also had kind words for the governor's efforts to hold down government spending without tax increases.

The Chamber is pushing for a budget that "delivers more value to taxpayers without raising taxes," Blazar said. He suggested that the Legislature ought to "set the price of government services" at 19.5 percent of Minnesotans' personal income. That number is the Chamber's calculation of the historical average for the past 20 years and is 1 percent less than the proportion of state income spent on government for fiscal year ending in 1991.

Even if taxes aren't raised, the governor has said state spending is expected to increase by 9.1 percent over the next two years because of increased school enrollment and other factors. Meanwhile, personal income during that period is expected to increase 10.8 percent.



CONSUMERS

'Toll-free' scams

State officials are warning consumers that some "toll-free" telephone talk lines may not be free after all.

The Minnesota Attorney General's residential utilities division has recently seen an upsurge in complaints from residents who believed they were dialing "free talk lines," only to receive huge bills at the end of the month.

Joan Peterson, utilities division manager, explained how the scam works: The talk-lines are advertised as a "1-800" number, which leads customers to assume it's a toll-free call. After the connection is made, an operator typically tells the caller that all available lines are busy. The operator then obtains the caller's home phone number with the promise that someone will telephone them shortly.

The return call, Peterson told the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Feb. 1, is billed "collect" to the original caller. Most callers are unaware of the charges — which often run several dollars per minute — because their initial call was made to what appeared to be a toll-free number, she said.

The businesses re-enforce the scam, said the division's Gary Cunningham, by mailing a bill that closely resembles the caller's monthly telephone bill, prompting quick payment by customers who fear their regular telephone service could be cut off for non-payment.

Peterson said the Attorney General's Office last week received at least two specific complaints about the new "1-800" scam, and on average has been investigating four or five similar complaints per week.

Lawmakers and state regulators have tried to crack down on the talk lines — usually recognizable by a 1-900 or 1-976 prefix — by requiring businesses to prominently indicate charges in their advertisements, and by requiring blocking devices to keep children and vulnerable adults from making the calls.

"But it seems when we take care of one problem, another one pops up," Peterson said.

New legislation likely is not needed to rectify the problem, but she said fraud prosecutions by Minnesota authorities can

be difficult.

"Most of these [services] are in California and Florida," Peterson said. "And if we can track them down, they'll just close their doors, change their names, and move some place else."



DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development

Minnesota should focus on economic development in a way that is compatible with protecting natural resources, say state officials.

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and the Attorney General told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee that the state should be focusing on "sustainable development" — merging the need for environmental protection with the development of jobs and business.

EQB chair Bob Dunn told the committee Jan. 28 that his board is launching a "sustainable development initiative" to improve the historically adversarial relationship between environmental and economic development interests.

The EQB has chosen leaders for seven work teams which will focus on sustainable development issues in agriculture, energy, forestry, recreation, settlement, manufacturing, and mineral resources.

EQB's initiative, as outlined, states that the state cannot continue to develop economically unless environmental resources are protected, while at the same time, continued economic development is needed to pay for important environmental initiatives.

And the percent of economic growth shouldn't be the only measurement of economic success.

"We can't afford to have bad environmental decisions," said Dunn. "We cannot just look at growth, but at the quality of it."

Another panel advocating sustainable development met with the committee Feb. 2. Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey was one of three people relaying ideas that grew out of a sustainable development conference held last September. The event was attended by some 200 community leaders.

Humphrey said that sustainable development "means that we don't create more pollution than the environment can readily assimilate, or use more resources than the

environment can replenish."

Minnesota should follow the lead of Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Austria, and the Netherlands, which are developing long-term environmental plans to achieve a sustainable economy, Humphrey told the committee.



EDUCATION

Enrollment 'averaging'

Although the governor has proposed a \$50 per pupil increase in school funding for the 1995 school year, several school districts would actually receive less money than they do now, according to several educational groups.

That's because the governor's proposal would base state K-12 funding on an average of each district's current and previous year's enrollment figures.

In effect, school districts would receive state money for only half of all new students being funded, several education groups told the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division Feb. 3.

Currently, the state makes payments to school districts throughout the year based on changing student enrollment.

In addition, Cheryl Furrer, director of legislative affairs for the Minnesota Education Association (MEA), said that \$50 million in the proposed K-12 budget is "phantom money that is not really there," since it's contingent on referenda being approved later this year. Only about half of the 53 school referenda were approved by voters in last November's elections.

Furrer also opposed funding teacher salary increases through public balloting, as the governor has proposed, and wants any increased state revenue shown by the revised March budget forecast to be marked for education.

If adequate funds cannot be found, Furrer said, the MEA proposes tax increases.

"Four million Minnesotans should share in solving this budget deficit," said Furrer. "The public is in favor of tax increases for education."

Surveys show that 62 percent of the public would be willing to pay higher taxes to maintain the quality of public education, and 82 percent would pay higher taxes to improve it, Furrer said.

A total of seven school district associations and teachers unions testified at the hearing. Many opposed, and none spoke in favor of the governor's proposed method of "averaging" the number of pupils to determine biennial budgets for each district.

St. Paul School Superintendent Curman Gaines told the committee that pupil averaging would be "devastating" to St. Paul schools. In his district, enrollment has increased by 1,200 to 1,300 students annually, and averaging would result in a \$2.84 million loss in 1994-95, he said.

Duane Mattheis, executive director of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, testified that while portions of the governor's budget would help schools, 10 schools in his association would each lose \$400,000 or more due to averaging.

Representatives from the Minneapolis, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, and the Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools also predicted substantial losses should "averaging" become law.

Sandra Peterson, president of the Minnesota Federation of Teachers, told legislators that the overall K-12 budget proposal would increase student/teacher ratios and result in teacher "burnout" and lower morale.

"In reality, there's no new money," Peterson said.

Overcrowding in Osseo

Overcrowding at Osseo Senior and Park Center high schools is becoming so severe that school officials are seeking a temporary exemption from state law to deal with the problem.

The House Education Committee approved a measure Feb. 2 that would exempt the district from the law that requires students to attend school at least 170 days a year, which translates to a total of 1,020 hours in school per year.

Instead, Osseo school district officials are proposing a staggered schedule where the district would offer four, 85-minute classes each day. Students would attend six out of the eight classes over a two-day period, but have two unassigned 85-minute periods during those two days where they would be free to study in the library, work with teachers, or leave the building.

The plan would mean some students would spend about 150 hours less time in school per year, or about 14 percent less



At a Feb. 1 press conference, Rep. Alice Johnson, chair of the Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families, center, and House Speaker Dee Long, right, announced that a joint legislative forum entitled "Our Children, Our Families, Our Future: What is the Cost of Failure?" would be held in the House chamber Feb. 9. Bonnie Neuenfeldt, director of community relations, Land O' Lakes, Inc. left, represented one of the four sponsoring organizations.

than they do now. But school officials say the plan would also increase capacity at the schools by about 30 percent.

Marl Ramsey, superintendent of the Osseo School District, told the Education Committee Feb. 2 that a referendum to build a third high school for the district will be voted on Feb. 9.

Whether or not the referendum passes, the proposed scheduling plan would remain in effect only until the fall of 1996. It is hoped the new high school could open in the fall of 1996.

"This is a temporary measure to get us over the hump," said Jim Boddie, the district's director of secondary education, in a telephone interview.

The capacity of Osseo's two high school's is 3,500 students for grades 10-12. Currently, Osseo has nearly 4,000 students in those grades and has forecast a population of 4,165 students for the next school year. Growth in the grades 10-12 population is expected to steadily increase to 5,400 students just after the turn of the century.

Osseo school officials have watched a steady growth in student enrollment every year since the mid-1950s. Part of the increase reflects changes in birth rates, but most is the result of developing new neighborhoods.

Although the reduction in time spent in

school would run contrary to state law, Osseo officials stressed that the amount of time spent in class would still meet state education rules.

Further, they said the longer class periods—85 minutes instead of the current 50 minutes—would increase the time on task by reducing the time spent traveling between classes.

HF125 now goes to the House floor for consideration.



EMPLOYMENT

Meddling in labor relations?

The governor's proposal for a virtual freeze on government employees' wages would require a change in the state's labor relations laws because it unfairly encroaches upon the salary negotiation process, according to some critics of the proposal.

Such changes would "need to be a part of the [governor's] proposal for us to take it seriously," said Don Diddams of the League of Minnesota Cities, adding that his organization opposes alterations in the labor relations laws.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said that the governor's proposal is "getting

directly involved in the labor-management relations" of the state. Allowing a locality to veto a public employee pay contract, as the governor has suggested, would not be permitted under current law, he said.

But that view isn't shared by everyone. In the opinion of lawyers consulted by the governor, changes need not be made in state law governing negotiations with public employee unions, explained Morrie Anderson of the Department of Revenue. He said that the pay restraint policy the governor envisions would not unduly encroach upon the current process of salary negotiation.

Diddams, Rukavina, Anderson, and others discussed portions of the governor's budget during a Taxes Committee meeting Jan. 29. Most of those testifying agreed the proposal would mean layoffs on the local level.

Roger Peterson of the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities said "the governor's proposal cannot work without significant layoffs" in local government. He said that employment reductions are the only way for local governments to hold down overall salary costs to this year's levels.

The committee also learned that the state would lose some revenues from keeping public employee wages down mainly because of lost income and sales tax revenues. But how much remains unclear.

Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) noted that while the governor expects to save about \$600 million in foregone inflationary increases for government salaries, his budget estimates only \$10 million in resulting lost revenues.

Anderson conceded that the estimate may be low and said the Department of Finance was working on a revised figure.

House Speaker Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said that Senate staff had estimated the loss of revenues to be \$36 million or more for each year of the biennium.



GOVERNMENT

Councils show state's diversity

Councils created to help state government work with Minnesota's diverse and growing ethnic communities explained their missions to legislators Feb. 1.

Representatives of three state councils described their respective communities and how they have changed over the past decade. They also spoke to the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee of their duties as researchers, planners, and liaisons for their communities to state government.

Albert De Leon of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans noted the remarkable growth of Asians in the state. The Hmong now number over 21,000 and have surpassed Korean and Vietnamese residents in total population.

The council's efforts to provide services to the Asian community are very complicated, De Leon said, because immigrants from the Far East are far from homogeneous. De Leon showed committee members a chart with about a dozen different greetings, one for each subculture in Minnesota.

"The cultures and the religions and the languages are so different . . . this makes our job much more difficult," De Leon said.

He also told members that the burgeon-

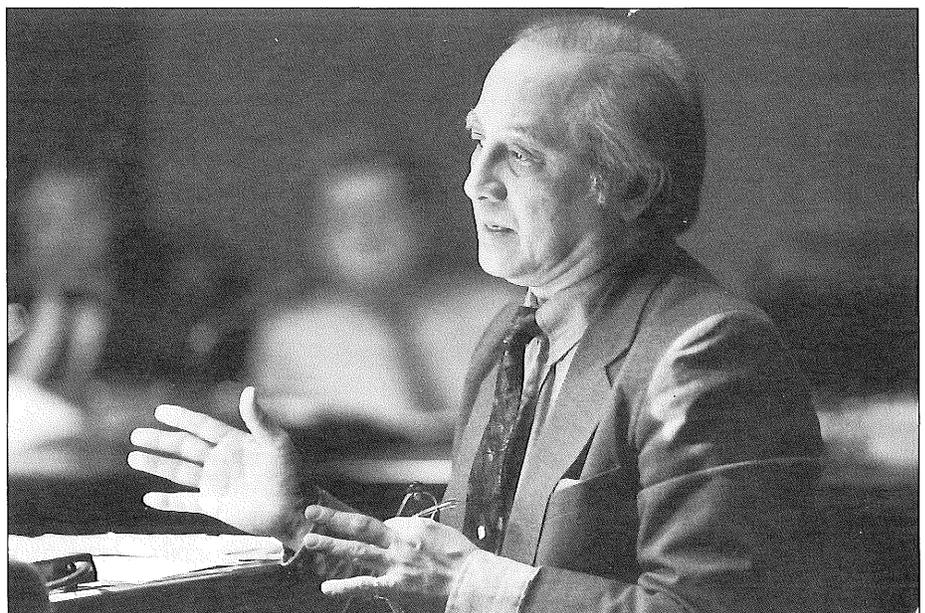
ing Asian Minnesotan community has both presented problems for the state — especially in the demand for affordable housing for large families — as well as opportunities. De Leon said that the council briefed Gov. Arne Carlson for his recent trade mission to the Orient, and added that some Asian legislators are interested in visiting Minnesota to explore possibilities for economic cooperation.

The Council on Black Minnesotans also uses international ethnic ties to help Minnesota residents. Executive Director Lester Collins said that his organization tries to spread a positive image of Africa and Africans — an image that he said has been tarnished by the media.

Collins said that when African community leaders come to town on business or for other reasons, "We take every opportunity to take them into our communities, our churches, and our schools to make them real," because Africa "is a viable source of pride."

Collins also told the committee that although they are short of staff, the council produced a report on the state's \$100 million foster care and adoption system. The council concluded that there were millions of dollars to be saved by increasing early intervention and placement of troubled youth with relatives.

Finally, the committee heard from the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, which told the committee that the geographic diversity of this community has severely



Albert De Leon, executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, noted the burgeoning growth of Asians in the state as he spoke before the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee Feb. 1.

Correction

A legislative profile of District 23A on page 15 of the Jan. 22 edition of *Session Weekly* incorrectly identified the largest city in the district. The largest city is New Ulm.

strained council resources.

Because of changes in business practices and federal law, businessman Jose Trejo said, housing is now more scarce for the 14,000 to 18,000 Spanish-speaking migrant workers in rural areas of the state.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) worried that services were not accessible enough in rural areas, especially "as tensions in these communities continue to rise."

The council estimated that the state's Spanish-speaking population totals 70,000, with an average age of just 19 — 10 years younger than the statewide average — making their community one of growing importance for the next decade.

Capitol area changes

The Capitol area has undergone "radical changes" since the mid-1980s, said Gary Grefenberg, executive secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB).

Grefenberg, speaking to the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 3, cited examples of such changes: the new Judicial Building, mall landscaping, the Vietnam Memorial, the Minnesota History Center, and freeway bridges which are "building a better physical connection" to downtown St. Paul.

The board is increasingly working with St. Paul and on the "Cultural Corridor" plan, said Grefenberg. The CAAPB also is working with community groups in the renovation of small businesses in the Rice-University area.



HEALTH

Keeping the safety net

This was the week for critics to punch holes in Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget. And Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) appeared more than willing to assail one section of it.

The chair of the Health and Human Services Committee's Human Services Finance Division said a portion of the proposed 1994-95 budget would essentially scrap a health care safety net for the people it was designed to protect.

"I personally find this not only strange,

but disastrous," Greenfield said. "It's in my view an attack on the whole concept we were trying to create with the development of MinnesotaCare, which namely is a final safety net in health care for everybody."

In his proposal, Gov. Arne Carlson suggested that General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) recipients be subjected to the same \$10,000 limit on hospitalization benefits now imposed on enrollees in MinnesotaCare, the state's new health plan for previously uninsured people. The proposed cap is projected to save the state \$30 million over the next biennium.

GAMC is a state program that gives medical coverage to low-income individuals who do not qualify for Medical Assistance.

But Greenfield said the program was supposed to be the safety net for MinnesotaCare recipients who surpassed the \$10,000 limit in hospitalization benefits. If such people either have no savings or spend down their savings, they might then qualify for GAMC, which would kick in to cover the catastrophic medical costs, he said.

Giving GAMC the same \$10,000 limit as MinnesotaCare means some seriously ill people may have nowhere to turn, said Greenfield.



HOUSING

Avoiding foreclosure

Although calls to limit spending and to "live within our means" gathered the most attention during last week's budget address by Gov. Arne Carlson, there were two new housing initiatives tucked away in his proposed budget.

And both proposals appeared to receive a warm response from Housing Committee Chair Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) Feb. 1. "I'm very happy the governor put in \$4.5 million for these two initiatives," she said.

The first initiative, the Emergency Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program, is designed to help low- and moderate-income families remain in their homes when they face mortgage foreclosure due to circumstances beyond their control, such as job loss, a death in the family, or prolonged illness. The intent is not only to help the individual family avoid homelessness, but to guard against the neighborhood destabilization that occurs when housing becomes vacant.

Help would be offered in specific communities that are experiencing deterioration. Along with financial assistance to delinquent borrowers, the program emphasizes counseling to assist homeowners with budgetary decisions and refinancing. Up to 50 percent of the program funding will be devoted to administrative costs and counseling services, reflecting a belief that families can resolve their own financial crises with a little help. Direct financial assistance could include making mortgage payments for up to six months, with maximum financial assistance not to exceed \$4,000.

The governor's second initiative is the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program. The program recognizes that homelessness during childhood is a trauma that can have long-lasting negative effects. Last year, 38 percent of shelter residents in Minnesota were children, up from 26 percent in 1986.

The program's emphasis is on flexibility, with grant recipients using funds to move rapidly into transitional or permanent housing. Counties experiencing a significant increase in the number of homeless, such as Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis, would be eligible to offer the help.

The governor has requested \$221,000 a year for the Emergency Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Plan, and \$2 million a year in funding for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance program.

Rural housing needs

Although society tends to view substandard housing as an urban issue, housing in rural communities is generally older and of lower quality than housing in urban areas.

A study reflecting the housing status and needs of low-income households in greater Minnesota was presented to the Housing Committee Feb. 1.

In its survey of 3,390 households throughout the state, the Southeastern Minnesota Housing Network Project found that 47 percent of respondents reported at least one major repair problem, such as a leaky roof. Mobile home residents were the most likely to report repair problems.

More than two-thirds of survey respondents had incomes of under \$10,000 a year. Only 16 percent of those received Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and 43 percent were employed.

Most of those surveyed were homeowners, living in either single-family homes or mobile homes, and most wanted to remain homeowners even if they had to make sacrifices to do so, said Kathy Kremer of the Southeastern Minnesota Housing Project.

Federal guidelines suggest a family should pay no more than 30 percent of its income for housing and utilities. The survey found, however, that 40 percent of the low-income households paid more than 30 percent of income for housing, and 13 percent paid more than 50 percent. When housing takes a disproportionate share of income, families may be relying on county and state programs to meet other family needs, Kremer said.

Banks seem to be reluctant to make home loans of under \$25,000, making it difficult for low-income families to buy affordable housing, Kremer said.

Processing smaller home loans is just as time-consuming as processing larger loans, but with less payback, committee members suggested.

"It takes more paperwork to buy a \$20,000 home than to buy a \$20,000 car," said Katy Olson (DFL-Sherburn). And all that paperwork was imposed on banks by the state, said Rep. LeRoy Köppendrayner (IR-Princeton).



HUMAN SERVICES

Welfare reforms

As President Bill Clinton is proposing drastic welfare reform at a national level, Gov. Arne Carlson is urging the state to move ahead with its own initiatives.

Among Carlson's proposals is the expansion of Ramsey County's electronic system of distributing welfare benefits to include Hennepin County. The system allows welfare recipients to use county-issued "cash cards" to withdraw their grants at automated teller machines. The cards also may be used in place of food stamps in some supermarkets and convenience stores.

John Petraborg said the electronic program is not only attractive to clients but "maintains program integrity" by limiting opportunities for grant check theft and trafficking in food stamps. The cost to institute the electronic system in Hennepin County would be \$5.6 million over two years. The federal government would reimburse half of that expense.

Petraborg is the Department of Human Services' assistant commissioner of Family Self-Sufficiency Services. He spoke to the Health and Human Services Committee's Human Services Finance Division Jan. 29.

In the area of child support, Carlson has proposed that hospitals receive financial incentives for identifying absentee fathers of newborn children eligible for public assistance. The identifications ultimately reduce the benefits that the county would pay to eligible mothers and their children. Counties would also receive \$100 for each paternity they can establish.

Petraborg says the state ranks fourth in the nation in collecting current support from fathers whose children are on public assistance, recovering 77 cents on every dollar that fathers are assigned by the court to pay. But the state needs to do better in collecting past-due payments, and the governor has proposed a joint project with the state Department of Revenue to improve that area.

A pilot program in Anoka and Dakota counties would give job training to unemployed parents owing child support. Because the money saved on public assistance should be slightly more than what it will cost to restructure the child support system, a \$5,000 savings to the state is projected for the 1994-95 biennium.

Need for respite

As the survival rates for seriously injured or ill children have improved, the number of Minnesota children who need nearly constant care from their parents at home has increased as well.

More than 400 Minnesota children who depend on mechanical ventilators, intravenous feeding, or other medical devices for survival live at home. Their parents must act as nurses, respiratory therapists, and diagnosticians, said Dr. Linda Krach, medical director of rehabilitation at Gillette Children's Hospital. And they need more respite from the stress of constant care giving.

Advocates of the affected families presented their needs at a meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee's Human Services Finance Division Feb. 3.

One parent, Lori Guzman of Burnsville, said she was grateful for the state assistance which helps keep her ventilator-assisted

daughter at home. Yet she said it would be nice if she and her husband could stop their alternate sleeping schedules, have the freedom to allow their other children to participate in after-school sports, stop worrying constantly about losing their insurance, and escape the constant beeping of their daughter's ventilator for a while.

A task force set up by the Legislature is proposing initiatives that could help.

In order to reduce stress that can lead to family breakdown, the Children's Home Health Care Task Force asks that the state play a stronger role in providing — and funding — respite care. The advocates would like to see the state help to recruit and train foster families to provide such care. Child care for medically fragile children should also be encouraged, the advocates said.

Such requests will be considered when the division assembles state funding later this session.



INSURANCE

Guaranteed insurance

The safety net established 15 years ago to protect Minnesota residents from insurance company failures needs some retooling to keep pace with the changing investment landscape, according to state officials.

"My concern is whether we have to cut existing consumer protections in the law in order to update [it]," said Carolyn Ham, a special assistant attorney general in the office's commerce division.

The Minnesota Guaranty Association was created in 1977 to ensure that health and life insurance policyholders recoup their investment benefits if an insurance company goes bankrupt. All insurance companies licensed to do business in Minnesota are required to pay an assessment of up to 2 percent on the premiums they collect to support claims against the association.

Forty-eight other states have a similar protection program.

"There is no federal safety net for insurance," Ham told the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Feb. 3. "All insurance regulation is on a state-by-state basis so this is the only thing available for [Minnesota] policyholders if a company does fail."

Industry officials, state regulators, and legislators have been meeting in recent months to develop an agreement on possible changes in existing guaranty laws. Several proposals on the subject are in the works, she said.

One option is a proposal advocated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) — the organization which provided the model for the 1977 state law. But the result of the proposal could be smaller payments to consumers if their insurance company fails, said Ham.

“The current law is vague and it needs to be clarified,” she said. “However, under current law the interpretations can be more favorable to consumers. If you are going to go with the [NAIC] model act, you are going to be cutting down on existing protections to consumers.”

Committee chair Rep. Leo Reding (DFL-Austin) said whatever bill is adopted, it should also work to keep insurance companies solvent rather than only containing regulatory triggers in the event a company fails.

“We get so worried about healing the wound that we may be forgetting that the person had a knife in the first place,” he said.



LABOR

Workers' comp refunds?

State lawmakers are proposing to refund employers over \$85 million in excess workers' compensation premium payments.

Current law directs the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) to give surplus reserves to the insurance companies that sell policies to businesses — but not to the businesses themselves.

Instead, **HF187** would direct those insurers to give the money to individual businesses, based on the amount of premiums each business paid in 1991. An \$85 million surplus already has been returned to WCRA-member insurance companies. About \$15 million also was paid to self-insured employers as part of the refund.

But WCRA President Jay Benanav told the Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 1 that getting insurers to give the refunds to businesses would be difficult.

“We don't have any records; we don't know how much an employer paid to a



As legislators began a three-day winter recess Feb. 3, Gov. Arne Carlson and his press secretary, Cyndy Brucato, boarded a bus in front of the Capitol to go on a two-day tour to talk with southern Minnesotans about his budget plan. Lt. Gov. Joannell Dyrstad, left, headed toward another bus destined for the northern half of the state and more budget discussions.

particular insurance company,” he said.

Workers' compensation insurance companies, however, file annual statements with the Department of Commerce, detailing the amount of premiums paid to them each year.

Bill sponsor Rep. Allan Welle (DFL-Willmar) sides with the businesses — not the insurance companies.

“They [the insurers] are being selfish on this. What we're doing is really fair. We think it's the people who pay the premiums who should be getting their money back.”

In November, Bert McKasy, commissioner of the state Department of Commerce, ordered a similar redistribution to businesses. He told lawmakers that the order was rescinded Dec. 2 to thwart a likely lawsuit by insurance companies and to allow lawmakers to act on the issue.

Last summer, state Department of Labor and Industry officials called for the WCRA to reduce premiums as a way to return its surplus to businesses. That order also was later rescinded.

Welle hopes insurers would honor any approved legislation.

“I would hope that we wouldn't have to end up in court,” he said.

HF187 was discussed in the Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 1, but no action was taken.



SPORTS

Sports enthusiasts abound

Minnesota is no haven for couch potatoes, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) told legislators Feb. 3.

Nearly 1.4 million Minnesotans have participated in amateur sporting events since the MASC was created by the Legislature in 1987. The seven-member commission (and its legion of 3,000 volunteers) assists civic groups, businesses, and local governments statewide in planning new sports programs or facilities.

Paul Erickson, executive director of the MASC, said that the state's investment of \$35 million in sports facilities since 1987 has not only created sporting opportunities, it has given Minnesota an advantage in winning bids for collegiate, national, and international championships.

With the addition of such projects as the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center, the National Sports Center in Blaine, and the John Rose Minnesota Oval in Roseville, Minnesota can now accommodate virtually all of the Olympic summer sports, he said, and 11 of the 14 winter Olympic sports.

The state has been host to more than 250 national and international sporting events since 1987 — 99 of which occurred at MASC-funded facilities, the commission told legislators.

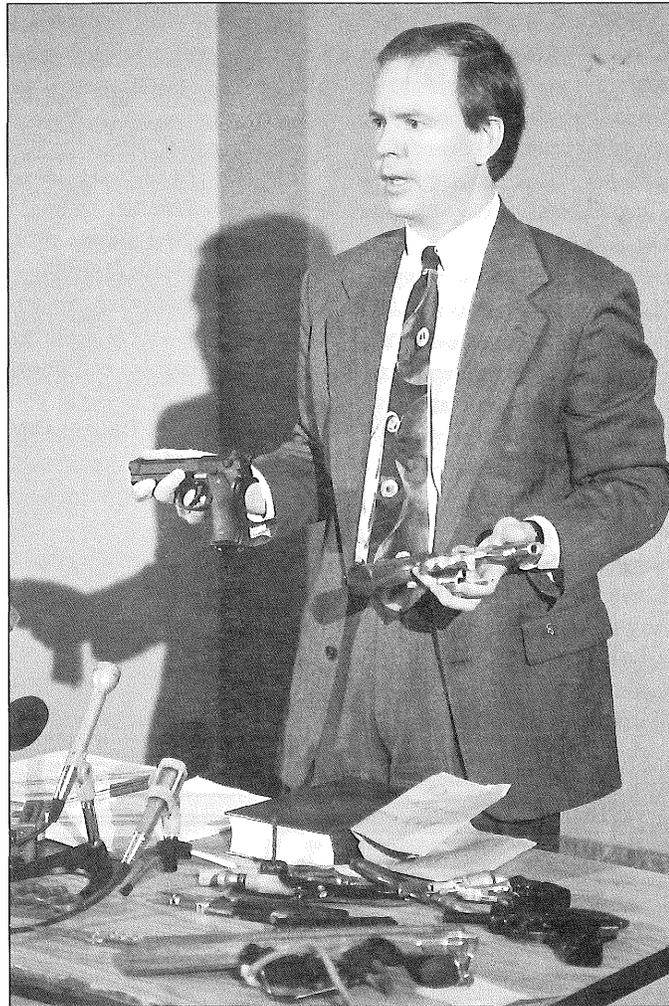
Those events include the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival, the 1991 International Special Olympics, the 1991 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, and several other national competitions and Olympic trial events.

Together, the events have resulted in more than "\$225 million in economic impact" for Minnesota, Erickson said.

Another MASC creation, The Star of the North Games, has become the state's largest amateur multi-sport event. Nearly 50,000 Minnesotans have participated since its inception in 1988.

While the commission will continue to secure national events, Erickson said it will focus more staff time on creating "home-grown" sports. The Twin Cities Marathon, for example, is an event whose impact "continues to grow" in the state, while national events often move on to new locations.

The commission also plans to increase its efforts to foster sports opportunities for girls and women, Erickson told the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations and Gaming Committee. He said that 70 percent of the athletes who register for MASC athletic events are males.



Rep. Charlie Weaver proposed legislation targeted at reducing violence in schools. At a Capitol press conference Feb. 4, he displayed two handguns that were taken from an Anoka High School student. Weaver's bill would make it a felony for anyone found possessing a gun or other dangerous weapon on school property.

State funds for athletic facilities coordinated by the MASC

U of M Aquatic Center Minneapolis	\$3 million
National Sports Center Blaine	\$15.1 million
National Hockey Center St. Cloud	\$9.5 million
Giants Ridge Recreation Area Biwabik	\$2.6 million
National Whitewater/Kayak Center St. Louis River/Carlton	\$260,000
Ole Mangseth Memorial Ski Jump Coleraine	\$175,000
John Rose Minnesota Oval Roseville	\$1.9 million

 **TRANSPORTATION**

Funding under construction

Some representatives of the transportation industry have seen the 5-cent gas tax increase proposal, and want to raise it five.

Fred Corrigan, executive director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, presented the Legislature with a proposal he said would adequately fund highway construction and transit programs. The plan includes a 10-cent-per-gallon hike in the state gasoline tax and an increase of 1 cent in the motor vehicle excise tax to be dedicated to a Mobility Trust Fund.

Corrigan told the Transportation and Transit Committee Jan. 29 that he was "disappointed that the governor didn't talk about transportation issues during his budget address."

Gov. Arne Carlson did not include a gas tax increase in his budget proposal for the next biennium, although he has made public statements indicating that he supports the measure in order to maintain current and previously planned highway construction projects. In lieu of an increase in the gas tax, the governor's budget calls for \$130 million in cuts for authorized state highway projects.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) praised the Transportation Alliance's "courageous" proposals. With respect to a boost in the gas tax, Osthoff said, "A nickel will not do it. People have to understand that."

The committee also began to grapple with how to balance funding for highways with other mass transit projects.

The Highway Users Federation made clear that it opposes major mass transit initiatives at the expense of road construc-

tion and improvement. Regional Director Carol Lovro cited statistics showing that just as the metro area's population increase outpaced the national average during the 1980s, so too did the average commuting time. Minnesotans now spend an average of 21 minutes getting to work, according to the most recent data.

At the same time, Lovro claimed that transit systems have not been popular with the state's burgeoning work force. "Massive amounts of money have been put into transit systems" without a comparable gain in market share, Lovro stated.

Some members challenged Lovro's claims that "massive congestion is not materializing" in the state and that "we're just not going to experience horrible pollution problems" in the future.

While making clear that he wasn't "anti-car," Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said that the metro bus system experienced impressive growth in ridership with a small increase in marketing efforts.



Fans of ethanol as an alternative fuel source probably got a real shock after reviewing the governor's budget proposal. Because of a typo, the document assembled by the Department of Finance doesn't list a single cent of funding support for ethanol during the next biennium. Laura King, budget director of the Department of Finance, told the Taxes Committee Jan. 29 that the governor actually wants \$19 million for the state's ethanol program — more than double the amount it received over the last two fiscal years. King said committee members will just have to trust her on that one.

Unless there's another day at the horse races, the state's next budget will have to find an extra million somewhere else. During a Taxes Committee hearing Jan. 29, Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) pointed out that the governor's incoming revenue expectations for the next biennium include \$1.4 million from taxes on pari-mutuel betting. Morrie Anderson of the Department of Revenue admitted that there was a

real possibility that Canterbury Downs will close for good, eliminating any state benefit from the track.

The growth of two industries in Minnesota — telemarketing and gambling — is putting added strains on the the state Attorney General's Office.

"We've had just an epidemic of telemarketing fraud. Right now we have more cases than we can possibly handle," Deputy Attorney General Thomas Pursell told the Judiciary Finance Division Feb. 2. Much of the fraud involves claims stemming from contests, which turn out to be bogus.

Similarly, the gambling industry has kept attorneys in the office busy pursuing fraud cases, and more are likely, said Pursell.

The agency has reshuffled its priorities to tackle the growing number of cases in those and other areas, and will be a factor in setting the agency's new budget.

Among the heady topics Roland Dille, president of Moorhead State University, discussed with the Higher Education Finance Division was the importance and popularity of its intramural athletic program. The sport having the most participants? Co-ed touch football.

Texas has a pretty tough reputation when it comes to putting convicted criminals behind bars, but data compiled by Minnesota's Sentencing Guidelines Commission demonstrates that the North Star State keeps its criminals in prison longer. Although Texas sentences are relatively long, actual prison time served is less on average than Minnesota — five months less for property crimes and six months less for violent crimes. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern during hearings Feb. 1 that law enforcement officials and other Minnesotans were not aware of the state's sentencing record. Skoglund said that lawmakers shouldn't "repeat the mistakes of the Texas Legislature . . . where sentencing is just a joke." Texas prisons are currently under a court order to hold down prison crowding which has forced the adoption of early release policies, members of the Judiciary Committee were told.

It's a fact!

Arms are said to be twisted in Capitol hallways, but seldom are they actually broken.

But in 1856 it happened after a fight erupted between the sergeant-at-arms and a House member.

George McLeod, a Scotch-Canadian "giant in build, and correspondingly powerful," was elected that year to the Territorial House of Representatives. McLeod was said to have "preferred his fists to any other weapons in argument," wrote Charles Flandrau in *History of Minnesota*.

One evening, after delivering a heated speech during a floor debate, McLeod sauntered over to the council chamber — then the equivalent of the state Senate — for a drink. A keg of whiskey had been rolled into the chamber and was being guarded by the sergeant-at-arms. The sergeant was "an enormous man, even larger than McLeod."

McLeod wondered aloud if the sergeant had caught his fiery speech. The burly sergeant dismissed it with an unflattering review. Without hesitation, McLeod slapped the man across the face with his buckskin gloves. The sergeant retaliated, pushing the lawmaker to the railing outside the chamber, then backwards over the side and onto the stairway 16 feet below.

Dr. Le Boutillier — a representative from St. Anthony — was summoned to evaluate the damage.

McLeod was diagnosed with a badly broken arm, "which laid him up until the end of the session."

The two men clashed again in a saloon a short while later, with McLeod throwing his drink in the sergeant's face. Friends intervened immediately, probably saving McLeod, whose arm was still in a sling, from suffering any further injury.

1993 Committee Scopes

The Minnesota Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate, is divided into many committees, divisions, and subdivisions. Since thousands of bills are introduced during each two-year legislative session, it is impossible for any one legislator to become an expert in all areas. So, each legislator serves on three to five committees and divisions, which allows him/her to focus on just a few areas of public policy.

In a sense, the committee structure forms the heart of the Legislature. Although many people believe that most of the legislative process occurs on the House and Senate floors, it's in committee where most substantive action occurs. It's there where each bill is pored over and dissected, where key amendments are added and sections are deleted, and where recommendations for approval are given or withheld.

In the House, the speaker names the committees, appoints members to the committees, and selects chairs to lead them. Once the committee assignments are made and the House convenes for its session, the speaker assigns bills to the appropriate committees.

In an effort to give people a general impression of House activities this session, as well as an indication of where to go with various issues of concern, the *Session Weekly* staff asked House committee chairs and administrators for brief, general descriptions of the functions of their committees and divisions. More specifically, they asked what topics were likely to be considered this session.

Here are the results of the survey — a list of all committees and divisions, the boundaries of their concerns, and the specific issues they expect to address during the 1993 Session.

Agriculture

Reviews farm policies and programs to assist farmers; promotes interstate and international trade; develops strategies for marketing commodities; and develops programs to encourage soil conservation.

Agenda '93:

- Review wetlands rules
- Milk pricing issues (checkoffs, price in stores, price for farmers)
- Corporate farming issues regarding hog farming
- Food safety
- Farm property taxes

Capital Investment

Recommends objectives and goals in undertaking state debt; reviews the governor's capital budget proposals for state buildings and infrastructure; recommends debt management practices to maintain the state's good credit rating; reviews every bill where the good faith and credit of the state is being obligated; sets overall debt finance limits.

Agenda '93:

- Develop the capital expenditure authorization and debt finance bill for the state of Minnesota
- Continue work on capital budget reform measures

Commerce & Economic Development

Deals mainly with consumer affairs, professional licensing, tourism, and small-business issues; covers rural and community development, international trade, technology development, and the application of research and technology to the marketplace; considers job development, business finance, and technical assistance issues; and reviews programs in the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED).

Agenda '93:

- Consumer protection legislation
- Professional licensing
- Recodification of DTED statute
- Consideration of tourism and small business and international trade bills from the divisions

International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division

Examines Minnesota's economic and job needs, emphasizing world competitiveness; and makes recommendations for business to improve manufacturing techniques.

Agenda '93:

- Decentralization and regionalization of the Department of Trade and Economic Development
- Facilitating start-up businesses, streamlining state regulations
- Expanding economic development through international exports, recruiting new markets
- Interrelationship between education and technology

Tourism & Small Business Division

Examines programs, research, promotions that enhance the tourist industry and the small-business community in Minnesota.

Agenda '93:

- Tourism/business - small loan program
- Directional highway signing program
- Dedicated lodging tax

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Reviews and recommends funding for the Arts Board, Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Council on Black Minnesotans, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor and Industry, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Service, Department of Transportation, Ethical Practices Board, Humanities Commission, Indian Affairs Council, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Municipal Board, Minnesota Technology Inc., non-health boards, Office of the Secretary of State, Public Utilities Commission, Regional Transit Board, Safety Council, Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, Transportation Regulation Board, Uniform Laws Commission, and the World Trade Center.

Agenda '93:

- Transportation funding
- Transit funding
- Determination of agency funding needs

Education

Handles K-12 and postsecondary educational policy, statewide funding, and structure of public education.

Agenda '93:

- School funding
- Proposed state board rule on graduation requirement
- Reorganization of regional educational systems
- Redesign of teacher education programs
- Youth apprenticeship
- Postsecondary tuition levels
- School facilities

Higher Education Finance Division

Reviews legislative funding for the Community College System, Higher Education Board, Higher Education Coordinating Board, Higher Education Facilities Authority, Mayo Medical School, State University System, Technical College System, and the University of Minnesota.

Agenda '93:

- Funding levels for higher education
- Governance
- Financial aid
- Bonding bill
- Tuition levels

K-12 Education Finance Division

Provides policy direction and funding of the state's K-12 education system, which includes all public school districts, academies, Department of Education, education finance (school aids), Minnesota Center for Arts Education, and the Permanent School Fund.

Agenda '93:

- Education budget adjustments
- Capital investment issues
- Integration of funding for social services and education

Environment & Natural Resources

Examines issues relating to pollution, waste management, wildlife protection, forestry and mining, groundwater protection, solid waste reduction, recycling, and hunting and fishing regulations and promotion.

Agenda '93:

- Solid waste stream: packaging reduction and reuse (HF65); recycling and recycled materials markets
- Toxic chemicals: toxic pollution prevention plan as part of air emissions permit application; chemical use data reporting, discharge, and emission reporting; environmental (aquatic, terrestrial) as well as health effects; inclusion of non-manufacturing industry reporting (utilities, railroads, airlines, hospitals, universities, colleges); completion of Minnesota air toxic rule by 1994; safe transport of toxins; labeling of toxic products and packages
- Hazardous waste: landfill cleanup and use of Superfund dollars, hazardous and radioactive waste disposal and storage
- Water: point and non-point source pollution prevention, lakeshore management, milfoil and exotic species control, 1993 permanent wetland rules
- Hunting and fishing issues: out-of-court settlement of *Mille Lacs Chippewa vs. State of Minnesota* (1837 hunting, fishing, and gathering rights treaty; game and fish fund)
- Environmental use and protection, restructuring of state agencies to be more consumer-friendly
- Timber harvesting and paper mill expansions

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Oversees the budgets of state agencies related to the environment, natural resources, and agriculture: Academy of Science, Board of Animal Health, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, ethanol development, Hazardous Substance Injury Compensation Board, Horticulture Society, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission,

Minnesota Zoological Garden, Pollution Control Agency, Science Museum of Minnesota, Waste Management Board, and Voyageurs National Park.

Agenda '93:

- Budgets for FY94-95
- Superfund
- Capital budgets
- Petrofund

Ethics

Reviews ethical complaints concerning members of the Minnesota House of Representatives; and sets procedures for dealing with ethical problems.

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Reviews laws pertaining to banks, savings and loans, credit unions, etc.; examines consumer rights in insurance and availability of insurance for individuals and companies and other aspects of the insurance industry.

Agenda '93:

- Access to quality health insurance at an affordable price
- Consumer protection through the Minnesota Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association
- Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Reviews election concerns, veterans issues, and miscellaneous legislation.

Agenda '93:

- Campaign finance reform
- Veterans issues, including free license plates for ex-POWs, capital improvements at the Veterans Homes around the state, and a grant program for county veterans service officers.

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Reviews any bill that substantially changes or creates a new state department, agency, commission, board or bureau, although a bill may have had its first review and hearing in another committee; deals with public employee pension plans, and state workers' bargaining procedures; gambling legislation.

Agenda '93: (no order implied)

- Review proposals for governmental restructuring developed by CORE
- Consideration of various proposals related to gambling
- Gender balance on state boards and commissions
- Review various pension issues

State Government Finance Division

Reviews and recommends appropriations for state departments and agencies: Administrative Hearings Office, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, contingent accounts, Department of Administration, Department of Employee Relations, Department of Finance, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Disabled American Veterans, joint legislative commissions, Lawful Gambling Control Board, Legislature, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, Minnesota Planning Office, Minnesota Racing Commission, Minnesota State Lottery Board, Minnesota State Retirement System, Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Office of the State Auditor, Office of the Treasurer, Public Employees Retirement Association, Salary Supplement, State Board of Investment, tort claims, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

Agenda '93:

- Capital budget requests
- Selected program reviews

Health & Human Services

Receives all bills relating to health issues and various social services in the state; reviews issues relating to health maintenance organizations; deals with the licens-

ing of health care providers and social workers; reviews and recommends welfare programs, policies, goals, objectives, and reforms.

Agenda '93:

- Children's agenda (including governor's proposal).
- Health Care Commission Report
- Foster care reforms

Health & Housing Finance Division

Reviews the governor's budget; recommends funding for the: Council on Disabilities, Department of Health, Department of Human Rights, Department of Jobs and Training, Department of Veterans Affairs, health boards (14), Housing Finance Agency, and Veterans Homes Board; and reviews funding requests for legislation passed in the policy committee.

Agenda '93:

- Omnibus Health & Housing Finance bill

Human Services Finance Division

Reviews the governor's budget for human services and MinnesotaCare programs; and makes funding recommendations for the Department of Human Services, Health—Division of Health Care Access, Minnesota Health Care Commission, and Ombudsperson for Mental Health and Retardation.

Agenda '93:

- Continuation of health care reform efforts from 1992
- Welfare reform; maintaining the social service "safety net"
- Long-term care
- Mental health community-based services

Housing

Examines all aspects of housing programs and policy; focuses on preventing homelessness and preserving existing affordable housing; targets community-based revitalization and rehabilitation.

Agenda '93:

- Emergency mortgage and rental assistance
- Fair housing
- Housing Trust Fund
- Toxic lead cleanup
- Affordability

Judiciary

Considers all areas of Minnesota criminal and civil law, data practices, and the organization of the courts.

Agenda '93:

- Stalking
- Criminal records clarification (public or private?)

Judiciary Finance Division

Oversees the budgets of state agencies related to corrections, courts, and law enforcement: Board of Judicial Standards, Board of Public Defense, Bureau of Mediation Services, Court of Appeals, Department of Corrections, District Court, Office of the Attorney General, Ombudsperson for Corrections, Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Supreme Court, and Tax Court.

Agenda '93:

- Juvenile justice
- Prison space
- State takeover of the court system

Labor-Management Relations

Considers unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and labor standards concerning issues about hours worked, wages paid, working conditions, and job training programs; and deals with certain public employee labor issues, but not pensions.

Agenda '93:

- Child labor reforms
- Unemployment insurance
- Collective bargaining issues
- Workers' compensation (refund issues)
- Minimum wage

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Examines local government and makes recommendations concerning the relationship between state and local governments; examines local governments' jurisdiction, control, and bonding authority; reviews metropolitan agencies' structures, goals, and programs; and considers transportation, sewers, road, bridges, parks, and airports in the metropolitan area.

Agenda '93:

- Local government structure
- Metropolitan agencies
- Airports
- Land use planning issues

Regulated Industries & Energy

Examines controls on state regulated industries such as liquor, telephone, utilities, and commercial soliciting; and reviews energy policies and conservation issues.

Agenda '93:

- Redefinition of extended area service criteria for telephone exchanges
- Electric utility service area boundaries
- Revisions in competitive services for telephone companies
- Conservation programs
- Alternative energy
- Future energy policy

Rules & Legislative Administration

Establishes the budget for the House; approves personnel matters; determines House rules and joint rules of the House and Senate; and acts on bills and resolutions referred to the committee.

Taxes

Reviews bills that affect state income, sales, use, and property tax policy.

Agenda '93:

- Local government aid formula
- Fiscal relationships between local governments and the state

- Tax burden on low-income working families
- Local option taxes

Transportation & Transit

Addresses policy matters concerning highways, trucking, transit systems, and the departments of Transportation and Public Safety.

Agenda '93:

- Transportation funding
- Balanced legislation between transit, highways, and other forms of transportation

Ways & Means

Sets House spending and revenue targets and considers money bills passed by the Finance and Tax divisions and committees.

Agenda '93:

- House budget targets
- Biennial budget

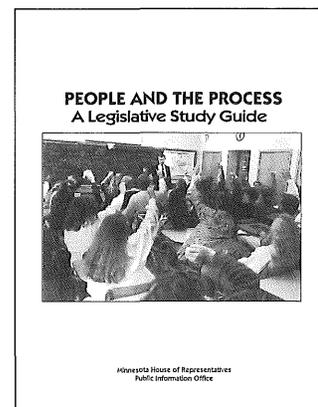


State taxpayers may be a little disconcerted to learn that financial analysts seem to be referring to certain pages of the budget book as "pretty pages." That's what the word sounds like during House committee meetings, but the term is actually PERTY pages.

PERTY pages are the ones chock full of figures that show the historical funding, proposed funding, and future funding for each budget item in the biennial budget.

So what does PERTY really mean? The acronym's original meaning has been lost, said Bruce Reddeman, director of budget operations in the Department of Finance. The term is at least 12 years old and, like a bad penny, keeps resurfacing even though no one knows why they're using it.

It's easy to speculate devilishly about what PERTY could mean, but budget aficionados guess it probably means nothing more exciting than Program Expenditures Report Total for Year. But, for now, the secret remains with the departed bureaucrat who invented it.



Puzzled by the law process?

With the 1993 Legislative Session soon to be in full swing, you may wonder just how the legislative process works.

Many people do — even those who work for the Legislature full time. Though the process is difficult for anyone to describe, the House Public Information Office has made an attempt with its book entitled *People and the Process: A Legislative Study Guide*.

The project was undertaken to fill a need for more information on the legislative process for social studies teachers of grades 7-12, but people of all ages who are curious about state government will find the book useful.

The 142-page guide takes readers through each step of the law process from a bill's original idea to the governor's approval or veto. Along with background material, each section defines new terms, suggests classroom activities ranging from simple to complex, and provides an abundance of resource material.

The guide comes in loose-leaf form, punched to fit in a standard three-ring binder. The cost is \$11.25 plus sales tax and \$2 for shipping.

Copies are available through Minnesota's Bookstore, 117 University Ave. (Ford Building), St. Paul, MN 55155. Make checks payable to "State of Minnesota" and allow four to six weeks for delivery.

If you need the guide sooner, you can place a credit card phone or FAX order: Metro: (612) 297-3000; FAX (612) 296-2265; Nationwide Toll Free: 1-800-657-3757, and receive your order in one to two weeks. The bookstore accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover cards.

Or you can make an immediate purchase at the bookstore between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Perlt runs on shoe leather in his race for the House

To say that Rep. Walt Perlt (DFL-Woodbury) is an enthusiastic man is an understatement. He has hit the ground running in his new job representing St. Paul's eastern suburbs, and already talks about campaigning for the seat again.



Rep. Walt Perlt

"I'm having the time of my life," said Perlt, who, at 65, is the most senior of the newly elected House members. He counts as one of his campaign highlights "making so many new friends."

Perlt's district (57A) spans Oakdale, Maplewood, and western Woodbury, which doubled in size during the 1980s and is Minnesota's ninth fastest growing city. He describes his district as "very diverse."

Getting elected to the House was not on Perlt's "To Do" list even a year ago. Before retiring in 1990, he was the state's chief of enforcement for liquor control, and worked in the Department of Public Safety for 38 years. He and his wife, Dodie, were enjoying retirement and planning a six-week fishing trip to British Columbia.

Then, just three days before the DFL district convention, a neighbor urged him to run for the House seat.

As a newcomer to the political arena, Perlt won the party's endorsement on the seventh ballot.

"I got into it accidentally, but I took the campaign seriously," Perlt said of his subsequent election. "I door knocked and went back again a second time. My opponent outspent me about four-to-one, but he ran a media campaign, and I ran a shoe leather campaign."

Friends and co-workers say Perlt is forthright, upbeat, and energetic. "He pretty much knows everybody in the world," said Tom Leigh, an enforcement agent who worked under Perlt. He described his former boss as "always in a great mood — always happy and positive."

Minnesotans may find something reminiscent about Perlt's strong, earthy voice when they hear him speak on the House floor. His uncle, Jule Perlt, was the voice of the Golden Gophers for 62 years before he died last summer.

Perlt is fond of hunting and fishing, and is quick to share tips for smoking the catch, including salmon, trout, and venison. Friends say his reputation for making "great" barbecue ribs is well deserved.

"I've never been a shrinking violet," said Perlt, explaining his love for campaigning. "I enjoyed talking to thousands of people. They want to see you eyeball to eyeball. They want to know whether you're genuine, or promising the moon."

Perlt said that while his constituents told him they want to maintain adequate funding for education, taxes remain a large concern.

He is aware that his votes will be watched by the people in his district.

"They will have to put a .357 Magnum to my head to raise [taxes]," said Perlt. "My goal is to not raise taxes and keep the state operating. That's what my constituents have told me. Don't raise taxes, or don't come back. I take that very seriously."

—Joyce Peterson

District 57A

Population: 31,241
Distribution: 99.9 percent of residents live in urban areas, 0.1 percent rural.
Counties: Ramsey, Washington
Largest city: Woodbury
Location: east Metro
1992 presidential election results:
Clinton/Gore: 45.1 percent
Bush/Quayle: 30 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 24.3 percent
Other: 0.6 percent

Life at Capitol far cry from Molnau's days on farm

Like her parents before her, Rep. Carol Molnau (IR-Chaska) runs a family farm. On a 430-acre plot in northern Chaska, she and her husband grow corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and tend 140 head of dairy and beef cattle.



Rep. Carol Molnau

While on the farm, Molnau said she never dreamed of becoming a member of the Minnesota Legislature. "But I've always been involved in my community and my business and I think that probably evolved into my involvement here," she said.

Nevertheless, Molnau is no political neophyte. She has been involved in IR party politics for several years and has spent the last four years on the Chaska City Council. She said that lifelong volunteer duties, including community education projects and the 4-H Club, have kept her in touch with local issues.

In ousting the DFL incumbent in District 35A (Larry Bodahl), Molnau credits her community involvement, conservative philosophy, and accessibility to the voters for her 1992 campaign victory.

But she said it was the hard work of her family that made it all possible. "Family was the most

important element in running for this office," she said. Molnau said her husband and three daughters were more than willing to pitch in and help so she could devote more time to campaigning and being a House member.

"When one of us has been involved in something, the rest of us kind of pick up the slack," she said.

Molnau's district is economically diverse, with urban industrial sections to the east and rural sections in the northern and southern ends of the district.

While this creates divergent concerns that may prove difficult to bridge, Molnau said she heard a common theme while on the campaign trail: "Basically, people weren't happy with government."

Many voters felt overtaxed while still expressing the desire for higher quality government services.

"One of the things I heard over and over again is [that] they couldn't afford any more taxes, but were concerned for schools. The priority still is for K-12 education," Molnau said, adding that improving the state's infrastructure was also a concern.

Prompted by her district's frustrations, Molnau is most interested in streamlining government to reduce public spending without com-

promising services.

"I would like to see some down-sizing of government in the form of efficiency," she said. Molnau would prefer state employees to target waste. "Letting them do it gives them some control" along with a feeling of accomplishment, she said.

Life at the Capitol is a far cry from her days on the farm, and Molnau is preparing herself for the tough calls that loom ahead. She said she wants to be the kind of legislator "where you listen to your constituency, and you can still make decisions here [in St. Paul] that you can go home and feel right about."

—Adam Samaha

District 35A

Population: 32,924
Distribution: 54.2 percent of residents live in urban areas, 45.8 percent rural.
Counties: Carver, Le Sueur, Scott, Sibley
Largest city: Chaska
Location: southwest Metro
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle: 34.8 percent
Clinton/Gore: 34.2 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 30.6 percent
Other: 0.4 percent

Worke hopes to offer stability to Waseca area

Voters in the Waseca area have faced a unique and unwelcome brand of term limits, having elected four representatives in the past six years.



Rep. Gary Worke

Rep. Gary Worke (IR-Waseca), newly elected from the extensively redrawn district, says restoring a sense of stability to the seat is one of his main objectives.

Having already won the only political race he's ever entered, Worke said he hopes to be around for more than a single term. It seems to be a message voters welcome.

DFLer Jerry Schoenfeld was the last to represent the area for more than two years. He resigned in 1987 after serving seven years in the House.

Dale DeRaad, an Independent-Republican, won a subsequent special election, but lost the following year to DFLer Jeff Conway. Conway resigned after being charged with misusing the funds of his investment firm's clients. Dick Anderson, an Independent-Republican who won the seat in 1990, decided not to run again last fall.

Worke is ready for a fresh start.

"The main motivations I had [for running] were focused around business issues," he said. "I

feel that business issues are in everyone's best interests.

"I wanted to see if I could affect the business climate in Minnesota so my family — I have four children — would have an opportunity to stay and live and work in Minnesota."

Worke, who built and operates a residential care facility for the elderly with his wife, said his constituents feel the same way.

"People are sick and tired of hearing about another business going to South Dakota or going to Wisconsin or Iowa," he said. "We need to keep those businesses and provide a good home for them in Minnesota."

Term limits are also an important issue to voters in his district. Several IRs have authored bills limiting legislative service to 10 years, along with other restrictions.

Education funding, including higher education, are also critical issues uppermost in the minds of his constituents.

Waseca is still adjusting to the closing of the University of Minnesota's two-year campus in that community. Efforts in the past two sessions to reverse that decision by the university's Board of Regents were unsuccessful.

The 22-year-old facility may be converted into a federal prison, one of the few options available

and one Worke supports.

"It's a tough issue," he said. "It's a tough thing even today... It is devastating, and really difficult for the community."

Worke said he's been impressed with the caliber of his fellow freshman on both sides of the political aisle.

"Many of them came in with the same ideas [as myself] — that there are some things in government that aren't working and need to be changed," he said. "We need to make government more responsible to the people."

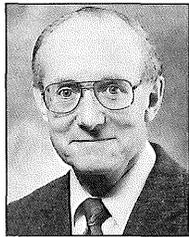
—Jim Anderson

District 28A

Population: 33,307
Distribution: 83.4 percent of residents live in urban areas, 16.6 percent rural.
Counties: Steele, Waseca
Largest city: Owatonna
Location: southern Minnesota
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle: 39 percent
Clinton/Gore: 33.2 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 27 percent
Other: 0.8 percent

Family ties lead second Dempsey to House

It's a bit unusual, but perhaps not too surprising, that Rep. Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings) is following his older brother, Terry, into the Legislature.



Rep. Jerry Dempsey

"When I was growing up, my family always talked about the responsibilities of citizenship and how important it was to be involved," Dempsey said. "That just kind of carried through in all the people in our family."

His brother, who left his post as minority leader last session after being appointed a district judge, served 14 years in the House. Dempsey finds that inspiring, not daunting. The insightful brotherly advice hasn't hurt, either.

"He didn't overtly push it or anything," he said of his fraternal chats. "He did say you should consider it, that it's a very noble kind of thing."

Prior to redistricting, Dempsey said he had never considered running, since his area was well served by Reps. Dennis Ozment and Steve Sviggum, fellow IRs who have been re-elected. But the new District 29A between Hastings and Red Wing was carved out of those old districts, creating an open seat — and an opportunity for Dempsey.

"I think people can make a difference. I think people can make changes," said Dempsey, a former school administrator and bank director.

Voters in his district are concerned about the state budget and education funding, but Dempsey also will be involved with some local issues that have taken on statewide significance.

He supports the temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel rods at Northern States Power Co.'s Prairie Island power plant near Red Wing until a nationwide, permanent repository for them can be found, he said.

Since power generated at the plant is used in other states, he added, those states also should be involved with resolving the issue. Environmental groups and residents of the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Reservation near the plant are fighting the storage plans.

Dempsey opposes a plan to build a new airport in Dakota County, estimated to cost between \$5 billion and \$15 billion. The price is too steep, and there are more viable alternatives, Dempsey said. The current airport could be expanded, or smaller satellite facilities could be built.

He also hopes funding will be provided this session to construct a secure cottage for juveniles housed at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing, a proposal that was discussed last session. The program in Red Wing emphasizes

rehabilitation for juveniles, and is not designed as a prison, he added. But the need is apparent.

Dempsey is impressed with his fellow first-term members.

"I can see why they got elected. They're intelligent people," Dempsey said. They have a good grasp of the issues, and are anxious to tackle problems facing the state.

"I think they're people that are going to engage in productive and sound deliberation of the issues," he said. "And I like that approach."

—Jim Anderson

District 29A

Population: 33,172
Distribution: 90.8 percent of residents live in urban areas, 9.2 percent rural.
Counties: Dakota, Goodhue
Largest city: Hastings
Location: southeastern Minnesota
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle: 32.2 percent
Clinton/Gore: 41.5 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 25.5 percent
Other: 0.8 percent

Bill Introductions

HF164-HF208

Monday, Feb. 1

HF164—Macklin (IR)

Judiciary

Domestic assault warrantless arrests authorized for assaults committed against a person with whom the offender has a child or unborn child in common.

HF165—Jennings (DFL)

Commerce & Economic Development

Ski safety act adopted.

HF166—Jennings (DFL)

Taxes

Fire truck and emergency rescue vehicle repair part purchases to political subdivisions exempted from sales tax.

HF167—Bauerly (DFL)

Commerce & Economic Development

Minnesota Business Finance, Inc., created to provide capital for commercial borrowers through the Small Business Administration (SBA).

HF168—Krueger (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Service contracts authorized between regional organizations and state agencies.

HF169—Blatz (IR)

Labor-Management Relations

Guardian and conservator appointments required in workers' compensation proceedings for minors and incapacitated persons.

HF170—Garcia (DFL)

Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

County veterans service office grant program established and money appropriated.

HF171—Winter (DFL)

Agriculture

Agricultural crops provided minimum prices and money appropriated.

HF172—Morrison (IR)

Judiciary

Sexually explicit material dissemination restrictions for minors extended to noncommercial situations, videotapes included in dissemination restrictions, and penalties provided.

HF173—Sparby (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Town remedial actions authorized for water

encroaching on town road rights-of-way and wetland replacement exemption provided.

HF174—Nelson (DFL)

Commerce & Economic Development

Manufactured home dealers and installers exempted from licensure requirements for building contractors, remodelers, and specialty contractors.

HF175—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Taxes

Used motor vehicle sales exempted from motor vehicle excise tax.

HF176—Clark (DFL)

Judiciary

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

HF177—Wejcman (DFL)

Judiciary

Parentage recognition provided force and effect of a paternity adjudication, paternity recognition form and educational materials distributed, child visitation and custody provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF178—Carruthers (DFL)

Judiciary

Firearm reckless discharge from a motor vehicle provided felony penalty.

HF179—Wagenius (DFL)

Taxes

Assessments not to include value of improvements made to certain homestead property 40 years old or older.

HF180—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Education

Secondary sparsity revenue increased.

HF181—Rest (DFL)

Judiciary

Limited liability companies provided application of financial institution, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, taxation, and usury laws.

HF182—Vellenga (DFL)

Taxes

Cottages and camps on leased federal lands provided property tax exemption.

HF183—Clark (DFL)

Housing

Mortgage and rental emergency assistance

program developed by the housing finance agency, and money appropriated.

HF184—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Lottery retailers prohibited from paying prizes to persons under 18 years of age.

HF185—Reding (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Electrical hydropower facility construction permits prohibited for certain facilities on Mississippi River bluffs.

HF186—Jennings (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Highway salt storage required in a covered building.

HF187—Cooper (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation reinsurance association refunds distributed to policyholders.

HF188—Winter (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Ambulance service personnel longevity award and incentive program established, drivers' license surcharge imposed, and money appropriated.

HF189—Ostrom (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

St. Peter provided release from reversionary interest to lands included in Traverse des Sioux state park.

HF190—Haukoos (IR)

Environment & Natural Resources

Minnnow importation by private fish hatcheries allowed for raising and exporting to other states.

HF191—Ostrom (DFL)

Taxes

School district contracted motor vehicles provided eligibility for agricultural alcohol gasoline credit.

HF192—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gaming

Heating plant facility employees of the University of Minnesota provided continued state retirement system coverage after transfer to a new heating plant employer.

HF193—Kinkel (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 118, Remer-

Longville, allowed permanent fund transfer from the bus purchase account to the capital expenditure fund.

HF194—Carruthers (DFL)

Judiciary

County law library fee collection provided in petty misdemeanor cases.

HF195—Smith (IR)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Insurers to pay annual assessment based on total subrogation and indemnification claims.

HF196—Smith (IR)

Judiciary

Court cost assessment provided against civil action non-prevailing party.

HF197—Jaros (DFL)

Commerce & Economic Development

Regional service offices established outside the metropolitan area by trade and economic development department.

HF198—Macklin (IR)

Judiciary

Probation hearings allowed after probation period expires.

HF199—Winter (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation reinsurance association

to provide refunds to the state fund mutual insurance company.

HF200—Orenstein (DFL)

Judiciary

Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) civil tort liability limits increased.

HF201—Tunheim (DFL)

Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

Balloting by mail authorized for certain small cities.

HF202—Vellenga (DFL)

Education

Humanities commission appropriated money for the institute for the advancement of teaching.

HF203—Kelley (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Physician licensing requirements modified, immigrant and alien physician eligibility requirements clarified, and temporary and residency permits established; and medical practice board reporting requirements and indemnification modified.

HF204—Gruenes (IR)

Judiciary

Stearns County community corrections subsidy program appropriated money.

HF205—Molnau (IR)

Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections

Caucus fundraisers restricted; campaign committee fund transfers prohibited to other campaign funds; unopposed candidates not to receive public subsidy; and matching private contribution requirements expanded for public subsidy recipients.

HF206—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Photographs of incarcerated persons considered comprehensive law enforcement public data.

HF207—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

LSD; lysergic acid diethylamide penalties increased for sales or possession in a school, park, or public housing zone.

HF208—Bishop (IR)

Judiciary

Handicapped and disabled; discrimination prohibited against disabled persons using service animals, over-the-road bus definition provided, and human rights investigations and hearing charges clarified.

It's a fact!

While the state now faces an estimated \$769 million budget shortfall, Minnesota has successfully weathered financial crises in the past.

In fact, this year marks the centennial of the Panic of 1893.

"Had the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis been captured by an enemy and a ransom of ten million dollars been demanded from each, paid and carried away, the consequences upon business would not have been worse," wrote Charles Flandrau in *History of Minnesota*.

Land speculation was spiraling out of control. Credit was extended to most anyone who wanted it. Large properties were sold on promises and minuscule down payments, and "everyone became deeply in debt."



John D. Rockefeller

The panic saw the Merritt brothers of Duluth lose control of the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines Company, a multi-million dollar business venture. Over-capitalized and financially strapped, they sued and later settled

with their much more experienced business partner, John D. Rockefeller.

Banks closed. Businesses closed. "The country was flooded with paper, secured on the impossibility of values continuing." As a result, most property became worthless, especially in the state's larger cities.

It took seven years to recover. By 1900, the state had applied a successful prescription of "industry and economy. . . the only remedy in such cases." But Flandrau, writing in 1900, held little hope for the future.

"Those who have reaped wisdom will have surrendered the speculative arena to others before the financial cycle rolls around, and history will repeat itself."

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. 8

8:30 a.m.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

Prairie Island Nuclear Plant

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: Tour of Prairie Island Nuclear Plant. (Bus will leave from the east doors of the State Office Building at 8:30 a.m.)

TUESDAY, Feb. 9

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Electricity Board. Safety Council. Transportation Regulation Board.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Continuation of previous testimony on the Minnesota State Board of Teaching proposed restructured teacher education program, Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers. Testimony on the Pre K-12 Education Service Delivery System by the Minnesota Education District Network, the Metropolitan Area Education Coordinating Council, the Regional Management Information Center, and the Minnesota Department of Education.

Health & Housing Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: Summary on department/board and governor's budget proposal.

Subcommittee on Property Taxes/TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF108 (Jacobs) Tax-forfeited land repurchase price for prior owner to include delinquent taxes and assessments, penalties,

interest, and other costs.

HF117 (Kinkel) Tax-forfeited land repurchase price for prior owner to include delinquent taxes and assessments, penalties, interest, and other costs; and refund provided.

HFXXXX (Klinzing)

Subcommittee on State Taxes/TAXES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF0076 (Johnson, B.) Homemaking and chore services sold to political subdivisions for elderly or disabled individuals exempt from sales tax.

HF0021 (Anderson, I.) Federal annuities; state income tax withholding option provided to federal annuitants.

HF166 (Jennings) Fire truck and emergency rescue vehicle repair part purchases to political subdivisions exempted from sales tax.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Minnesota Zoological Board; Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Overview of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the State of Minnesota agreement provisions. Public testimony on this issue.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Department of Administration; Department of Finance; open appointments process.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Overviews of the Judicial Standards Board, the Peace Office Standards and Training Board, and the Public Defense Board.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Overview of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Gary Grefenberg, executive secretary. Report on the role of bond counsel, Thomas Hay, attorney, Dorsey & Whitney.

Subcommittee on Local Government Relations/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Syd Nelson

Agenda: Discussion on cities and townships: where they are now; where they are going; what can be done to assist them.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session

3:30 p.m.

Joint House/Senate Legislative Forum

House Chamber

Agenda: *Our Children, Our Families, Our Future: What is the Cost of Failure?* Presentation on the cost of an ineffective system, Sylvia Hewlett, author; and an analysis of children and families in Minnesota, Dr. Geraldine Brookins, professor of Child Welfare & Youth Policy at the School of Social Work, Institute for Child Development, and Hubert Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota.

6:30 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management

10 State Office Building

Dir. Kim Austrian

Agenda: Public comments on the Executive Branch's initiatives for funding traditional Superfund sites and an alternative to Superfund for landfill cleanup. (Individuals wishing to comment should contact the LCWM in advance.) Introduction of new members and election of officers to fill the vacant positions of Senate co-chair and secretary.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Minnesota Municipal Board. IRRRB. Private Detective Board.

Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of the governor's budget recommendations for DHS programs for the developmentally disabled and the mentally ill. Overview of MinnesotaCare programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Health.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: Governor's budget recommendations for general education programs, Tom Melcher, Department of Education.

HF0061 (Steensma) General education revenue reduction formula modified for large fund balances.

HF0105 (Tunheim) Independent School District No. 676, Badger, allowed excess fund balance for five years due to payment of delinquent property taxes.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Presentations on the Technical College System, John Ostrem, vice chancellor; and the Minnesota Association of Private PostSecondary Schools, Chuck Dettmann, chair.

10 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: HF0009 (Skoglund) Port-wine stain elimination covered by insurance for persons under 18 years of age.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Presentations by Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Affairs.

11:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Waldorf Paper Company, St. Paul

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: House/Senate tour and lunch. (Bus will leave from the front of the Capitol at 11:30 a.m.)

12:30 p.m.

International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division/COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Presentations by the Minnesota Trade Office, George Crolick, executive director; Chromaline Corporation, Tom Erickson, president; A.D.C. Telecommunications, Ricardo Becerra; Lemna Corporation, Maren Christianson; North County Exporters Association, Lars Nelson, director; other private businesses involved in export markets.

Tourism & Small Business Division/ COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Resident casino gambling pattern/discretionary spending study, Barb Koth, University of Minnesota Tourism Center. Small-business concerns: William Blazar, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; Judy Cook, Minnesota Retail Merchants Association.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Rep. Myron Orfield. Minnesota Trucking Association, Lisa Peterson, director of legislative affairs.

2 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

318 Capitol

Agenda: Potential amendment to the commis-

sion rules of operation on the recommendation of noncontroversial proposed legislation. Summary of 1992 statewide and major Minnesota public pension plan actuarial valuations, Thomas Custis, consulting actuary, Milliman and Robertson, Brookfield, Wis. Overview of the relative funded condition and financing requirements of Minnesota public pension plans.

2:30 p.m.

HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: To be announced.

3:30 p.m.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: Permanent Rules of the House.

7:30 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

123 Capitol

Chr. Sen. Gene Merriam

Agenda: Consideration of recommendation on Clean Water Partnership proposed grant allocations pursuant to ML 91, Ch. 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 4(h) \$700,000. Review of recommendation involving LCMR, John Heintz. Report on presentations to policy and money committees. Summer 1993 fact finding, evaluation, regional forum and Natural Resources Congress.

THURSDAY, Feb. 11

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Testimony from the Center for Transportation Studies.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Youth apprenticeship/youth service.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

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

Agenda: Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: To be announced.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
& GAMING**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Overview of public pensions, Larry Martin, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement; Howard Bicker, State Investment Board.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

St. Paul Children's Hospital
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: Tour of St. Paul Children's Hospital. The bus will load promptly at 10 a.m. at the east entrance of the State Office Building. (Tour is limited to committee members and staff due to space constraints.)

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Overview of Public Defense Board.

12 Noon

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Depart from the front of the State Office Building at 12 noon for a tour of St. Paul's combined sewer overflow system.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: To be announced.

**Metropolitan Council Subcommittee/
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Myron Orfield

Agenda: Structure and organization of the

Metropolitan Council. Metropolitan Development & Investment Framework (MDIF).

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session

FRIDAY, Feb. 12

8 a.m.

**Higher Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

Tour
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Tour schedule: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Dakota County Technical College; 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Minnesota Riverland Technical College - Rochester campus; 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. Rochester Community College, Winona State University - Rochester Center, University of Minnesota - Rochester Center.

**Human Services Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of the health care cost containment plan of the Minnesota Health Care Commission.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
& GAMING**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Presentation by the Department of Employee Relations (DOER).

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Champion Paper Company
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: House/Senate tour and lunch at the Champion Paper Co., Sartell, Minn. Bus leaves from front of the Capitol at 8:30 a.m.

10 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Regional Transit Board, John Riley. MICA, Bob Orth.

1 p.m.

Joint House/Senate St. Paul Delegation

500S State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Howard Orenstein
Sen. Randy Kelly

Agenda: St. Paul School District legislative agenda.

Do you know?

Stephen Miller, the fourth governor of Minnesota, was a distinguished military man who became a brigadier general during the Civil War.

He was also one of the worst poets in state history, according to a former secretary of state.

"That among our prosaic governors we should find one who worshipped at the shrine of the Muses, may occasion some surprise," wrote James Baker, in *Lives of the Governors of Minnesota*. "Governor Miller, however, was the guilty man."

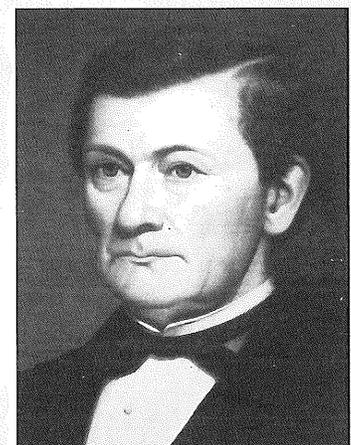
In 1864, Mrs. W.J. Arnold of Wabasha published a volume of verse entitled *The Poets and Poetry of Minnesota*. Ignatius Donnelly, gubernatorial aspirant and longtime Minnesota statesman, was also "generously embalmed" with Miller in the same volume.

Baker suggests that the good governor's musings were better left in obscurity.

"This good lady has, with a warm and generous heart, rescued some of the poetic sins of sophomore youth from merited oblivion," he wrote.

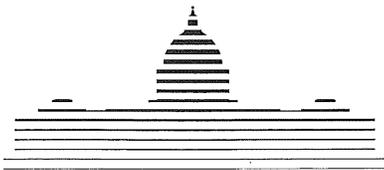
Such inspiring poems as "Things I Want," "The Sky," and "Why Don't You Sing as Once You Sung?" are among the governor's contributions.

According to Baker, only two copies of the rare volume are known to exist, with "the balance of the very limited edition condemned to the waste basket, or asleep in dusty rest in unknown libraries."



Gov. Stephen Miller

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

K-12 public education

Number of licensed public K-12 teachers in Minnesota, Fall 1990	96,221
number of those employed as teachers, Fall 1990	49,045
Estimated average salary of a Minnesota K-12 teacher, 1991-92	\$33,700
national rank	20
national rank in 1990-91	16
Percent of Minnesota's K-12 public teachers with master's degrees	31.3
Percent of all Minnesota K-12 teachers with 10-20 years	
of full-time teaching experience	46.4
percent with over 20 years	28.3
national rank	2
Number of states, besides Minnesota, whose public K-12 enrollment has	
increased between 5 and 10 percent in the last 5 years	12
Percent change, average salary of a K-12 teacher, 1990-91 to 1991-92	+1.7
national rank	40
Number of Minnesota school districts with more than 20,000 kids	4
in California	44
Number of students in St. Paul Public Schools, 1990-91	35,932
number of those who are minority students	4 in 10
Number of kids in Anoka Public Schools, 1990-91	34,524
number of those who are minority students	1 in 25
Percent of polled teachers, nationwide, who "strongly agree" their	
training has prepared them "to reach students from a variety of	
ethnic backgrounds," 1991	30
Percent of Minnesotans with a high school education, 1980	73.1
in 1990	84.9
national rank	7
Nationwide, grade that surveyed adults give the public school system, 1991	C
grade that they give their own community schools	C+
Percent decline in Minnesota ACT/SAT scores, 1982-89	-2.5
Percent, nationwide, of surveyed teachers who "certainly would" choose	
teaching as a profession if they had it to do over again, 1961	49.9
in 1986	22.7
Percent of surveyed eighth graders, nationwide, who said	
"I don't feel safe in this school," 1988	11.8

Sources: *Digest of Education Statistics, 1992*, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education; *School District Profiles, 1990-91*, Minnesota Department of Education; *Ranking of the States, 1992*, National Education Association Research Division; *States in Profile, the State Policy Data Book, 1992*; Minnesota Federation of Teachers.



For more information . . .

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