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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

NEW MEMBER GREG BLAINE, AND MORE

HF2566-HF2585

Session Weekly

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On the cover: Members of the House Capital Investment Committee pause during a bonding tour of the Como Park Conservatory in St. Paul Oct. 4.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Contributing to change

Lawmakers examine proposals to modify Minnesota's campaign finance system, while balancing the interest of free speech

By DAVID MAEDA

At both the state and federal levels, policymakers have been examining the intrinsic and often troublesome relationship between politics and money.

The Election Subcommittee of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee held a daylong hearing Sept. 8 to discuss specific proposals dealing with the state's campaign finance system.

At the core of the debate was whether limiting the amount someone can contribute to a campaign violates free speech rights.

Proposals ranged from limiting the amount of money that could be spent on campaigns to removing existing limits altogether.

In 1974 Minnesota became one of the first states to establish a public financing system for campaigns, via the income tax check-off program, which allows people to contribute to political parties — who then distribute money to candidates — when filing state income tax forms. At the same time, a tax credit was established for contributions to candidates for state offices. A refund program later replaced that credit.

Candidates choosing to participate in the funding program are required to sign a spending limit agreement. The limit varies depending on the office being sought and is adjusted to reflect changes in the consumer price index. Participation in the program in 1998 was around 98 percent.

In the late 1990s, Maine and Arizona passed legislation establishing a voluntary full public financing option for candidates who agree to not take private funds.

Now Minnesota lawmakers are considering similar proposals.

HF1626, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), would expand the disclosure requirements on contributions and expenditures.

Haas said the bill, written in conjunction with the governor's office, focuses on restricting the use of contributions to political parties, caucuses, and funds, commonly referred to as "soft money."

The bill would prohibit candidates who participate in the state's public campaign financing system from accepting contributions from political committees or political funds.

It would also provide expanded restrictions and disclosure on independent expenditures: those that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate but are made apart from any candidate's campaign.

"There is so much misleading information that goes out at times in an election that people throw up their hands and say 'Why should I vote?'" Haas said.

The bill would establish an independent expenditure matching account that would provide loans to candidates to respond to independent expenditures made against them.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED
David Schultz, a political science professor at Hamline University, testifies about campaign finance reform during a Sept. 8 meeting of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee's Election Subcommittee.

"This is not a Republican or Democrat issue," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the sponsor of a similar bill (HF2318). "We shouldn't be running against each other, we should be running for the office."

But Jackie Schwietz, executive director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, said independent expenditure restrictions likely would not withstand free speech constitutional challenges.

She said such restrictions would ultimately give the wealthy more power because the proposals are aimed at limiting the power of political action committees (PACs), not individuals willing to spend their own money.

"What PACs are, at least from our perspective, are individuals who come together with small amounts of money and pool the resources so they can have voice in the process," she said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said problems with the current system are not caused by too much money, but rather not enough.

Osskopp is sponsoring HF567 that would adopt a system similar to the ones operated in Arizona and Maine. It would create a voluntary system in which participating candidates would receive funding after agreeing to accept spending limits. The bill establishes different threshold amounts from a specified number of contributors depending on the office sought before a candidate would become eligible.

"The drive for campaign finance reform comes from a group of people who believe money is the root of all evil in politics and if you take the money out of the system that somehow ensures a fairer or cleaner election. I disagree with that (vehemently). I believe this bill begins the process of really giving us a way to ensure a fair and clean election."

Beth Fraser from the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action said reforms in Maine and Arizona have changed the political culture of those states.

Candidates found support from people "excited to hear their politician wasn't going to be bought off," she said. Additionally a perception exists

that money buys influence and Maine and Arizona voters were excited their \$5 contribution “really makes a difference.”

Osskopp said other campaign finance reform proposals would do little to change the system other than ensuring that incumbents have an even greater chance of winning re-election.

“You want to take the money out of campaign finance? Please. As an incumbent I beg you keep taking money out of the system because I’ll be here forever and so will you,” Osskopp said. “The less money in the system means the more likely incumbents get re-elected.”

He used the 2000 election as an example, saying that his opponent had no choice but to resort to a negative attack because she lacked name recognition.

Osskopp said the cost of the drafted bill would be about \$30 million for the 2002 election but could be as much as \$60 million depending on the amount spent in the governor’s race.

“This bill says if the people really want a fair and clean election, it’s going to cost a lot of money,” he said.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the cost of the proposed reforms would make it difficult to support at a time where other priorities need be met.

“If I go home after the session in 2002 and they ask me what I accomplished and I say, ‘Well I doubled the (Political Contribution Refund) program so there’s more money for my campaign account and more money for your campaign account... but never mind that we’re going to lay off another 20 teachers at Marshall High School,’ — I’m not real sure that’s something that’s going to go over real well back in my community.”

David Schultz, a Hamline University political science professor, said hard money contributions increased by 264 percent in Minnesota from 1996 to 2000 and soft money contributions increased by 226 percent.

“People are choosing not to vote because of the relationships between money, your perceived behavior, and what they think is going on,” Schultz said.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) questioned the wisdom of acting on perceptions rather than educating the public on “what’s really going on.”

“That’s part of the problem we have in our society,” he said. “We work on perceptions therefore we never take at face value, we don’t trust much anymore, we don’t take people at their word. I’ve always taught my students you trust the person, you take the person at their word until they prove you wrong.”

Continued on page 27



After further review ...

Dome would have kept Gopher football at Memorial Stadium

As the Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota examine plans for a possible domed stadium on the school’s Minneapolis campus, it is not the first time such an arrangement has been proposed.

In the late-1970s a plan was introduced that would transform the university’s Memorial Stadium to a domed facility and more.

A 1979 report by Geiger, Berger, and Associates of New York entitled “A collegiate athletic center and public spectator stadium: University of Minnesota” shows how such a transformation would have taken place and why it was needed.

“Due to weather, design, and present purpose this prime campus space is used for only a fraction of the potential time and does not meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff for year-round lifetime sports activities,” according to a summary of the New York report from the Amateur Sportsman’s Club of Minnesota.

Nevertheless, the report said the stadium had “tremendous potential” to be better utilized. Benefits of a refurbished Memorial Stadium would include improved facilities for intercollegiate activities, plus the ability to provide for physical education classes, as well as leisure time recreational and recreational sports programs. If not at the stadium, the programs would be elsewhere on- or off-campus with less accessibility for all.

Included in the proposed \$63 million project was enclosing the stadium’s west end, lowering the playing field 18 feet for better sight lines in lower seating sections (which would have been made retractable), installing theater-style seats, 102 sky boxes, a new scoreboard/message board, new restrooms and concession stands, and the installation of synthetic turf and a six-lane track.

Seating capacity in a renovated stadium would be 65,000, compared to the previous 53,000 permanent seats.

The facility was to be covered with an air-supported roof made of Teflon-covered fiberglass supported by a network of steel

cables attached to a ring around the stadium.

By comparison, the Metrodome, which opened in 1982, cost \$68 million including team contributions.

Other than a roof, the most striking change was to occur where the horseshoe-shaped stadium was open.

The newly designed west end would have



Memorial Stadium, circa 1960.

enough space for offices and athletic endeavors throughout six levels. Much of the space would be under or behind the stadium seating. The report states that space would be available for “swimming, diving, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton, gymnastics,

squash, handball, boxing, wrestling, judo, karate, golf driving, and weight lifting.

Laboratories for various physical education classes were also proposed in the center along with office spaces on three levels. The center would have open wells between floors.

Three levels of the new center would have been visible through a 30-foot glass wall separating the stadium from Cooke Hall. The glass would have also allowed most offices a view of the stadium field, gymnasium, pool, or outdoors.

Officials forecast the project would produce revenue for the university, the report states, because the facility could be used by outside groups. It could have been home to the Minnesota Vikings, in addition to being made available for special events such as concerts and high school activities.

Professional engineers studied the stadium in 1975 and 1979 and concluded, “The basic frame, exterior wall structure, and foundation are quite solid.” It was also noted that with no repairs the stadium would need to be closed in 10 years.

Reconstruction would have taken 17 months, spanning one football season.

Ultimately the Board of Regents decided in 1981 to move Gopher football games to the Metrodome, effective one year later. Memorial Stadium was demolished in 1992.

(M. Cook)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

★ BUSINESS

Airline aid sought

After the events of Sept. 11, Congress passed a \$15 billion relief package to help the country's struggling airline industry.

The House Taxes Committee met Oct. 2 at Eagan City Hall to discuss whether the state should play a role in further helping Minnesota-based airlines.

Northwest Airlines President Doug Steenland said the terrorist attacks dealt a devastating economic blow to the industry and the unprecedented action by Congress helped preserve and stabilize the health of airlines.

"Without the federal aid package I believe that there was a material risk that the entire United States airline transportation system could have found itself in liquidation," he said.

The grounding of planes across the country following the terrorist attacks and the gradual resumption of service cost airlines more than \$5 billion, Steenland said.

During 2000 the industry employed 1.2 million people and served 670 million passengers, he said. Airlines also paid more than \$10 billion in federal and state employment taxes, along with \$2.2 billion in corporate income, property, and other taxes.

Due to lost revenue, Northwest laid off in

excess of 10,000 employees, including 4,500 in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

"There is no harder decision or one that causes more pain than one which means the loss of jobs and the difficulty that creates for our people and their families," Steenland said.

David Banmiller, president and chief executive officer of Sun Country Airlines, said there are ways the state could provide some relief. He said property tax relief along with changes in the way unemployment insurance tax rates are calculated would help his airline.

"We cannot allow the terrorists who hijacked our country's airplanes to also hijack our country's way of life and way of doing business," he said.

Jeff Hamiel, executive director of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, said the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport also felt a significant impact by the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The bottom line is that this dramatically altered current operations of the airport, and quite frankly the way we will operate from this point forward," he said.

Hamiel said the loss of revenue from sources like parking and food and beverage sales, combined with the loss of fees collected from the airlines prompted much action by the commission, including freezing new hiring and

nonessential purchases and cutting back on capital improvement projects.

One project that continued — the light-rail transit tunnel running underneath the airport — drew criticism from some lawmakers.

"I think it would be money better spent keeping employees on rather than drilling holes," said Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan).

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) expressed concern about the safety of having a tunnel directly underneath the airport where passengers on the light-rail line could get on at any point without any security present.

Hamiel said the commission and Federal Aviation Administration would continue to examine security issues. He added that the commission was continuing to work with the other entities involved to discuss the airport portion of the project.

★ CONSUMERS

Privacy debate

Effective July 1, 2001, the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act concerning the disclosure of nonpublic personal information gives citizens added security in the sharing of their data.

In Minnesota four bills remain from the 2001 legislative session that relate to the legislation. The new act does not preempt state laws containing tougher standards, nor does it prohibit the creation of such.

"I don't mind if Minnesota leads the way in protecting its citizens," Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said at an Oct. 30 joint hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee.

The federal act prohibits the disclosure of nonpublic personal information, such as financial data, unless the consumer was given a chance to opt out. It further requires companies to inform clients of its privacy policy at the start of a relationship and annually thereafter. Many people have since received documents from their banks, credit card companies, and insurance companies offering them the chance to opt out of the information sharing.

The Minnesota attorney general's office has said it supports the notion of keeping health or financial records from being disclosed only after a consumer opts in, such as what was



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

David Banmiller, president and chief executive officer of Sun Country Airlines, tells the House Taxes Committee that the airline's long-term viability was threatened by the events of Sept. 11.

proposed by Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) in HF579. Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsors a Senate companion, SF567.

"Opt in is more consistent with privacy expectations that consumers have," said Erik Lindseth, a lawyer in the office's consumer division.

However, two opt-out bills authored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), chair of the House committee had support as well.

Both HF1493 and HF1983 would enact privacy principles of the federal act into Minnesota insurance laws and would prohibit the disclosure of personal health information without patient consent.

Other than a few technical matters, the primary difference in the bills is where the language comes from. HF1493 is a variation of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' privacy law, and HF1983 comes from the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

HF1493 has no Senate companion. Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven) sponsors a companion to HF1983 (SF1543) in the Senate.

"We believe the opt-out provision in either bill is a necessary and valuable step to protect Minnesota consumers and protect a strong, vital, and healthy financial services industry in Minnesota," Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein said, noting that "tens of thousands" of Minnesotans are employed in the financial services sector.

He said either bill would protect Minnesotans while at the same time still allow financial companies to market their services and products. "We hear from consumers who want information on services that are out there."

A fourth bill (HF2170/SF2042) would incorporate new federal references into state law and permit state enforcement of the act. Davids and Oliver are the sponsors.

No action was taken on any bill.

★ EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted

The slowing economy and the attacks of Sept. 11 have had a major impact on the state's unemployment programs.

The House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee and the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee held a joint hearing in Eagan Oct. 2 to gather background information on how lawmakers should respond to the situation.

"Unfortunately business is up and we are

inundated with layoffs," said Paul D. Moe, director of the Department of Trade and Economic Development's dislocated worker program.

The program aids unemployed workers in finding new jobs by providing services such as resume writing assistance, skill assessment, and by helping remove barriers to employment such as daycare and transportation issues.

Much attention since Sept. 11 has been directed at the impact on the airline industry, but department Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch said many related businesses were also affected.

"When we talk about the ripples not just from the airline industry itself but the broader travel and tourism industry, it is a very large part of our economy here in Minnesota," she said.

Yanisch said that along with the airlines, businesses in the hospitality, restaurant, and related services sector make up a \$7 billion industry in Minnesota, providing more than 170,000 jobs.

The department estimates that for each of the 4,500 layoffs at Northwest Airlines following the Sept. 11 attacks two other jobs will be affected in Minnesota. Nationally, it is estimated that six other jobs will be affected by each layoff as the ripple effect spreads through the industry.

A large number of unemployed workers will also have a direct impact on the state's unemployment compensation program, said John Weidenbach, the unemployment insurance director of the Department of Economic Security.

Unemployed workers are eligible for up to

STATE STRIKE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Striking state employees rally Oct. 10 in front of the State Capitol. The 2001 strike was the largest by state employees in Minnesota history, and lasted from Oct. 1 to Oct. 14.

26 weeks of compensation according to non-partisan staff from House Research. The amount of compensation is based on one-half of the employee's salary up to \$452 per payment.

Kip Hedges, president of Machinists Local 1833, said of the nearly 8,000 members in the union, about 1,300 were laid off by Northwest Airlines and many are now struggling to get by.

"It's not only raining, but there is a hurricane 50 miles off the coast and it's coming closer," he said.

Hedges said the "vast majority" of members affected did not qualify for the airline's severance package, and he urged lawmakers to tie any state assistance to the airline to help for unemployed workers.

★ GOVERNMENT

Task force examines joint work

Several members of the House and Senate have formed a task force to examine ways the Legislature can work together more, particularly in an effort to alleviate the end-of-session crush and make the process more open and accessible to the public.

The task force had its first meetings Oct. 18 and 19. Though the group didn't make any final decisions, members laid the foundational issues that they must resolve while recommending changes to the rules governing joint meetings of the bodies.

Among items discussed, members proposed conducting more joint committee hearings, allowing more flexibility for bills to travel between the House and Senate for the purpose of resolving disagreement, and limiting the hours groups of either body may meet to avoid late night meetings and overtaxing staff.

Top among the task force's priorities is the goal of enhancing the openness and accessibility of the legislative process to Minnesota citizens. Other key goals include improving communication and cooperation between the House and Senate, as well as making the decision-making process more open and deliberative.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) and Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) served as co-chairs of the group.

Members suggested that the House and Senate could eliminate confusion on appropriations bills by establishing in the joint rules which bills will specifically be debated.

Both House and Senate rules now dictate specifically which omnibus appropriations bills will be debated. However, they are not the same, which can cause significant delay and

confusion when a conference committee is required to work out the differences.

Another proposal to alleviate that problem would allow the House and Senate to "shuttle" bills back and forth, acting on amendments and other items, in an effort to reach agreement without a conference committee, or only a short conference committee.

Members suggested this proposal would further open up the process and give members more of a stake in each provision of the bill.

Joint committee meetings, where members of both the House and Senate would be allowed to vote on measures, were also proposed to the task force.

Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) discussed a bill she proposed during the 2001 session, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) in the House, which would encourage the development of more joint committees, similar to those that operate in several other states.

One of the primary concerns expressed by the task force involved how large and unwieldy joint committees could become, and the physical space they demand for meetings. Members also pointed out the deliberate differences between the House and the Senate that may be lost in a joint committee.

Krentz acknowledged the concerns, but emphasized how far joint committees could go in resolving differences early on and making testifying easier for both state agency staff and citizens as they'd only have to go before the committee once.

The plan would allow members of both bodies to have the same information for reference, and Krentz said she felt joint committees would allow members to create better policy for the state.

The task force plans to meet at least twice more before the legislative session begins Jan. 29, 2002, at which time it will make recommendations to the full Legislature.

★ HEALTH

Abortion funding, protection

Two bills relating to public funding of abortion services and rights to those services provided in the Minnesota Constitution were presented for discussion before a joint House committee Nov. 13.

The House Civil Law and Health and Human Services Policy committees met to hear the bills. No votes were taken.

The first bill (HF657), sponsored by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), challenges public funding for abortion services. The bill proposes to amend the Minnesota Constitu-

tion to say that it does not compel the state to use its own funds for abortion services. Such a measure would require approval from both the full Legislature and a majority of voters at the next general election.

At the root of the debate is a Minnesota Supreme Court case from the early 1990s that ruled unconstitutional a state law that prohibited the use of state funds for abortion services with certain exceptions. Those are that the abortion would be necessary to prevent the mother's death or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

In the case, *Doe v. Gomez*, which was decided in December 1995, the Minnesota Supreme Court held that the funding prohibition infringed on an individual's right to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy.

At issue in the case was whether the state could offer medical assistance payments for the full range of birth-related health care services but deny state aid for abortion services. The court determined that such a situation unduly influenced a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy.

The decision says the state cannot refuse either medical assistance or general assistance medical care payments for women acquiring abortion services when necessary for "therapeutic care." The decision does not define therapeutic.

However, a dissenting opinion in the case noted that funding decisions should solely be determined by the Legislature and exercising a constitutional right does not necessarily entitle a person to governmental financial aid.

Lipman's bill would effectively reverse the *Gomez* decision by placing the language directly in the constitution, rather than in law. He argued that the court's decision oversteps separations of power between the legislative and judicial branches.

The *Gomez* case contended that the plaintiffs had health conditions, which were aggravated by a pregnancy and therefore doctors recommended abortion to alleviate the problems. Several witnesses testified that the conditions cited were treatable and did not necessarily endanger either the life of the mother or potentially the life of the fetus.

Others argued that abortion is an elective procedure and as such would not be covered by most insurance plans. Supporters of Lipman's bill also contended public funding of abortion is technically a subsidy for a service provided by private businesses.

The other bill (HF54), sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), proposes a constitutional amendment to require that the Minnesota Constitution be interpreted the same as the U.S. Constitution with regard to the ability to obtain abortion services.

Kielkucki said as a result of the *Gomez* case, the Minnesota Constitution has been interpreted to provide broader protection for abortion services than the U.S. Constitution allows. For example, a federal law prohibits any federal funds from being spent to fund abortion unless such a procedure is necessary to save the life of the mother or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

Former Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman was one of only two witnesses testifying against the measure at the hearing. He said the moral issues surrounding abortion should have no impact on the decision whether public funds are allocated to pay for them.

The fundamental decision, he said, is whether all people will stand the same under the law. He urged the committee to treat all women the same, regardless of economic status.

Several committee members questioned whether either proposal would affect abortion services only, or could be interpreted to also affect birth control. Authorities testified that Minnesota law defines abortion and under that definition, birth control would not be affected.

★ INDUSTRY

Patrolling petroleum prices

Two leading state officials disagreed regarding whether Minnesota gas stations participated in price gouging the evening of Sept. 11.

Fifteen days later, Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein told members at a joint hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development and Senate Telecommunications, Energy and Utilities committees that panic buying by the public led to some retailers raising their gas price to between \$3 and \$5 per gallon.

In the days following the terrorist attacks, Bernstein talked to some owners whose stations raised their prices, and he was told they did so to prevent further panic, believing that customers wouldn't continue to buy gas if it was selling for such an abnormally high price.

But Attorney General Mike Hatch said blaming the consumers was wrong, and that in a time of crisis some station owners were taking advantage of the situation.

"It's absolutely hogwash for this administration to blame the consumer for the price gouging that was taking place," Hatch said. "This isn't a private market we're talking about. We're talking about a utility that is very important to the mobile society we live in. On

Tuesday, Sept. 11 we were at a point of a crisis. In a time of a crisis you don't pig out."

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) said that prior to Sept. 11 the House committee had planned a hearing to discuss the lack of gas price stability in the state. The night of the attacks he received a phone call from a constituent wondering what the Legislature was going to do about stations charging more than twice the amount that they charged prior to the attack.

Davids said he also talked to some station owners in the following days. They said that they received a fax from suppliers warning that they could not guarantee the supply or price of gas.

Bernstein said Gov. Jesse Ventura's administration believes putting a cap on the price retailers can charge customers would ultimately limit supply and cause price increases.

"It would be catastrophic for Minnesota," Bernstein said. "The marketplace in Minnesota does work effectively. Despite some price spikes and temporary shortages, we have a very competitive marketplace. We have choices no matter where we live in Minnesota where to buy gasoline."

Hatch said that a press conference that he, Davids, and Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) had called questioning why some stations raised their gas prices so high caused station owners to correct their prices.

Although he doesn't support regulating the price of gasoline, Hatch said lawmakers should continue to look at what happened. He said 14 states have passed legislation allowing the governor to declare a state of emergency during which time the state could regulate a utility.

★ INSURANCE

Fraud reform

Insurance fraud is on the increase in Minnesota, the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee was told Nov. 13.

"Insurance fraud happens every day and is big business in Minnesota," said Sandy Drendel, a team manager with the State Farm Insurance Special Investigation Unit. She said the cost of insurance fraud in the state is estimated at around \$2.4 billion a year.

Howard Goldblatt from the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud said the problem is growing nationwide. Fraud ultimately causes premiums to increase and affects the cost of doing business in a state.

Goldblatt said that in Brooklyn, N.Y., it isn't uncommon for a 20-year-old to pay between \$2,000 and \$5,000 for automobile insurance,

in large part due to fraudulent claims. He did not say how long that fee provided coverage.

"The issue is real, the impact is real, and it involves real money," said Bob Johnson, representing the Insurance Federation of Minnesota.

Now Minnesota policymakers are looking to follow states such as New York, Florida, and New Jersey that have passed laws designed to go after those who participate in fraudulent practices. However, no bills have yet been put forth.

Committee members were told insurance fraud is difficult to prosecute because of a lack of resources and the complexity of crimes that often involve numerous individuals and jurisdictions.

Drendel said in one case a person who filed a claim involving a house fire admitted to setting fires in five different parts of the house but ultimately was not prosecuted.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said legislation should be targeted at specific holes in current law until the magnitude of the problem can be properly determined. Overly broad legislation could end up hurting "innocent injured people," he said.

Committee Chair Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) agreed. "We don't want to get to the point where we think that all claims are fraud because clearly they're not."

Department of Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein said the administration will likely support legislation creating an insurance fraud unit inside the department.

"The purpose of the fraud unit is to go after fraud," Bernstein said. "Its purpose is not to enable the insurance industry to deny claims."

Bernstein said the unit should be a public-private partnership that would have a four- or five-year limit after which time the Legislature could come back and review the effectiveness of the unit.

★ RECREATION

Stadium funding debate

The Minnesota Twins may be down to their last at-bat, but 18 individuals have begun to meet about a way to help extend the game.

A Tripartisan Task Force on Stadium Issues gathered Nov. 20 for the first of eight tentative meetings. The group, consisting of representatives, senators, government officials, and members of the public, are to examine whether the state should get involved in construction of a new stadium for the Twins and/or a shared facility for the Vikings and University of Minnesota.

The House, Senate, and Gov. Jesse Ventura

appointed an equal number of members to the task force.

Much of the first-day discussion centered on the benefits of the Twins to the state — on and off the field.

Former players Bert Blyleven, Kent Hrbek, Harmon Killebrew, and Kirby Puckett testified about the value of baseball to Minnesota and of the importance of having players being active in the community. Hrbek said he has a golf tournament for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year and Puckett recently raised \$500,000 with his celebrity pool tournament.

"Between Kirby and I we've raised \$7 million to \$8 million that stays in the community. And we're just two guys," Hrbek said.

"Every Minnesotan treasures people like (Hrbek and Puckett) and what they do for this state," said State Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock, a task force member. But, she emphasized, the task force needs to remember its duty is to look at what is the rationale for public investment in a new stadium.

Other task force members asked if a new stadium would mean more fans, and presumably more money for the team, resulting in better players and a consistently competitive team on the field.

"It will not make the Twins an automatic World Series winner," Hrbek said. "You still need to play it on the field."

"We continue to be the only sports team that's won anything," Puckett said as he and members laughed.

Other discussion centered on what Congress is doing regarding baseball's antitrust exemption, and the Twins' ability to break their lease to play the 2002 season in the Metrodome.

Andy Shea, an attorney working with the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, said Major League Baseball cannot interfere with the contract. "The games are scheduled and they will go on."

Upcoming task force meetings are scheduled to discuss the plight of Vikings and Gophers in their attempt to get a new, shared facility (Dec. 6), and a public hearing in Alexandria on Dec. 13. A meeting in Rochester is tentatively planned for Jan. 15.

Information on meeting dates, agendas, and times is available on the Web at www.house.leg.state.mn.us/taskforces/stadium.htm.

Task force members are also encouraging residents to submit comments to them via e-mail at stadium@house.leg.state.mn.us. Committee staffers are looking into the possibility of a phone line whereby people can leave voice mail messages. More information on that is expected at a future meeting.



Former Minnesota Twins Kent Hrbek, left, and Kirby Puckett testify about the impact baseball and its players have in the community during the first meeting of the Tripartisan Task Force on Stadium Issues.

★ SAFETY

Concealed carry continues

Members of the House Civil Law Committee met in Austin Oct. 29 to hear testimony on a bill that stalled during the 2001 session — but in the Senate, not the House.

HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), passed the House 85-46 on April 9. The bill would change the conditions under which permits to carry concealed weapons are granted in the state.

The bill's Senate companion, sponsored by Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington), failed to move out of committee last session.

As it passed the House, the bill would make Minnesota a "shall issue" state concerning concealed weapons permits, thereby requiring county sheriffs to grant permits if applicants meet certain criteria as defined in law.

Under existing law, permits are granted or denied by either the sheriff or the police chief, depending on the size of the community. For example, a person living in Minneapolis, St. Paul, or Rochester would submit an application to the police chief, rather than the county sheriff, because in that instance, the city has a larger department than the county.

The bill would also require that the applicant pass a series of background checks, complete a gun safety course, not be listed in the state's criminal gang registry, and be at least 21. Penalties for violating certain firearm laws would also be stiffened under the bill.

Boudreau, and witnesses supporting the bill, said existing law allows "law-abiding" people to be denied permits based on "personal bias or political influence." She said the hearing would help raise awareness of the issue statewide.

"Citizens living in one community are not less deserving than citizens in another community," she said. "Peace officers alone cannot protect life. We need the citizens, and yes, sometimes armed citizens."

Law enforcement officers, gun safety instructors, and businesspeople, who say they are vulnerable given their duties and the distances they travel, testified to being denied a permit, though they felt they demonstrated a need.

Others testified that only geography affected permit decisions. Art Pavlish, who lives just outside of the Rochester city limits, recently received a permit in Olmsted County after being denied a permit when clerks mistakenly thought he was applying to the Rochester police chief.

Olmsted County Sheriff Steve Borchardt, who testified at the hearing on behalf of the state county sheriff's association, agreed that current law can be inconsistent, which is bad public policy. However, the association still opposes changes to law as they appear in the bill.

Borchardt cited a number of concerns and places where compromise might be possible:

- Many sheriff's departments do not have the resources to process all the applications that will likely be submitted.
- Police chiefs should be equal partners in granting permits because of knowledge of their communities.
- Local officials need some discretion to account for items that would not appear on background checks, such as violent misdemeanor offenses, chemical dependency, and delinquent child support.

Two health professionals spoke against the bill, citing public health concerns. Rebecca Thoman, executive director of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, testified that statistics show 70 percent of firearms deaths in the state are suicide.

She also said the proposal would not allow authorities to consult with families of possibly mentally ill applicants to determine whether they would be capable of handling a firearm.

"Crime is not what this is really all about," Thoman said. "What we need to be concerned about is the accessibility of a loaded firearm."

Highlights continued on page 23

Going up

Hearings offer information as to why health care costs are increasing, along with premiums

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Hoyt Hsiao operates Shaw-Lindquist Assoc., Inc., a small construction company in Eagan employing about 135 people. While most of those employees are covered by collective bargaining, the company must buy health insurance for 25 office staff.

Historically the company, begun by Hsiao's father, has committed to 100 percent coverage for employees, Hsiao said. However, employees have had to bear more of the cost since 1994. And in the past three years, serious medical conditions in the small group, coupled with high costs, has driven premiums to nearly \$9,000 annually per person, while benefit levels are going down.

Those are the consequences of insuring a small group of people in today's marketplace, he said.

Hsiao was one of several citizens and business owners who participated in a series of hearings held around the state by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee in an effort to address the rapidly escalating costs. Hsiao testified Sept. 26 at the committee hearing in Vadnais Heights.

Committee Chair Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said the increasing cost of health care is the most important issue in health care. The hearings were an effort to find solutions the Legislature could explore to help contain costs.

"If you continue to have the escalating costs and those get passed around between employers and employees and so forth," he said, "that's not going to sustain itself. It comes to the place of being unaffordable."

In addition to the Vadnais Heights hearing, members gathered to hear testimony in Hallock Oct. 3, Fergus Falls Oct. 4, and Northfield Oct. 16.

At the Sept. 26 meeting, Julie Sonier from the Health Economics

Program at the state Department of Health gave a brief overview of health insurance in Minnesota, including sources, private market trends, and issues surrounding mandated benefits.

In 1999, 72 percent of Minnesotans had private health insurance, with another 23 percent receiving insurance through one of several public programs. Only 5 percent of the state population was uninsured.

As for employers who offer coverage, most medium-sized firms and large firms — those

with 50 or more employees — make insurance available to employees. A high percentage of smaller firms do not offer insurance.

In addition, according to the most recent survey, about 85 percent of employees purchase health insurance through their employers statewide.

A higher percentage of employees purchase insurance in the Twin Cities metropolitan area than in Greater Minnesota, as well. Plan specifications and wages may be factors affecting that, Sonier said.

Though current survey information is not available, officials estimate that nearly 70 percent of insurance costs are still absorbed by employers.

Data does establish a trend in the private health insurance market toward increasing premiums, according to Sonier's presentation.

Premiums began increasing in 1998 and rose more than 10 percent in both 1999 and 2000.

Sonier also showed that expenses actually increased beginning in 1995 and premiums were not immediately increased to cover those costs. The sharp spike at the end of the 1990s may be explained by the need for insurers to cover the increased costs.

Nevertheless, that correction seems to have stopped, and increased premiums do seem to reflect increased costs, she said. Preliminary estimates also suggest costs will slow down in the near future.

Sonier's presentation addressed issues that may contribute to increased health care costs, such as labor costs, a disconnect between price and consumption of services, a surge in prescription drug expenses, technology, and some other factors such as health care labor market shortages.

In reference to mandated costs, Sonier said, surveys do not indicate a direct causal relationship between mandated benefits and increase premiums. While they do raise costs, they realistically only account for about 7 percent of increases. It depends more on the nature of mandates than the actual number of mandates, she said.

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PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Anne Lundstrom of All Flex, Inc. testifies on the increased cost of health care for her employees during an Oct. 16 hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee in Northfield.

Cashing in

American Indian tribes provide mixed support for state-run casino as economic development and revenue-raising tool



PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mille Lacs Band Princess Jada Grapp and Mille Lacs Band Elder Beatrice Taylor testify against a state-run casino while Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, below, testifies for a state-run casino during an Oct. 18 hearing of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in St. Cloud.

By DAVID MAEDA

Profits from the 18 American Indian-owned casinos in Minnesota have helped some reservations address a variety of economic issues. Now some policy makers believe that allowing the state to participate in casino gambling would provide similar benefits to the state while not severely affecting American Indian gaming.

However, while they're getting support for some sort of partnership from the state's two largest tribes, lawmakers are hearing protests from other parts of the American Indian community.

The idea of a state-run casino has been banned about for many years. In times of budget deficits where the need for additional revenue is more clear, proposals to boost revenue have been discussed on a variety of issues ranging from sports stadium funding to rural economic development projects.

The House Governmental Operations and



Veterans Affairs Policy Committee took public testimony in St. Cloud Oct. 18 on proposed plans for a state-run casino. The committee has

scheduled further hearings Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 in St. Paul to discuss four casino bills.

Two of the state's largest tribes, the White Earth Band and Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, have expressed some support for a partnership with the state in a jointly owned casino.

The two tribes do not belong to the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association. Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Band, said his tribe was once a member of the association but later decided the interests of the tribe were not being served.

Whitefeather said partnering with the state would help the tribe meet its development challenges and develop its economy.

He said the number of tribal members that receive assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state assistance program for low-income families, has continued to increase.

Existing gaming revenue has helped pay for essential government services, he said, but revenue from a joint partnership with the state in operating a casino in the Twin Cities metropolitan area would help provide increased funding for concerns such as health care and housing shortages for tribal members.

John McCarthy, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, said a state-run casino would "destroy the good work that has been done by tribal governments."

He said tribal governments paid \$15.9 million in fees and services to local units of government in 2000 and the casinos have provided great economic benefit not only to the tribes but also to surrounding communities.

"Tribal gaming has spawned the growth of reservation economies like no other economic development tool," McCarthy said.

Jada Grapp, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, urged committee members not to allow anything that would take away necessary revenue. A student at Nah Ah Shing, one of the four tribal contract schools in the state, she said gaming has helped preserve culture and tradition in American Indian communities.

"All across the United States Indian culture is beginning to disappear. Without Indian gaming, many of these cultures would have died," she said.

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At the ready

State agencies examine legal authority, contingency plans, and preparedness in the face of possible threats of bioterrorism

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

In the wake of anthrax scares across the United States following the Sept. 11 tragedies, Minnesotans are turning to state officials for the answer they want to hear: we're safe.

And officials are willing to reply in kind, but they're also admonishing the public to have a level head and use good common sense in digesting the information people see, hear, and read.

They're also being cautious to suggest that while the state is ahead of most other states, there's still a lot of work to do.

"Minnesota has one of the strongest public health systems in the country," said Jan Malcolm, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health. "I don't want to kid you. As strong as those (preparedness) plans are, as strong as our basic framework for public health protection is in this state, we do appreciate that the events of Sept. 11 put everything into a new context, and that what once was almost unimaginable to us now is something that we think we need to ... make sure that we have the actual practical capacity to respond to."

Malcolm further suggested that Minnesotans need good information about the threats that exist and inaccurate information may have caused many in Minnesota and around the nation to panic needlessly.

"I would say that we are not at this moment in time facing a public health crisis in this country," she said. "We're facing a communications and education crisis about the nature of these issues and what we as a society can do and must do to respond to them."

Malcolm testified at the Nov. 5 joint hearing of the House Crime Prevention and Health and Human Services Policy committees, the second such hearing called to address public



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

John Callinan, a St. Paul postal inspector, testifies on the post office's preparedness for bioterrorism before a Nov. 5 joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy and Crime Prevention committees.

safety in Minnesota following the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and New York City.

The House Judiciary Finance and Crime Prevention committees also met jointly Oct. 11 to discuss the state's preparedness. However, officials said they're concerned about the way people are reacting to anthrax occurrences nationwide.

"There's a whole new perspective on white powdery substances," joked Rep. Fran

Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the health policy committee, in his opening comments. Bradley said he didn't intend to diminish the seriousness of bioterrorism but wanted to bring some perspective to the situation.

"I hope today we can take a deep breath," he said. "Let's at least do this from a rational, common sense, good science approach."

Officials from state agencies charged with guarding public health and public safety testified about the state's preparedness from two fronts: what the state is prepared for and what the Legislature may need to do during the 2002 session to maintain that level of readiness.

Several projects already in progress Sept. 11 put Minnesota ahead of most states, officials said.

Officials had previously recognized the need for more cooperation between different agencies with expertise in terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. As a result, federal and state officials formed a joint terrorism task force in 2000. It falls under the direction of the FBI.

"We were sorely lacking that type of cooperation," said Hennepin County Sheriff Pat McGowan, who spoke on behalf of the task force at the Oct. 11 hearing. As a result of the task force, he said, "I think in Minnesota, we were way ahead of the curve."

McGowan and several other officials emphasized that the task force has helped improve inter-agency communication to an unprecedented high level.

"I have never witnessed the cooperation of federal and local agencies as I have here," said Ray Morrow, as-

sistant special agent in charge of the Minneapolis office of the FBI.

Federal funds also helped start a special unit in the Minnesota National Guard intended to perform field detection of chemical weapons. The unit is trained to examine and identify substances that may or may not be dangerous.

Lt. Col. Earl Juskowiak commands the

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Minnesota remembers

35,000 travel to the State Capitol after Sept. 11 attacks to mourn, reflect, and find renewed hope in the face of terrorism



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

About 35,000 people gather in front of the Minnesota State Capitol Sept. 16 for the Minnesota Remembers ceremony. Gov. Jesse Ventura called the event as a chance for Minnesotans to send their wishes to the victims of Sept. 11 and gather to mourn the lost lives.

Gov. Jesse Ventura summoned Minnesotans to the State Capitol Sept. 16 for a memorial service following the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Minnesotans need to come together to deal with the tragedies, Ventura said.

And about 35,000 answered his call, despite the rainy weather and long distances.

The event, "Minnesota Remembers: A Memorial from the Heartland," brought more than just individuals and families looking for some comfort in the time of turmoil. Emergency personnel, members of the armed forces, veterans, and community leaders also participated to mourn the victims and to honor those in New York and Washington who were risking their lives to help save others.

Thousands of American flags dotted the crowd and dozens of fire trucks with raised buckets lined John Ireland Boulevard between the Capitol and the St. Paul Cathedral.

Music, moving speeches, military formations, and poignant moments of silence marked the ceremony. Those in attendance had the opportunity to send wishes and donations to the people of New York, which Gov. Ventura delivered later in September.

As a tribute to the Minnesotans who were lost in the Sept. 11 tragedies and those emergency personnel who risked their lives in the rescue effort, the *Session Weekly* staff has assembled the following pages.

On them, you will find the heartfelt words of Erik Aamoth, a House employee who lost his brother in the World Trade Center. You will see the powerful images impressed upon those who attended the service.

You will also find reflections from staff of the House Public Information Office in attendance at the ceremony. We hope you find them both a comfort and sign of hope during this time of crisis in our country.

— THE EDITORS

Standing together important after attacks

It was raining.

I spent most of the morning Sept. 16 hoping the heavy gray clouds would disappear and the sun would shine on the Sept. 11 memorial service scheduled that afternoon at the State Capitol. Instead, the skies decided to open as I was getting ready to leave.

The weather left me in a decidedly uncertain mood. But it didn't affect my resolve to attend the memorial. The minute it was announced, I contacted many of my closest friends to see if they would accompany me and then join me at my home for a warm-up and some very needed conversation.

I wanted nothing more than to have those people whom I value most in my life, outside of my family, with me. Together we had just celebrated the wedding of my closest friend. And together, we mourned the loss of life and acknowledged an event that had jarred us all to our very core.

It's selfish, but I know for a fact that all of us were extremely thankful we hadn't lost anyone in the Sept. 11 tragedies. I fought back tears as I heard the strength in Erik Aamoth's voice as he spoke about his brother, whom he lost in the World Trade Center.

My heart went out to him as I thought about my own brother and how much I love him, how his wife has become like a sister to me, and how much joy his beautiful children bring to my life.

The tears flowed freely when I thought about losing that.

I looked over at my friend who was accompanied by her brother, a former U.S. Navy officer. He worked on the fighter jets – probably some of the same ones flying over Afghanistan now. He spent six months on the U.S.S.

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Sept. 11 forced a focus on the important things in life

"We have done with Hope and Honour, we are lost to Love and Truth. We are dropping down the ladder rung by rung. And the measure of our torment is the measure of our youth. God help us, for we knew the worst too young."

-Rudyard Kipling

I had marked Sept. 11 in my calendar months in advance. For me it was supposed to be a day of celebration and duty. It was the day I had agreed to serve as an election judge, partly out of a sense of civic responsibility. It was also the day my favorite writer, Bob Dylan, was set to release a new CD of 12 original songs. I couldn't wait to hear what the man had to say.

As the events of the day unfolded it, of course, became a day of something entirely different that no words or deeds could explain.

It all seemed too big (and certainly too scary) to comprehend, let alone believe. It was more than mourning the loss of so many lives. It was more than the absurdity of trying to come to grips with how anyone could commit such a horrendous act of hatred.

Like so many others, the days after were spent trying to maintain some kind of equilibrium while at the same time not knowing what to do next.

One undeniable outcome of the terrorist attacks of New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. is that it has forced people to think a little about what being an American is about. The senselessness of the attack made us want to pull together and to mourn as a nation.

Likewise, one of the things I've learned as I've struggled to deal with the grief over my mom's death two years ago was that seeing her die, holding her hand as she breathed her

last breath, forever changed my perspective on things. It wasn't as if I could ever just go back to every day life and get as upset about trivial things especially after losing such a valued perspective and close friend.

In a way Sept. 11 touched a similar vein. Lifelong irritants and pet peeves like people who don't use their turn signals, people who don't return phone calls, and people who make promises they fail to keep aren't worth getting upset over in the long run. Life is too short to let yourself be bothered by such things.

Thus, I was glad when my favorite new

mother asked if I wanted to go with her to the service being held on the State Capitol steps Sept. 16. We walked down Summit Avenue in the drizzle and were immediately impressed by the fire trucks from cities throughout the state lined up and down John Ireland Boulevard with their ladders extended and with flags atop each one. Equally impressive was the huge flag on the roof of the Cathedral, currently under renovation.

I'm not one who usually enjoys being in crowds, but



Gretke Langeland Dillion from Wayzata holds her daughter Samantha Martin as they listen to speakers during the Minnesota Remembers ceremony.

PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHIED



Flowers wrapped in wax paper, an American flag, and a message in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Washington.



Message written in English and Arabic rest on the Capitol steps, left in New York City, and Pennsylvania.

it was nice being able to share in the moment and spirit with 35,000 others — and one of my best friends. I even got to hold the divine baby. To have lil’ Henry Louis look up at me with the bluest of eyes and then grin was a breathtaking, life-affirming moment.

That grin may just have been an innocent reflex, but it was full of reassurance nonetheless.

Who knows what kind of world Henry will know 20 years down the road, but the values and spirit so present that day was remindful of some lyrics from Dylan’s CD: “Po’ boy, never say die. Things will be all right, by and by.”

(D. MAEDA)

‘...My brother will always be alive to me.’

Editor’s Note: The following is the text of the speech delivered by Erik Aamoth on Sept. 16 at the State Capitol memorial service, “Minnesota Remembers: A Memorial from the Heartland.” Aamoth’s brother, Gordy, was working in the World Trade Center Sept. 11 and is presumed dead. Aamoth was asked to speak on behalf of the Minnesota families who lost a loved one in the Sept. 11 tragedies. Aamoth is the committee administrator for the Economic Development and Tourism Division of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee.



Erik Aamoth

I am honored to be here representing my brother Gordy, my family and friends, and all the Minnesotans, including Tom Burnett and Charles Burlingame, who were victimized by the tragedy that shook New York and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11.

I would first like to thank the members of the organizing committee, Governor Ventura, the House, and the Senate for arranging this celebration of the lives of Tuesday’s victims.

I would also like to pay my heartfelt respect to the members of the rescue community who have risked their lives in the face of extreme danger. My family and I are forever indebted to the firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency personnel for your valiant efforts.

My brother is alive.

He will be alive to me for the rest of my life. Whether he has survived (pause) or not, my brother will always be alive to me. He was my hero when I was a child and my friend when I was an adult. I loved him because he was true to himself. I used to call him the “Great Gatsby” because of his majestic, sometimes flamboyant personality. I loved him for his vanity, how he always had to be the center of attention. I loved him for his sense of humor; he had a way of needling me — sometimes it made me want to punch him in the nose — but most of the time it made me laugh, and I knew he was really telling me he loved me. I will miss his unique sense of style, his big smile, and his mischievous laugh. But most of all I miss his heart.

Gordy loved his family. He was always giving my parents tips on raising my brother and me, and even after I grew up he loved to tell me what to do. I rarely listened, but I tolerated his suggestions because I knew his heart was in the right place. Gordy lived the last nine years of his life in New York. He was infatuated with the fast pace, big business, and the lifestyle there. But judging from the hundreds of phone calls, cards, and well wishers that we have received this week, I know his heart never left Minnesota. My family and I will never be able to express our gratitude to those who supported us in our time of need.

Normally, we think of heroes as soldiers of war or rescue people, like the ones represented here. But I think Gordy and the other victims of this attack are also heroes because they gave up their lives pursuing their dreams: working, striving, achieving, and exercising the freedoms that define democracy. The hijackers attacked those freedoms, they took away our countrymen, they took away our friends, and they took away our family members. But they can never take away our way of life, and they can never take away our memories of these fallen heroes.

This has been a difficult week for the Aamoth family — as it has been for many others. We have cried and we have mourned. But our family has discovered a strength and unity that we never knew we had. I hope the memory of the heroism of Gordy and the other victims will help all of us, around the world, discover the same strength and unity.

Thank you again, and God Bless America!



Presiding Bishop-Elect Mark Hanson from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America speaks on behalf of the religious community, emphasizing the need for tolerance following Sept. 11. Representatives from all facets of the religious community in the Twin Cities participated in the event.

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Enterprise that helped patrol the Persian Gulf.

One of the first things his parents told him after the Sept. 11 tragedy was how thankful they were he wasn't enlisted anymore. I saw that same thankfulness in his wife's eyes as she reached for his hand at the memorial service.

But I also saw the tremendous pride that he carries while wearing his jacket from the Enterprise. Though he's not in active service anymore, his heart is still there and he knows the important role the armed forces play.

He felt a true respect shown by those in attendance that day for all current and former members of the U.S. military.

Sept. 11 did at least one good thing. It made us appreciate what we have.

But beyond the immediate effects of Sept. 11 were the subtle fears it conjured in all of us. We no longer felt safe to move about the country at will. Terrorists used many of our own freedoms against us and we didn't know how to react to that.

We were looking to our leaders to tell us what to do, where to go, how to respond. Maybe that's why so many people showed up on the Capitol lawn that rainy Sunday.

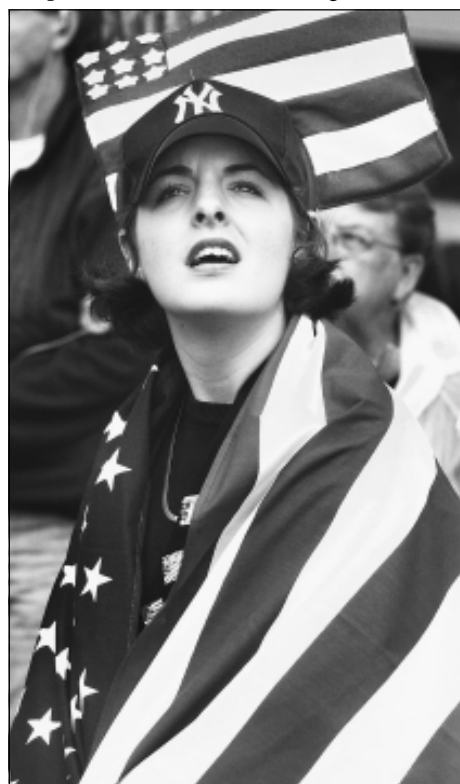
I have a hunch that it was something more than that. Lots of experts have speculated that Sept. 11 was a wake-up call to our patriotism. But I think it goes even further.

For the first time in my life, the Sept. 16 memorial helped me understand the vehement patriotism my parents had always taught us. They had lived through wars — both of them were born just before the inception of

World War II. They remember Pearl Harbor.

My grandfather lost his sight in World War I. My mother was active in military booster organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars during her youth.

In our house, you didn't fly the Stars and Stripes without understanding how it was



Shelly Lee of St. Paul wraps herself in the flag as she watches doves being released during the Minnesota Remembers ceremony Sept. 16 on the State Capitol grounds.

taken care of. You didn't hear the Star Spangled Banner without standing, making sure your hat or cap were removed, and placing a hand respectfully over your heart.

I never truly understood why that was so important. Sure, they're symbols of our ancestors' sacrifices and we understand their historical significance. But it never seemed like something I would personally have to face.

I've never really had to deal with such a serious threat to our nation before. I was too young to really remember Vietnam. The Gulf War wasn't real to me — it never quite seemed like our fight. And it seemed like it was over as soon as it began.

But that Sunday in September, the importance became so real to me it was almost overwhelming. It's hard for me to put into words the feeling of looking all around you and knowing everyone is feeling the same thing.

Every speech evoked applause and respect — and sometimes cheering. Military formations brought the crowd to its feet. Hundreds of emergency personnel illustrated their proud traditions with uniforms and equipment. Everyone in the crowd was waving a flag — some large enough to put on a pole, others small enough to hold in your hand. And the toot of a fire engine's horn prompted many to wave a flag or raise an arm in salute.

We knew in a minute that we needed one another — that no matter what our differences, it was vitally important that we be unified. It was never more evident than when my friends all clasped hands and bowed our heads in prayer with the crowd, and many of them didn't even believe in prayer prior to Sept. 11.

It was a tremendously comforting feeling at a time when it seemed our notions of safety were crumbling around us.

Here's another good thing about Sept. 11 — that week, Americans everywhere began reaching out to one another for help and support.

And the most wonderfully affirming thing happened just as the memorial service began. The rain stopped. Though the sun didn't shine brightly through the clouds, it did warm St. Paul that afternoon.

It gave us all a renewed strength that was palpable to everyone there. And with that strength we stood defiantly together, ready to conquer enemies of our country and our way of life — while still protecting the freedoms that accompany it.

(M. KIBIGER)

Safety first

Changes implemented at Capitol buildings since terrorist attacks, but officials focus on maintaining business as usual

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Security at the State Capitol has changed since the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington, D.C. and New York City. However, officials do not intend to make security so onerous as to restrict the regular business conducted in the buildings.

School groups, special tours, and seasonal events continue at the State Capitol unperturbed. And officials are being careful not to alarm patrons or overemphasize security at the Capitol when there have been no credible threats to the building or its occupants.

"I think it's safer today than it was Sept. 10," said Capt. Tom Fraser, head of Capitol Security, "because of the environment and not because of what we're doing now."

Fraser says that there are always individuals who may target the State Capitol because it's the seat of government for Minnesota. Sept. 11 had no effect on that. But citizens are more aware because of Sept. 11, which helps officials notice unusual circumstances before they become a problem.

The committee that oversees Capitol security recently recommended several changes that will continue the efforts to better monitor people in Capitol complex buildings. Fraser said he thinks the enhanced measures will serve as a deterrent to any inappropriate or potentially destructive behavior.

All buildings in the complex have been limited to one public entrance, with the exception of the Capitol building itself. Plans are to place security guards at the public entrances to register and monitor visitors during regular business hours.

"No matter where you come into the system, you have to pass by someone" and at a minimum show identification, Fraser said. "If you've got that sometimes people will refuse" and simply leave the building.

There are no immediate plans to institute metal detection devices at the entrances, unless there is a particular incident that would warrant such high security, Fraser said.

Officials note there needs to be a balance between the security needs of the complex and

the fact that they are public buildings, historical monuments to government attended daily by regular citizens. Fraser said security should not be too restrictive.

"Nobody wants the Capitol and the (State Office Building) to become fortresses," said

Charlie Weaver, commissioner of the state Department of Public Safety at a recent hearing where he addressed Capitol security. "But we certainly need to be smart."

In keeping with the philosophy of preparedness, the oversight committee also recommended purchasing four more metal detection devices (both stationary and handheld wands) for the Capitol complex. The detectors would only be used if a situation warranted increased security, Fraser said.

Capitol Security already has one metal

Continued on page 23

New public entrances on the State Capitol Complex

After Sept. 11, Capitol Security instituted a new policy that limits access to buildings on the Capitol complex to only one or two entry points. Those open entrances are listed below.

Building	Services	Public access door
Administration 50 Sherburne Ave.	State Treasurer	Sherburne Avenue entrance
Centennial 658 Cedar St.	Legislative Auditor, Campaign Finance Board, Department of Finance, Minnesota Planning, Department of Employee Relations	Cedar Street entrance
Ford 117 University Ave.	Minnesota Bookstore	University Avenue entrance
History Center 345 Kellogg Blvd.	Historical Society, libraries, exhibits	Kellogg Boulevard entrance*
Judicial Center 25 Constitution Ave.	State court system, law library, Supreme Court	South main entrance on Constitution Avenue
Stassen 600 North Robert St.	Department of Revenue	Robert Street front entrance
State Capitol 75 Constitution Ave.	DFL Senators, legislative hearings, legislative offices, governor, lt. governor, attorney general	South main entrance**
State Office 100 Constitution Ave.	All House members, Republican Senators, legislative hearings, and commission's offices, secretary of state, legislative reference library	All first floor entrances
Transportation 395 John Ireland Blvd.	Department of Transportation	Rice Street entrance
Veterans Service 20 West 12th Street	Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota National Guard	west wing lobby entrance

*John Ireland Boulevard entrance will remain open for tour groups.

**West entrance along Constitution Avenue will open during the legislative session.

New job, same focus

Veteran legislator leaves House when president offers new opportunity to shape rural economic development

By Mike Cook

Rep. Steve Wenzel may have left the House for a federal position, but he has not stopped working on an issue that was important to him during 29 years in the Legislature.

Wenzel, a DFL representative from Little Falls, resigned from his District 12B seat in August when President George W. Bush named him the state director of rural development in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"This is an area where I can do a lot of good for all rural communities in Minnesota, not only for my home area," he said. "I want to help keep people located in these areas and keep rural Minnesota strong and prosperous. That's in everyone's best interest."

His new position entails overseeing an agency that generates about \$300 million annually for rural development — much of it in the form of grants and loans to rural areas for developing infrastructure, new housing, and new business. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development is the federal government's lead agency for rural economic development.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me to play a hands-on role in promoting our rural economy and helping rural communities create new jobs and build infrastructure," he said, much like he did for nearly the past three decades.

"I've always fought for the best interests of family farmers and rural Minnesota in my time as a legislator," he said. "This position will let me work directly with rural communities and I believe truly make a difference in the quality of life for rural people."

Wenzel laughs a little in that he, a DFLer, was recommended by a Republican, Minnesota First District Congressman Gil Gutknecht, and appointed by a Republican president.

"I strongly share the president's vision for a prosperous and strong rural America," Wenzel said. "He made it clear during his campaign and after the election that he would include Democrats in his administration in order to



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Former Rep. Steve Wenzel left the Minnesota House of Representatives when he was named state director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture by President George W. Bush in August 2001.

achieve national unity. I'm very honored and proud to work for President Bush."

During his legislative career, Wenzel, 54, was a mainstay on the House agriculture committees, including 16 years as chair of the policy committee when the DFL controlled the House.

"Members of both caucuses stated I was always fair to everyone on the committee. I gave most bills that were requested a hearing, regardless of which party they came from," he said.

Wenzel lists among his greatest accomplishments the Minnesota Over-Order Premium law, which placed a surcharge on milk processors to help increase dairy farm incomes. Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court invalidating the law, \$7 million was raised for state dairy producers.

Agriculture was not the only concern he had during his 15 terms. Wenzel said he was also involved in crime prevention, public safety

issues, pro-life measures, education, and special infrastructure and other projects for his district.

He also regards as a significant achievement his sponsorship of a 1989 overhaul of Minnesota's sentencing guidelines that substantially increased penalties and prison sentences for violent crime. Subsequent amendments included the sentence of life without parole for those who commit murder during a rape or kidnapping, and for the killing of a peace officer.

In his home district he is most proud of the creation of the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley, a place he refers to as "Minnesota's Arlington."

First elected in 1972, Wenzel never tallied less than 60 percent of the vote in his district on Election Day. Twice he ran unopposed. That great margin may be attributed in part to Wenzel's connectivity to his former constituents. He was known for sending congratulations letters to high school graduates, couples on 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries, and other folks who did something special.

"I could not have asked for a better district or greater people to represent," he said.

His advice to Greg Blaine, the new District 12B representative, is to stay close to the constituents as they have high expectations of whom they elect.

Among them will be Wenzel, who in addition to a willingness to offer any advice, will remain where his roots are. "I'm home every weekend. I'm a lifelong resident of Little Falls and Morrison County. Always have and always will be." 🐾

STEPPING DOWN

Rep. Stephen Wenzel

DFL

District 12B — Little Falls

Terms: 15

Career Notes: First elected at age 24, Wenzel was tied with three other DFLers (Irv Anderson, Lyndon Carlson, and Phyllis Kahn) for most seniority in the House. He was a mainstay on both agriculture policy and finance committees in the House, including 16 years as agriculture policy chair. During his tenure, he missed just one session day due to the illness of his late mother.

Giving it a try

Newest representative looks to bring common sense, hard-working approach to St. Paul

By MIKE COOK

It was happenstance that started Rep. Greg Blaine (R-Little Falls) on his road to the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Rep. Greg Blaine

The republican was elected Nov. 6 to replace Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) as the representative for District 12B.

Blaine and his wife, Michelle, were in a Duluth restaurant this summer when they saw Wenzel as they prepared to leave. Since Blaine's father, Jerry, knew Wenzel from past lobbying efforts at the Capitol, the Blaines stopped to say hello.

"Steve insisted we sit down," Greg Blaine said. "I had been reading that he was being considered for an appointment (to a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture)." They talked about the Legislature and campaigning.

During their conversation, Blaine said Wenzel encouraged him to run because he fit the profile of the district. "At first I laughed about it. He said 'You're the perfect person. This is a farm district and the person that fills this seat should have a farm background.'"

The conversation lasted for about 90 minutes inside the restaurant and about another hour outside. "He kept saying that he wanted me to think about it," Blaine said, noting he was getting more excited the more they talked.

After returning home Blaine continued to discuss the possibility with his family and workers at his dairy farm. He decided to enter the race on Aug. 10 — just 11 days before the endorsing convention and less than three weeks after his Duluth meeting with Wenzel.

Though Wenzel did not officially endorse either

candidate, he said that Blaine is "a very worthy successor."

Blaine has always had an interest in politics. He said he's even thought about running for the Legislature before. He recalls talking to his father, who has served on a township board "for over 30 years" many times about politics, but the younger Blaine was always more interested in the state level.

"I never thought I'd have the opportunity to serve," he said, referring to Wenzel's 29 years representing the district. "It's something I thought I had the capability to be effective at."

Blaine, 40, has no experience in a publicly elected position, such as school board or city council. However, he has been involved in leadership at his church and with the Jaycees.

"In talking with constituents they like that I am not tied bureaucratically and have no hidden agenda," he said. "They also like that I'm a common sense, hard-working person — a prime example of the people of District 12B."

He may not have a specific agenda, but there are issues Blaine will fight for, most notably agriculture. He expects to replace Wenzel on both the House Agriculture Policy and finance committees.

Both seem an ideal fit for Blaine, who owns Bartchelle Dairy in Little Falls. He has run the

farm full-time since 1996, after 15 years as a press foreman for a printing company. The farm now has about 180 head of cattle, including 70 milking cows, which Blaine tends to in the morning. They also farm about 400 acres of corn and alfalfa.

In addition to agriculture, Blaine said two key issues are education and pro-life measures, such as the women's right to know bill and stopping partial-birth abortions, which he says are a key concern in his district.

"I believe this district is one of the strongest pro-life areas of Minnesota," he said.

Education was one of the top issues mentioned by residents during the campaign. "My big point is to try and restore some equitable funding to rural areas," he said.

Blaine knows that other issues the Legislature may deal with in 2002 are a potential budget shortfall and publicly funding a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, which he would have a hard time supporting until baseball "gets its house in order."

"I'll have ears like a cornfield to find out what people think," he said of potential budget discussions. "I'll just try to give the best product to people at the least cost. Belt-tightening is something nobody likes but it will force people to become better managers. It's a good accountability check."


Blaine is well-aware that constituents will be watching his actions closely. "People of my district will keep me in line. They expect accountability. I feel my voice is a gift from God and I will use it for the betterment of the people of this district." 



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

With wife Michelle by his side, Rep. Greg Blaine is sworn into office Nov. 15 by House Speaker Steve Sviggum during a ceremony in the House chamber. The republican from Little Falls replaces former Rep. Steve Wenzel, who accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August.

DISTRICT 12B

District 12B

1998 Population (estimate): 34,912

Largest cities: Little Falls, Baxter

Counties: Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison

Location: north central Minnesota

Top concern: "Having lived in Little Falls all my life, I understand what residents expect from our government. We expect fair funding for our schools and affordable health care for our seniors. We also expect the Legislature to stimulate economic growth in our farming community and to use our tax dollars wisely."

— Rep. Greg Blaine

Speaking out

State fair provides an opportunity for all Minnesota citizens — even young people — to weigh in on issues

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Some of them may need a little coaxing or a clue, but eventually most Minnesota school-age children will be able to identify the current governor of the state as Jesse Ventura.

And they may be a little rusty on some of the basics of government, like how a bill becomes a law and who represents Minnesota in Washington. Nevertheless, Minnesota's youth have very clear opinions regarding issues that face them both in and out of the classroom — which is often the place state policies affect children.

And some of those opinions may surprise you. Staff from the House Public Information Office asked younger fairgoers questions about proposals to ban soda pop in schools, require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance

tific poll for fairgoers, but that is often targeted to voting-age Minnesotans. This year, staff wanted to see what was on young people's minds.

Many of the children said it was important to say the Pledge of Allegiance in school at least once per week. It's a matter of respect for your country and understanding why that's important, they say.

Others said it wasn't as important for older students as for children in elementary school.

School uniforms and dress codes received mixed reviews, with some students saying they should be able to wear what they want while others said it would be easier if there were a dress code in school.

Others said some classmates get picked on when they don't wear certain kinds of clothes and that affects what they think about going

tant so you can learn lots of things and be smart."

Others acknowledged they look forward to the nice long break during the summer and the school year doesn't need to be longer if it cuts into that.

Soda pop is unnecessary during school hours, many said, but would be appropriate after school or even during lunch. Others said it's just something else to drink and the issue really isn't a big deal.

Students agreed for the most part that if they're considering a tattoo or piercing, they should talk it over with their parents first and get their approval.

"You should need to get parental permission so you don't do something on impulse and regret it later," said Jeff Miller, 16, from Richfield.

No, was the consensus on state aid for stadiums. While many of the children said they'd like a stadium for either team, they don't think the state should pay for it. Furthermore, they don't think the Twins or Vikings will necessarily move just because they don't get a new stadium.

House members working at the fair agreed issues important to children should not go unnoticed. In particular, two members who worked at the House booth at this year's fair know firsthand the power of the youth lobby.

Reps. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) and Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) both sponsored a bill in the 2001 session regarding registration of beer kegs. The bill would have required liquor stores to gather personal information, such as driver's license number and address, from people purchasing kegs, in an effort to reduce availability of alcohol to minors.

The idea was supported in large part by teens — not old enough to drink or to vote, but concerned about what drinking was doing to themselves and their peers.

"It was effective — just telling the story about their lives," said Dehler. "Some of them became alcoholics actually and it started out with easy access to kegs. ... Now they want to stop it."

McGuire said she introduced the bill initially nine years ago but kept bringing it back because of the student involvement. The bill passed the House in 2001 and awaits Senate approval.

"What kids say, that makes a difference," McGuire said. "We as policy-makers need to pay attention to young kids. They are the future. Even if they aren't voting yet, they are going to be future voters and they will have an impact on what's going on in our state."

Assistant Editor Mike Cook and Writer David Maeda contributed to this report.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Thousands of Minnesotans visit the House of Representatives booth in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair, where they meet lawmakers, gather educational materials, and take the opinion poll.

each week, and to lengthen the school year.

Youth also answered questions about whether they should have their parents' permission to get tattoos or body piercings, whether schools should require a dress code or uniforms, and whether the state should pay for new stadiums for professional sports teams.

Each year the office puts together an unscien-

to school.

They don't mind the idea of year-round school, as long as there are more long breaks during the year. Students say a longer school year would help them learn and retain more.

"Some kids think that the summer is the most important thing," said Cortney Seavey, 8, from Andover. "But I think school is the most impor-

2001 state fair poll results

More than 9,100 people 'vote' at House booth



1. Should the state make talking on a cellular phone while driving illegal?

Yes	58.4%	(5,320)
No	33.8%	(3,079)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.0%	(641)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(62)

2. Should people be required to show a picture ID at their polling place before they are given a ballot to vote?

Yes	75.0%	(6,829)
No	18.3%	(1,669)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.0%	(550)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(54)

3. Should the legal blood-alcohol limit for drunk driving be lowered from .10 percent to .08 percent?

Yes	56.1%	(5,109)
No	37.5%	(3,416)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.3%	(478)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(99)

4. Do you support construction of a state-owned and state-operated casino in Minnesota?

Yes	34.2%	(3,111)
No	56.7%	(5,157)
Undecided/No opinion	8.4%	(766)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(68)

5. Should the state Board of Education, which was abolished in 1999, be re-established?

Yes	41.4%	(3,764)
No	29.2%	(2,656)
Undecided/No Opinion	28.4%	(2,588)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(94)

6. Do you support tougher penalties for hunters and anglers who violate the state's game and fish limit laws?

Yes	70.9%	(6,457)
No	16.6%	(1,512)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.5%	(1,045)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(88)

7. Should grocery stores be allowed to sell wine?

Yes	57.5%	(5,232)
No	35.7%	(3,252)
Undecided/ No Opinion	5.9%	(541)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(77)



In 2001, more fairgoers took the House state fair poll than ever before.

8. For several years, state law has required that unleaded gasoline contain a certain percentage of the fuel additive ethanol. Should the state require that diesel fuels also contain a percentage of the additive biodiesel, a liquid fuel derived from organic oils?

Yes	51.4%	(4,677)
No	21.0%	(1,913)
Undecided/ No Opinion	26.5%	(2,419)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(93)

9. Do you believe county sheriffs and police chiefs should have the discretion to grant or deny applications for state residents to obtain a concealed weapons permit?

Yes	48.5%	(4,417)
No	38.5%	(3,504)
Undecided/ No Opinion	11.7%	(1,066)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.3%	(115)

10. In general, do you think the state should provide support, through interest-free or low-interest loans, to professional sports teams desiring to build new facilities?

Yes	25.8%	(2,345)
No	67.3%	(6,123)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.1%	(556)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(78)

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth. Percent total votes left blank or not tallied are included for those above 1 percent.)

Note: The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting our booth at the fair. Our main purpose in conducting this opinion poll was to familiarize fairgoers with some of the issues that have recently been discussed by the Legislature and issues that may be debated during the 2002 legislative session.

House members who appeared at the fair

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka)
 Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffero Township)
 Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley)
 Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault)
 Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)
 Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan)
 Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal)
 Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)
 Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing)
 Rep. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)
 Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)
 Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton)
 Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley)
 Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)
 Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin)
 Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)
 Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)
 Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells)
 Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids)
 Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls)
 Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley)
 Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo)
 Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)
 Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls)
 Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)
 Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)
 Rep. Tim Pawlenty, Majority Leader (R-Eagan)
 Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)
 Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna)
 Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall)
 Rep. Anthony (Tony) Sertich (DFL-Chisholm)
 Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood)
 Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)
 Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior)
 Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope)
 Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls)
 Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood)
 Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)

Health continued from page 10

Underlying costs, such as prescription drugs and physician services, have much more of an impact.

"That's what's going to drive premiums in the long run," Sonier said.

Witnesses at the hearings confirmed that notion, particularly with regard to prescription drugs.

Several witnesses expressed concern regarding the aggressive marketing of prescription drugs to the general public. Primarily of concern is that many people will request a particular brand name medication from their doctor, fully unaware of the actual cost.

Most insurance plans include a co-payment for prescription drugs, so consumers often don't even know the cost associated with their prescriptions.

Health care providers also testified that they're not sure where the increased costs are coming from. Particularly in the rural areas, the higher premiums either employers or citizens are paying are not necessarily getting to the facilities.

While costs are going up everywhere, witnesses said the increases are especially difficult for small businesses and small groups of insured to absorb.

The effect: many businesses are being forced to offer plans with decreased health insurance benefits in order to cover more of the premium costs or pass those costs on directly to employees. Often that leads to employees requesting higher salaries to defray the costs.

While employers like Hsiao don't relish that option, it does have its benefits.

"It brought them more into the role of understanding what insurance does cost," he said.

Greater Minnesota is also getting hit hard, particularly the border communities that are competing with insurers in other states. In addition, smaller communities are struggling to attract qualified professionals to provide health care services, whether they are doctors, nurses, or pharmacists.


Chuck Ness, director of the Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative in Fergus Falls, testified Oct. 4 that most professionals are willing to drive long distances to larger communities in order to make a better wage and obtain better benefits.

Committee members and witnesses recognized the complicated nature of health care costs, but there were a number of policy recommendations that were consistently repeated at the hearings.

- Cost controls are not necessarily going to sufficiently fix the problem. Jim Van Houten, who purchases health insurance for employees at MSI Insurance, testified Sept. 26 that controls merely spread costs around. They don't reduce them.
- Reduce mandates or taxes, particularly to small providers.
- Encourage the use of medical savings accounts and other pre-tax funding options.

- Increase powers of health care purchasing alliances created in the early 1990s. The alliances are authorized to combine purchasing power for smaller employers, the working uninsured, and farm families.

Ness also suggested that the state continue to audit and investigate the practices of not-for-profit health care provider networks such as Allina Health System, Minnesota's largest provider. Attorney General Mike Hatch's office has scrutinized their practices carefully in recent months, stopping just short of recommending criminal prosecution.

The committee plans to meet both before and after the 2002 session commences Jan. 29. Representatives from the state's providers of health insurance will have an opportunity to testify at those hearings. 

For more information

The Minnesota Department of Health has created several fact sheets for the general public relating to bioterrorism, including information about anthrax, smallpox, handling mail, and current hoaxes.

The information can be found on the department Web site <http://www.health.state.mn.us/bioterrorism/index.html> or call the department at (651) 215-5800.

Safety continued from page 12

55th Civil Support Team, which covers Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as North and South Dakota. He testified that the unit, which recently received its full certification, works in conjunction with the state Department of Health. The unit performs field analysis on a substance that will later be fully identified through testing at the state laboratory.

The unit is fully funded by the federal government but is subject to the authority of state and local law enforcement. Juskowiak said the unit has been called upon several times to help identify suspicious substances, even before Sept. 11.

National Guard personnel are also providing additional security at several airports throughout the state, particularly Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, since the tragedies.

So far, the National Guard is not providing extra assistance to the state's nuclear power fa-

cilities, however, said Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver. He testified that he had been meeting with officials from the plants and law enforcement agencies providing assistance to them. While the plants are raising their own levels of awareness and security, they don't feel they need the Guard.

Weaver also previously testified that the nuclear plants have an already heightened level of security due to the nature of nuclear power.

However, local law enforcement agencies where the plants are located are accumulating large amounts of overtime they may need to be reimbursed for. Weaver suggested creating a kind of revolving fund to help agencies defray some of those costs.


Weaver also said the department's Division of Emergency Management is re-evaluating the decision to eliminate three of four hazardous materials teams in the state. Previously, there were four teams headquartered in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater

Minnesota. However, now there is only one team, located in St. Paul, and several smaller chemical assessment teams placed around the state.

Several officials testified that there may be other policy-related or financial remedies the Legislature can provide in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. They hinted at funding requests when the session begins in January 2002, as well as policy initiatives relating to investigating crimes.

Malcolm and State Epidemiologist Dr. Harry Hull also suggested that more legal authority may be needed for quarantine purposes in the event of an outbreak.

In the end, officials agreed there is more to be done in preparation, but it's part of an ongoing effort to maintain public safety in Minnesota.

"Terrorism is not something we can think about for six months because it's a hot topic and then forget about it," McGowan said. 

Recreation continued from page 11

David Strom, legislative director of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota, said it is not the role of government to compete with private industries "because it is profitable to do so." He said profits from a state-owned casino would distort spending decisions by the Legislature.

"The establishment of a state-run casino is one of the worst ideas that regularly comes before the state Legislature," Strom said.

Mary Jevney, a resident of Mille Lacs County, said she preferred to end all gambling in the state, but because that is unrealistic she


believes that at the very least the state should tax and regulate casinos.

"We often hear about the economic boom Indian casinos have provided to rural areas but we seldom hear about the problems," she said citing the necessity for increased law enforcement and gambling addiction programs.

Noel Maanum, also a resident of Mille Lacs County, said the issue is one of fairness and competition. He said the only protection consumers have against an "unscrupulous" business is either government regulation or competition.

Maanum said a state-run casino would have

smaller maximum bets on slot machines that would pay out more often than existing machines. He said that would ultimately mean a reduction in the money people spent on gambling.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) countered that the cost of building a casino would require a high profit margin due to land and construction costs, plus salaries and benefits for 4,000 new state employees. If the casino were built in downtown Minneapolis as has been proposed, he said the cost of buying the land would be between \$200 million and \$400 million. 

Capitol security continued from page 17

detector, which is sometimes used for events at the governor's residence and elsewhere.

The committee also recommended having more uniformed state troopers assigned to the Capitol to provide full coverage of the grounds during open hours seven days a week.


The plan, Fraser said, is to enhance security to the minimum committee recommendations through the end of May. In order for that level of security to continue, he said, the Legislature must act during 2002 to fund security at a higher level.

Other proposals to further enhance

security were not recommended at this time but should be considered in the future, the report suggested. They build on a comprehensive Capitol Security report from January 2000.

That report recommended upgrading the security force to 51 licensed officers. Currently, Capitol Security is allotted 41 full-time equivalent positions, though only 31 are filled. Additionally, officers are not licensed peace officers.

The January 2000 report also recommended increased security for elected positions, such

as constitutional officers, and for the governor's residence. It suggests purchasing 14 metal detection devices for specific access points. 

For more information

Various special events are planned throughout the year at the State Capitol, particularly over the holidays. All events are open to the public.

For more information about events at the State Capitol or to schedule a tour, contact (651) 296-2881.

Highlights continued from page 9

★ TRANSPORTATION

Focus on State Patrol

The House Transportation Finance Committee trekked to the St. Cloud City Hall Oct. 11 for a hearing regarding the State Patrol.

The hearing was one of several during the first two weeks of October that were moved away from state buildings during the state employees' strike.

Members reviewed procedures by the State Patrol and asked several questions about the complicated funding system that provides the department's budget.

Most of the State Patrol budget comes from the Trunk Highway Fund because its primary responsibility is the safety of the state's highways.

The primary concern of the witnesses at the hearing was the high-frequency radio system being installed statewide. The goal of the system is better coverage and communication between law enforcement agencies.

However, not all departments or regions of

the state have access to the necessary technology. Troopers testified that they are concerned about finding themselves in a tough situation with no access to a radio.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," said Corporal Peter Teigen from the St. Cloud district.

"The issue here is how do we give these officers radios that will fill their needs," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), the committee chair.

Col. Anne Beers, State Patrol chief, testified that the department is working to improve coverage, but it's taking time to work out all the bugs. They recognize the need for reliable equipment, she said.

Members also expressed concern about services the State Patrol provides to both private events and other law enforcement agencies. Particularly, members raised the help troopers provided in drunken driving enforcement efforts near St. Cloud State University.

St. Cloud officials testified that federal grants paid for the enforcement and troopers merely assisted in patrolling the detail.

Beers also addressed extra costs to handle

security at a rally held Aug. 25 by the Ku Klux Klan on the State Capitol grounds. Approximately \$37,000 in extra security was paid by the state for the rally. Local police and sheriff's departments providing mutual aid to the state absorbed other costs.

Beers noted that the State Patrol used scheduling to alleviate much of the potential overtime costs. She also said that the event had a high potential for conflict and ended relatively peacefully, despite the number of counter-protesters who attended the rally.

"Madame chair," Beers said, addressing Molnau, "that was a tremendous undertaking by the Minnesota State Patrol. That was the largest number of demonstrators. ... We had total control."

The 2002 legislative session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at noon.

Pre-filed Bills

Friday, November 2, 2001

HF2566—Stanek (R) Crime Prevention

Antiterrorism grants provided to local law enforcement agencies for training and equipment, and money appropriated.

HF2567—Eastlund (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

National guard and other military reserve units state salary differential payments required for units called to active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and local governments authorized to pay similar salary differentials.

HF2568—Wilkin (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Metropolitan Airports Commission transferred to the Department of Transportation; bond, other debt, and eminent domain authority transferred; and other technical provisions modified.

HF2569—Dempsey (R) Crime Prevention

Nuclear power plant security and patrol local law enforcement funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2570—Wolf (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Automobile insurance authorized to cover damage to glass on the same basis as damage to other parts of an automobile, auto glass market survey revolving account repealed, and money appropriated.

HF2571—Clark, K. (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislative commission on international trade standards established.

HF2572—Clark, K. (DFL)

Taxes

Qualifying affordable housing contribution income tax credit authorized.

HF2573—Juhnke (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs &

Economic Development Policy

Real estate task force funding surcharge omission corrected.

HF2574—McElroy (R)

Regulated Industries

Biodiesel fuel use incentives provided.

HF2575—Howes (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Snowmobile grant-in-aid trail system funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2576—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs &

Economic Development Policy

Furnace certification required at time of property sale.

HF2577—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Service animal use provisions modified relating to seeing eye, hearing ear, service, or guide dogs.

HF2578—Folliard (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Pollution Control Agency programs authorized and funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2579—Nornes (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Fergus Falls solid waste combustor pollution control equipment upgrade grant provided, bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2580—Dehler (R)

Civil Law

Juror per diem provided and hourly compensation equal to federal minimum wage.

HF2581—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Civil Law

Terrorism; felony penalties provided for planning, encouraging, or committing certain terroristic acts intended to affect the conduct of government or advance an ideological or other system of belief.

HF2582—Winter (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Minnesota West Community and Technical College facility remodeling provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2583—Krinkie (R)

Taxes

Legislative deadline imposed for action on omnibus bills.

HF2584—Clark, K. (DFL)

Taxes

Qualifying affordable housing contribution income tax credit authorized.

HF2585—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Toll charges prohibited for telephone calls originating and terminating within a school district.

House members will have a second opportunity to pre-file bills for the 2002 Legislative Session on Friday, Dec. 7. Pre-filed bills will be given a first reading when the House reconvenes on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2002. Committees may hold hearings on pre-filed bills but may not take official action until after the first reading. Copies of pre-filed bills are available from the Chief Clerk's Office and on the House Web site.

Looking for the Committee Schedule?

Many House committees are meeting during the interim to discuss issues and conduct tours. While committees are not allowed to vote on legislation while the Legislature is adjourned, the interim period is a good time to conduct informational hearings throughout the state.

The House Committee Schedule is updated

periodically during the interim as meetings are announced. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the House Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/wsched.htm> or call the committee schedule hotline at (651)296-9283.

You can also subscribe to an e-mail listserv that

provides updates to the committee schedule right in your inbox. To subscribe, point your browser to <http://www3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule> and fill out the form.

For more information, contact House Public Information at (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550.

Minnesota House of Representatives 2002 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
12B	Blaine, Greg (R)	387	4247	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davidson, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	389	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr, Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knobloch, Jim (R)	451	6316	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155; List as of Nov. 19, 2001

Minnesota Senate 2002 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537		54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645	
56 Bachmann, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351		39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370	
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975		2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577	
13 Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094		29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264	
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261		25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279	
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556		43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837	
52 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334		34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282	
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931		60 Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191	
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457		19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981	
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131		65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802	
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084		37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252	
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154		59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809	
26 Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713		57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060	
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138		63 Rantum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061	
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246		53 Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253	
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153		46 Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889	
40 Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261		18 Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419	
15 Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826		45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314	
50 Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219		35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123	
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881		62 Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274	
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065		11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063	
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285		12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875	
32 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649		31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903	
4 Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913		47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869	
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848		27 Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248	
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455		7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188	
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120		17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075	
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061		1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660	
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205		42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238	
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655		5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017	
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125		22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650	
3 Lessard, Bob (IP)	G-51 SOB	4136		38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073	
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159		55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820	
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293					

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

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1 A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	44 A • Rep. Betty Folliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)	17 A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	18 A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	46 A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	60 A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) Sen. Gen. Olson-(R)	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	62 A • Rep. Jim Darnie-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)
7 A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Rantum-(DFL)
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(R)	36 A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	50 A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	51 A • Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
10 A • Rep. Bud Normes-(R) B • Rep. George Cassell-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	38 A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R) Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)	52 A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL) B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R) B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-(R) B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark Milbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	53 A • Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	67 A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)
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14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	28 A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	56 A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	

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Continued from page 4

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), the subcommittee chair, presented a proposal he may introduce next session that would eliminate contribution limits for individuals, repeal candidate spending limits, and eliminate the campaign fund tax check-off program.

It would redirect funds to pay for a voter's guide providing information about state candidates and constitutional amendments.

"Having government out of the business of underwriting campaigns and focusing greater effort on developing good citizenship and developing information that is of use and of interest to voters is certainly a new approach and one that deserves further inquiry," he said.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said that allowing even more money into the system is not the approach the state should take.

"Eliminating the limits moves us in the direction that the federal government currently has. It's my perception that people believe Minnesota's system is better," Kubly said. "We should be looking for something that will give everyone an equal voice rather than those with a greater amount of dollars." 🐼

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration	296-6013
Agriculture	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning	582-8200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Health	215-5803
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division	296-6979
State Patrol	297-3935
Public Service	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013

Reflections

To say that just about every person living in the United States was in some manner affected by the tragedies that hit the country on a quiet, sunny morning in September is a major understatement.

It was particularly true when word came that some Minnesotans, or their relatives and friends, had lost lives in the devastation of that fateful day.

I was already in a state of shock, having lost my best friend and mentor, David Rassman, to a sudden heart attack a couple of days before while he was on a ladder at work.

Additionally, I was fearful that relatives who live only 10 blocks from "Ground Zero" in New York City were in harms way.

I mustered enough energy to call but could not get through. A major concern was for one of my cousins. I had sent her an overnight letter the day before and knew she would have gone to work to receive it — only a block from the World Trade Center.

A few days later, I received the news that all the relatives were safe, except one. Just 10 blocks from home, a distant cousin, Keith Glascoe, and his entire squad of Ladder Company #21 lost their lives.

Like most of us, I questioned these tragedies. I also thought about my late, good friend of 23 years.

Rassman was a spectacular visual artist. When he spent one session at the House as an assistant with the tax committee, he

painted portraits of House members and others. Most importantly, at about that time he began a journey of finding peace through the beliefs of American Indians, and he had begun to share with others his newfound ability to combine his art with his true beliefs and spirit.

As staff and many others came together in patriotic unity at the Capitol on Sept. 16, I watched the rally on television.

I was trying to sort out the uncanny and sudden departure of my friend who taught me so much, while at the same time wondering

what was happening in the world.

Rassman was suddenly gone as though he had a much more important mission elsewhere with no time to say goodbye to friends.

For sure, one thing that will never be explained is a sketch he made some years ago of a street scene in lower New York City. The street in the sketch ended at the World Trade Center, some distance away. Yet his final product in pastel showed the cityscape — very rainy and gloomy, with no Twin Towers in sight.

Now like those towers, he and those few Minnesotans, along with New York City firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers are gone so unexpectedly, but all will leave their footprints on the sands of time.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

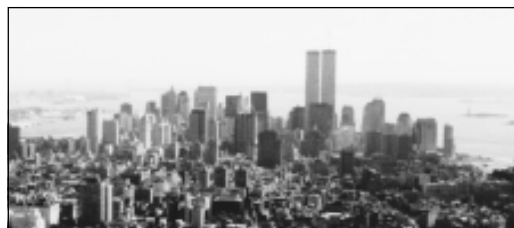


PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Lower Manhattan before Sept. 11.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY
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MINNESOTA INDEX

Homeless in Minnesota

Estimated number of Minnesotans that were homeless or had unstable housing on a one-night survey in October 2000	21,329
In October 1991	7,980
Number of homeless families on the night of the survey in 2000	1,413
Percent increase since 1991	325
Percentage of those homeless the night of the survey who lived in	
Minnesota less than two years	28
In 1991 and 1994	39
Number of people living in temporary housing and non-shelter locations	7,589
Percent increase from 1997	36
Women in temporary housing with at least one child, as percent	60
Children experiencing homelessness in November 2000	3,067
Percent increase since 1985	844
Homeless parents reporting that at least one of their school-aged children has some type of learning or school-related problem, as percent	41
Percentage of homeless parents unable to obtain needed childcare	32
Approximate percentage of people of color in the state	10
Approximate percentage of homeless adults that are people of color	65
Military veterans, as approximate percentage of homeless population	16
Percentage of homeless people who are employed	41
In 1991, as percent	19
Percentage of 2000 homeless adults employed full-time	26
In 1991, as percent	8
Percentage of homeless reporting they are unable to pay anything for rent	14
Percentage in 1991	24
Percentage of women that were homeless at least in part due to abuse in the past year	30
Homeless men reporting chemical abuse problems, as percent	41
Women, as percent	22
Percentage of homeless men that received inpatient alcohol or drug treatment in previous two years	24
Percentage of homeless women	14
Number of statewide transitional housing programs as of October 2000	98
In October 1997	78

Source: Homeless adults and children in Minnesota: Statewide survey of people without permanent shelter, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, August 2001

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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