

# SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 1 No. 1

January 30, 1974

Legislative Information Office/Official Newsletter

## 68th Session reconvenes

With a rap of the gavel, at 12 noon, January 15, Speaker Martin Sabo, Minneapolis, called the House to order to begin the second half of the 68th session of the House of Representatives.

Following a prayer by Chaplain Williams, call of the roll, and the introduction of two new members, Richard Kostohryz, Maplewood, and Frank Knoll, Minneapolis, the clerk read a communication from Gov. Wendell Anderson requesting the opportunity to address the joint meeting of the House and Senate at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 16.

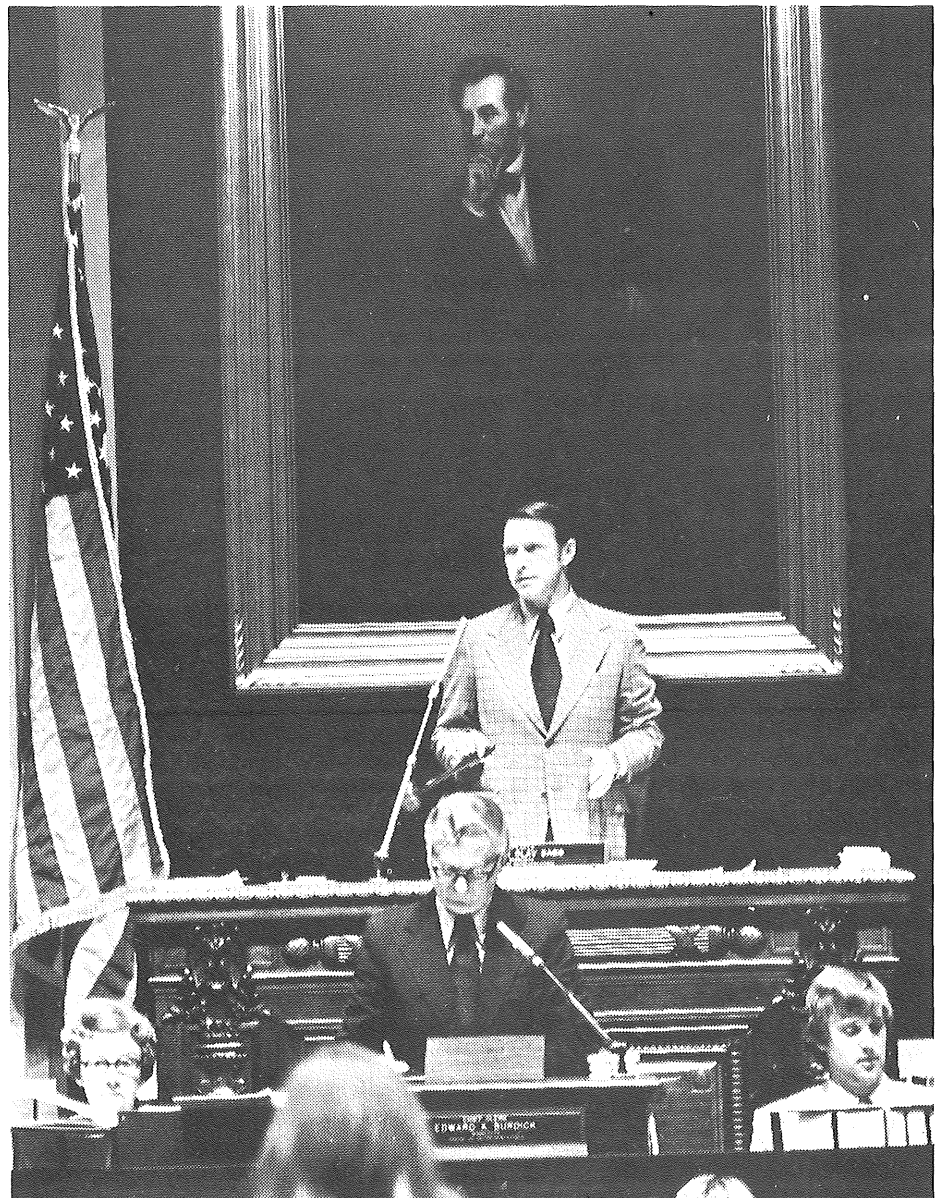
House Majority Leader, Irvin Anderson, International Falls, moved to accede to the request of the Governor and for the appointment of a five-member committee to escort Gov. Anderson to the joint meeting on January 16.

The House next heard reports from standing committees on action taken on a variety of bills during the interim; introduction of new bills and second readings on others; accepted a motion to postpone hearing of nine bills listed on General Orders for this first day of the session, because other legislation had accomplished the intent of these bills.

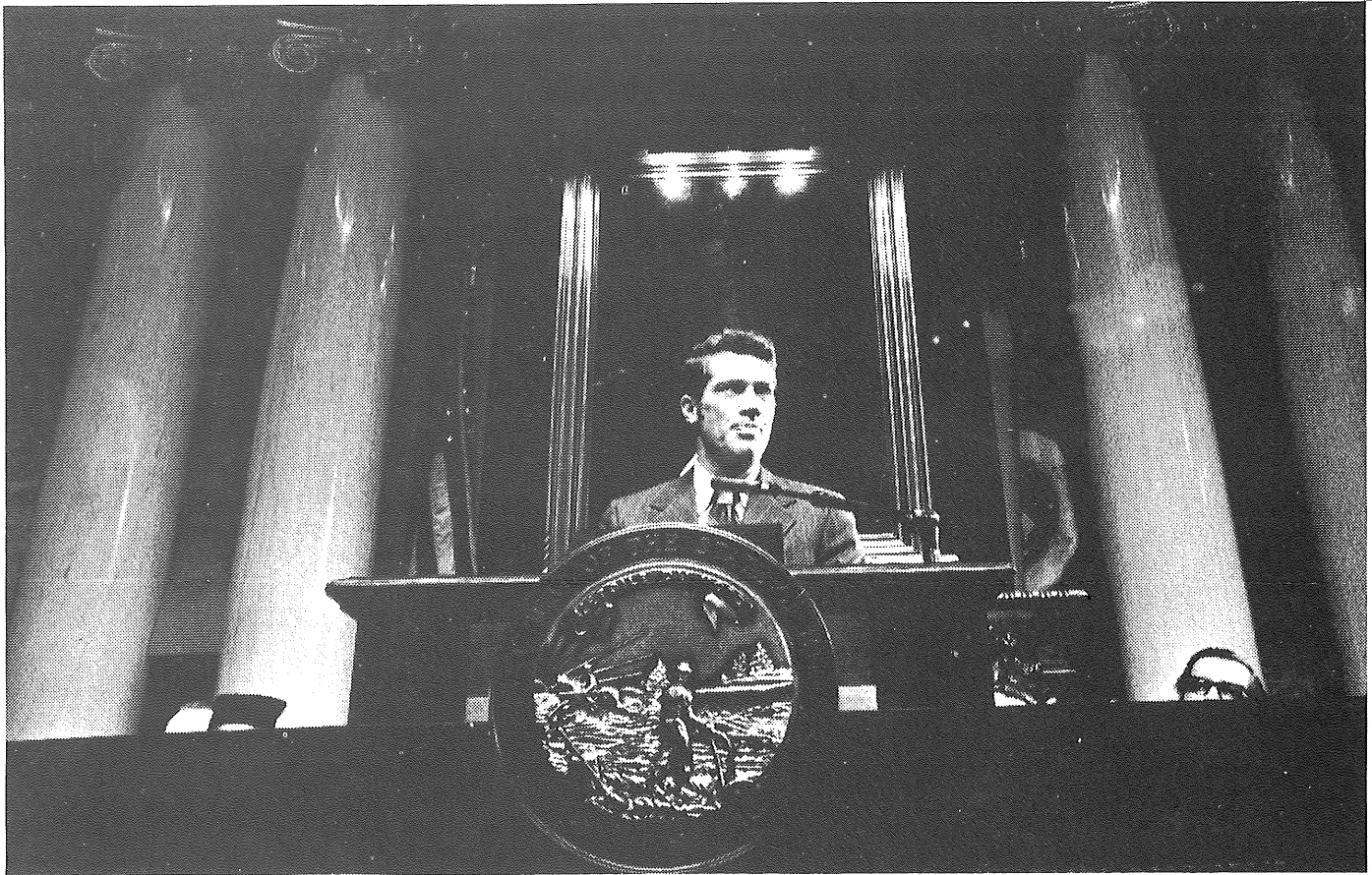
Rep. Aubrey Dirlam, House Minority Leader from Redwood Falls, made several motions to change rules of the House relating to the availability of tapes of committee and subcommittee meetings; time limitation on changing of votes by members of the House; clarification and control of persons admitted to the House floor during session; and change of order of business in the House.

The House voted to send these motions for study and review to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Committee actions began on January 16, and Irvin Anderson announced the House would try to hold to a 2 to 5 p.m. five-day-week schedule — unless the House begins to lose ground on covering General Orders, (the schedule of bills requiring action by the House).



The Minnesota House of Representatives reconvened in the chambers January 15 after the interim of committee meetings, research, and outstate travel to gather information for legislation. Speaker of the House Martin Sabo presides while Chief Clerk Edward Burdick, his staff, and pages (foreground) begin their work.



## Governor gives State of State address

Describing the people of Minnesota as responsive, resilient, and realistic, Gov. Wendell Anderson, on January 16, urged legislators to move ahead in the areas of energy, education, campaign spending legislation, transportation, environmental protection, and housing.

He stressed the need to cooperate with any federal steps taken to conserve energy — such as the 55 mile per hour speed limit.

The governor said Minnesota could take national leadership in campaign spending legislation and asked for the \$1 check-off on state income tax as a step in preventing the “growing cancer of political corruption.”

On the question of the use of state funds for a metro transit system, Gov. Anderson said rural citizens should realize that getting metro people to use a transit system would provide more gas for farmers and agricultural needs.

However, he emphasized the state will have to provide a safe, convenient, comfortable, and inexpensive means of transporting people in metro areas to break the “love affair with the automobile.”

Outstate, the governor said, there is a real need to do something about unsafe rural highways and to encourage railroads in the state.

In asking for support of the Coleman, Sabo, Anderson, I., New Housing Rehab-

ilitation Program, he referred to pride in home ownership as the cornerstone of Minnesota life and blames the high cost of money for making home purchase or improvement impossible for many Minnesotans.

Moving ahead on energy conservation, the governor continued, shouldn't mean abandonment of efforts to clean up the

environment for the state's children; and the thrust of legislation this session should be to keep people working, farmers farming, and Minnesota's economy strong.

Concluding his address, the governor requested lawmakers to work with deliberate speed and minimum partisanship “to hear and heed warnings of troubled days.”

## Subcommittee hears interim reports, amends no-fault insurance bill

As no-fault insurance appears to move toward possibly becoming a reality, the subcommittee working on this legislation met on January 17 to hear reports of visits made during the interim to 29 outstate communities.

Reaction to the proposed legislation by people attending these outstate meetings resulted in nine possible changes in the original bill.

Citizens generally objected to saddling themselves with coverage they don't want or need on a second or older car. They also insist on lower rates.

At the January 17 meeting, the subcom-

mittee discussion included these and other considerations, such as optional or mandatory deductibility; bodily injury coverage; amounts of deductibility; and possible hardship on senior citizens.

After amending the Senate bill, S.F. 96, 11 times, the subcommittee recommended it, as amended, to the full committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

When that committee met on January 22, it further amended the bill, changed some of the amendments made by the subcommittee and voted to send it to the House for action.



Goes to conference committee

## "No-fault divorce" bill considered

A legislative conference committee will soon discuss a bill that would not place the blame for a divorce on one party but would offer "an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage relationship" as legal grounds to end a marriage.

This "no-fault divorce" legislation, H.F. 835, proposes a change in the existing law to eliminate what the author, Rep. Phyllis Kahn, DFL-Minneapolis, labels "adversary language."

In an interview Kahn said the present law doesn't recognize that some marriages just fail and, in an unsuccessful union, requires one partner to blame the other for its failure.

The "dissolution of marriage bill", as she prefers to call it, would make it "emotionally easier, but not legally easier," for a couple to end their marriage.

In the bill, the word "dissolution" substitutes for "divorce," "petition" for "complaint," "proceeding" for "action," "petitioner" for "plaintiff," and "respondent" for "defendant."

Also, in line with the Equal Rights Amendment, Kahn said, the bill makes other word changes, such as "a party" for "the wife."

The no-fault legislation eliminates the

need for corroborating testimony but the basic provisions of the present law in regard to support money, alimony, custody of children, and disposition of property, remain the same.

The new law would grant a dissolution of marriage if proof exists that there has been an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage relationship.

The House, however, amended the bill to include demonstration of the grounds for divorce existing in present law as evidence of an irretrievable breakdown.

Because the Senate and House didn't pass identical versions of the bill last year, three Senate members, not yet chosen, will work in a conference committee with Reps. Kahn, Robert Bell, Roseville, and Charles Weaver, Anoka, to reconcile the differences.

The report of the committee will then go to the House and the Senate, and both houses will again vote on the bill.

Kahn patterned the new legislation after a similar measure in Colorado, one of 27 states which have some form of no-fault divorce law.

The National Association of Social Workers, the Minnesota Council on Family Relations, the Minnesota Bar Association,

and the Minneapolis Family and Childrens Service Organization support this proposed legislation, Kahn said.

Other authors of H.F. 835 are Bell, Sieben M., Newport, McMillan, Austin, and Dieterich, St. Paul.

## House welcomes two new members

Warmly welcomed by the applause of their fellow members, two new representatives took their seats in the House on January 15.

They are Frank Knoll, Minneapolis and Richard Kostohryz, Maplewood.

Just before adjournment of the first day's session, Speaker Martin Sabo announced the assignment of Rep. Knoll to the following committees: Crime Prevention and Corrections, Education, Financial Institutions and Insurance, and Metropolitan and Urban Affairs.

Rep. Kostohryz's assignments are to the Committees on Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources, Education, General Legislation and Veterans Affairs, and Metropolitan and Urban Affairs.



Speaker of the House Martin Olav Sabo received the Minneapolis Jaycees 1974 Distinguished Service Award (above) from last year's winner, Minneapolis Mayor Albert Hofstede and a ribbing (at right) from Sen. Walter Mondale at the Jaycees Bosses Night Banquet January 16. Applauding and enjoying the fun fest ceremony are Gov. Wendell Anderson and Mpls. Jaycee President Daryl B. Forsberg. Sabo, elected to the House in 1960 at 22, was honored for his "leadership in openness in government and work toward improvement of life for all people." Mondale, featured speaker for the night, kidded Sabo but did call him "one of the most truly remarkable young men in the state of Minnesota."

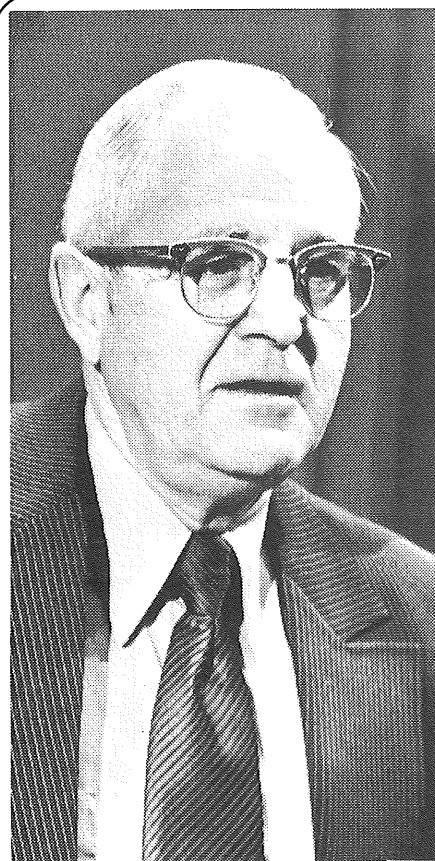
## Students project to harness wind and sun for energy

The Environmental Design class at the University of Minnesota has a project named OUROBOROS after the Greek mythological dragon that survives by consuming its own tail — a symbol for resource recycling and energy conservation in our world.

Last winter the students began their task of designing and building a 2,000 square foot, two-level house that incorporates energy conserving design features such as increased wall and window insulation, solar water and space heating, a windmill to generate electricity, and sewage and water recycling.

Willard Munger's (Duluth) committee on Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources met with representatives from the project to discuss a bill that would provide approximately \$10,000 to complete the OUROBOROS house.

The committee has asked Rep. Munger to introduce the committee bill, which, after referral and approval of the Appropriations Committee, would go to the House for action.



Minority Leader Aubrey Dirlam, Redwood Falls, (left) and Majority leader Irvin Anderson, International Falls, lead their caucuses during the 68th session debate. Anderson was elected Majority Leader in 1972 when the DFL gained a majority of seats in the House. Dirlam has served continuously in the House since 1941. Anderson was elected to the House in 1964.

## Recycling bill called 'innovative'

Federal Environmental Protection Agency officials have referred to Minnesota's statewide recycling grants program as one of the most innovative solid waste programs in the country, Rep. Willard Munger, Duluth, revealed in a press release on January 16.

He also expressed the hope that county officials would study the program and its possibilities thoroughly before choosing to exercise their option not to take part in the program if a new bill giving them this option should become law.

The bill Munger refers to is one which would modify the solid waste user fee created by the recycling bill, passed in the 1973 session, which brought the grants program into being.

The user fee, or "garbage tax", as critics dubbed it, is to take effect on March 1, 1974, statewide.

This fee will partially offset the \$1.5 million 1973 appropriation for resource recovery grants. It's a fee of 15 cents per cubic yard of refuse.

If passed along to consumers, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has esti-

mated the user fee would raise the cost of garbage collection by 15 to 20 cents per month for a family of four.

Despite this insignificant cost increase to Minnesotans, Munger reports a lot of criticism for the user fee in rural areas of the state.

He said it's unfortunate that critics believe they won't be able to obtain recycling grants from the PCA, when the opposite is true.

Munger said rural areas actually have the best chance to get grants if counties go together on a regional basis. The law requires the PCA to give high priority to regional recycling systems.

If bills already introduced to repeal the user fee pass before "we've tested this new method of financing recycling," Munger believes the legislature will find it difficult to fund the resource recovery grants program.

Therefore, he has introduced a compromise bill which will make the recycling grants program and user fee package optional for counties with a population of less than 50,000, or 40 percent of the state's

residents.

According to the bill, a county choosing to exempt itself from the user fee wouldn't receive grant money.

Munger believes, too, the recycling grant program and user fee go hand-in-hand. "If a county wants to be eligible for grant money, then, its residents have to be willing to pay a share of the cost. Fifteen to 20 cents per month per family is a small amount to ask in return for the energy and natural resource savings which will result from recycling systems."

Other House authors, along with Munger, are Reps. Martin Sabo, Minneapolis; Walter Hanson St. Paul; Glen Sherwood, Pine River; and Henry Savelkoul, Albert Lea. The Senate companion bill sponsor is Sen. James Lord, Excelsior.

Meanwhile H.F. 2675, Munger's bill creating a Department of Energy, passed the committee on Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources and moved on to consideration by the Committee on Government Operations.

# Committees meet, pass bills to General Orders

## COMMITTEES AT WORK

These committees met during the week of January 14 - 18 and passed out bills to go onto General Orders for consideration by the House.

### EDUCATION

**H.F. 1491** (Jaros), legislation prohibiting an independent school district from charging fees for classes, towels, etc. to students (except for drivers training).

**H.F. 1489** (LaVoy), establishing cooperative centers between schools.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**H.F. 2051** (Kahn), authorizing the use of county and bridge funds for the construction and maintenance of bicycle paths.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

**H.F. 1321** (Resner), relating to manpower services and unemployment compensation.

**H.F. 2042** (LaVoy), relating to manpower services and unemployment compensation.

**H.F. 2120** (Moe), relating to workmen's compensation; supplementary benefits.

**H.F. 2324** (H. Sieben), relating to manpower services and unemployment compensation.

**H.F. 2603** (Ojala), relating to workmen's compensation; reports of death or injury; prescribing penalties for failure to file required reports.



New committee meeting rooms are now in use on the ground floor of the Minnesota State Office Building, southwest of the Capitol. All representatives' offices are now located in the recently remodeled second and third floors of the State Office Building.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION/ VETERANS AFFAIRS

**H.F. 2789** (Tomlinson), reducing the number of petitions needed to file for the St. Paul City Council. (PUT ON CONSENT CALENDAR)

**H.F. 2715** (Wenzel), relating to elections; prohibiting the scheduling of athletic events on precinct caucus day; providing time off for employees to vote on precinct caucus day.

### TAXES

**H.F. 2667** (Johnson, D.) reassessment of improperly valued property.

**H.F. 2668** (Berg), provides for hearings before the commissioner in certain property tax reductions.

**H.F. 2669** (Salchert), appointment of special boards of review and equalization.

**H.F. 2670** (Johnson, D.), provides for notice of valuation of real property.

## Would create stabilization board

# Milk price bill goes to Senate

House File 577 had its first reading on February 15, 1973 and passed the House of Representatives as amended on January 17, 1974. It now goes to the Senate before becoming a Minnesota law.

Representatives Willis Eken, Twin Valley; John Sarna, Minneapolis; Arlan Stangeland, Barnesville; Richard Lemke, Lake City; and Joseph Niehaus, Sauk Centre; sponsored this bill for an act relating to agriculture; dairy products; creating a dairy products stabilization board within the Department of Agriculture to establish wholesale prices for selected dairy products — amending and repealing certain Minnesota statutes.

The thus newly created Minnesota Dairy Products Stabilization Board will consist of seven members appointed by the governor; one producer producing Grade A fluid milk for a market; one manufacturer; one wholesaler or distributor who is not also a manufacturer; one retailer; three consumers not otherwise involved in the

dairy industry.

The bill spells out guidelines on the establishment of minimum wholesale prices for the board to follow in performing this function.

House File 577 received a great deal of study and debate — going first to the Committee on Agriculture where it passed

with amendments on April 2, 1973 and moved to the Committee on Governmental Operations for passage on April 12, 1973.

When the House reached final agreement on the makeup of the stabilization board, H.F. 577 passed the House by a vote of 85 to 42 on January 17.

## Fisher wins as bill loses

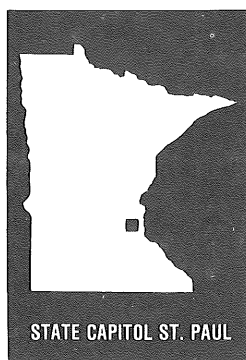
The Providence that watches over small fur-bearing animals smiled down on the fisher and left him free to romp the northern woods of Minnesota.

Rep. Doug Johnson's (Cook) bill would amend present Minnesota law to permit the taking of fishers "in such areas of the state and during such times and subject to such regulations as the commissioner shall prescribe."

This bill came up for action on the floor

of the House on January 17. After attempts to postpone action on it indefinitely; to refer it to the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources; the bill went down to defeat on a standing vote of the House.

Johnson plans no further action this session, leaving the weasel-like fisher, a member of the marten family, to flout his freedom under continued protection of the law.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

## SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Legislative Information Office/Official Newsletter

# Briefings on government procedures set for interns, general public

Here's a schedule of meetings to help people better understand their state government. The discussions are interesting and packed with information.

Originally set up for interns (students of government), they

are now open to all staff, and to the public.

The sessions are particularly valuable to new staff people and to interested citizens who want to know a little more about state government, its functions, and its people.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Friday, February 1 —</b><br><b>1:00 p.m.</b>     | Roger Eriskine — Lobbyist for the Minnesota Education Association.<br>Conference Room 258 — State Office Bldg.                             |
| <b>Monday, February 4 —</b><br><b>3:00 p.m.</b>     | Meeting with Administrative Assistants to House committees.<br>Room 51 — State Office Building   |
| <b>Tuesday, February 5 —</b><br><b>10:30 a.m.</b>   | "Environmental Issues" — Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources Committee. Room 51 — State Office Building.                      |
| <b>Wednesday, February 6 —</b><br><b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | "Energy" — Rep. William Kelly, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Energy of General Legislation. Room 51 — State Office Building.            |
| <b>Thursday, February 7 —</b><br><b>10:30 a.m.</b>  | House Appropriations, Ron Duncan, Fiscal Analyst — Conference Room 258 — State Office Building   |
| <b>Friday, February 8 —</b><br><b>11:00 a.m.</b>    | Discussion with Aubrey Dirlam, Redwood Falls Minority Leader and Former Speaker of the House. Conference Room 314 — State Office Building. |
| <b>Monday, February 11 —</b><br><b>10:30 a.m.</b>   | Visit with Chancellor T. Mitau, State College System. Room 51 — State Office Building.   |
| <b>Tuesday, February 12 —</b><br><b>12:30 p.m.</b>  | House Committee on Higher Education. Room 14 — State Office Building.  |
| <b>Wednesday, February 13 —</b><br><b>9:30 a.m.</b> | Crime Prevention and Corrections. Room 363, State Office Building.   |
| <b>Thursday, February 14 —</b><br><b>11:00 a.m.</b> | LEAP — Barney Uhlig. Room 51, State Office Building.   |

INTERN APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED IN OFFICE CHIEF CLERK, 211 STATE CAPITOL (296-2314), CHIEF SERGEANT AT ARMS, COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEER INTERNS, HARLAN CHRISTIANSON, ROOM 214 STATE CAPITOL (296-4860)

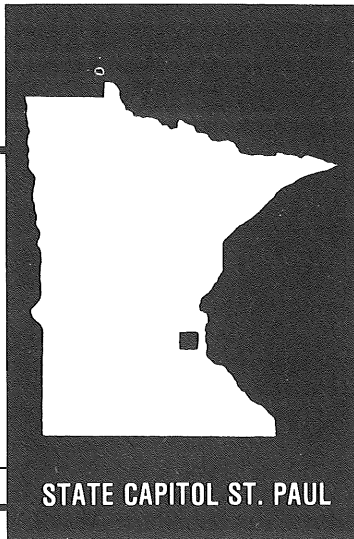
## Committee schedule correction

The committee schedule as printed in the last Inside the Interim should be corrected to read: on Wednesday, the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Natural Resources, Chairman Munger, meets in Room 83, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The Committee on General Legislation and Veteran Affairs, Chairman Fudro, meets in Room 81, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. And, the

chairman for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is Adams, James.

For a complete schedule notify the House Information Office, Room 214A, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN. 55155 or call (612) 296-2146.





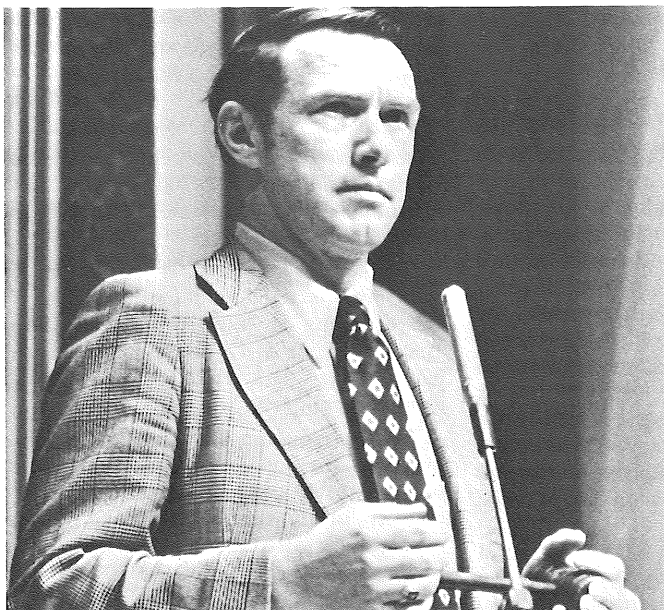
# SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

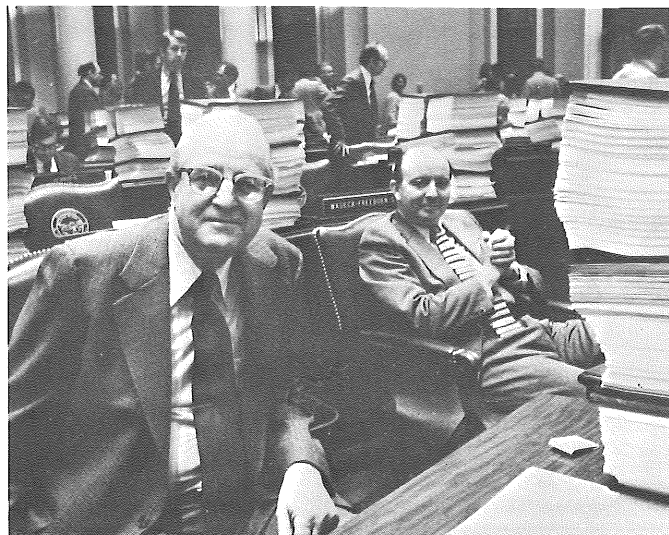
Vol. 1 No. 5

April 18, 1974

House Information Office/Official Newsletter



Speaker of the House of Representatives Martin Olav Sabo was congratulated in a resolution offered by Majority Leader Irvin Anderson and Minority Leader Aubrey Dirlam on his election as vice-president of the National Legislative Conference.



House Minority Leader Aubrey Dirlam (Redwood Falls), left, and Assistant Minority Leader Thomas Newcome (White Bear Lake) relax for a moment following adjournment of the 68th session.

## 68th Session adjourns

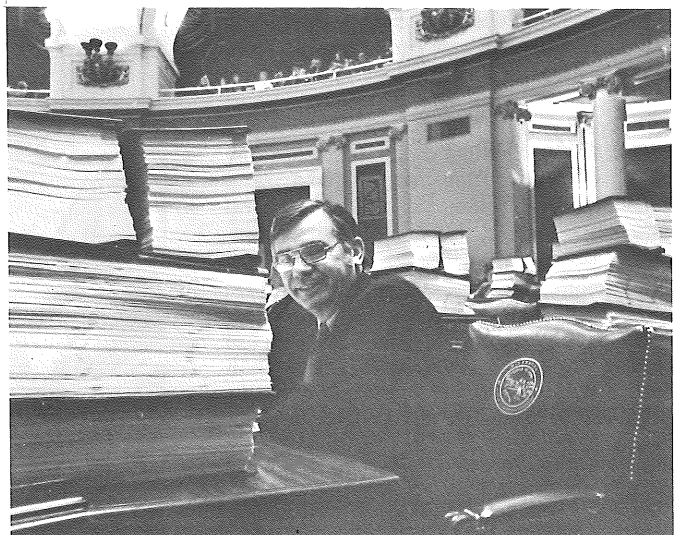
On March 29, 1974, the One Hundredth-Sixteenth Day, the Minnesota Legislature adjourned. Majority leader Irvin Anderson (International Falls) moved that the House of Representatives adjourn "sine die" (which means "without a day"). The motion was adopted and the second half of the 1973-74 flexible session came to a close.

Members of the House of Representatives will continue to meet in various committees to study issues, and travel outstate to gather information for possible legislation.

This issue of SESSION SCENES covers most of the major legislation passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by Gov. Wendell Anderson.

The House Information Office newsletter will be published less frequently but will continue to provide its readers with news of the House of Representatives and the Capitol.

For further information on a particular new law, your representative, or the legislative process, contact the House Information Office.



Stacks of House and Senate Journals and House and Senate Bills rest on the desk of House Majority Leader Irvin Anderson (International Falls). Moments later Rep. Anderson moved that the House adjourn "sine die".

# Major tax bill brings relief to working poor

A bill reducing the tax on oleomargarine, increasing the tax on railroad companies, and providing tax credit for the working poor, has been signed into law by Gov. Wendell Anderson.

The measure, which broke a House/Senate deadlock before either body would adjourn, is the result of a conference committee agreement.

The tax bill eliminates state income tax for persons with small incomes. The tax credit will have no effect until January 1, 1975. Eligible persons, ranging from a single person with no dependents making under \$3,200 a year, to a person with five dependents making \$6,400 or less a year, including all income sources, will not have to pay state income tax.

It is estimated that this law will

result in a loss of \$7 million annually for the state.

Minnesotans will pay five cents less in taxes for colored oleomargarine beginning July 1, 1974. The current 10-cents-per-pound tax will be completely repealed on July 1, 1975. House sponsor Douglas Johnson (Cook) said that colored oleomargarine is the only food product taxed in the state. The repeal of the oleomargarine tax will mean a net loss for the state of \$2.1 million each year.

Part of the expected loss of tax revenue will be made up by increasing the tax on little cigars. About \$600,000 is anticipated annually through the little cigar tax, the same tax that is currently imposed on cigarettes.

More revenue will be raised with an

income tax on railroads. About \$1.4 million is expected to be raised each year, when this section of the law goes into effect January 1, 1975.

Additional taxes will be imposed on newly-discovered iron ore, property value of taconite plants; and by reduction in the shrinkage allowance for iron ore deposits.

The bill also changes the tree growth tax law from a county stumpage rate to the state stumpage rate. When a timber land owner withdraws from the tree growth tax schedule all back taxes and penalties must be paid for 10 years prior to expiration of the contract.

The total gain to the state from the tax revenues is estimated at \$930,000.

## Ethics law to regulate campaign spending

A law establishing guidelines for campaign spending and regulating lobbyists was enacted during the 68th session of the legislature. The law also provides for public financing of campaigns through an income tax checkoff system.

The House approved the bill, Wednesday, March 27, as revised by a conference committee, with a vote of 118 to 10. The Senate voted 41 to 17 for the bill.

The ethics bill is a comprehensive measure designed to regulate election financing and the legislative process by eliminating the opportunity for undue influence created by large financial contributions and secret lobbying efforts.

A bipartisan ethics commission composed of six members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of both the House and Senate is created to administer the law.

Lobbyists are required to register and to report on their expenditures and activities as lobbyists. Lobbyists are not permitted to be compensated on a contingent fee based on their success in getting a particular item of legislation passed.

Campaign financing is regulated by requiring each statewide, judicial, and legislative candidate, excluding federal office candidates to form a principal campaign committee.

The committee must register and report periodically on its activities, including reporting the name and address of contributors who contribute more than \$50 to a candidate for legislative office or \$100 for a candidate for statewide office in any year.

The bill limits the amount which may be spent by or on behalf of any one candidate. For state representative, the limit is \$7,500, for state senator, \$15,000, governor and lieutenant governor, running together, \$600,000.

The bill limits contributions of any association or person to a candidate to a 10 per cent of the candidate's permitted spending limit. A political party may contribute up to 50 per cent of a candidate's permitted spending limit.

Contributions and activities of associations, such as labor or commerce associations would also be controlled by the legislation. They are required to set up political funds through which the association may contribute to candidates. The political fund must register and report with the ethics commission as do the campaign committees.

A tax check off of \$1, or \$2 if filing a joint return, is created permitting a taxpayer to allocate that sum to candidates of a political party or to all qualifying candidates.

The tax check off money is allocated 40 per cent to candidates for statewide office, 40 per cent to candidates for state

representative, and 20 per cent to candidates for state senate. Guidelines are established to determine when a candidate will qualify for tax check off funds.

The bill also permits a tax credit for contributions to candidates of \$12.50, or \$25 if filing a joint return. Of those amounts \$5, or \$10 if filing a joint return, may be taken as a credit for contributions to a political party.

The bill regulates the behavior of public officials, requiring that they disassociate themselves in certain situations where a conflict of interest is involved. Public officials are also required to file annual financial disclosure statements.

Chief author in the House was Rep. Tom Berg (Minneapolis); other House authors are Reps. Harry Sieben (Hastings), Henry Savelkoul (Albert Lea), Robert Ferderer (St. Paul), and Stanley Fudro (Minneapolis).



Celebrating with a special cake the final passage of the campaign ethics bill are (l. to r.) Reps. Harry Sieben (Hastings) and Tom Berg (Minneapolis), Margaret Dostal, research consultant, and Reps. Glen Sherwood (Pine River), and Phyllis Kahn (Minneapolis).



# Metropolitan bus service to be expanded

Metropolitan bus service will be improved with a new law providing funds for the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

With the final version of the bill, money will be used for more buses, better service, and free rides for persons under 18 during certain hours. The vote to repass the bill as amended by conference committee was 69 to 58.

The measure adopts the Metropolitan Transit Commission's report on bus service expansion and gives the MTC a transit tax levy increase on all taxable property within the metropolitan district.

According to House sponsor John Tomlinson (St. Paul), the increase to 2.87 mills will mean approximately \$15 million additional subsidy for the MTC. The measure also gives the MTC added bonded authority of \$5 million for capital improvement.

Total cost of the bus service expansion, to be completed in 1977, is projected at \$109 million. Federal funding is expected to cover about 80 per cent of these costs.

The report calls for more buses, bus shelters, downtown bus lanes, freeway bus lanes, regional center stations, and various capital improvements. Part of the funds will be used for increased costs in labor and diesel fuel.

Under the final bill, persons under 18 years of age and over the age of 65 can ride the bus free between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., after 6:30 p.m., and on weekends. The free rides will not take effect until

January 30, 1975.

In addition, the bus systems cannot charge more than 50 cents for any ride, except for express service. Currently, the MTC charges 30 cents for a single fare, with additional charges, up to 85 cents, based on a zone system. The new fares would take effect January 30, 1975.

Rep. Tomlinson said the conference committee agreed the free rides would not be a burden for the bus system because the times set up were based on when the buses

are now most empty.

The mill increase will apply to taxes paid next year. An additional .04 mills will be levied for a two-year demonstration program for transportation to the handicapped.

Opposition to the bill on the House floor came from rural legislators who feared the program would affect highway funds dedicated for outstate Minnesota. Rep. Tomlinson assured those representatives it would not.

## State appropriates funds to improve bus systems

Improvement of public transportation throughout all of Minnesota will be possible with a law appropriating \$6 million in funds for that purpose.

Under the bill, the Metropolitan Transit Commission will receive \$4.5 million of the funds. The MTC plans to spend \$3 million to refurbish and operate old buses. They said they would also like to buy 60 new buses with another \$800,000 of their share, and use another \$700,000 to increase operation of the present bus fleet.

House sponsor David Cummiskey (Mankato) said \$1 million will go to the State Planning Agency to administer to

outstate bus companies which now have systems in operation.

Rep. Cummiskey said the remaining \$500,000 will be used by the State Planning Agency for experimental transit projects. An added section in the bill calls for transportation projects for the handicapped.

These demonstration projects could be subsidized up to 75 per cent and may include such ideas as a dial-a-ride system, or public use of school buses in rural areas during non-school hours. Local municipalities would have to cover at least 25 per cent of the capital and expenses.

## Minnesota motorists get no-fault insurance

No-fault automobile insurance for Minnesota motorists is now law with a bill repassed by the House and Senate and signed by the governor. The new system will take effect January 1, 1975.

The House-Senate conferees on S.F. 96 (Davies) reached final agreement after six weeks of meetings on the bill Thursday, March 21. The House adopted the report and repassed the bill March 22 with a vote of 128 to 0. The Senate agreed on the revised version of the bill March 21, 55 to 5.

No-fault insurance means that a victim would be compensated by his own insurance company, regardless of who caused the accident. The victim's medical expenses would be paid without trying to determine which driver was at fault.

Every driver would be required to carry \$30,000 insurance to cover losses in an accident, \$20,000 for injury and \$10,000 for economic loss (including wages).

No-fault legislation is aimed at reducing the cost of insurance and speeding insurance payments to accident victims. The 12 states who have adopted no-fault laws report that

insurance costs have decreased when legal and investigative costs of determining fault have been eliminated or reduced.

Insurance premiums for bodily injury would be reduced by 30 per cent if the bill becomes law. A reduction in overall automobile insurance rates would be approximately 12 per cent. The commissioner of insurance could reduce or eliminate the mandatory premium reduction if he found that it posed a serious threat to auto insurance companies in the state.

The victim's right to sue would be limited. An accident victim could file suit only in cases where death, permanent injury, disfigurement, inability to work for more than 60 days, or economic loss over first party benefits, resulted from an accident caused by another driver.

Under the provisions of the no-fault bill, property damage would not be covered. House conferees felt requiring collision insurance on every car would pose economic hardship for owners of older vehicles.

An injured person could collect up to \$20,000 in medical costs and up to \$10,000 in

other economic losses. Reimbursement for wage loss is limited to \$200 per week. A person who earns more than \$200 a week would be allowed to sue for the amount over \$200 that he would normally earn.

Motorcycle owners must carry the required liability insurance for protection against possible lawsuits. Motorcycle owners will not be required to carry the first party coverage but insurance companies must offer it if an owner wants to carry it.

The conference committee agreed on a section of the bill to allow subrogation by insurance companies only when a commercial vehicle is involved or when a tort action for general damages is begun.

In these cases, an insurance company can gain reimbursement from the company of the driver at fault. The final version of the bill prohibits for the most part, duplication of benefits from several insurance sources.

The House version of the no-fault bill was sponsored by the Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

## Schools to receive \$8.9 million in aids for costs; programs

An \$8.9 million school aids bill to cover increased costs in education and transportation, and to fund educational programs has been signed into law by Gov. Wendell Anderson.

Under the law, \$5.5 million is appropriated to the department of education for a foundation aid increase of \$5 per pupil unit. Most of these funds will be used for salaries of teachers and school administrators.

Another \$2.7 million is allocated to school districts for increased costs in transportation. The school aids legislation was the largest spending bill of the 1974 session.

In addition, \$200,000 is added to the state's Right-to-Read program; \$100,000 is appropriated for educational television stations; and \$250,000 is allocated for early childhood identification and education programs.

Money for the early childhood identification and education programs will be used to fund pilot programs in school districts for children before kindergarten and below the age of six.

According to House sponsor of the bill Rep. Joseph Graba (Wadena), the Council on Quality Education will make grants to at least six programs for the 1974-75 school year. The law provides for equal distribution of programs among cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

The pilot programs may include identification of potential barriers to learning, education of parents on child development, libraries of educational materials, home-based programs, family services, and referral services.

## Schools may adopt flexible programs

A bill which would allow school districts to adopt flexible school year programs has been signed by the governor and is now state law. The Minnesota House of Representatives gave unanimous consent to the bill.

All school district programs must be approved by the Department of Education. Alternative programs a district may adopt include 45-15 plans, four quarter plans, quinmester plans, extended school plans, flexible all-year plans, or four-day week plans.

Current law requires that 175 days of classes must be held within a 10 month period. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Graba (Wadena), went into effect the day following enactment.

# Energy Conservation Act creates energy agency

A state energy agency will be established with a bill already signed into law by the governor.

The revised version of the bill was accepted by the House by a vote of 92 to 35. Several conference committee meetings were held to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the measure.

The Energy Conservation Act combines two energy related bills sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (Duluth).

The bill creates a state agency to coordinate and study energy matters on a statewide basis to be headed by a director. Originally, the House bill would have created a department of energy.

Opponents of the bill said there is no need for "new bureaucracy in state government", and that the work can be done by existing departments.

The new director will be advised by a legislative commission on energy comprised of legislators and citizens. The commission will consist of three senators, three representatives, and three public members appointed by the governor. The commission will expire July 1, 1975, unless renewed by the legislature.

The director will be appointed by the governor after consideration of names recommended by the legislative commission.

He will serve a four year term. The director must not have a conflict of interest with any energy agency, utility, or manufacturer.

Energy conservation measures called for in the bill include:

- a program for maximum energy use standards for street, highway, and parking lot lighting.

- no new natural gas outdoor lighting shall be installed after July 1, 1974.

- promotional practices by suppliers of energy may be limited.

- standards to be established for heat loss control, illumination, and climate control for new buildings and remodeling. Buildings affected are only those structures already covered by the state building code.

- an efficiency study of the traffic flow system to consider the feasibility of a computer coordinated traffic system.

- a study for the feasibility of encouraging car pools and private busing through tax incentives.

- a study of the possibility of modifying license fees for more efficient automobiles.

The bill appropriates \$350,000 to the agency and \$30,000 to the legislative commission. As amended by the conference committee, the Energy Agency will expire on December 31, 1979, unless renewed by the legislature.



Following adjournment, Rep. Peter X. Fugina hurries past the stacks of journals and copies of bills in the House chambers to head home to Virginia, Minnesota.

# Public utilities come under state regulation

Under a new Minnesota law, the state Public Service Commission will now regulate the utility rates of natural gas and electricity.

The legislation gives the PSC the power to regulate all private and cooperative utilities. The PSC would regulate rates, establish standards, and assign exclusive areas. Municipally owned utilities are exempt from the bill.

The new law takes effect January 1, 1975. House author Rep. Richard Parish (Golden Valley) said that Minnesota was one of three states which did not have state control of utility rates.

Rep. Parish said the bill is needed to help those communities in the state which are powerless or do not have the financial resources to contest rate increases. The Public Service Commission already regulates telephone rates in the state.

Rates would be based on a projection of the time period during which they will be in effect. The PSC has 12 months to make a decision on an issue brought before the commission. The measure would also increase the membership of the Public Services Commission from three to five.

The commission would have the power to fix standards and regulations, and inspect utilities operations. Utilities must file rate changes with the commission and the utility must prove the necessity of the rate change. The commission would make inquiries into complaints on utilities, and arrange for hearings on these matters. The law authorizes the commission to adjust rates that it finds, after investigation, unreasonable.

No person serving on the Public Service Commission can own shares, be employed by, or have financial interest in a utility.

## State legislature Passes \$450 million Home loan Program

Gov. Wendell Anderson has signed into law a bill providing \$450 million revenue bonding authority for home rehabilitation loans, for new home mortgage financing and the refinancing of existing mortgages.

H.F. 2950, authored by Rep. Frank Knoll (Minneapolis), which passed the legislature March 27, is the largest home loan program in state history. It aims at low and moderate-income families who at the present time can't get home loans due to the tight money market.

The new law permits the state Housing Finance Agency to sell bonds to finance loans and appropriates \$1 million for bond security to make the rehabilitation bonds more attractive to prospective buyers.

About \$350 million of the agency's revenue will go for home purchasing and the remaining \$100 million for home rehabilitation in amounts up to \$5,000.

To be eligible for a loan, a person living in the metropolitan area must have an adjusted annual gross income of less than \$12,000. If he lives in the non-metropolitan area, his adjusted gross income must be less than \$11,000 per year. Home lending institutions, in cooperation with the state Housing Finance Agency and local housing authorities, will administer the loan program.

Any persons needing additional information as to qualifications for the home rehabilitation and home purchase loans or who want to know where they can obtain such loans should contact the state Housing Finance Agency, 1st Floor — Hanover Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

## Probate reform adopted

Minnesota joined 10 other states that have adopted major probate reform legislation when the House and Senate passed and sent to the governor a bill that adopts four sections of the Uniform Probate Code (UPC).

The UPC was drafted by the Commissioners of Uniform State Laws, an organization of experts who are attempting to standardize state laws. Fifteen identical versions of uniform probate code legislation have been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Senate this session.

The law will go into effect August 1, 1975, except for the provisions relating to attorney's fees and bonding, which are effective August 1, 1974.

"Probate" usually refers to the entire process of settling a dead person's estate whether or not he left a will, although the term literally refers to proving that a will is genuine.

Rep. John Lindstrom (Willmar) said the legislation has three main objectives:

- to simplify probate procedure by clarifying the intent of the decedent; and speeding up the distribution of assets of the estate.

- to adjust the probate system to a changing society. With increased mobility, persons often have property and financial interests in more than one state. The bill provides for settling of problems involving more than one state.

- to provide more flexibility in probate procedure. An estate may be settled informally (without close supervision of the court) if the interested parties agree.

Heirs or creditors may petition for formal (court supervised) probate, and the court

will administer the estate. Parties may choose to use parts of each procedure, so the court could handle complicated matters, or settle disputes between heirs, but noncontroversial matters could be settled out of court.

If the court anticipates problems in settling an estate informally, a supervised probate could be ordered. In informal probate, the estate must be closed within 18 months, or the administrator must show why this has not been done.

In addition to the provisions included in the UPC, the new law will regulate attorneys fees and fees for estate representatives and trust companies. Attorneys and representatives may not charge a fee based only on the size of the estate.

The court will now determine a fair fee based on work-time, responsibilities, and experience of the attorney, and the complexity and value of the estate. No one factor will override others in determining the fee.

Another change from current probate practice involves bonding of the estate representative. In the new law, a bond is required only if the court, the will, or a beneficiary of the bill demands it. Remedies for protection from fraud are also included in the legislation. There is a separate method provided for probating small estates.

Minnesota's new law includes articles I, II, IV, and VIII of the Uniform Probate Code. The proposed code was approved in 1969 by the Commissioner of Uniform State Laws and by the American Bar Association. It has been adopted in total by six states and four states have adopted parts of it. The UPC is under study in twenty other states at the present time.



## Chief Clerk's Office grows

Chief Clerk Edward Burdick came to work for the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1941 as a messenger. He held various positions in the House before becoming Chief Clerk in 1966.

In 1955, he was one of three full time employees of the House, all of whom worked in the Chief Clerk's Office, an office that now employs 22 people year round.

"The volume of work has increased," Mr. Burdick said, "because the public interest has increased tremendously in recent years."

To accommodate this increase in public interest, the Chief Clerk's Office has expanded from space on the sides of the chamber to its main offices on the second floor of the Capitol and to additional office and storage space on the third and fourth floors.

The second floor offices include a



Chief Clerk for the House of Representatives Edward A. Burdick.

## to meet new demands

computerized index system that records the progress of bills and all pertinent information about them.

Through the computer printout, the index department can give citizens and House members the status of bills, new introductions, a weekly list of authors of bills, etc.

At the second floor office, too, interested persons can get copies of bills, journals, and a schedule of the business of the day when the House is in session.

An additional service department within the Chief Clerk's Office is the House Information Office which provides information to the public and press on committee meetings and action by the House through its newsletter, news releases, committee meeting schedules, brochures, and direct correspondence by telephone and mail.



Betty Hayenga, First Assistant Chief Clerk (left), and Hazel Johnson, Desk Clerk.



Journal Clerk Al Mathiowetz, left, and Dan Kane, Second Assistant Chief Clerk.

## Work by House continues after adjournment

The 68th session adjourned Friday, March 29, 1974. But the work is far from over.

Representatives worked at a record-setting pace during this first flexible session, introducing 3,730 bills since the Legislature convened in early 1973. Seven hundred and seventy-six of these bills became law in the 1973 portion of the flexible session. At the time of adjournment, about 620 more were in the process of becoming law.

Now the Secretary of State will have to assign a chapter number to each new law, and the staff in the revisor of statutes' office will update Minnesota Statutes to include all new sections of Minnesota law.

Those of our readers who were in the Capitol and saw the House in action during the session observed some of the Chief

Clerk's staff at work at the front desk in the House Chambers.

Their primary job then was to maintain accurate records of the business before the House, to record bill introductions, committee assignments, committee reports, amendments, official messages; to record all votes; and to enter this information in the Journal of the House—the official, legal, printed record of each day's proceedings.

When the House adjourned last month, the Journal contained a record 7,158 pages. Now the Chief Clerk's staff must audit the entire Journal to be sure all information is correct and that there are no omissions, to get ready for the printing of the permanent Journal.

Another project of the Chief Clerk's staff is the cross reference index for the Journal. As a cross reference, this index must show

the progress of all bills introduced in the House, bills the House received from the Senate, and all other actions as recorded in the Journal.

The index for the 1974 session may fill 2,000 pages when completed.

The Chief Clerk's Office also has a card index on which they have recorded the progress of bills the House acted on during the session. Between sessions, the staff will have to update the card index to include all final action on bills. They then get the permanent records of bill introductions ready for storage.

After they have completed this and other work, prepared, proofed, reproofed and sent to the printer the final copy of the Journal and its index, the Chief Clerk's Office staff can begin preparation for the next session.

# Senior citizens benefit from 1974 session

Twelve bills that came out of the 1974 legislative session will make life a little easier for Minnesota's senior citizens.

These new laws provide:

1) supplemental security income payments that will guarantee an income equal to what they were receiving in December of 1973 to persons receiving old age assistance, aid to the blind, or aid to the disabled.

2) those receiving supplemental security income for the aged, blind, and disabled shall be eligible for medical assistance payments in the state and increases the eligibility limit on income at which a senior citizen can receive medical assistance.

3) those receiving general assistance payments will now have all of their utility bills paid.

4) those in nursing homes and sheltered workshops who receive old age assistance, aid to the blind, or aid to the disabled will get \$25 per month for clothing and personal needs and those recipients in productive employment will have \$25 drawn from their earnings for that purpose.

5) continuing funding of OEO programs as a backup in the event federal funds are not available. This will guarantee that economic opportunity programs will remain in operation.

6) equal rights of administrative review for patients of Veteran Administration or other federal hospitals.

7) free bus service all day on Saturday and Sunday, and between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. until the last bus on Monday through Friday for all persons 65 years of age or over who hold a medicare card, or a special golden age identification card issued by the Metropolitan Transit Company.

8) exemption from sales and use tax for senior citizen groups. The Department of Revenue is presently working out guidelines for the proper interpretation and administration of this law.

9) certain blind, disabled and elderly persons will get an income tax credit. This law also redefines the qualified home owner eligible for senior citizen property tax freeze

to include a person 65 years of age or over, or spouse who owns property as his homestead and title to this property is in the name of two or more joint tenants, where each would meet the requirement of "qualified home owner."

10) certain buildings will have to provide accessibility and usability for physically handicapped and aged persons, in most cases through the construction of ramps.

11) any person 65 years of age or over who may fish without a license must have a valid driver's license, nonqualification certificate, or other document showing proof of residency while fishing or while traveling to or from the fishing location.

12) the Governor's Citizens Council on Aging the responsibility for administering, formulating policy for, and implementing the Older Americans Act of 1965. Council also gets the authority to accept and disburse funds on behalf of the aging and for research demonstration planning, training and service projects pertaining to the state's aging citizens.

## Minnesota to have census agency

A bill which would set up a state central office for the collection and interpretation of census figures was approved by the House March 21, with a vote of 71 to 58. The bill was signed into law by the governor.

The new law appropriates \$100,000 for a state demographer who will assist existing census agencies to determine official population figures for the state.

House sponsor Peter X. Fugina (Virginia) said accurate figures are not now available and "Minnesota is not getting its fair share of

funds allocated according to population figures."

Rep. Fugina said the office will be able to furnish information to national and state agencies to determine federal funds in such areas as education, land use, and transportation.

Opponents said the bill was unnecessary because accurate enough figures are already available through the University of Minnesota and other agencies, and the new office in state government is not needed.

## November 11 is again Veterans Day

Veteran's Day will again be celebrated on November 11 in Minnesota under a bill signed into law by Governor Wendell Anderson March 4.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Al Patton (St. Cloud), changes the Veteran's Day holiday back to November 11 instead of the federal three-day holiday created for the fourth Monday in October.

Rep. Patton said the legislation "restores the celebration of Veteran's Day to its proper place in history." November 11 was designed Veteran's Day following World War II to include veterans of all wars. The day originally had been known as Armistice Day to signify the end of World War I.

The new law will not affect federal employees in the state; they will use the October holiday. State of Minnesota employees will celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11.

If November 11 falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be the holiday; if it falls on a Saturday, the previous Friday will be the holiday.

## School events on precinct caucus days prohibited

Minnesota public secondary or elementary schools are prohibited from scheduling events on a precinct caucus day, under a new law passed by the legislature this season.

With the law, authored in the House by Rep. Stephen Wenzel (Little Falls), schools cannot hold a school sponsored event after 7 p.m. on the day of precinct caucus.

## Communities to control number of liquor licenses

Local governments may decide the number of liquor licenses they want to issue, if authorized by a voter referendum, under a new law passed this session.

Under current state law, liquor licenses are granted by the state to municipalities based on their population. House sponsor John Lindstrom (Willmar) said the change would alleviate the large number of liquor bills the legislature must consider each year for local municipalities.

The bill would also let communities keep both on-sale and off-sale municipal liquor stores. It also allows municipal liquor stores to operate a restaurant and to have live entertainment. The costs of licenses will continue to be set by local municipalities.

## Townships lose legal immunity

Legislation that removes townships from legal immunity was approved by Gov. Wendell Anderson.

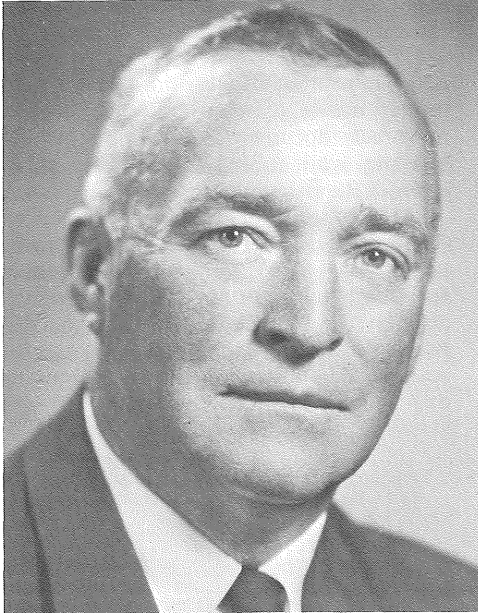
Townships are the last form of government in Minnesota to retain the status which prevents them from being sued for negligence.

Townships now join other governments which must carry liability insurance.

# Five members to retire

Five more members of the House of Representatives have announced their retirement as state representatives. Most, however, will still be working in committee meetings, helping constituents, and returning to the Capitol until their successors take office.

The retiring representatives here are in addition to Rep. Robert Bell (Roseville) and Rep. John Salchert (Minneapolis) who announced their retirements earlier. These seven members represent a total of 88 years of service to the state while in the House of Representatives.

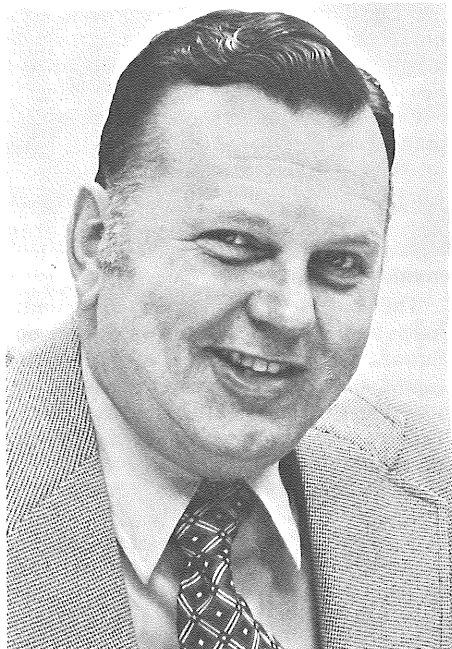


## August B. "Augie" Mueller

(Arlington), who has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 1941, is retiring. He said his time spent in the legislature has been "a tremendous education for me", and, he added, "after 34 years, you get a little tired, too." Rep. Mueller said he plans to travel, perhaps visit relatives in Germany. Rep. Mueller was chairman of the House Highways Committee (now Transportation Committee) for five sessions. He highlighted his career for his work in legislation dealing with the betterment of agriculture in the state, and for better roads for year-round use. No member of the present legislature has served longer than Rep. Mueller, however, Rep. Aubrey Dirlam (Redwood Falls) has also served since 1941.



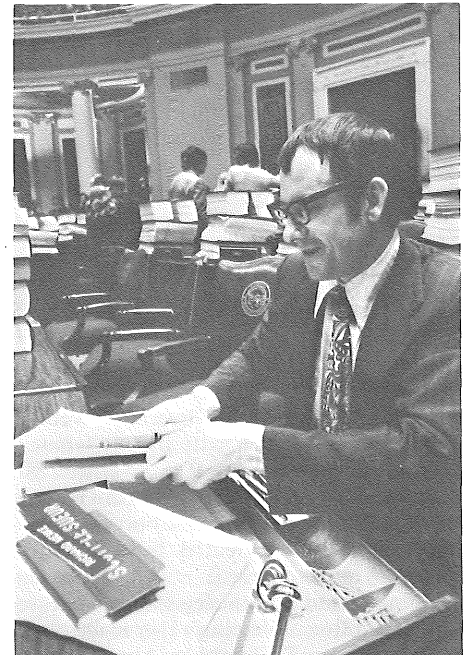
**Helen McMillan** (Austin), has announced her retirement after 12 years with the House of Representatives. She said the work is "seemingly getting harder all the time", and has decided, "I want some time to relax for a while and come home." Rep. McMillan said she has no specific plans yet but wants to "get acquainted with the community again and then see where I can be of help." Rep. McMillan was the only woman in the state's 201 member Legislature during the 1967, 1969, and 1971 sessions. During her time in the House, she has served on every committee except Judiciary, and it is believed she is the only woman in the nation to have chaired a Crime Prevention and Corrections Committee, which she did during the 1973-74 session. Rep. McMillan says she takes pride in that she stayed around long enough while other women were encouraged to run, and get elected. There are now six women serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives.



**Robert Johnson** (St. Paul) is retiring from District 63B because of the "tremendous amount of time" has to be away from other business, the practice of law, and work on the farm. Rep. Johnson was elected to the House in 1962 and served as Assistant Minority leader during the 1973-74 session. He said his leaving politics is not because of money, but that "first and foremost I am a lawyer, and not a professional legislator."



**Harry Peterson** (Madison) will retire as state representative from District 20A to return to farm work and become the director of two cooperatives. Rep. Peterson has served in the House since 1964 and was chairman of the Committee on Local Government for the 1973-74 session. He said he will "take it easier", but still plans to stay involved in politics and community affairs.



**Richard Menke** (Prior Lake), cleaned out his desk in the House chambers following adjournment of the 68th session. Menke was appointed to the Scott County Court by Gov. Wendell Anderson April 8. Rep. Menke said that the point is being reached where there is "just not enough time" for a person to do the best job possible as a legislator, and the necessary work at home. Rep. Menke, representing District 36B, was elected to the House in 1970 and re-elected in 1972.



## Omnibus welfare bill becomes law

More than \$6 million will be appropriated for welfare and corrections programs with a new law passed by the 1974 legislature.

Several welfare bills were incorporated in the final version of the bill, which raised the total appropriation to \$6.2 million. The original bill created an office within the welfare department to coordinate Native American alcohol and drug abuse programs. Other provisions include:

- appropriates \$3.9 million to fund two bills already passed by the House; one allowing payments for Supplemental Security Income recipients; and the other raising income eligibility limits for medical assistance recipients.

- \$100,000 for the Board of Health to assist local agencies to develop and maintain services for the detection and treatment of venereal disease.

- \$700,000 additional funding for daytime activity centers for the mentally retarded.

- \$20,000 primarily for Beltrami County for unique welfare problems existing on the Red Lake Reservation.

- \$60,000 for day care services for children of migrant workers.

- \$20,000 for the Regional Library for the Blind to replace federal funds which have been withdrawn.

- provides \$50,000 for grants-in-aid to Bridge Runaway Youth, Inc., due to federal funds being withdrawn.

- provides a minimum of \$25 per month for clothing and personal needs for nursing home residents assistance, payable directly to the resident; \$300,000 is appropriated.

- establishes county administered food stamp quality control projects.

## New state law eliminates landfill user fee

A bill that eliminates the 15 cent per cubic yard fee for users of sanitary landfills and incinerators has been signed into law. The fee was included in a comprehensive solid waste disposal law passed by the legislature in the last session.

Protest against the fee from outstate counties caused legislators to take another look at the fee, and eventually to eliminate it from the new solid waste law which took effect March 1.

Rep. Willard Munger (Duluth) sponsored both pieces of legislation.

## Governor signs bill for regulation of abortions in state

Gov. Wendell Anderson has signed into law a bill providing for the regulation of abortions. The House of Representatives adopted the Senate version of the bill March 15 and passed the bill 111 to 15.

The law requires that all abortions performed in the state be performed in a hospital or approved abortion facility, and prohibits abortions after the first four and one-half months of pregnancy, except to preserve the life or health of the mother.

The bill also calls for recording and reporting of health data relating to abortions, and provides for rules regarding treatment of a fetus born alive after an attempted abortion.

A provision of the bill allows hospital staff, doctors, or hospitals the right to refuse to assist or perform an abortion.

Before Gov. Anderson signed the bill, he was advised by Attorney General Warren Spannus that two main provisions of the bill may be unconstitutional.

Opponents of measure said the law is unnecessary because there are already Health Department regulations and the Supreme Court has ruled on regulations regarding abortions.

## Member sponsors students for week at House

Most of Rep. Art Braun's constituents followed his legislative work from home in the northwest corner of Minnesota. Some came to St. Paul and got a closer look.

During the 1974 session, Rep. Braun (Greenbush) has hosted 14 high school students from his district, 1A, who interned for a week with the House of Representatives.

The students were the guests of Rep. and Mrs. Braun while in St. Paul, and they

learned first-hand how the legislative process works in his office, in committee, and in the House chambers.

The unique program involved students representing each of 13 schools in Rep. Braun's district. The students were picked by the schools on a non-partisan basis.

"I didn't know most of the kids until they got here," Rep. Braun said, "but after a week, you hate to see them go home."

During the last week of the session, Donn

Anderson, a junior at Stephen High School from Stephen, Minnesota, and Mark Otterson, a junior at Kennedy High School from Kennedy, Minnesota, spent the week with the Brauns.

Mark said he wasn't too interested in politics before he came to the Capitol, but after his week with the Brauns, said the program was a "good deal to get involved in."

Donn called his week of internship "a great experience" and said that "if anyone has a similar opportunity, they should do it." Donn said he wasn't too involved in politics back home, but now plans to attend the local convention and seek other involvement in the political process.

Rep. Braun said the purpose of bringing the students to the Capitol was to inform and interest them in the political process. He said the House has some plans for a statewide program for more students to come to the Capitol and learn about state government. One possibility would be to have outstate students stay with city students while working for the House of Representatives as pages.

Whether the program is expanded or not, Rep. Braun hopes to continue being host and teacher for students that stay with him and his wife.



Rep. Art Braun explains some of the procedures used in the House to Donn Anderson, left, and Mark Otterson, right, while Mrs. Braun looks on.

# Journalist discusses lobbying

People from Elk River, Two Harbors, St. Bonifacius, Thief River Falls, and Minneapolis, most of them educators and students, came to the Capitol on March 27 and 28 to attend a conference on lobbying.

Speakers at the conference included Betty Wilson, journalist, who covers the Capitol for the MINNEAPOLIS STAR.

In her remarks, she said most people think of a lobbyist as a sinister person, "up to no good," subversively influencing legislators to vote on bills for powerful money groups, but in Minnesota, she said this is not true. The lobbyists she observes in the Capitol, she said, are effective, knowledgeable people who work for various interests; who make themselves available to legislators for facts on both sides of the issues. She said lobbyists can be helpful in calling busy legislators'

attention to good bills by providing testimony and healthy dialog at committee meetings.

Betty said she meets lobbyists in her work, and their jobs require almost as much dedication and as many working hours as a state legislator puts in. It's her opinion that the public doesn't realize the amount of dedication to their work elected lawmakers bring to their jobs, because "newspaper, radio, and TV coverage usually doesn't point this out."

In answering questions, she said, as a citizen, she wouldn't like to see a unicameral (one body of legislators) in Minnesota, because she feels the controversy, and the check and balance of the bicameral (two house) system focuses more attention on the legislative process.

## Law permits governor to appoint student on College Board

Gov. Wendell Anderson has signed into law a bill allowing a state college student or recent graduate to be appointed to the State College Board.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Russell Stanton (Marshall), provides for a tenth member of the Board, appointed by the governor for a two-year term.

A similar bill by Rep. Arne Carlson (Minneapolis), to elect a student or recent graduate to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, was passed by the House but rejected by the Senate.

The bill called for the legislature to elect a University student or recent graduate as one of the 12 regents, commencing with election of members in 1975.

# Lobbyists describe their work; stress credibility

Three lobbyists presented some insights into their function in state government at the conference on lobbying March 27 and 28. St. Clair Beeman, a longtime veteran at the Capitol, who lectures on lobbying throughout the country, described as a "myth" the idea that any person can buy a Minnesota legislator's vote. He said, "You can go out to lunch with him, discuss the issue, and he'll go back and vote against you."

Beeman said Minnesota legislators' standards are high, and the lobbyist's credibility is of utmost importance to his work. He said it would be fatal to the career of a lobbyist to lie or misrepresent an issue to legislators.

Beeman lobbies for what he terms "people" organizations. Before becoming a professional lobbyist in 1960, he lobbied for labor and civil and human rights legislation. He presently represents municipal utilities.

Much of the work of a lobbyist is "drudgery," he said. He must keep appointments. When new bills come up he looks up the principal authors, finds out something about the background of individuals offering the bills and the purpose of their introduction. He must watch the bulletin boards to see when bills he's interested in are coming up for hearing and leave his name with committee clerks to be sure he receives notification of hearings.

On especially important issues, he may find it necessary to seek out and talk to all of the committee members hearing the bills. He must attend committee hearings where his responsibilities are to defend a bill or to attempt to stop bills unfavorable to his clients. Often he has to seize an opportunity to get modification of a particular bill. He

has to trace down the meaning of amendments—find out who has them and what they are—read and reread bills to keep up with possible unfavorable changes and watch what people in the opposition are doing.

To accomplish all of this, a lobbyist starts early in the session, gets around and greets legislators he knows—meets the new ones. Beeman has gone along to outstate meetings to meet constituents. He makes an effort to be of help through thorough and accurate research. He watches the journals (printed record of each day's legislative proceedings) for bills of interest to his clients and looks for "sins" of omission as well as commission in the drafting of these bills. This "watchdogging" is sometimes useful to legislators, because a lobbyist may be able to alert them to important facts and ultimate effects of amendments according to Beeman.

In concluding his presentation, following a question and answer session, Beeman said Minnesota has a "clean" uncorrupted legislative body, and all a lobbyist can hope to do is get the legislators to listen to him.

Elmer Berglund, Bemidji, formerly of Thief River Falls and former member of the House of Representatives, lobbies for legislation affecting organized labor, particularly railroad employees.

Lobbyists for labor watch for legislation that could have adverse effects on working people. Some positive results Berglund cited were the improved sanitary conditions in locomotives and cabooses for railroad employees; making illegal the importing of strike breakers; and prohibition of lie detector tests as a condition of employment.

Berglund confirmed what St. Clair Beeman had said about the basic functions

of a lobbyist, pointing out that they are often the source of good, factual information, and supporting the absolute need for credibility, stating that falsification of information by a lobbyist would cost him his right to appear before the legislature in Minnesota, which, in his opinion, is the "cleanest" legislative body in the United States.

Roger Erskine lobbies for the Minnesota Educational Association. He said education is an area of high interest to the people of Minnesota and the state spends over half of its money on education. His work touches on education at all levels, from early childhood through college.

In this session, Erskine reported, a whole batch of bills came to fruition.

Much of his work depends, Erskine said, on the contact network set up in every district in the state which informs youngsters, parents, and educators, and through which he can ask them to get in touch with their legislators. His organization has a toll free line during a session, receiving about 400 calls per day.

He said he is in the Capitol all day, everyday during the session, because he can't afford to miss an opportunity to speak on a bill in a committee meeting. He has to be on the scene. He, like Beeman and Berglund, tries to be a source of reliable information for legislators.

Erskine said his job has two dimensions, the planning and organizing, and the actual at-the-Capitol work. He said the key criteria to the success of a lobbyist is his honesty. Most of them are attorneys, and Erskine repeated what the others said—there is nothing subversive about their work. He sees lobbying as part of the American political process and feels that education has a lot to offer in the political arena.

# New laws affect hunting, trapping seasons

SEVERAL BILLS relating to game and fish passed the legislature this session.

Smelt fisherman will now have to abide by a law which prohibits the taking of smelt outside of a certain area.

This bill makes it a misdemeanor to take smelt from streams north of State Aid Highway 61 in St. Louis and Lake counties between Duluth and Two Harbors and from Two Harbors along U.S. Highway 61 to the Canadian border, if the streams flow into Lake Superior and if they "have been posted" by the Department of Natural Resources to prohibit the taking of smelt.

The bill also prohibits the use of dip nets in trout pools.

MOOSE HUNTING gets further restrictions under a law authorizing the Commissioner of Natural Resources to set one season for the taking of moose by legal firearms and with bow and arrow between January 1, 1975 and December 31, 1975.

This bill also amends Minnesota statutes to forbid the issuing of a license to take moose to any individual who held a license within either of the last two moose seasons.

In 1971 the license section of the Department of Natural Resources issued 1,600 licenses, and 2,080 in 1973. None of these 3,680 individuals will be eligible for a license in 1975 in order to give other hunters an opportunity to take moose. Nineteen seventy-one was the first open season on moose in Minnesota for a number of years.

THE WOLVERINE went onto the list of protected animals this session, and any person who unlawfully takes, buys, sells, transports, or possesses a wolverine shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Among other animals native to Minnesota already protected are martens, fishers, and wild turkeys.

TWO LINE FISHING through the ice is permissible in Minnesota under still another new piece of legislation. This bill amends 1971 Minnesota statutes by changing the

statutory definition of angling and allowing the use of two lines and two baits in the taking of fish through the ice.

Limits and seasons on fish remain the same.

WILD ANIMALS held in captivity for public exhibition purposes must receive humane treatment under penalty of the law according to H.F. 679, which requires the Commissioner of Natural Resources to promulgate reasonable standards for their care and treatment.

The bill authorizes the commissioner to issue a permit for \$10 to any qualified person to possess wild life for public exhibition purposes in accordance with state statutes.

Provisions of this bill don't apply to any municipal, county, state, or other publicly owned zoo or wild life exhibit, privately owned traveling zoo, circus, or pet shop.

The law states, "Anyone who violates any provision of this bill, or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

Notice of violation to a permittee exhibiting wild animals and a reasonable time to correct the violation is a requirement of the statutes. If the permittee refuses, the commissioner may request the attorney general to bring an action to abate the violation.

The Department of Natural Resources and the humane society jointly sponsored this bill to prevent mistreatment of animals.

The season for beaver trapping will be closed during 1975 in northern

## County court judges get salary raise

The annual salaries of outstate Minnesota County court judges will be raised because of a new law passed in the 68th session.

The salaries of those county court judges outside of the seven county metropolitan area, except St. Louis County, is raised to \$27,500 annually for those judges learned in the law.

The annual salaries for lay county court judges is now set at \$23,500. County court judges for Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and St. Louis counties will earn \$29,000 a year. Twin Cities area judges will continue to receive \$29,000.

## Counties to be redrawn after census

Officials will have to redraw county commissioner district lines after every federal census under Minnesota law.

The new law requires that county boards redistrict their counties within 180 days of the final census report and that commissioners be elected by districts rather

than at large, in order to guarantee the one-man, one-vote principle.

House author Peter X. Fugina (Virginia) said the legislation was needed because the beaver has been over-trapped in recent years. The Department of Natural Resources said the number of beaver trapped last year was 10,000 more than the 20,000 allowed.

An amendment which excludes Pine County was adopted by the House when it approved the bill with a vote of 114 to 7.

The bill allows for the taking of beaver during the calendar year of 1976, only for a period not exceeding 45 days from November 1 to May 31.

## Drainage system land classification delayed

The classification of land for drainage systems by county boards will be postponed as a result of legislation passed by the House of Representatives. The bill was approved by the House 97 to 19 and signed by the governor to become law.

The new law passed in 1973 instructed the Commissioner of Natural Resources to establish a list of criteria county boards or court systems must consider when establishing and improving drainage systems.

The delay will give legislators time to study the Department of Natural Resources' rules and regulations.

## Nonresidents may use studded tires in state

Non-residents of Minnesota will be able to drive into the state with studded snow tires with a new state law.

The measure allows visitors from other states to drive in Minnesota with studded snow tires. State law now prohibits studded tires on Minnesota roads.

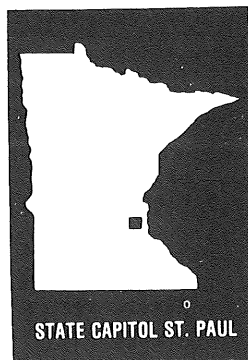
House sponsor Victor Schulz (Goodhue) said the bill is designed to permit outstate shoppers to drive to Minnesota border communities. The new law does not apply to students or workers who commute into Minnesota.

## Law eliminates sex distinction in crime of prostitution

A bill abolishing distinctions on the basis of sex in crimes of prostitution was repassed by the House of Representatives following a conference committee report and is now state law.

Under the legislation, customers would be subject to the same penalty as prostitutes. The maximum penalty is one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. According to Rep. Phyllis Kahn (Minneapolis), House author, the new law brings Minnesota statutes in line with the Equal Rights Amendment.





STATE CAPITOL ST. PAUL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

## SESSION SCENES

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Information Office/Official Newsletter

Room 214A State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN. 55155 Phone 296-2146

1-800-551-2

Federal legislation pending

# Private pensions protected by new law

Minnesota workers in private industry who have been promised pensions will get their benefits under a bill to be signed into law by Governor Wendell Anderson.

The landmark pensions guarantee bill was repassed by the House following the adoption of a conference committee report on the measure. Basically, the bill, sponsored by Rep. Stanley Enebo (Minneapolis) does the following:

- \*Protects the pension of any worker with at least 10 years of service to a company employing 100 or more workers. If a company terminates its pension plan, goes out of business, or leaves the state, the attorney general can attach remaining company assets to guarantee payment of pensions, or bring suit to collect the funds for employees.

- \*Multimember plans, common in construction industry, are exempt from the bill.

- \*Establishment of a creditor priority based on a schedule mandated by the Federal Bankruptcy Act. The employee assumes the same position as any other secured or unsecured creditor.

- \*Funds collected from these employer assets to meet pension obligations will be invested in prepared annuities to continue a form of pension benefit rather than be paid out in lump sums.

Rep. Enebo said the legislation is a stop-gap measure to protect the pensions of those employed in private industry, "until federal pension legislation now pending in Congress is finally passed."

Many Minneapolis workers lost their pensions when the White Motor Company closed its Minneapolis Moline plant in south Minneapolis two years ago. The bill is

designed to prevent such losses for workers in the future.

A provision added to the bill provides for a legislative study of reinsurance, particularly if this feature is not included in federal legislation.

The report will be made to the next legislature in 1975. The report could include a state system of reinsurance but the section had no binding effect, since federal action in this area seems probable.

Firms that maintain fully funded pension plans are not liable under the law. Some firms may make their pension obligations with a voluntary settlement with their employees on a fair and equitable basis subject to approval by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Employers may also offer workers similar jobs within the state with continuation of pension benefits and at a comparable compensation.



Gov. Wendell Anderson signed the pension protection bill into law April 9 during a special ceremony at the site of the now razed Minneapolis Moline Plant in south Minneapolis. Eleven hundred workers lost nearly all their pensions when the plant closed down two years ago. Standing behind the governor are (left to right), Senate sponsor of the bill John Chenoweth, Francis Jeffries, International Representative, UAW, House co-authors John Sarna (Minneapolis), and Donald Moe (St. Paul), Stanley Enebo (Minneapolis), chief author of the bill, and David Roe, President, Minnesota AFL-CIO. Other House authors are Irvin Anderson (International Falls), and Bill Quirin, (Rochester).



Gordon Milliam, a machine operator at Minneapolis Moline for 22½ years, was overcome with emotion at the bill signing ceremony. Mr. Milliam, now confined to a wheelchair, expected \$300 a month when he retired, but received only \$70.61. Mr. Milliam's testimony at several committee meetings helped legislators become aware of employees who had no pension protection plan.