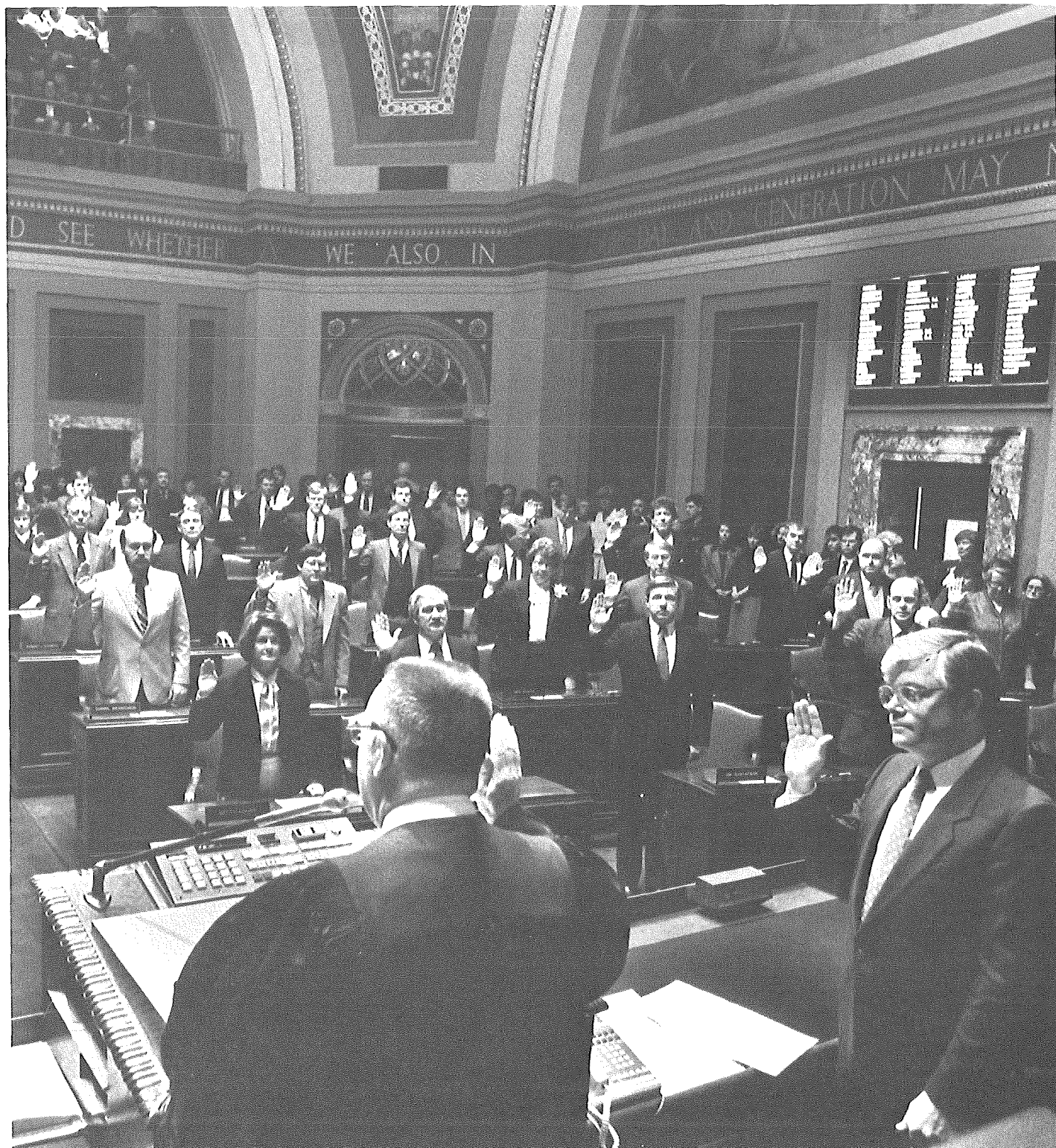


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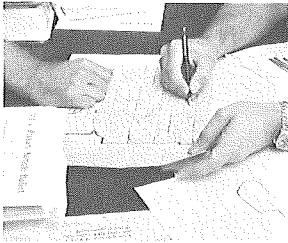
Perspectives

A Publication about the Minnesota State Senate Vol. 13, No. 1



Election '86: Session '87

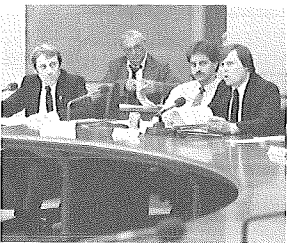
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Perspectives

This issue of Perspectives provides an introduction to the ten new senators elected this November. A listing of new senate committees and committee jurisdictions is also provided. In addition, this issue attempts to provide a more in-depth look at a representative senate campaign in order to provide insight into Minnesota's election process. Finally, an article devoted to

interviews with senate leadership figures illustrates caucus goals and objectives for the 1987 Legislative Session.

Writers: Karen L. Clark
Steve Senyk

Photographer: David J. Oakes

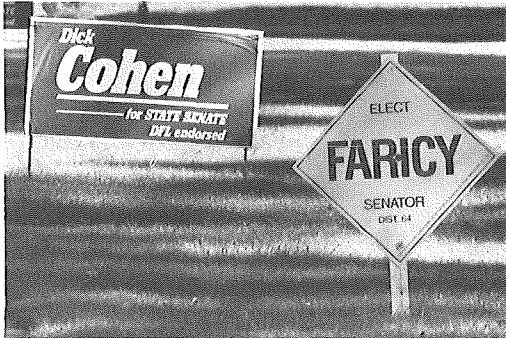
Layout and Design: Steve Senyk

On the cover:

Chief Justice Douglas K. Amdahl swears in 67 state senators the opening day of session, January 6, 1987.

Photo by David J. Oakes.

(Right) Ray Faricy and his campaign staff plan a literature drop. (Lower left) Cohen distributes one of his brochures to a district resident.



District race illustrates campaign

by Karen L. Clark

Election '86 is now history. On a national scale, the campaign year was characterized as one of the most negative in memory. Millions of dollars were spent on the electronic media and candidates throughout the country campaigned fiercely and with determination.

In Minnesota, Election '86 brought about a number of surprises. DFLers gained control of the Minnesota House of Representatives, increased their majority in the Minnesota State Senate and retained the governorship. However, in the days and weeks preceding the election, no one could be certain of the results. Veteran political observers predicted various outcomes, but until the Tuesday, November 4 votes were counted, nothing could be certain.

Senate District 64, located in St. Paul, was

selected to illustrate the elections process for a Minnesota State Senate campaign. The district provided an excellent opportunity to observe the entire electoral process because in addition to the general election, there was also a primary election.

The neighborhoods encompassed by District 64 are primarily attractive middle-class residential areas with a rich heritage of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. The area, which includes St. Paul's Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods, contains numerous small businesses and the busy Highland shopping area on Ford Parkway.

The district Senate seat had been held by Independent Republican Ron Sieloff for ten years. This year, for campaign '86, the district would have no incumbent. The seat was open and candidates from both parties

were eager to run.

On the IR side, candidate Bill Ridley, a 23-year resident of the district, found that the timing of the campaign and the election would fit neatly into his plans to take early retirement from the Control Data Corporation. "It seemed a natural. Opportunities were coming together," he said, "I had spent my life as a 'captive' of institutions or corporations and now I had an opportunity to do things I had always wanted to do." Ridley had extensive public service experience as the President of Minnesota State Board of Education, Vocational Education and Chair of the National Task Force on Education Technology but had never sought elected office before. And, although holding elective office had not been a long time goal, the timing presented "an opportunity one does not pass up," Ridley said.

Retiring Senator Sieloff and other party officials encouraged Ridley to seek endorsement for the seat. "I did everything rather amateurishly and found myself in the middle of a race," he said, "I made short speeches at the precinct caucuses in February and later, when I found out the names of the delegates, I sought their votes." Originally, two other IR's expressed interest in running for the seat, but Ridley was able to gain the party's endorsement.

DFLers, on the other hand, found that they had a primary battle on their hands. From the outset several candidates were attracted to the Senate seat, but the process narrowed the field to two veteran campaigners. Representative Richard Cohen and former Representative Ray Faircy both felt they could serve the district effectively. Faircy, an attorney, had served in the Minnesota House for five terms, until 1980. Cohen, also an attorney, was serving his third non-consecutive term in the House of Representatives.

Faircy said that though he had been content as a retired House member, "during the spring of 1985, I was encouraged by indications of support on the part of Senate members." For his part, Cohen felt that the "context of a four-year term and the ability to be more reflective" was a factor that entered into his decision to run for the Senate seat. Cohen added that the opportunity to represent the entire district rather than half of the district was also attractive. "The diversity of the district appeals to me," he said, "because of the gamut of issues that face urban populations."

Both Faircy and Cohen sought party endorsement at the district convention. Faircy had been contacting party members and continued to do so after the caucuses in February. Faircy said that by the time the convention took place "I knew the votes were not there for endorsement but I went to the convention because I know strange things can happen at DFL conventions."

Cohen, too, had been actively seeking district convention delegate votes. Two other candidates, Dave McDonald and Diane Krogstad, were also in the race for endorsement. Although all the DFL candidates held similar positions on many issues, a fundamental difference existed on the issue of abortion. And, in District 64 as in many other Senate districts, the abortion issue has long been extremely volatile, Faircy characterized himself as "pro-life," Cohen characterized himself as "pro-choice."

At the district convention, endorsement balloting went through a number of votes with each prospective candidate holding firm. However, because the district convention contained a "drop-out rule" —

that is, if a candidate failed to receive a specified percentage of votes, the candidate had to drop off the ballot for subsequent balloting — Faircy was dropped after the fifth ballot. The voting continued between McDonald and Cohen for several more ballots before Cohen was declared the endorsed DFL candidate.

After the convention, Faircy said he still had not made up his mind about whether or not to run in the primary. "It took two weeks to decide, but I was encouraged by people and there were indications I might have financial support," he said. Ultimately, Faircy announced that he would run in a primary against Cohen. "I decided I might as well do it and get it out of my system once and for all," he said.

Meanwhile, Bill Ridley found that the DFL primary was a mixed blessing for his campaign. In an interview a few days prior to the primary election, Ridley commented on the advantages and disadvantages of the other party's primary contest. On the one hand, he was working hard to build name recognition. "Our task was greater than the DFLers because they had both been representatives. I had to take on the whole district from an unknown position," he said. On the other hand, though, Ridley found that the primary was advantageous because "in their battle they revealed each other in a way I couldn't," he said.

"The first two jobs are to build an organization and to start fund raising efforts," Ridley said. He went on to add that he had found that the three key elements in a campaign were organization, fund raising and hard work. An advantage that Ridley cited in the early stages of his campaign was having the benefit of experienced party

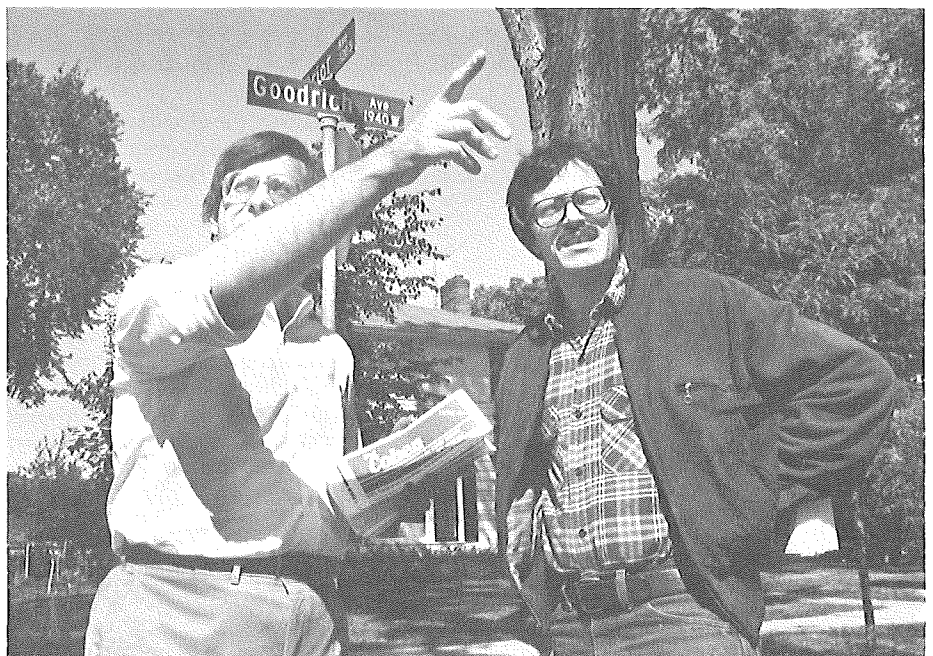
people who knew the district as the result of Ron Sieloff's long tenure in the Senate. In addition, Ridley and his wife began door-knocking on June 1, very early in the campaigning season. Finally, Ridley was one of the first candidates to place lawn signs on the major thoroughfares of his district.

Cohen and Faircy commented on the disadvantages and advantages of the primary race in separate interviews in the days just prior to the September primary election. Faircy said that because the primary was one of the most visible legislative contests, the winner would benefit in the general election. Both felt that the extra media attention had helped name recognition in areas of the district that they had not represented and helped delineate their differences. Cohen said, though, that "primaries always hurt because they siphon off resources and use up volunteers." "I would rather direct those efforts toward the general election," he said.

Faircy indicated that not having the DFL endorsement had not played a significant role in his campaign. But, he said that though he had not relied heavily on the party in previous campaigns, "not having the precinct chairs does hurt" for literature drops and sign locations. Faircy began his doorknocking effort on June 9, and, by his estimate, had gone to more than 9,500 homes. In addition, he was able to place 400 lawn signs during the course of the contest. As for fund raising, Faircy said that he took out a loan in order to "relieve ourselves of the concerns of campaign mechanics." However, he added, "there will obviously be a day of reckoning."

In contrast, Cohen felt that having the

Photo by David J. Oakes



Cohen plans doorknocking strategy with campaign worker.

endorsement was advantageous to his campaign. He cited the availability of volunteers, help in fund raising, help from other DFL office holders and a position on the DFL sample ballot as positive factors in the race. Nevertheless, Cohen, too, spoke of the ongoing doorknocking efforts and hard work involved in the campaign process. Cohen said that an estimated 8,000 to 9,000 likely DFL voters had been identified and that 1,500 to 2,000 of those voters were undecided. His efforts, he said, were targeted at the undecided voters. Cohen added that though polling indicated that 40 percent of the likely voters were influenced positively by party endorsement, primaries tend to be more uncertain than general elections and that he was not taking the results for granted.

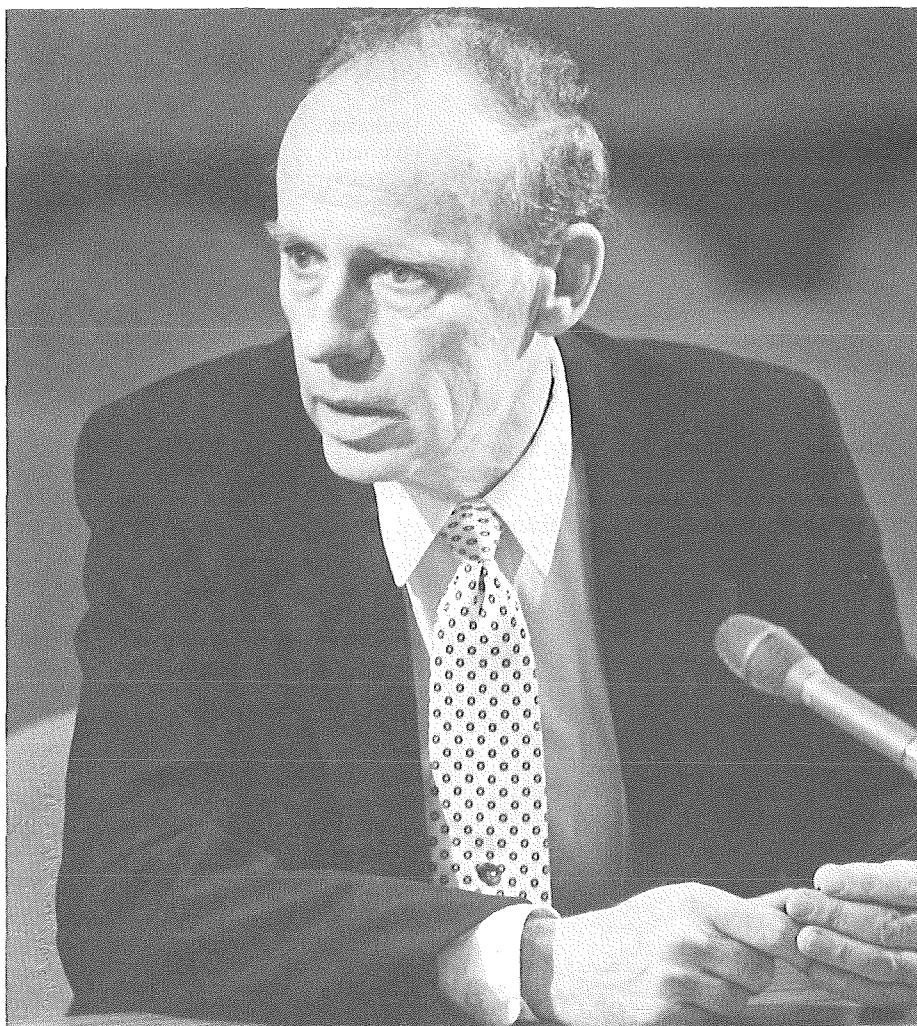
During the interviews both candidates emphasized that the campaigns were issue oriented. Cohen stressed his experience and record on environmental and civil liberty issues and his desire to continue working on economic development and local aids funding issues. Faricy also emphasized his stance on environmental and social policy issues while expressing a desire to work on issues concerning the structure and function of the Legislature.

The September 5th primary saw the emergence of Cohen as the DFL standard bearer in District 64. (A lawsuit filed by Faricy disputing the result of the primary was settled out of court just after the November general election.) The focus, thus, was shifted to the differences between the IR and DFL candidates. Ridley now had a clear opponent to challenge in his bid for the Senate seat and Cohen could now focus his efforts on the general election.

In an interview the day before the general election Cohen said those general election efforts were primarily a difference in scale. "I would have had a relatively easy reelection campaign for the House seat. The Senate campaign has been on a more massive basis, solidifying support throughout the district." Cohen added that his overall campaign strategy did not change significantly from that of the primary and that the focus was on the issues and his experience in the legislature. "The primary was a mixed blessing, he said, "because, although it created some problems, it got the message out quickly and forced my opponent to play catch up."

Ridley, in an interview the day of the election, conceded that "name recognition was the problem to overcome." Ridley found that the general election race stepped up the pace of his campaign and that though the Cohen-Faricy dispute may have helped his campaign somewhat, it also focused all the publicity on them.

The general election campaign, for both



Bill Ridley

candidates, revolved primarily around traditional party positions. Again, the abortion issue continued to play a significant underlying role in both candidates' campaign positions. Campaign literature from both camps emphasized those qualities that made each candidate the best choice for the Senate seat.

Ridley stressed the importance of controlling government spending and bringing increased accountability to state spending. In addition, he said that the perspective he had gained through his experience in education and business would be of benefit to the Senate. Ridley characterized his positions as "fiscally conservative, socially moderate."

Cohen emphasized his experience in the legislature and cited his record on environmental issues, on social issues and civil liberties issues. Cohen also stressed his opposition to legislation that organized labor had fought during the previous two sessions.

The two candidates spent the waning days of the campaign season by doorknocking and sending out literature in order to inform voters of their positions and

encourage voter support. Ridley commented that the campaign process had been educational experience for both he and his wife, Lu. Ridley also commented that "I have a new and lifetime respect for any candidate, for the effort it takes and for the way the volunteers got behind the campaign with the amount of help and consistent support they gave." Cohen, too, spoke of the positive response he received in doorknocking and of the help and support of campaign workers.

As an illustration of the electoral process, District 64 showed more elements than many of the other 201 Legislative District races. From precinct caucuses in March, through district conventions in April, to primary election in September, throughout the arduous campaign season of October, to the culmination of efforts on November 4, the process worked as an exercise of the citizen politician and of citizen participation. Minnesotans have had a tradition of exciting, and controversial, election contests, and this year was no exception. Yet when new legislators are sworn into office in January, another tradition takes over—that of the thoughtful and considered business of legislating for the state of Minnesota.

With the November elections far behind, state legislators have turned their attention to the 1987 session. Both bodies, the Minnesota Senate and the House of Representatives, are newly organized to begin considering the many proposals awaiting their approval. In the Senate, ten new members, several of whom have served in the House, will begin serving their first term. Senate committees have been restructured, and new committee chairs will begin scheduling hearings on several pressing issues.

What has not changed in the Senate is the majority party. The Senate DFL increased the number of seats it holds from 42 to 47. Sen. Roger Moe will again serve as the Majority Leader, and Sen. William Luther has been elected as the Assistant Majority Leader. Sen. Glen Taylor will lead the minority, IR, caucus; and Sen. Jerome Hughes will begin his fifth session as President of the Senate.

To help acquaint you with the new Minnesota Senate, the following pages contain lists of the Senate committees, their respective jurisdiction, and meeting times. Furthermore, a brief introduction to the new Senators is included.

Agriculture

Chair: Davis
Vice Chair: Frederickson, D.J.
Meeting time: Mondays and Wednesdays — 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to agriculture.

Anderson
Beckman
Berg
Bertram
Brandl
DeCramer
Frederickson, D.R.
Freeman
Larson
Morse
Renneke
Stumpf
Vickerman

Commerce

Chair: Solon
Vice Chair: Metzen
Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays — 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to banking, insurance, securities, non-health related occupational licensing boards, and liquor.

Adkins
Anderson
Belanger

Cohen
Dahl
Frederick
Freeman
Kroening
Luther
McQuaid
Peterson, D.C.
Purfeerst
Samuelson
Spear
Taylor
Wegscheid

Economic Development and Housing

Chair: Frank
Vice Chair: Beckman
Meeting time: Monday and Thursdays — 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to economic development, housing and world trade.

Bernhagen
Cohen
Dahl
Dicklich
Gustafson
Knaak
Kroening
Morse
Reichgott
Storm

Education

Chair: Pehler
Vice Chair: Reichgott
Meeting time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays — 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to education or state libraries.

Beckman
Dahl
DeCramer
Dicklich
Frederickson, D.J.
Hughes
Knaak
Knutson
Langseth
Larson
Mehrkens
Morse
Olson
Peterson, D.C.
Peterson, R.W.
Pogemiller
Ramstad
Stumpf
Wegscheid

Education Aids

Chair: Peterson, R.W.

Meeting time: Mondays and Thursdays — 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

DeCramer
Dicklich
Hughes
Knaak
Knutson
Langseth
Mehrkens
Olson
Peterson, D.C.
Pogemiller
Pehler
Reichgott
Stumpf

Elections and Ethics

Chair: Hughes
Vice Chair: Morse
Meeting time: Wednesdays — 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to elections, ethical practices, campaign financing and the structure of the Legislature.

Johnson, D.E.
Johnson, D.J.
Laidig
Luther
McQuaid
Moe, R.D.
Peterson, D.C.
Samuelson
Willet

Employment

Chair: Chmielewski
Vice Chair: Piper
Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays — 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to unemployment compensation, workers compensation, occupational health.

Adkins
Beckman
Brataas
Diessner
Frank
Gustafson
Kroening
Pehler
Ramstad

Environment and Natural Resources

Chair: Willet
Vice Chair: Dahl
Meeting time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays — 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to the

Committees

environment or to the state's natural resources.

Berg
Bernhagen
Davis
Frederickson, D.R.
Knaak
Laidig
Larson
Lessard
Marty
Merriam
Morse
Novak
Olson
Peterson, R.W.
Stumpf
Wegscheid

Finance

Chair: Merriam
Vice Chair: Freeman
Meeting time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays—3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills appropriating money,
or obligating the state to expend money, or
establishing a policy requiring the
expenditure of money.

Brataas
Dahl
DeCramer
Dicklich
Frederickson, D.R.
Hughes
Johnson, D.E.
Knutson
Kroening
Langseth
Lantry
Lessard
Luther
Mehrkens
Metzen
Moe, D.M.
Piper
Purfeerst
Ramstad
Renneke
Samuelson
Solon
Spear
Taylor
Waldorf
Willet

General Legislation and Public Gaming

Chair: Lessard
Vice Chair: Berg
Meeting time: Wednesdays and Fridays—
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to gambling,
lotteries, and any other subject not within

the jurisdiction of another Senate
committee.

Bertram
Davis
Diessner
Frederickson, D.R.
Johnson, D.E.
Lantry
McQuaid
Samuelson

Governmental Operations

Chair: Moe, D.M.
Vice Chair: Wegscheid
Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays—8:00
to 10:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills creating a new state
agency, substantially changing the
organization of a state agency, transferring
duties from one state agency to another, or
relating to state administrative services, state
employee compensation, state employee
labor relations, or pensions and retirement.

Frederickson, D.J.
Frederickson, D.R.
Freeman
Jude
Marty
Pogemiller
Renneke
Taylor
Waldorf

Health and Human Services

Chair: Berglin
Vice Chair: Vickerman
Meeting time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays—1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to health,
human services, and corrections.

Adkins
Anderson
Benson
Brandl
Brataas
Chmielewski
Diessner
Knutson
Lantry
Piper
Solon
Storm
Waldorf

Judiciary

Chair: Spear
Vice Chair: Cohen
Meeting time: Monday, Wednesdays,
Fridays—10:00 to 12:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to the judiciary,
criminal law, law enforcement, human

rights, family law, property law, and
remedies.

Belanger
Berglin
Jude
Knaak
Laidig
Luther
Marty
Merriam
Moe, D.M.
Peterson, D.C.
Peterson, R.W.
Pogemiller
Ramstad
Reichgott
Storm

Local and Urban Government

Chair: Schmitz
Vice Chair: Adkins
Meeting time: Monday and Thursdays—
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to the powers
of local or metropolitan governmental units.

Bertram
Frederickson, D.J.
McQuaid
Metzen
Olson
Renneke
Vickerman
Wegscheid

Public Utilities and Energy

Chair: Dicklich
Vice Chair: Marty
Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays—
10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to public
utilities or energy.

Brandl
Frank
Gustafson
Johnson, D.E.
Johnson, D.J.
Jude
Novak
Olson
Piper
Storm
Waldorf

Rules and Administration

Chair: Moe, R.D.
Vice Chair: Luther
Meeting time: Call of the Chair
Jurisdiction: All proposals to amend Senate

rules, over questions relating to the referral of bills and resolutions, over the Senate budget and Senate employees, supplies, equipment and office space.

Belanger
Benson
Berglin
Bernhagen
Bertram
Chmielewski
Davis
Dicklich
Frank
Frederick
Hughes
Johnson, D.E.
Johnson, D.J.
Knutson
Laidig
Lessard
Merriam
Moe, D.M.
Novak
Pehler
Peterson, R.W.
Purfeerst
Renneke
Schmitz
Solon
Spear
Taylor
Willet

Taxes and Tax Laws

Chair: Johnson, D.J.
Vice Chair: Brandl
Meeting time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays—3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to taxes and
aid to local governments.

Anderson
Belanger
Benson
Berg
Berglin
Bernhagen
Bertram
Chmielewski
Cohen
Davis
Diessner
Frank
Frederick
Gustafson
Jude
Laidig
Novak
Pehler
Peterson, D.C.
Peterson, R.W.
Pogemiller
Reichgott
Schmitz
Stumpf

Transportation

Chair: Purfeerst
Vice Chair: DeCramer
Meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays—8:00
to 10:00 a.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to
transportation

Bernhagen
Frederick
Langseth
Lantry
McQuaid
Mehrkens
Metzen
Novak
Schmitz
Vickerman

Veterans

Chair: Bertram
Vice Chair: Diessner
Meeting time: Tuesdays—10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction: All bills relating to veterans.

Beckman
Laidig
Langseth
Larson
Lessard
Mehrkens
Schmitz

Minnesota's new state senators



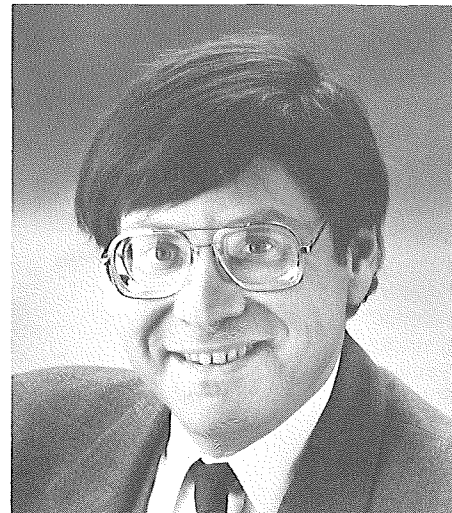
Tracy Beckman

DFL—District 29
Elected: 1986
Home: Brice lyn
Birthdate: January, 1945
Occupation: Manager, Owatonna Canning
Company
Special Legislative Concerns: Agriculture
and processing of ag products, small
business and rural economic development,
education, and job creation.



John Brandl

DFL—District 62
Elected: 1976 to the Minnesota House of
Representatives; re-elected 1980, 1982, 1984
Home: Minneapolis
Birthdate: August, 1937
Occupation: Professor
Special Legislative Concerns: Taxes,
economic growth, human services



Richard Cohen

DFL—District 64
Elected: 1976 to the Minnesota House of
Representatives; re-elected 1982, 1984
Home: St. Paul
Birthdate: December, 1949
Occupation: Attorney
Special Legislative Concerns: Taxes, civil
liberties, economic development

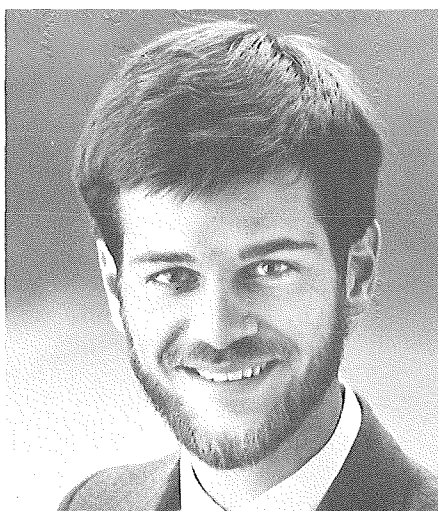
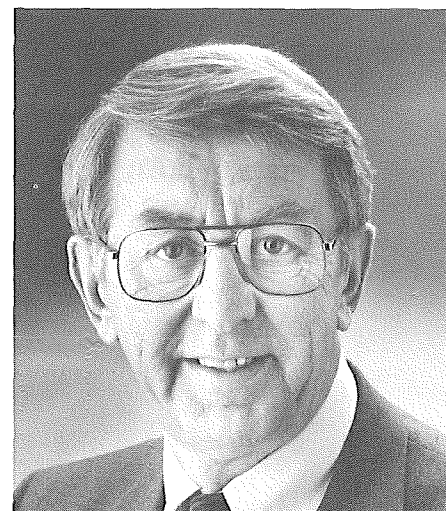


David Frederickson

DFL—District 20
Elected: 1986
Home: Murdock
Birthdate: March, 1944
Occupation: Farmer
Special Legislative Concerns: Agriculture, education, tax issues

Cal Larson

IR—District 10
Elected: 1966 to the Minnesota House of Representatives; re-elected 1970, 1972
Home: Fergus Falls
Birthdate: August, 1930
Occupation: Real estate and insurance broker
Special Legislative Concerns: Rural economic development, education

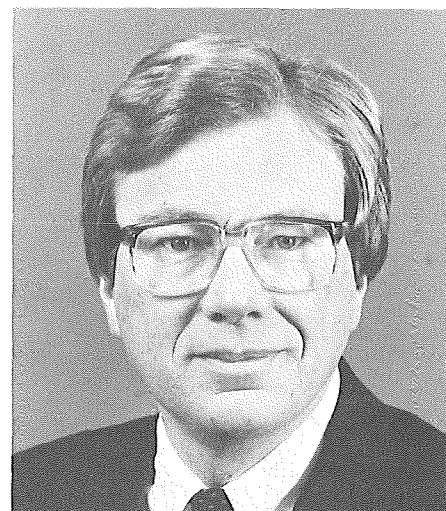


John Marty

DFL—District 63
Elected: 1986
Home: Roseville
Birthdate: November, 1956
Occupation: Grant analyst
Special Legislative Concerns: Environment, education, economic development

James Metzen

DFL—District 39
Elected: 1974 to the Minnesota House of Representatives; re-elected 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984
Home: South St. Paul
Birthdate: October, 1943
Occupation: Banking/real estate
Special Legislative Concerns: Finance, education, employment, taxes, economic development



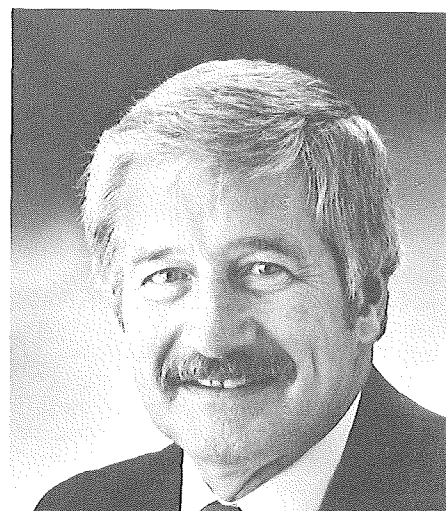
Steven Morse

DFL—District 34
Elected: 1986
Home: Dakota
Birthdate: April, 1957
Occupation: Apple grower/processor
Special Legislative Concerns: Education, agriculture, economic development



Pat Piper

DFL—District 31
Elected: 1982 to the Minnesota House of Representatives; re-elected 1984
Home: Austin
Birthdate: July, 1934
Occupation: Rel. Ed. Director/Consultant
Special Legislative Concerns: Health, human services, education



Jim Vickerman

DFL—District 28
Elected: 1986
Home: Tracy
Birthdate: May, 1931
Occupation: Farmer
Special Legislative Concerns: Agriculture, transportation, health and human services, local government

Assistant Senate Majority Leader William Luther



Luther, Benson outline caucus goals

by Steve Senyk

Candidates campaigning for a seat in the Minnesota Senate were also fighting another important battle this past election: party control of the Legislature's upper body. The DFL party claimed victory by gaining 47 of the Senate's 67 seats; the Independent-Republican party won the remaining 20. Those results determined the political make up of the Minnesota Senate and established the roles of both parties. Assistant Majority Leader William Luther, who was first elected to the Legislature in 1974, recently discussed the election, the role of the majority caucus, and the challenges ahead for the Minnesota Legislature.

"I see the election not only as a referendum on our policies but also the appreciation people have for good management and a

willingness to make government a partner in their lives," said Luther in reviewing the fall election. The results are an "affirmation of DFL leadership on key policy issues," he added. Many of the DFL gains were in rural districts, and Luther credited that to DFL efforts in addressing the rural economic problems.

The significance of gaining majority control of the Senate is simple: the majority party controls the Senate agenda. Majority party members chair all Senate committees, thus they determine what bills will be heard. As Luther explained, the role of the majority party is to "set the policy and direction for the Senate as a whole and make responsible decisions that will guide [the Senate] for the next four years."

In that role, the Senate DFL caucus faces the challenge of leading Minnesota into the

future in an economically healthy state. According to Luther, that challenge is complex because it consists of several issues—Minnesota's taxation and spending levels, education, welfare services, the level of industrial and commercial property taxes, unemployment and workers' compensation, and the strength of agriculture and the rural economy. In addition the equation includes making the state operate more effectively during a time when its revenues are shrinking.

"We are entering an era where our resources in state government are going to be more limited," said Luther. "As a result of that, we are going to have to make state government operate more efficiently. People will continue to want a high level of services . . . but by the same token, now that we are in an international marketplace and competing with a world economy, we will

have limited resources available to provide those same level of services," he said. Luther added, however, that many of the state's services are essential in helping Minnesota become strong economically.

Minnesota's financing and taxing structure is going to top the Senate agenda, Luther said. "We will want to continue to make progress in the area of tax climate in Minnesota and to improve our budget process," he said. "We must try to make budget decisions the same way people make investment decisions in their own lives," he added.

According to Luther, two key components in assuring Minnesota's economic health are education and the state's welfare system. He explained that the state must continue its dedication to a sound educational system—at all levels—and that it must continue to fulfill its obligation to help those in need while assuring that the state programs run efficiently.

Luther emphasized that there are no fast solutions to these complex problems, and that these issues will be looked at not only during this session but also into the future. "We really need to be looking at Minnesota into the year 2000, making sure that the decisions we make during the next four years will serve our state well," he said. "I see this as an opportunity to set goals . . . to bring our state to the year 2000 in a very, very health condition," Luther concluded.

While the DFL caucus provided a vote of confidence for its leadership, the Senate IR members opted for a new leader to help set its future course. Senator Duane Benson, a farmer and former professional football player, replaced Senator Glen Taylor, who held the minority leadership position for two years. That change, which occurred through caucus vote, provided another signal that the Republican party is intending to improve its position with the Minnesota voters.

"I think there was a feeling in the caucus that we begin in a new direction, a different style," Benson explained during a recent press conference. He said the minority caucus's direction will be to clearly delineate the different philosophies between the parties and that the style will be a more aggressive, stronger presence.

Benson attributed the weakening of the Republican party in the last election to its failure in motivating the "mainstream" Republican voters. "They didn't turn out and vote for the Democrats. They just didn't turn out," he said. The Republican legislators were viewed as not having compassion for farmers and welfare recipients, and that caused voter apathy, Benson explained. "Being a farmer, I don't know how much we can do for them on the state level, and they realize that, but I think

Photos by David J. Oakes



Senate Minority Leader Duane Benson

we have to have the sensitivity to realize that it is a problem, and when your on that end of it, like some of my neighbors are, it is pretty critical," he added.

Because the Independent-Republican candidates failed to gain majority control of the Senate, they will not have the authority to set the Senate agenda. However, they will play a role in the legislative process. "We, as a caucus, will focus on getting this government to work as well as it can for the immediate future," Benson said. "I don't think the people who hired us sent us up here to start working on an election four years from now. They want us to fulfill a role and make the government work, and that is what we intend to do," he added.

According to Benson, the focus of the legislative session is going to be the budget, which includes both taxes and spending. To that end, Benson said the minority caucus will point out areas of disagreement with the DFL caucus and offer alternative solutions when necessary. He further indicated that the minority caucus will likely attempt a budget resolution, which would establish limits for government spending.

In drawing an analogy between his past football teams and the IR caucus, Benson said, "Good teams do two things well: they're consistent, which we intend to be, and they pay attention to detail, which we intend to do."

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members — 1987 Session

PARTY	PHONE	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	PHONE	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.
DFL	296-5981	Adkins, Betty A.	235 Cap.	22	DFL	296-4136	Lessard, Bob	328 Cap.	3
IR	6455	Anderson, Don	153 SOB	12	DFL	8869	Luther, William P.	205 Cap.	47
DFL	5713	Beckman, Tracy L.	G-10 Cap.	29	DFL	5645	Marty, John J.	235 Cap.	63
IR	5975	Belanger, William V., Jr.	107 SOB	41	IR	1279	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	135 SOB	44
IR	3903	Benson, Duane D.	147 SOB	32	IR	8075	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	127 SOB	26
DFL	5094	Berg, Charles A.	328 Cap.	11	DFL	4154	Merriam, Gene	122 Cap.	49
DFL	4261	Berglin, Linda	G-29 Cap.	60	DFL	4370	Metzen, James	303 Cap.	39
IR	4131	Bernhagen, John	113 SOB	21	DFL	4264	Moe, Donald M.	309 Cap.	65
DFL	2084	Bertram, Joe, Sr.	323 Cap.	16	DFL	2577	Moe, Roger D.	208 Cap.	2
DFL	4837	Brandl, John E.	306 Cap.	62	DFL	5649	Morse, Steven	G-24 Cap.	34
IR	4848	Brataas, Nancy	139 SOB	33	DFL	4334	Novak, Steven G.	301 Cap.	52
DFL	4182	Chmielewski, Florian	325 Cap.	14	IR	1282	Olson, Gen	133 SOB	43
DFL	5931	Cohen, Richard J.	G-27 Cap.	64	DFL	4241	Pehler, James C.	G-9 Cap.	17
DFL	5003	Dahl, Gregory L.	111 Cap.	50	DFL	4274	Peterson, Donna C.	G-24 Cap.	61
DFL	2302	Davis, Charles R.	G-24 Cap.	18	DFL	8018	Peterson, Randolph W.	G-9 Cap.	19
DFL	6820	DeCramer, Gary M.	303 Cap.	27	DFL	9248	Piper, Pat	325 Cap.	31
DFL	2859	Dicklich, Ronald R.	235 Cap.	5	DFL	7809	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	306 Cap.	58
DFL	8298	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	323 Cap.	56	DFL	4167	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	303 Cap.	25
DFL	2877	Frank, Don	G-10 Cap.	51	IR	9251	Ramstad, Jim	123 SOB	45
IR	4123	Frederick, Mel	119 SOB	30	DFL	2889	Reichgott, Ember D.	G-9 Cap.	46
DFL	5640	Frederickson, David J.	G-24 Cap.	20	IR	4125	Renneke, Earl W.	117 SOB	35
IR	8138	Frederickson, Dennis R.	143 SOB	23	DFL	4875	Samuelson, Don	124 Cap.	13
DFL	9307	Freeman, Michael O.	122 Cap.	40	DFL	7157	Schmitz, Robert J.	235 Cap.	36
IR	4314	Gustafson, Jim	115 SOB	8	DFL	4188	Solon, Sam G.	303 Cap.	7
DFL	4183	Hughes, Jerome M.	328 Cap.	54	DFL	4191	Spear, Allan H.	G-27 Cap.	59
IR	3826	Johnson, Dean E.	105 SOB	15	IR	6238	Storm, Donald A.	125 SOB	42
DFL	8881	Johnson, Douglas J.	205 Cap.	6	DFL	8660	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	306 Cap.	1
DFL	4248	Jude, Tad	326 Cap.	48	IR	9457	Taylor, Glen	103 SOB	24
IR	1253	Knaak, Fritz	149 SOB	53	DFL	5650	Vickerman, Jim M.	G-29 Cap.	28
IR	4120	Knutson, Howard A.	121 SOB	38	DFL	3809	Waldorf, Gene	124 Cap.	66
DFL	4302	Kroening, Carl W.	124 Cap.	57	DFL	8091	Wegscheid, Darril	309 Cap.	37
IR	4351	Laidig, Gary W.	141 SOB	55	DFL	4147	Willet, Gerald L.	111 Cap.	4
DFL	3205	Langseth, Keith	G-24 Cap.	9					
DFL	8017	Lantry, Marilyn M.	G-28 Cap.	67					
IR	5655	Larson, Cal	145 SOB	10					

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