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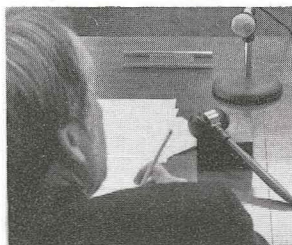
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Perspectives

A Publication about the Minnesota State Senate Vol. 15, No. 1

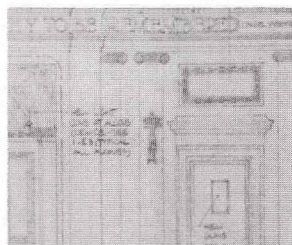


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Newly elected Sen. Patricia Pariseau discusses her new role.

Perspectives

This issue of Perspectives provides a preview of the issues that will be before Senate committees during the 1989 Legislative Session. In addition, Perspectives presents a profile of Senator-elect Pat Pariseau. With the election of Pariseau, it seemed a good time to survey women Senators about their experiences serving in the Senate. A brief history of women in the Legislature is also presented.

The restoration of the Senate Chamber has been a major undertaking. Because of the historical implications of the renovation process, Perspectives has taken the unusual step of providing color photographs of the painstaking restoration process. The renovated Chamber and Retiring Room, while remaining true to the original plans, also contain modern innovations to accommodate the needs of the 1990s and beyond.

On the cover:

The Senate Chamber upon completion of renovation work that restored original colors, uncovered skylights, and cleaned and restored murals and furnishings. Photo by Gina Dabrowski.

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The committee system functions as the heart of the legislative process. Here, Senators express their opinions on a divided vote.

photo by David J. Oakes



Committees set '89 agenda

by Karen L. Clark

The 76th Session of the Minnesota Legislature will begin early—January 3—in the brand new year 1989. As in past odd year sessions, the Legislature faces the formidable tasks of setting a biennial budget and of dealing with an array of issues ranging from educational organization to light rail transit. Because the committee system lies at the heart of the legislative process, all of the issues that will come before the Legislature as a whole will first be considered by at least one of the 18 standing committees of the Senate. In order to preview the main issues of the next legislative session each committee chair was asked to outline the major issues expected to emerge during the 1989 Legislative Session.

Agriculture

Senator Charles Davis, chair of the Agriculture Committee, stressed two major problem areas that his committee will be looking at in 1989: legislation enhancing "sustainable agriculture," and legislation

plugging the gaps in relief for drought stricken farmers.

Sustainable agriculture, said Davis, is the concept of using alternative farming methods to lessen the dependence on petro-chemicals and to provide markets for new agricultural products. Sustainable agriculture has long-range implications for Minnesota, Davis said, in both the agricultural and environmental arenas. "There is a need for different types of research . . . for management techniques that marry the best of the old with emerging technology to get the best income and environmental results," Davis said. Several programs are currently underway that fall under the umbrella of sustainable agriculture. Davis spoke highly of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, under the Greater Minnesota Corporation, as a program with a great deal of promise for providing new industrial applications for agricultural products. Davis indicated that there is an increased demand for more information about bio-technology and its application to specific problems. The committee will also hear the aquaculture recommendations from an interagency task

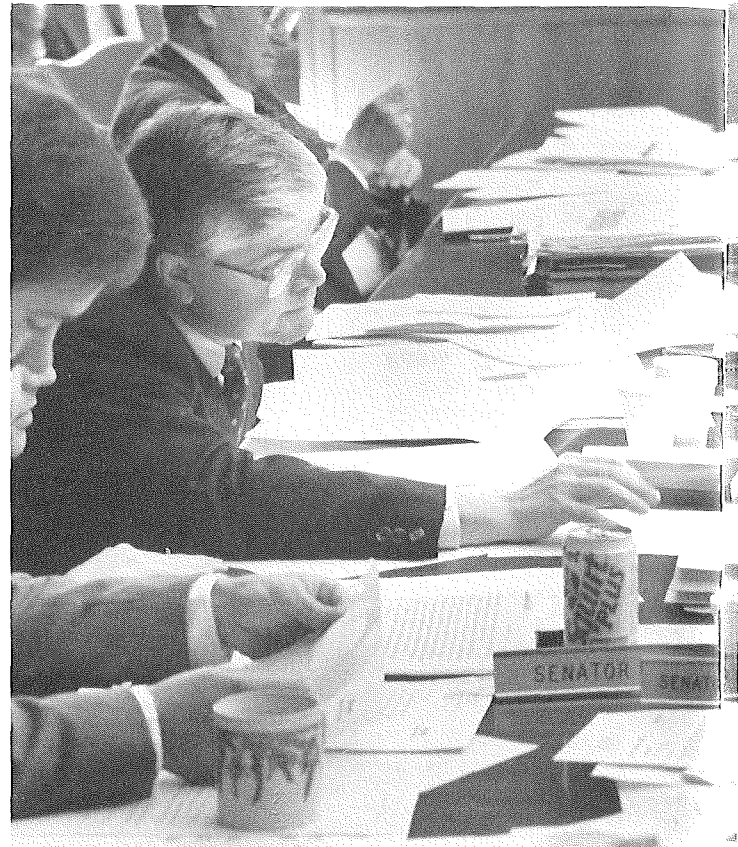
force concerned with alternative agriculture, Davis said. The financing and priorities for agriculture products development will also be a committee priority.

Concern over Minnesota's groundwater supplies will also provide a focus for the panel, Davis said. Committee review of the underground water situation dovetails neatly with the two major overriding issues, sustainable agriculture and drought related concerns. Possible proposals for committee action include dealing with abandoned, uncapped wells, pesticides and a separate fund for groundwater cleanup.

Committee members will also consider the Governor's Drought Relief Task Force recommendations, Davis said. Primarily, the committee will be looking at ways to plug the gaps left by other relief measures, said Davis. He also indicated that the committee will be reviewing the procedures for responding to foreclosure notices. Those procedures, said Davis, are very complex. The recent foreclosure notices sent out by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) will force many farmers into debt restructuring and mediation, thus



Sen. James Pehler



Committee discussions provide a thorough examination of issues.

overburdening the system. Davis indicated that the panel will continue to examine the situation in light of the on-going farm crises.

Finally, the panel will hear the recommendations of the Task Force on Agriculture Commodities Contracts, discuss proposals on native prairie and wildflower planting and consider legislation about the control of purple loosestrife and other weeds on public lands, Davis said.

Commerce

The Commerce Committee, chaired by Senator Sam Solon, will be focussing on several vital insurance issues as well as some professional licensing areas. One of the major proposals the committee expects to hear will involve changes in the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA). Under a department plan, employers who have group health coverage would be allowed to "carve out" disabled or ill employees by buying those employees coverage with the MCHA. Because of the impact of high claims on small groups, it is thought that by allowing coverage with MCHA for specific employees, group coverage would be more readily available for the remaining employees. The Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association fund deficit would be addressed

by another departmental proposal that requires the assessment of a fee to all employers.

A second health insurance issue involves the recommendations of the Health Plan Regulatory Reform Commission. One expected recommendation is that the health care insurance system include a "core" of mandatory benefits. Other benefits would be optional with the expense borne by the consumer.

Committee members also expect to hear a proposal for extending liability to homeowners if the homeowner serves liquor to a minor and the minor is subsequently involved in an accident. In addition, the committee will undertake a clarification of the method used to calculate the amount an auto insurance company will have to pay out in no-fault underinsurance benefits. At issue is the difference between the "add-on" method and the "difference of limits" system. Finally, the committee will hear several portions of last year's Omnibus Insurance Bill although it is not expected that the entire bill will be up for consideration.

In the area of banking, the committee expects to hear proposals to license and regulate mortgage bankers and to expand bank powers to allow involvement in securities.

A consumer bill dealing with cars that have been in major accidents is also expected to be heard by the committee. The proposal would require mechanics to be certified as competent to perform structural and mechanical repairs and would require prospective buyers to be informed if a vehicle has been involved in a major accident.

Finally, the committee expects to hear proposals on the regulation of radon testers and mitigators, the licensing of interior designers and the regulation of real estate appraisers.

Economic Development and Housing

Senator Don Frank, chair of the Economic Development and Housing Committee, cited affordable housing and an examination of tax increment financing as two of the major areas to be considered by the panel this session. Frank pointed out that while there is a great need for addressing the housing needs of specific populations, the committee is restricted by the limited funds available. Frank said that housing for the homeless in the metro area, low and moderate income senior citizen housing, and affordable housing for AFDC families



photos by David J. Oakes



Sen. Clarence Purfeerst

are all top committee priorities. Frank stressed that the allocation of existing funds is of primary importance and that there is a need for renovation of existing, but unsuitable, housing stock.

The committee will devote time to consideration of the legislative recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Affordable Housing and will examine a Connecticut law that provides a model for low income housing legislation in the search for solutions to the problems of affordable housing, Frank said.

Frank also indicated that the panel will examine the use of tax increment financing as an economic development tool and evaluate the use of tax increment financing for upgrading housing.

The designation of 1989 as the "Year of the City" by the governor will also initiate committee action, Frank said. The panel will consider a legislative package aimed at strengthening economic development, housing and education in the Twin Cities and Duluth.

Frank also said that he anticipates that the committee will examine the role of Regional Development Commissions and the various gubernatorial initiatives on world trade. Frank concluded by saying that the

committee would continue to address the concerns of urban and suburban redevelopment, affordable housing, and economic development with the best possible use of resources available.

Education

The development of an organizational structure for education that will insure equal access, equal funding and equal opportunity for all Minnesota students has been the overriding focus of the Education Committee during the interim, said Senator James Pehler, committee chair. Over the course of the interim, the members of the Education Committee have formed a number of study groups to study specific education organization issues. Pehler said that the interim activity was designed to define and focus the role of educational structure in order to implement future changes providing for the best opportunities possible. Structure is important, Pehler said, because it insures that no matter where a student attends school the student will receive an education that will assure the student's worth and role in society.

One of the primary goals of the panel has been to define "desired education outcomes," Pehler said. To that end, he said,

committee members have considered a variety of issues, options and procedures including determining which extra-traditional methods can be used, what to do to improve the educational climate, which assessment processes besides traditional written tests can be used, and how to use community and district resources to develop policy.

Pehler pointed out that although Minnesota has one of the lowest drop-out rates in the country, there is still room for improvement. Educational organization is important, Pehler said, because a school's role is broad-based and a number of services lend themselves to incorporation in that organization. Job training, intervention for at-risk students and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) outreach are all methods under the structure of educational organization that can be used to keep students in a school setting.

Pehler also outlined several other issues that will be before the Education Committee. Among those to be considered are: proposals concerning Technical Institute governance; restructuring the secondary vocational system so that it coordinates with the post-secondary vocational system and integrates more thoroughly with the existing secondary

program; proposals for school based child care for young children and for school age children; and Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) post-secondary needs in the growth corridor between Rochester and St. Cloud. Committee members will also examine technology tools and the sharing of resources in order to better deliver programs and services.

One of the most complex and time-consuming tasks of every odd year legislative session — the development of the general education funding formula — falls to the Education Funding Division of the Education Committee. The division, chaired by Senator Randolph Peterson, will set the general education formula for the 1990-91 school year. In addition, the division will concurrently consider the equity and adequacy of educational funding. The needs and resources available for special education funding will also be examined.

Elections and Ethics

The primary interim activity of Chair Jerome Hughes has been the organization of an Ethics Conference to be held Jan. 19-20 in cooperation with the College of St. Catherine. The conference will focus on ethics in relationship to government and the Legislature.

Members of the Elections and Ethics Committee will also consider recommendations from the Ethical Practices Board. It is expected that the proposal to

eliminate fundraisers during the session will again be before the committee. Another proposal expected to arise this session would establish a uniform local government election day. As in past sessions, members of the Elections and Ethics Committee will meet on an "on-call" basis when the need arises.

Employment

The primary issue facing the Employment Committee, chaired by Senator Florian Chmielewski, is workers' compensation insurance. During the interim Chmielewski appointed special subcommittees to examine the workers' compensation insurance issue from specific vantage points. One subcommittee has been examining insurance regulation and another subcommittee has been examining the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

Committee members will concentrate on the results of the subcommittees' interim work. It is expected that policy options will be shaped by information regarding the ratemaking system; the competitiveness of the workers' compensation insurance industry as evidenced by pricing patterns, market shares and profitability; the comparison of the cost of basic types of workers' compensation coverage; the comparison of Minnesota with other states' regulation of the industry; the examination of the role of the state fund if regulation is strengthened; and the examination of the

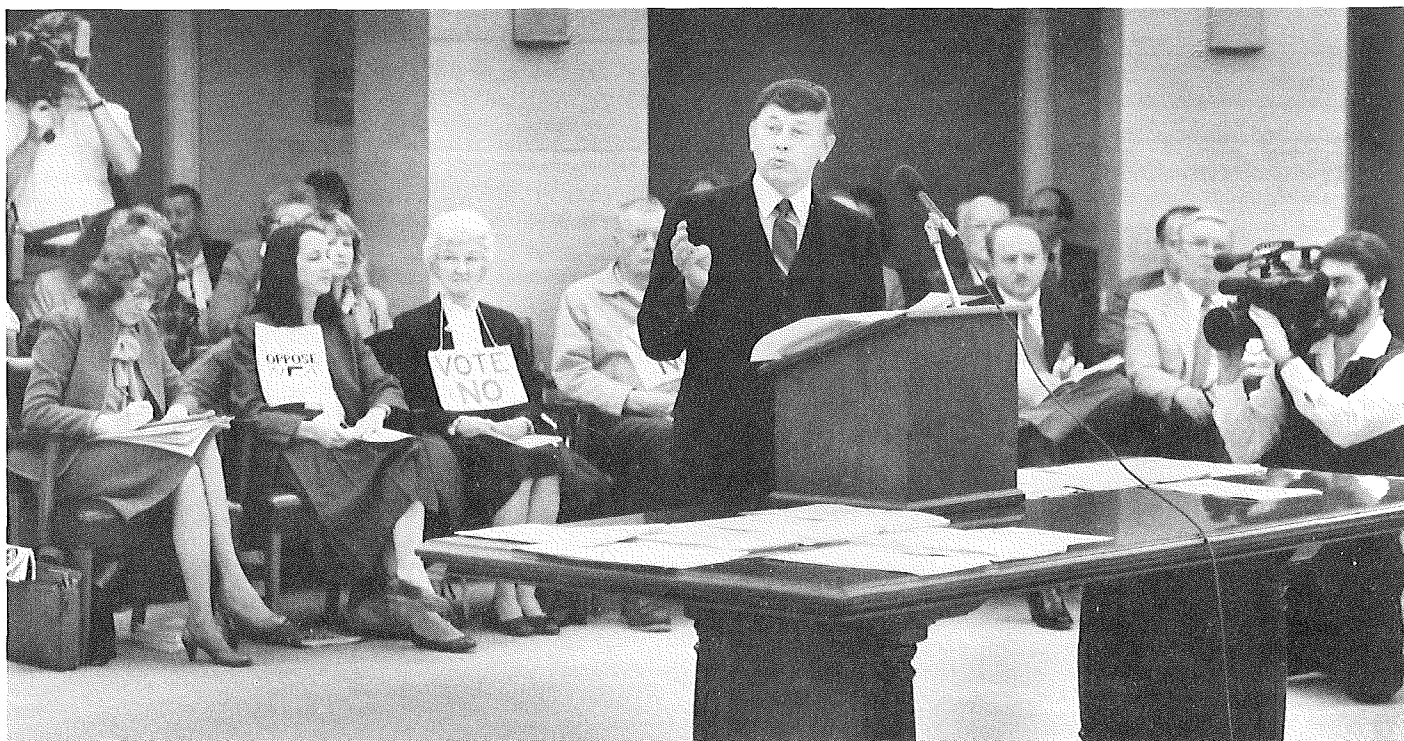
special circumstances in the trucking industry.

In addition, the access, cost, outcomes and efficiency of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals have all been under scrutiny during the interim. Committee members will examine all the variables during the course of the coming session and discuss the results of the subcommittee activities.

Finally, the panel will grapple with the questions of plant closings and dislocated workers. Various proposals dealing with retraining and relocation will occupy the committee throughout the session.

Environment and Natural Resources

Solid waste and recycling issues top the environmental agenda for members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Bob Lessard. Committee members will hear recommendations from the Select Committee on Recycling and Environment (SCORE) that has been working in recent months to develop recycling funding mechanisms other than container deposit. In addition, the panel will consider problems relating to regulation of waste used in landfills and the liability limits of local government landfills under the "Superfund" law. Also, committee members will devote time to issues raised by last year's removal of the metropolitan counties'



Sen. Florian Chmielewski

landfill surcharge cap. Hennepin County officials are expected to propose a reinstatement of the cap to the panel.

Issues relating to groundwater protection are also a high priority for committee members. It is anticipated that proposals developed by the Pollution Control Agency and Environmental Quality Board designed to protect groundwater from agricultural and industrial chemicals will dominate several committee hearings. The panel members also expect to develop a funding mechanism to aid the Health Department's desired expansion of well and public water supply testing. And, after the experience of last summer's drought, committee members anticipate discussions involving the Minneapolis water supply and an adequate, reliable back-up rather than the city's continued dependence on the Mississippi River.

New expansion in the paper industry will bring the need for a new forest inventory study before the panel. Committee members are concerned that there be enough wood for present use and for proposed expansion. The last forest inventory was done in the 1970s.

The panel does not anticipate any major changes in hunting or fishing license laws this session. However, panel members will discuss the introduction of the Sichuan Pheasant to Minnesota. The pheasant is able to survive severe winters and favors a habitat of marginal farmland. The Sichuan, originally from China, has been successfully introduced in Michigan. Members will also consider a split season opener for walleye with the Iowa border counties having a different date. There is a possibility that three wheel vehicles will again be discussed by the panel. Committee members will also study methods of raising funds for state parks.

In addition, panel members will consider proposals restoring the powers and duties of the Waste Management Board as a separate entity. Finally, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee will be one of several committees to hear legislative proposals regarding airport noise.

Finance

"The Finance Committee's biggest assignment is to set spending priorities for the biennium," said Committee Chair Gene Merriam. It is a long and tedious task, Merriam added, with much of the work done by the four major Finance Committee Divisions.

The November forecast will provide the basis for the budget setting process, Merriam said. The good news, he said, is that the economy has been performing



Sen. Robert Schmitz

pretty well. But, he added, there is a fair amount of pessimism and that has profound effects on the state economy and budget. Merriam also said that many of the "fiscal time bombs" contained in various bills last year will serve to lessen any revenue surplus.

Merriam outlined some of the issues he expected the various Finance Divisions to consider this session. In the area of higher education funding, Merriam said that he anticipates that the controversy surrounding the University of Minnesota for the past year plus the size of the increase requested by the U will generate considerable debate. In the area of transportation, Merriam said that the controversy over the transfer of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax will be before the division. Merriam also said that in the health and human services area there is a strong impetus to strengthen day care and child care services. Regional Treatment Centers and the restructuring of the delivery system will also come before the Health and Human Services Division.

On the whole, Merriam said that he did not anticipate a major capital bonding bill this session. He said that the panel would have a minimal bill the first year of the biennium, use the interim to study proposals and have

the major portion of the biennial bonding legislation in the second year of the biennium.

Finally, Merriam anticipates that the Finance Committee will devote time to consideration of proposals relating to the Labor History Center, the Waste Management Board, drought assistance and groundwater initiatives. And, of course, any other proposals requiring the expenditure of state funds will be heard by the Finance Committee.

General Legislation and Public Gaming

Committee Chair Marilyn Lantry said that two issues will dominate this session for the General Legislation and Public Gaming Committee—the lottery and charitable gambling. With the passage of the lottery amendment the Legislature is now responsible for the development of enabling legislation for a lottery to actually operate, Lantry said. The enabling legislation involves a number of issues, Lantry said, including how the lottery will be run, whether the state or a private entity will run the lottery, how funds not earmarked for the



Majority Leader Roger Moe speaks on behalf of a proposal before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

new Environmental Trust Fund are to be spent, and what form the game will take.

Charitable gambling issues have provided the focus for committee activity during the interim, Lantry said. A series of hearings held in different parts of the state were conducted to redefine "charitable gambling" and "allowable expense," she said. The committee will consider the recommendations resulting from those interim hearings. In addition, Lantry indicated that the panel would consider proposals strengthening the enforcement and penalties for violations of laws relating to pull-tabs.

Lantry also anticipates a proposal making changes in the vicious dog law passed last session. Finally, Lantry said that there may be discussion of proposals for off-track betting and the simulcasting of races at Canterbury Downs during the winter months.

Governmental Operations

Pension issues will be among the top priorities of the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Senator Donald

Moe. There will be three major pension issue areas before the panel: a proposal to lower the retirement age to 62, raise the formulas used to determine monthly benefits for all major pension funds and remove the Rule of 90 in PERA; the codification of the fiduciary responsibility of pension fund trustees; and a proposal to broaden the scope of the "defined contribution" plan.

The panel has held several interim meetings on the subject of ethics and it is anticipated that the subject will be before the panel during the session. Discussion is expected to revolve around comprehensive measures that either include all executive branch employees with directions for local government employees or include all public employees. It is anticipated that the proposals will be similar in nature to the code of ethical responsibility for attorneys. A two tier approach is one option panel members may consider. Such an approach would provide minimum standards of disclosure, rules for conduct and criteria for conflict of interest and, at another level, set forth aspirational goals for conduct.

Discussions of whether the state should build or lease space have fueled several

interim committee meetings and will continue during the session. Panel members will examine numerous factors including costs, quality, centralized or diffused locations and other policy considerations in determining the future course of action. In addition, a proposal for using the system of "low responsible bid" will be before the committee.

Members of the Governmental Operations Committee will again this year review several departmental proposals, such as the "housekeeping" measures submitted annually by the departments.

Committee members will also hear proposals to allow public employees to donate sick leave time to other employees who experience catastrophic illness, to review the professional licensing systems, and to consolidate constitutional offices.

Health and Human Services

Numerous issues, ranging from welfare reform to day care sliding fee programs, will be heard by members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Committee



Senators Jim Vickerman, Don Anderson and Bob Decker confer during a committee hearing.

Chair Linda Berglin will conduct hearings on the policy implications of the restructuring of the Regional Treatment Centers delivery system. A Regional Treatment Centers Negotiating Committee has been meeting to develop a proposal on the future role of the Regional Treatment Centers which the committee will use as a starting point in their discussions.

In addition, the panel will hear a number of issues relating to children. It is expected that the panel will use the 1987 Mental Health Reform Initiative as a springboard for developing legislation aimed at mental health services for adolescents. A number of options will be examined including increased emphasis on at-home and community-based services, early intervention, case management and round-the-clock emergency services. There will also be proposals to expand the Children's Health Plan, to expand the day care sliding fee program and to examine a variety of other initiatives relating to children.

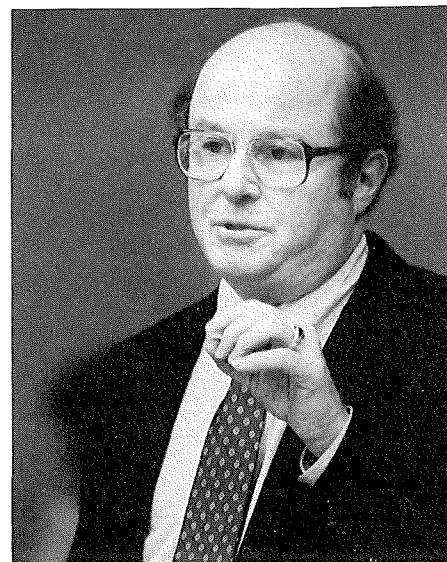
It is customary for the Dept. of Human Services to advance a number of proposals for members of the Health and Human Services Committee to consider and this

year is no exception. The department is proposing a major restructuring of family assistance programs one element of which would simplify the system by combining AFDC and Food Stamps into one grant. Other elements include removing barriers to work by providing support services and building a work incentive by creating a differentiated payment system that would make it more profitable to work than to remain on public assistance. The panel will have to work out the principles of the program before submission to the federal government for approval.

The federal government also is an important factor in another issue that will be before the committee. Changes initiated by the feds will necessitate state changes for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded. The committee anticipates working on proposals to accommodate the changes.

Committee members will also consider a number of items relating to nursing home reimbursement. Again, new federal regulations requiring additional training for nurses' aides will necessitate action by the committee. In addition, questions involving increases in state reimbursement in the area of property costs will be before the panel.

photos by David J. Oakes

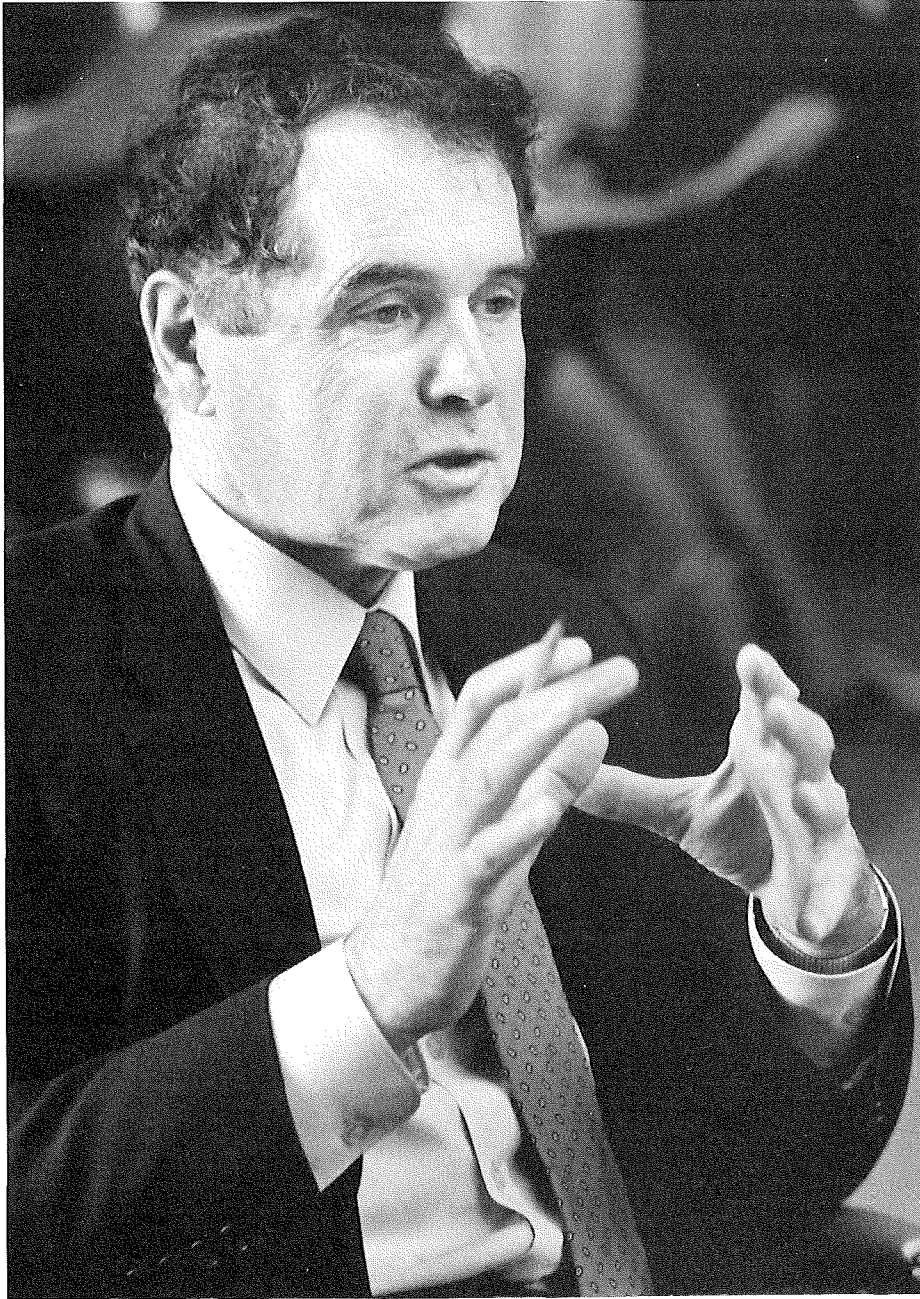


Sen. Allan Spear

The experimental automatic withholding of child support payments currently underway in five counties will be reviewed by the committee. New federal law requires mandatory withholding by October of 1990 for AFDC cases and 1994 for all other child support decrees; thus, the committee will examine the results of the five county experiment to determine whether to immediately partially or fully implement mandatory withholding.

Judiciary

Senator Allan Spear, chair of the Judiciary Committee, cited the issue of crimes of sexual violence against women as the number one priority for the committee. The panel will hear several proposals resulting from the recommendations of the attorney general's task force work throughout the past several months. Spear indicated that the proposals will include increasing the sentences for sex offenses committed with force or coercion; providing longer sentences for repeat offenders by giving more weight to previous offenses; providing for more and longer supervision after release; and increasing incentives for treatment programs. Spear also said that the committee will examine the child abuse and



Local and Urban Government

Senator Robert Schmitz, chair of the Local and Urban Government Committee, has held numerous hearings throughout the interim on the issues expected to top the committee's agenda—issues involving the metropolitan airport. The committee will consider recommendations derived from the report generated from the interim hearings dealing with airport noise abatement. The interim hearings, held in varying locations, called upon experts from around the country and gathered information and public testimony. The panel will examine the options outlined in the report and determine which options require legislative action. In addition, the panel will, along with several other agencies, address the issue of either airport expansion or new airport construction. It is expected that the panel will review the reports from the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Metropolitan Council Airport Task Force.

The panel also anticipates fulfilling the duty of legislative oversight in regard to the metropolitan agencies and hearing various proposals from the League of Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Minnesota Townships Association.

In addition, the committee will hear recommendations of the Governor's Commission on State and Local Relations regarding the recodification of planning and zoning statutes.

The committee also expects to devote time to an examination of the veterans' preference statutes and to discussion of the local mandates bill. Cities have concerns about the hearing process outlined in the veterans' preference law and local government units are concerned about receiving legislative mandates without adequate funding to carry out the mandates.

Public Utilities and Energy

Several issues lead the agenda for the Public Utilities and Energy Committee. The panel, chaired by Senator Ronald Dicklich, has had several members serving on the Low Income Energy Task Force, which has held a series of interim hearings. The full committee will hear recommendations resulting from the task force hearings. The recommendations are expected to include proposals regarding energy assistance programs, weatherization programs and how to best meet the needs of low income Minnesotans. The panel expects to be especially concerned with the development of funding mechanisms needed to compensate for federal decreases. In addition, panel members anticipate considering the expansion of the "cold

Sen. Jerome Hughes

child protection laws because of the close link with later sexual offenses. Spear said that looking at the child abuse laws and methods of preventing child abuse could pay off by reducing the number of sexual offenders at a later date because so many of the offenders were themselves abused as children.

Spear also anticipates that the committee will devote time to discussion of drug education in coordination with drug enforcement issues. The definition of "crack" will also be clarified because of recent court challenges, Spear said.

In addition, Spear said that proposals for "living will" legislation will again come

before the committee. Another issue area, child custody and visitation rights, is expected to provide a focus for committee activity, he added.

Spear said that a great deal of work would be involved in the recodification of non-profit corporation laws that is necessary because of federal changes.

Other issues that Spear indicated would occupy the committee include examination of the recommendations made by the joint subcommittee reviewing the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals; proposals designed to address the case load of the State Court of Appeals; and a proposal for the merit selection of judges.

weather rule" to apply statewide. Currently, only utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission and some volunteer utilities abide by the rule.

A Dept. of Public Service Interagency Task Force has been studying the concept of "least-cost planning." The concept involves long range planning and includes balancing the needs of consumer affordability with the long term needs of utilities. If the task force provides recommendations, the committee will undertake legislative review to insure equity for both utilities and consumers.

Extended Area Service for telephone service is another anticipated agenda item. Currently, Extended Area Service in the metro area allows calls from point to point that used to be long-distance calls. Several municipalities on the edges of the Metropolitan Area are petitioning to be included in the Extended Area Service.

Finally, the panel will review proposals for regulatory reform dealing with interim rate increases and discuss possible changes in telephone deregulation legislation.

Taxes and Tax Laws

The key issue this session for the Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws is expected to be property tax reform. The panel, chaired by Senator Douglas Johnson, will consider a number of options, including the manner of providing homestead and agricultural relief, commercial and industrial property tax relief proposals, and proposals relating to future state aids. Members will also address concerns raised by local governments about

the "truth in taxation" provisions of last year's law by examining the reporting date requirements. It is anticipated that the property tax relief reforms will also include methods of enhancing local accountability.

The corporate minimum tax will also come under committee review and it is expected that the panel will examine alternatives such as revamping and extending the current alternative minimum tax or allowing the changeover to federal law but subsidizing business taxes to maintain the current 9.5 percent corporate tax rate.

In the area of income taxes, the panel expects to focus primarily on the update to federal law. No substantial changes are anticipated by the committee in the area of sales taxes.

Finally, the transfer of motor vehicles excise taxes from the General Fund to the Highway User Fee Distribution Fund is again likely to come before the committee.

Transportation

Senator Clarence Purfeerst's Transportation Committee will again focus on the policy implications of transit and highway funding issues. Proposals are expected that would increase the percentage of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Fund (MVET) that is transferred to the transportation fund by varying amounts. Committee members will determine the optimum percentage over the course of the session based on a variety of factors. In addition, it is expected that the distribution of the MVET funds will generate committee activity because of a provision in

current law that prohibits cities and counties from receiving the funds after July 1, 1991. Panels members anticipate proposals to reinstate cities and counties in the distribution of the funds.

The panel also expects proposals concerning the clarification of authority in light rail system planning and development. There is also the possibility that counties currently involved in light rail planning may appeal to the committee for construction funding. Transit funding in Greater Minnesota is losing federal funding, thus, committee members expect to review proposals that will enable the state to essentially do more with less funding.

New federal changes in commercial truck driver requirements will also spur committee action because the state is required to enforce the federal changes. For instance, the federal blood alcohol limit is .04 percent for commercial drivers and the committee anticipates conforming with the federal standards and penalties.

Also in the trucking area, committee members anticipate hearing proposals allowing "triple bottom" trucks on interstate highways under regulated conditions. Finally, the Transportation Committee will be one of the panels hearing proposals relating to the metropolitan airport.

Veterans

Several veterans and National Guard issues are on the priority list for the Veterans Committee. Members, chaired by Senator Joe Bertram, Sr., will review a study on the need for additional veterans homes in the Fergus Falls area and Southwest Minnesota. The panel expects to identify the criteria on which the decisions will be made and to review various options. Members will also review a feasibility study conducted by veterans groups on the maintenance costs stemming from the establishment of a Morrison County Veterans Cemetery. In addition, the panel will examine a proposal for bronze star grave markers. Finally, the panel expects to hear a request to exempt vehicles purchased by veterans groups and used for veterans purposes from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax.

The panel will also review a number of proposals brought to the committee by the National Guard designed to attract and retain qualified personnel. Among those issues, the committee expects to hear a request to reinstate the \$3000-\$2000 pay exclusion, a proposal for a bonus bill for education benefits, a proposal to reduce the time in grade for a Brigadier General to become a Major General, and a request that the state supply U.S. flags for the burial of deceased members of the guard who did not see action.

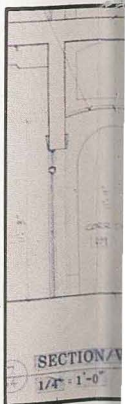
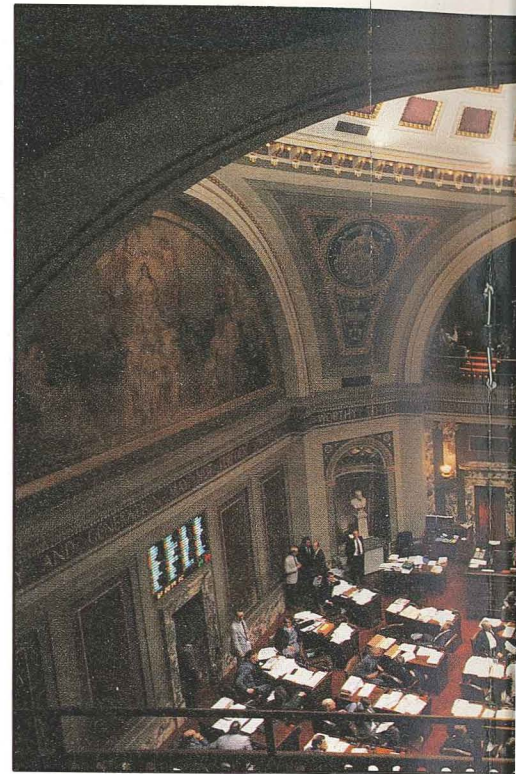


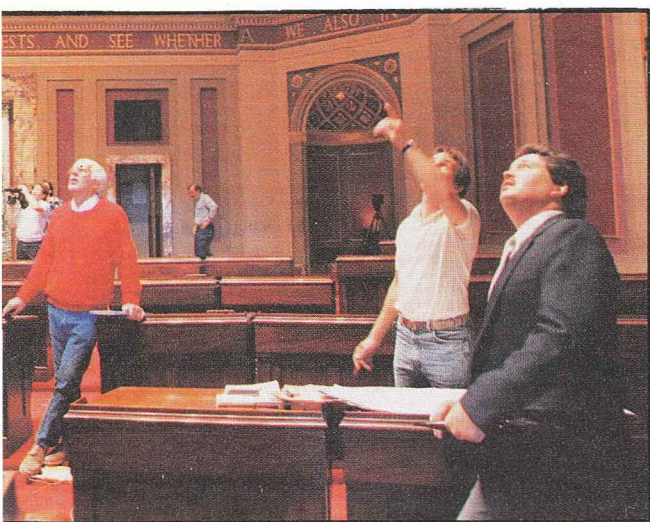
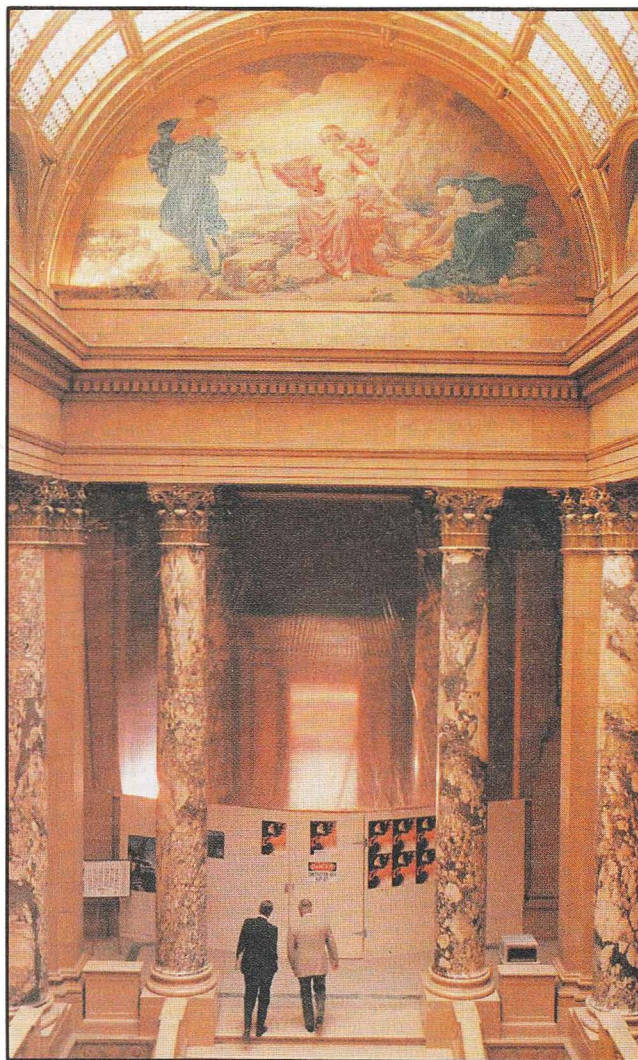
Sen. Douglas Johnson and Sen. Glen Taylor discuss a point during committee.

Senate Chamber restoration: a photo essay

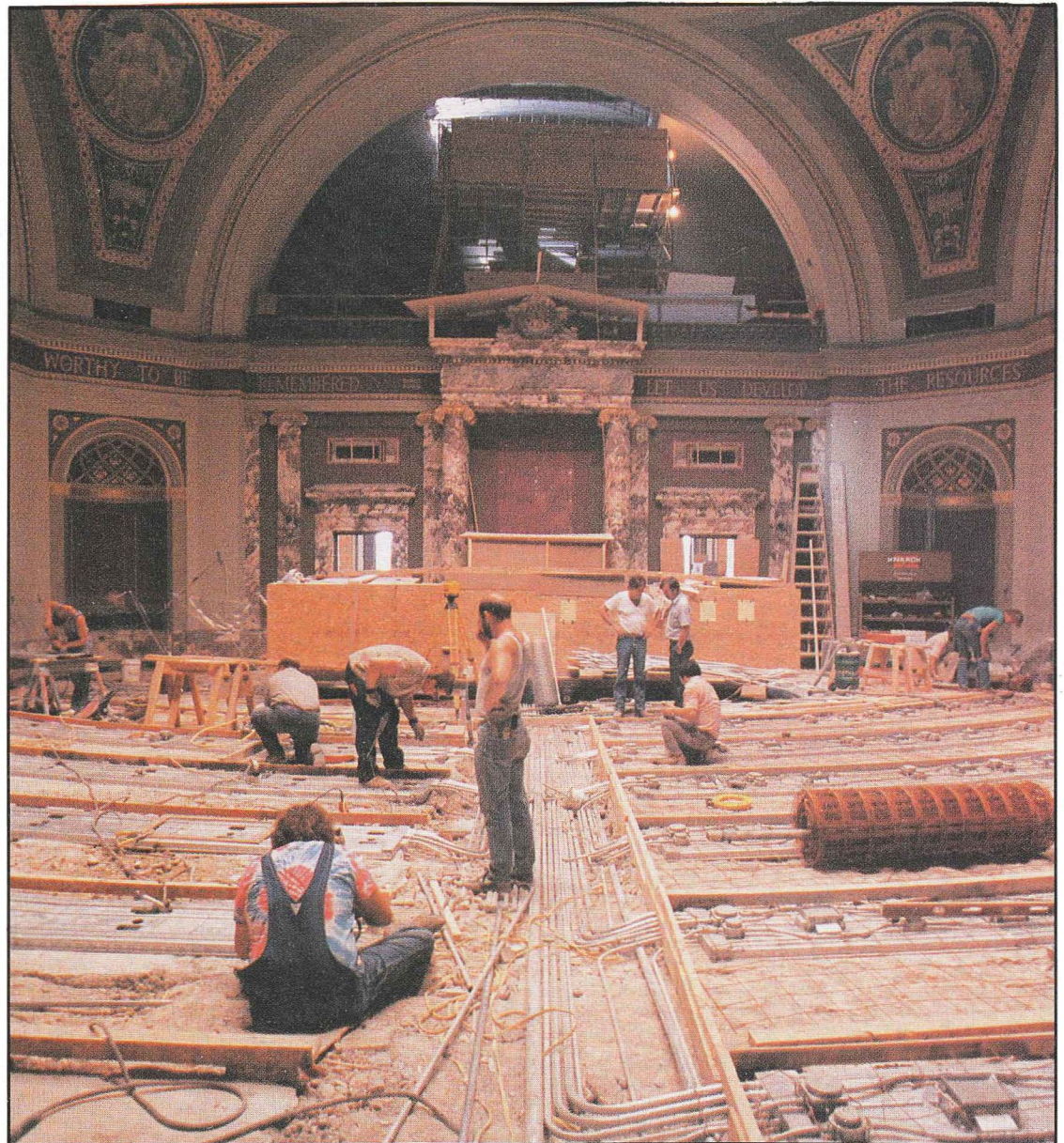
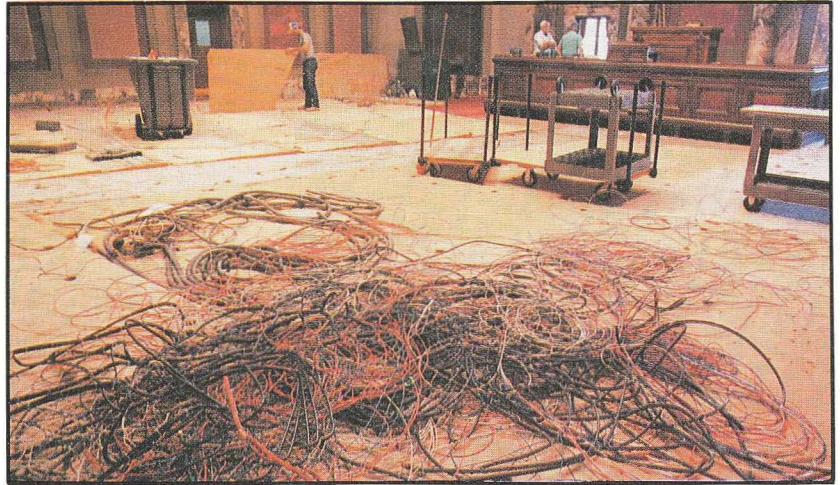
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text by Karen L. Clark

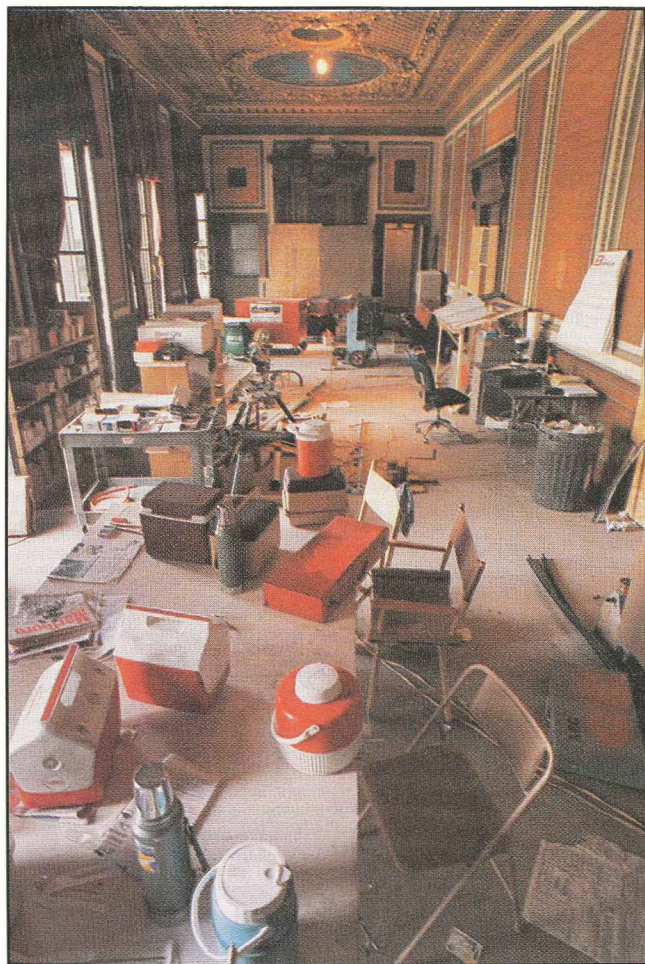
Over the course of the last several months craftsmen and technicians have tackled the painstaking renovation of the Senate Chamber and Senate Retiring Room. Great care has been taken to authenticate details in furnishings and colors in the effort to restore the Chamber to its original appearance. At the same time, provisions were made to insure that the Chamber will accommodate the technological needs of the future. Right: The Senate Chamber as it appeared during the 1988 Session. Far Right: Access to the Chamber was curtained off to contain dust and debris. Center: Extensive discussions preceded actual commencement of the renovation. Bottom right: Architects' drawings provide a framework for the restoration. Below: Removal of all furnishings indicates the onset of the restoration process. Senate desks are to be refurbished as part of the renovation project.



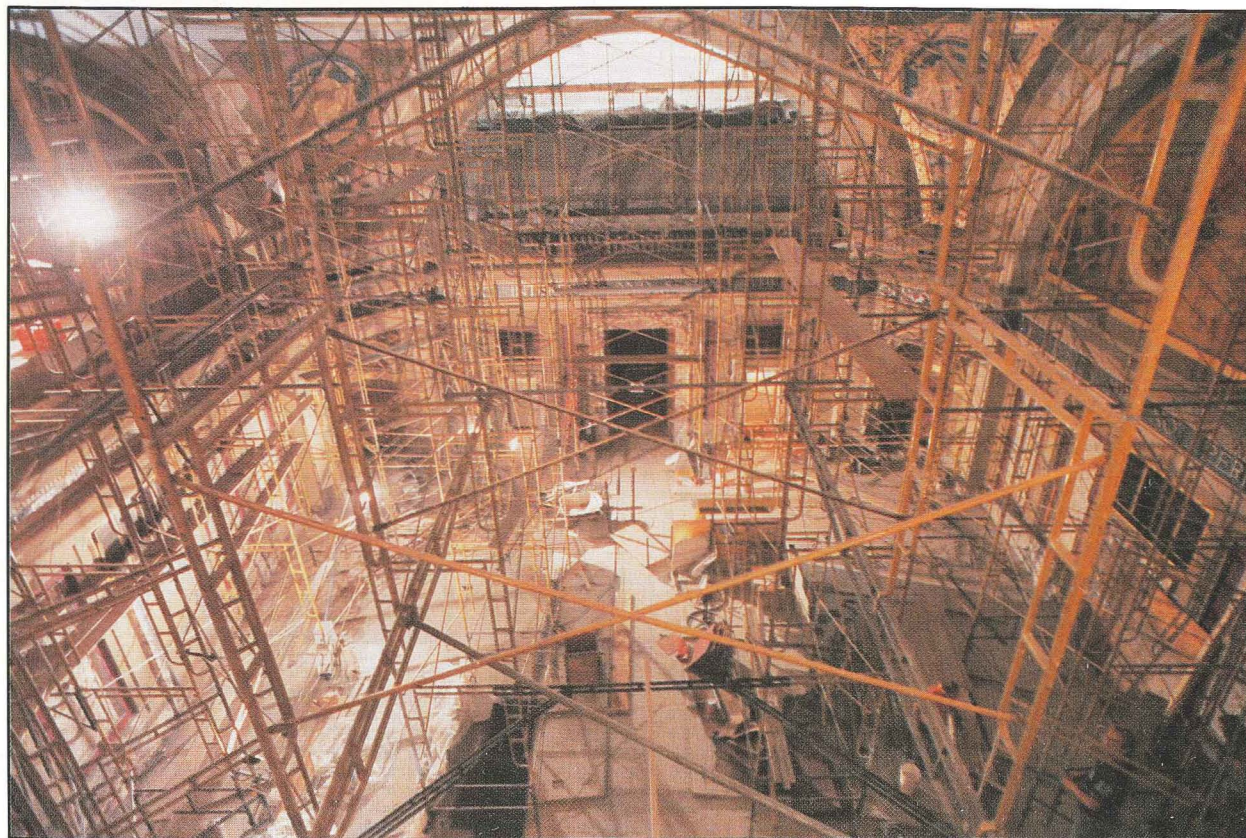


This page. Right: Workers remove the old carpeting and the plywood subflooring. In addition, all of the old electrical wiring is pulled. Below: Workers install new conduit to accommodate current electrical needs and the technological needs of the future. For instance, in the future computer cables may be laid without tearing up the carpeting or floor.

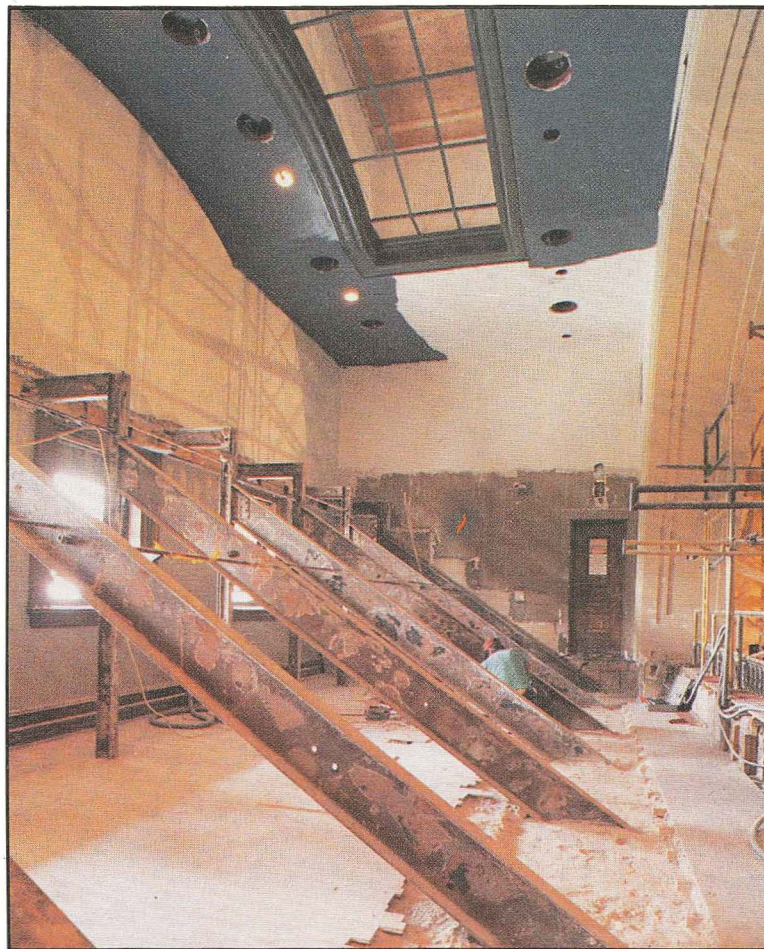


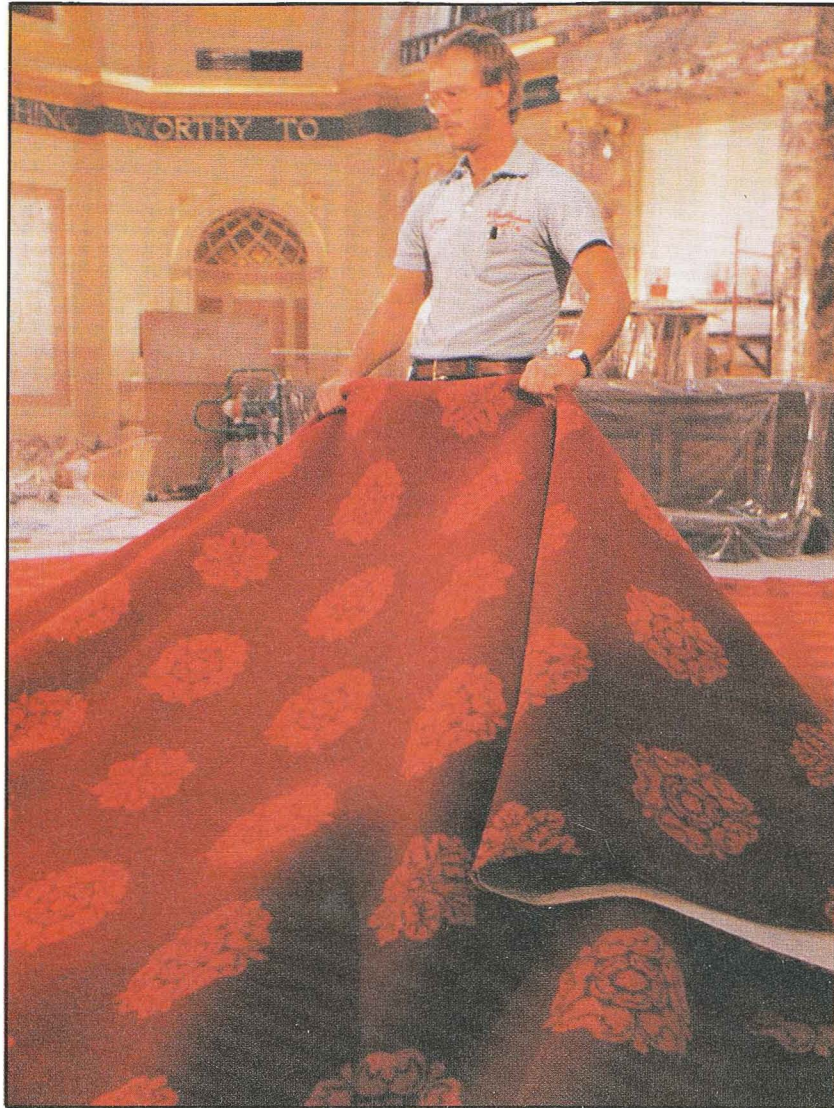
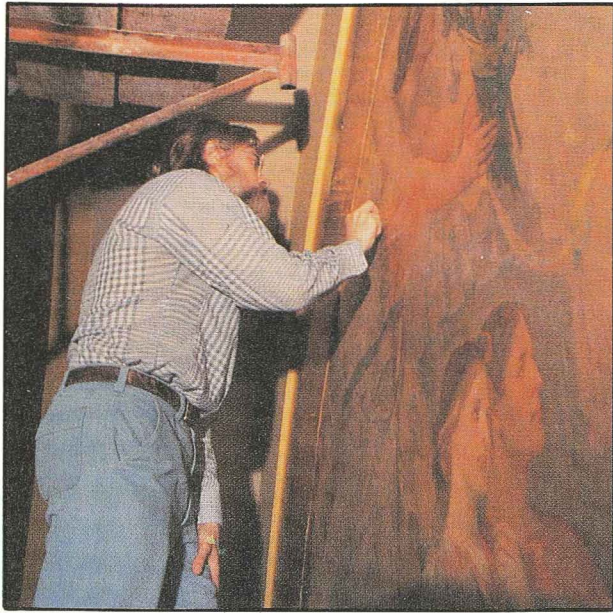


Left: The formal elegance of the Senate Retiring Room gives way to a more mundane role as storage space and impromptu lunchroom for restoration crews. Below: Worker puts finishing touches on wiring before a new concrete floor is poured. Bottom: A spiderweb of scaffolding is constructed to allow restoration work in the upper reaches of the Chamber.



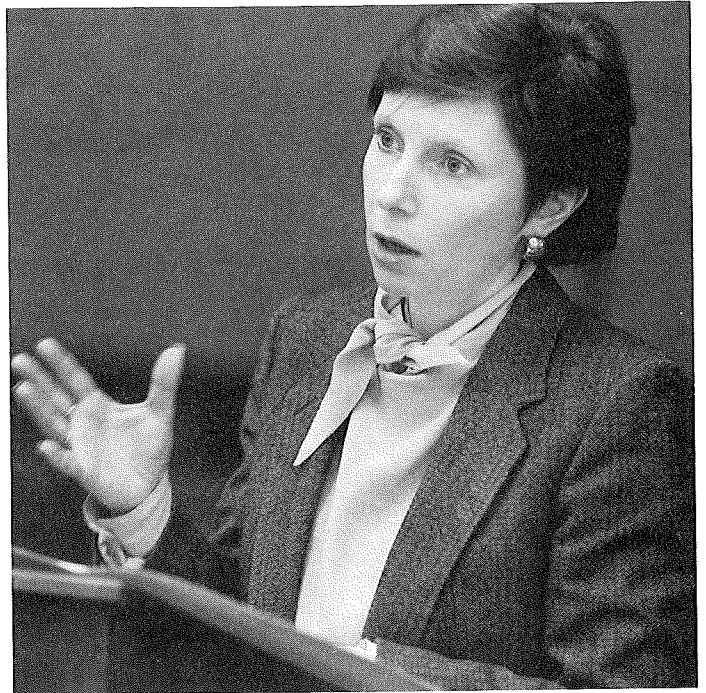
Right: A long hidden skylight in the West Senate Gallery is uncovered. The entire Gallery is gutted and reconstructed to reduce stress on the Retiring Room ceiling below. Below: A worker assembles a new glass framework to restore the skylight in the Chamber. Uncovering the skylights dramatically increases the amount of natural light in the Senate Chamber.





Above left: Cleaning and repair of the murals above the Chamber requires careful, painstaking work 30 feet above the floor. Above: Gold leaf is applied to scroll work on wall panels in the Senate Retiring Room. Left: New carpeting, matching the patterns of the original carpeting laid in 1905, is installed as one of the final steps of the project.

“Our work has a direct reflection on the future of other women.” — Sen. Donna Peterson



“Just as it is quite a common occurrence for a woman to become an attorney or a physician, we will also see more and more women elected to state legislatures throughout the country.” — Sen. Nancy Brataas.



Perspectives on women Senators

by Susan Tsakakis

This session, more women will serve in Minnesota Legislature than ever before: 26 in the House of Representatives and 10 in the Senate. Although these numbers do not mean that women are represented in the Legislature proportionally to their population in Minnesota, it does mean that the number of women seeking and attaining public office at the state level in Minnesota is growing.

Undeniably, women and men face different cultural programming, both in childhood and as they grow older. How do our women Senators believe this societal stereotyping affects their attitudes, and the attitudes of those around them, toward their role as legislators?

To explore this question, and others like it, we circulated a questionnaire to all female Senators. Of the nine serving during 1988, all but one responded. The summaries

provided here are not scientific and are meant only to give an overall impression of how women in the Minnesota Senate regard their positions as legislators.

Questions fell into four general categories: the differences, if any, between men and women Senators; others' reactions to women Senators; the accomplishments each Senator considers most important; and the political future of women in Minnesota.

The first questions focussed on the idea of differences between men and women Senators. We asked if the respondents felt that men and women approached the job of Senator differently, and if they believed they had encountered any special problems or advantages as a state legislator because of their gender.

The majority of the women Senators believe that men and women approach the job of Senator in much the same way; a few indicated that they believe that how one

approaches the job depends on the individual and is based on factors other than gender.

As Senator Nancy Brataas said, "Our common goal, male or female, is to work for what is good for our individual districts, without jeopardizing what is good for the state. I believe there is far more difference among rural, urban and suburban Senators—and between DFL and IR Senators—than there is between male and female Senators."

Senator Phyllis McQuaid agreed, saying, "The issues that confront me on a daily basis require my talents as a Senator, not as a woman."

However, while Senator Donna Peterson also agreed that both sexes basically approach their jobs similarly, she added that "... most of the women know they must do a better than average job so not only are they accepted, but so more women can be



Sen. Linda Berglin



Sen. Gen Olson

elected. Our work has a direct reflection on the future of other women."

A few Senators do believe that men and women, as groups, have unique approaches to the job. Senator Ember Reichgott said that she believes women bring a "detail" perspective to their work as legislators; and Senator Linda Berglin said that she thinks women tend to rely more on homework and less on friendship for support of their bills.

Most of the respondents said that their gender had given them no particular problems or advantages in their work. The majority indicated that they have been treated fairly and respectfully by their colleagues.

Senator Pat Piper said that while there are subtle prejudices, not necessarily evidenced by colleagues, "Eventually an equal plane develops when men and women work together for a period of time."

Reichgott did respond that, in her conversations with constituents, she had

seen some proof supporting what studies have shown: that citizens tend to perceive woman politicians as more trustworthy and accessible than their male colleagues.

Another theme that emerged from the questions regarding differences between the sexes was a feeling that women Senators are more inclined to focus on areas that have been traditionally considered "women's" issues: health care, child care, poverty, divorce, etc. Senators Marilyn Lantry, Reichgott, Piper, and Brataas each indicated that they believe women may tend to be more concerned with these issues.

Lantry provided some insight into why in her response: "As women we have encountered the difficulties of adequate child care facilities, teen age pregnancies, etc."

Berglin added that "... the understanding of problems that are especially faced by women is important in getting attention and action by the Legislature."

But women alone certainly don't deserve all the credit for the attention given to human

service legislation in recent years: Brataas noted that "... BOTH men and women legislators are responsible for the progress and accomplishments in the area of women's issues and other key questions of social and economic policy."

Senators Gen Olson and McQuaid both indicated that legislative concerns depend upon the individual and gender has little effect. A Senator's contributions, Olson said, relate more to one's life experiences and personal philosophies than to gender.

Senator Piper also pointed out that one unique contribution women have made is that, simply by virtue of being elected, they have made the Legislature more representative of the population.

Questions regarding others' response to them as public servants showed that, in general, the women believe that Minnesotans have been very supportive. The public's attitude is "... very positive because more and more women are getting elected," said McQuaid. "If we are viewed as running with a broad agenda and awareness

Women: A historical overview



Hannah Johnson Kempfer (left) and Mabeth Hurd Paige — two of Minnesota's first women legislators pictured in 1941.

by Susan Tsakakis

Throughout Minnesota's history, women have made important contributions to life in our state as artists, writers, and catalysts of social change. However, beginning in the 1920s, women in Minnesota could add "elected public servant" to their ever-growing list of significant positions. Throughout the following decades, women continued their involvement in Minnesota politics; our state in part owes its proud tradition of innovative and responsible public policy to its women.

Women first became eligible to run for the Minnesota Legislature in 1922. That year, four women were elected to the House of Representatives; and, as with most elected officials, these women each focussed their energies on their own special areas of interest.

Hannah Johnson Kempfer, representing Otter Tail County, for example, concentrated primarily on natural resources conservation and health and welfare legislation. She served on the Game and Fish Committee during all nine of her terms, and was cited for her environmental work by the American Game Protective Association. In 1930, she was chosen as a delegate to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.

Her three women colleagues also chose their areas of interest: Myrtle A. Cain sponsored a bill granting equal rights to both sexes; Sue Metzger Dickey Hough tried to extend the rights of illegitimate children; and Mabeth Hurd Paige worked to establish mental hospitals. All three women represented portions of Hennepin County.

Later in the 1920s, they were joined by Laura Emelia Johnson Naplin—the first woman elected to the Senate—and Rosanna Catherine Stark Payne and Harriet Hildreth Weeks in the House of Representatives. Although some of these women continued to serve throughout the next decade, the 1930s added only one new woman to the roster: Bertha Lee Smith Hanson, who served as a representative during the 1939-40 session. No new women were elected to either the House of Representatives or the Senate in the 1940s.

Things picked up the 1950s, when three new women were elected to the House: Sara Lee Fletcher Luther, Cornelia Gjesdal Knutson, and Joyce Ireton Lund. In the

following decades, the number of women serving in the Legislature steadily increased: six were elected as representatives during the 1960s, and 22 were elected to the Legislature in the 1970s. The 1970s also ushered in three new female Senators: Nancy Brataas, representing Olmsted County, Emily Staples, representing part of Hennepin County, and Dee Knaak, representing portions of Anoka and Ramsey Counties.

Some of these women legislators have left the Minnesota Legislature and gone on to make impressive gains in other areas of Minnesota politics. Coxa Knutson, who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1951-1953, became the first woman Minnesotans sent to the U.S. Congress. She was elected to represent Minnesota's 9th District in 1954.

Joan Anderson Growe, a representative from 1973-1974, was elected Secretary of State in 1974. She still serves in that office.

In the 1980s, 32 women have been elected to the Minnesota Legislature. These women run the gamut in terms of political interests, backgrounds, and constituencies.

It is impossible to stereotype these women as "liberal" or "conservative," as "rural" or "urban," as "pro-labor" or "pro-business." The causes and legislation they have authored and supported affect every citizen of Minnesota. No matter what their political beliefs, their backgrounds, or their constituency, one thing is clear: women legislators will continue to play an increasingly important part in public policy in Minnesota.



LAURA E. NAPLIN
Sixty-ninth District

Sen. Ember Reichgott



of all issues, we are accepted by the voters, both male and female."

Lantry's response expanded upon that theme: "I don't think there is a bias for or against women . . . the public will support a person on the basis of ability to perform, not on the basis of gender."

Some Senators definitely still see gender as an issue, however, and look forward to the day when they are judged on merit alone. Piper said she believed that women in politics are still "noticed" and that we are still in the era of tokenism. "I think of myself as a person and I ran as a person, not as a woman. I welcome the day when gender isn't an issue," Piper said.

Both Reichgott and Brataas noted that, although women have made gains, representation on a national level is still lacking. For example, Reichgott said, membership of the U.S. Congress is still only five percent female. Brataas agreed that there seems to be some prejudice against electing women to top executive positions, but she thinks that the attitude will become more positive as more women hold office and the public sees how well they serve.

Most respondents said that, on a personal level, they have received nothing but encouragement and support from family and friends in their decision to run for and serve in the Senate.

One of the final questions, "What do you predict for the future of women in Minnesota government and politics?" elicited an almost unanimously positive response: the Senators believe that the number of women in politics will continue to grow and that women's political future in Minnesota is bright.

Reichgott said, "I think women will make a difference in Minnesota's future. We have had strong, competent women leaders from both parties who have already opened doors, such as our female House majority leaders. I expect women candidates to play a part in many future state-wide races."

Piper said that she hopes "that women can catch up soon and that elected officials or legislative issues will not have to be differentiated as 'women's.' We rarely use terms such as 'men elected officials' or 'men's issues,' " Piper said.

Perhaps Brataas summed it up best: "With more professional career opportunities available to females, more women are now perceived as being capable of holding public office and of performing admirably. Just as it is quite a common occurrence for a woman to become an attorney or a physician, we will also see more and more women elected to state legislatures throughout the country."



Sen. Phyllis McQuaid



Pariseau greets new challenges

by Susan Tsakakis

After years of being the person behind the candidate, of working hard on someone else's campaign and then volunteering in the candidate's office after the election, Patricia Pariseau said that one of the largest challenges facing her as a newly-elected Senator will be simply getting used to her role.

Just "getting my feet wet and finding out how the process works here and becoming a part of it and being effective at it," will be an adjustment, she said.

Pariseau was elected Nov. 8 to replace Senator Darril Wegscheid, who resigned in June, as the Senator representing District 37. Her district is composed mainly of Dakota County, including Hastings, Apple Valley, Farmington, Vermillion, and Rosemount.

She doesn't anticipate any serious problems in getting into her new role, though; she said she believes that gathering all the available information about issues before voting will help ease the transition.

"One of my real bugaboos is that I want to have all the information before I make a decision," Pariseau said.

After her years of political involvement—she's been active in IR party politics since 1972—one of the reasons she finally decided to run, she said, is because she believes that government by citizen representation is extremely important.

"That's one of the strongest things about being an elected official, I think . . . you have to feel strongly that citizen representation

makes the difference."

She doesn't like to see professional legislators, she said; instead, politicians should "come in and do some good and hope that you can make a difference in some things, spend your time and then get out and leave it to somebody else with fresh ideas."

In addition to campaign work, she has spent the last six years working for U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz, mostly helping constituents, she said. Although her job required that she work in the areas of transportation, education, and justice at varying times, she said that she consistently worked in the area of agriculture.

She is married to a farmer and has six children. She has also served one term on the Farmington School Board, and has been a volunteer for the American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Cross.

Committees that interest her include Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Judiciary, Environment and Natural Resources, Local and Urban Government, and Education.

Some issues specifically concerning Dakota County that she believes merit attention include groundwater contamination, landfill and incinerator problems, and the possibility that the county may house a new airport.

Over the long term, one of her goals is improving Minnesota's tax system. "I hope that we can do something to make this state more stable in our pattern of taxation," she said. "I think that we've gotten into a pattern of over-taxing one or two years in a row, and

then saying 'oh my gosh, isn't this awful, we've got this huge revenue surplus, why don't we give it back to the people.' I'd rather see us get into a stable situation . . ." she said.

A stable tax structure would also enable employers to plan and know that they'll have jobs available, she said. "The problem is that we do patchwork kind of things, and that is always the short-term patch on something that needs a long-term plan."

She also believes that Minnesota should work on a long-term plan for the environment.

Pariseau said she thinks she was elected because people in her district felt comfortable with her. Many people either knew her family name or knew others who were supporting her, she said. In areas where she wasn't well known, like Apple Valley and Hastings, she did a lot of door knocking, she said.

"I could see that the comfort level of people's feelings toward me was increasing" as the campaign progressed, Pariseau said.

She said the only advice Boschwitz gave her concerned the difficulties of campaigning in a district that isn't clearly dominated by Democrats or Republicans, such as hers.

After spending six years in Boschwitz's office, helping people solve problems, she said that she looks forward to continuing to help people as a state Senator.

"Getting people through the process of the negative side of what former laws have done to them is as important as establishing new laws; maybe more so."

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members — 1989 Session

PARTY	PHONE	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	PHONE	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.
DFL	296-5981	Adkins, Betty A.	235 Cap.	22	IR	296-5655	Larson, Cal	145 SOB	10
IR	6455	Anderson, Don	153 SOB	12	DFL	4136	Lessard, Bob	111 Cap.	3
DFL	5713	Beckman, Tracy L.	G-10 Cap.	29	DFL	8869	Luther, William P.	205 Cap.	47
IR	5975	Belanger, William V., Jr.	107 SOB	41	DFL	5645	Marty, John J.	235 Cap.	63
IR	3903	Benson, Duane D.	147 SOB	32	IR	1279	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	135 SOB	44
DFL	5094	Berg, Charles A.	328 Cap.	11	IR	8075	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	127 SOB	26
DFL	4261	Berglin, Linda	G-29 Cap.	60	DFL	4154	Merriam, Gene	122 Cap.	49
IR	4131	Bernhagen, John	113 SOB	21	DFL	4370	Metzen, James	303 Cap.	39
DFL	2084	Bertram, Joe, Sr.	323 Cap.	16	DFL	4264	Moe, Donald M.	309 Cap.	65
DFL	4837	Brandl, John E.	306 Cap.	62	DFL	2577	Moe, Roger D.	208 Cap.	2
IR	4848	Brataas, Nancy	139 SOB	33	DFL	5649	Morse, Steven	309 Cap.	34
DFL	4182	Chmielewski, Florian	325 Cap.	14	DFL	4334	Novak, Steven G.	301 Cap.	52
DFL	5931	Cohen, Richard J.	G-27 Cap.	64	IR	1282	Olson, Gen	133 SOB	43
DFL	5003	Dahl, Gregory L.	111 Cap.	50	IR	5252	Pariseau, Patricia	151 SOB	37
DFL	2302	Davis, Charles R.	G-24 Cap.	18	DFL	4241	Pehler, James C.	G-9 Cap.	17
IR	0415	Decker, Bob	109 SOB	4	DFL	4274	Peterson, Donna C.	G-24 Cap.	61
DFL	6820	DeCramer, Gary M.	303 Cap.	27	DFL	8018	Peterson, Randolph W.	G-9 Cap.	19
DFL	2859	Dicklich, Ronald R.	235 Cap.	5	DFL	9248	Piper, Pat	325 Cap.	31
DFL	8298	Diessner, A.W. "Bill"	326 Cap.	56	DFL	7809	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	306 Cap.	58
DFL	2877	Frank, Don	G-10 Cap.	51	DFL	4167	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	303 Cap.	25
IR	4123	Frederick, Mel	119 SOB	30	IR	9251	Ramstad, Jim	123 SOB	45
DFL	5640	Frederickson, David J.	G-24 Cap.	20	DFL	2889	Reichgott, Ember D.	G-9 Cap.	46
IR	8138	Frederickson, Dennis R.	143 SOB	23	IR	4125	Renneke, Earl W.	117 SOB	35
DFL	9307	Freeman, Michael O.	122 Cap.	40	DFL	4875	Samuelson, Don	124 Cap.	13
IR	4314	Gustafson, Jim	115 SOB	8	DFL	7157	Schmitz, Robert J.	235 Cap.	36
DFL	4183	Hughes, Jerome M.	328 Cap.	54	DFL	4188	Solon, Sam G.	303 Cap.	7
IR	3826	Johnson, Dean E.	105 SOB	15	DFL	4191	Spear, Allan H.	G-27 Cap.	59
DFL	8881	Johnson, Douglas J.	205 Cap.	6	IR	6238	Storm, Donald A.	125 SOB	42
DFL	4248	Jude, Tad	G-28 Cap.	48	DFL	8660	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	306 Cap.	1
IR	1253	Knaak, Fritz	149 SOB	53	IR	9457	Taylor, Glen	103 SOB	24
IR	4120	Knutson, Howard A.	121 SOB	38	DFL	5650	Vickerman, Jim M.	G-29 Cap.	28
DFL	4302	Kroening, Carl W.	124 Cap.	57	DFL	3809	Waldorf, Gene	124 Cap.	66
IR	4351	Laidig, Gary W.	141 SOB	55					
DFL	3205	Langseth, Keith	G-24 Cap.	9					
DFL	8017	Lantry, Marilyn M.	328 Cap.	67					

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