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Perspectives

A Publication about the Minnesota Senate



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New Senators face challenges.

The sixteen new Senators are profiled.

This issue of Perspectives introduces the new Senators for 1991. Although several of the new Senators have legislative experience in the House of Representatives, all are looking forward to the new experiences to be gained through service in the Minnesota Senate. In addition, all the committee chairs were asked to profile the issues expected to be before Senate committees this year. Finally, a listing of all Senate committee memberships, along with meeting times and places, is provided.

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The 77th Legislative Session began with members of the Minnesota Senate being sworn into office.



Preview of 1991 legislative agenda

Agriculture and Rural Development

Sen. Charles Davis, chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, said that wetlands conservation legislation is a top committee priority this session. Davis also said that the committee would insure that a wetlands conservation bill will be fair to landowners and reflect the true public value of Minnesota's wetlands.

Davis said that he also anticipates that the committee will hear Agriculture Dept. bills that involve various fee increases needed to fund rising administrative costs and increasing regulation needs.

In addition, Davis said that the several proposals refining legislation that was enacted over the past several sessions as emergency legislation will come before the committee. Proposals

involving farm mediation, the right of first refusal and the ongoing need for producer access to adult farm management programs were all areas Davis cited as likely to come before the panel.

In the area of rural development, Davis said that there was also interest in examining programs currently in operation in Iowa and Michigan that offer access to help and funding to foster the development of value-added processing. The committee will investigate whether similar programs would benefit Minnesota firms, Davis said.

Commerce

Chief among the bills expected to be heard by Commerce Committee Chair Sam Solon are proposals to expand the number of states for interstate banking and an omnibus insurance

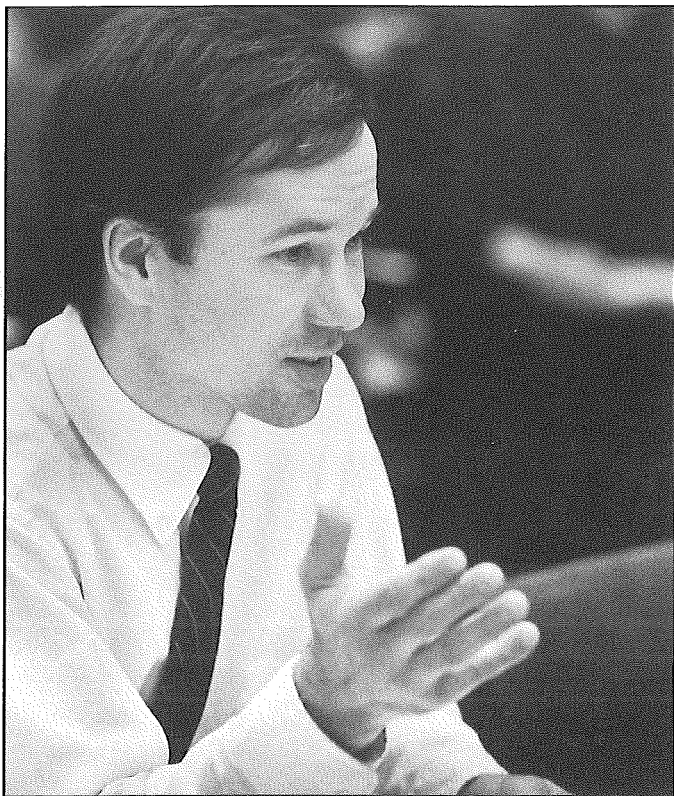
measure encompassing numerous provisions. Solon said that the major thrust of insurance legislation would involve making sure that insurance companies in Minnesota remain solvent.

Solon said that he also anticipates hearing proposals to extend liquor on-sale hours in the city of Minneapolis as well as several other more noncontroversial bills concerning liquor sales and licensing.

Another area of activity, said Solon, will concern the licensure of builders. Solon said that proposals to license builders will be aimed at preventing fly-by-night contractors from bilking Minnesota consumers.

Solon also said that some refinement of last session's Automatic Garage Door Openers Safety Act will probably be before the committee.

There is also going to be a proposal to limit benefit plans for small businesses so that more small businesses



Sen. Gregory Dahl



Sen. James Metzen

can offer insurance coverage to their employees, Solon said.

Solon also said that the panel must review any of the health care access legislation that begins to work through the legislative process. Finally, the committee will consider other proposals that arise out of the committee's departmental oversight role.

Economic Development and Housing

Like many other policy committees, the Economic Development and Housing Committee will be operating under severe budget constraints, said newly appointed Committee Chair James Metzen. Therefore, he said, he didn't expect major new program initiatives to come before the panel this session. Instead, Metzen said that the committee will concentrate on fine tuning current programs and, in the area of housing, examine the ways any

available federal funding might be best used.

Metzen also pointed out that in addition to having a new chair, the committee also has many new members. He said that the panel expects to have numerous background hearings to bring members up to speed on the various issues involved in both economic development and housing.

Metzen said that in the area of economic development, the panel will revisit the areas of tax increment financing and fiscal disparities in order to assess the effectiveness of past legislation.

In the area of housing, Metzen said that he expects some activity around manufactured housing issues such as the right of first refusal or the establishment of "land trusts" that would enable individual residents to get together to buy a particular park.

Metzen anticipates that the panel will hear proposals that make numerous changes in current landlord-tenant laws.

Finally, the panel will be conducting confirmation hearings, like the other policy committees, on the newly

appointed heads of the agencies over which the panel has oversight responsibility, Metzen said.

Education

The top issues before the Senate Education Committee can be divided into two categories: Funding and innovation.

For some time, committee members, chaired this session by Sen. Gregory Dahl, have faced the issues of equity funding and the school funding formula. Both issues have been points of contention, especially for tax base poor districts.

The panel also confronts the continuing challenge of the upkeep and maintenance of school facilities, especially in Greater Minnesota. The quality of some school structures in Greater Minnesota is to the point that some buildings are considered unsafe for students. Some of last session's legislation promises to be a large part of committee business this year. Proposals providing for increased Fire Marshal inspection and for facility sharing plans

that some school districts hoped would keep buildings operating were before the committee last year and will again be before the panel.

It is also expected that another financing issue before the committee will be the Maximum Effort Loan Program. In years past, the loans have been granted to every district upon request. Now, in a time of fiscal constraint, legislators are hoping to establish some criteria to determine which districts should get such loans.

In the area of innovation, bills dealing with implementing site-based management, outcome-based learning and charter schools are expected to come before the committee. There is a great deal of interest in reevaluating the successes of the state's educational system. Panel members indicate that many are coming to believe that the exceptional graduation rate is not sufficient criteria for judgement of the system, and that a letter grade given to a pupil is a nebulous evaluation of that student.

In the area of higher education, the committee expects to hear from the Higher Education Coordinating Board on the results of the MSPAN I and MSPAN II studies that looked at the state's effectiveness in serving the population through its systems of higher education.

Given the current level of fiscal constraints and the fact that education has always been the largest portion of the state budget, the matters before the Senate Education Committee will prove to be a great challenge for members.

Elections and Ethics

Sen. Jerome Hughes, chair of the Elections and Ethics Committee, said that the issue of placing a new candidate on the ballot upon the withdrawal of a candidate for major statewide office will be a top priority item for the committee. Hughes indicated that there are several different proposals to resolve situations similar to the one that occurred last fall.

Hughes also said that he expects to see proposals suggested by the Ethical

Practices Board dealing with the issue of campaign funds for candidates running without opposition. Hughes characterized the issue as being two-fold: First, what the intent of the current law is and second, whether unopposed candidates should receive public funding.

Proposals limiting the number of terms of office for elected public officials will also probably come before the committee, Hughes said.

In addition, Hughes indicated that the panel will also discuss the various proposals put forth in the secretary of state's housekeeping bill that makes technical changes to provisions in Minnesota's elections laws.

A proposal, suggested by the secretary of state, to allow Minnesotans to vote entirely by mail in the 1992 presidential primary, will also come before the panel.

Finally, Hughes said that the committee will probably examine the relatively new issue of the distinction between funds used for public information and those used for active campaigning for ballot questions on the part of local units of government.

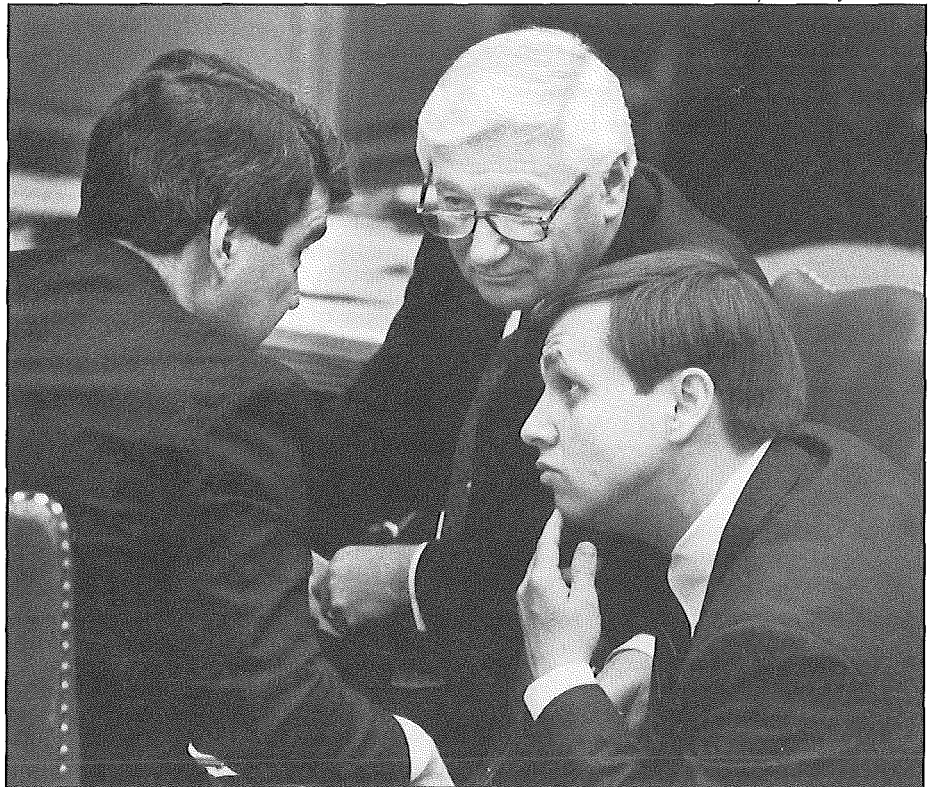
Employment

Workers' compensation legislation will top the Employment Committee's agenda this session as committee members consider reform in cost containment and medical care delivery.

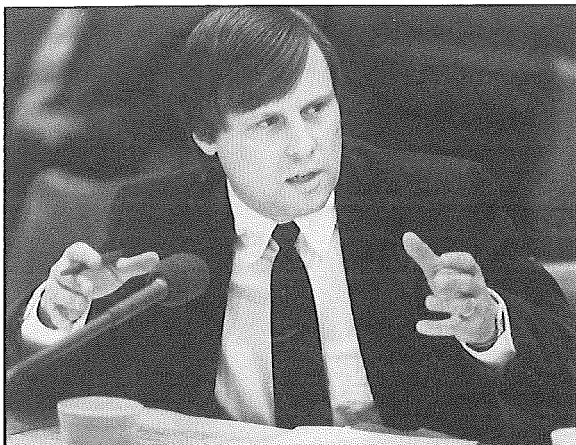
The committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski, also plans to examine a bill that would mandate a minimum wage hike by 1993. The bill, which would raise the wage by yearly increments, requires a pay hike to \$5.25 in large companies and \$4.75 in small companies. Legislation would define what constitutes a large or small company.

The committee will also review the status of Minnesota's Unemployment Insurance Fund, which could be affected by increased unemployment rates resulting from a national recession. The committee will assess the possibility of permanent state funding of the Dislocated Worker Fund, which aids employees who are laid-off or terminated because of plant or company closings. Presently, the fund is

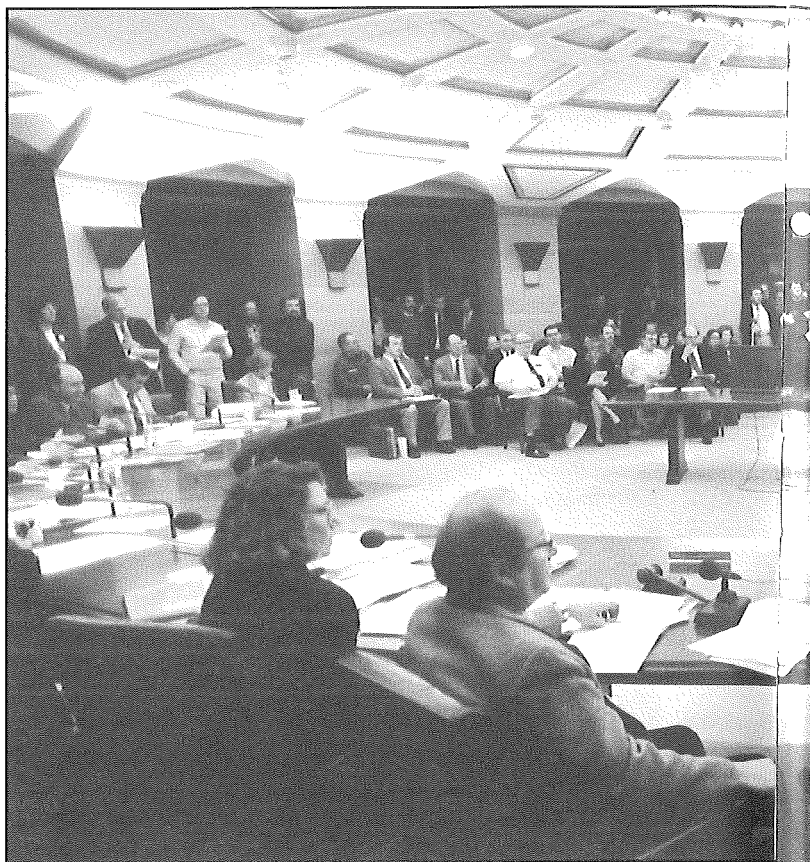
Photos by David J. Oakes



Sens. Laidig, Storm and D. E. Johnson confer at a committee hearing.



Sen. Steven Novak



Committees form the heart of the legislative process.

temporarily funded by the federal government. The committee will also consider expanding a parental leave law currently allowing employees to use their sick time to care for sick children. The expanded law would allow employees to use their sick time to care for sick parents or spouses.

Energy and Public Utilities

According to Sen. Steven Novak, chair of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee a major priority this session involves Minnesota's ability to deal with an energy crisis. Novak is planning hearings to examine the state's reaction to a crisis, perhaps as a result of the war in the Middle East. He said that he would invite experts from the region to present information on energy availability and cost, and to offer some suggestions that both businesses and consumers could use in dealing with the ramifications of an energy crisis.

Representatives from the Dept. of Public Service (DPS) and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are also scheduled to present materials reflecting their findings on Minnesota's response to an energy crisis.

In addition, the committee will be reassessing the status and viability of alternative energy options, including the use of compressed natural gas in lieu of diesel.

Novak said that the committee also plans to study constituents' utility statements in order to evaluate their clarity and substance. Finally, Novak also said the committee will be looking at the effects of deregulation on the telecommunications industry.

Environment and Natural Resources

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, chaired

by Sen. Bob Lessard, will have several priority items before them. Wetlands legislation that has been the focus of the Senate Ad Hoc Waters Committee will be examined this session by the committee. It is anticipated that the committee, in conjunction with the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, will carefully consider the ramifications of such a far reaching proposal.

It is also expected that the Select Committee on Packaging and the Environment (SCORE) will propose legislation designed to cut down on packaging disposed in landfills. Proposed legislation initially would allow companies to cut production voluntarily but may impose a tax on production if set goals are not met by 1994.

The committee also plans to examine amendments to the battery recycling law. In addition, there will be several amendments to the Waste Management Act, one of which may include a proposal to ban all new incinerators.

In the area of fish and wildlife, there is already a bill to mandate barbless hook fishing. The measure,



Photos by David J. Oakes



Sen. Charles Berg

sponsored by Lessard, is designed to make it less harmful to fish caught under the Catch and Release Program.

Finance

The Senate Finance Committee has identified three factors that will make committee business difficult early this session. The first is the presence of a new governor, and the second is the presence of new department heads. These two factors present new perspectives, practices and relationships that will have to be established. The third major factor is the \$197 million budget shortfall for the current fiscal period, and an estimated \$1.2 billion shortfall for the next biennium.

The first item of business for the committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam, will be to oversee the processing of a bill, developed in the governor's office, intended to address shortfall for the fiscal year ending in June.

The balance of the committee's time over the course of the session is expected to be spent dealing with the shortfall for the 1993 biennium. Panel members face the prospect that, more so than in other years, tough choices will have to be made about the allocation of funds. Unlike other sessions, those requesting monies for programs will have their attention shifted away from asking for more to maintaining current levels of funding.

Traditionally, the work of the Finance Committee is carried out in divisions that encompass specific funding areas. This session a new division, the Finance Division on Environment, will seek to pull together all of the elements concerned with funding environmental programs in the state. Further, two of the other divisions have new names that more accurately reflect the divisions' areas of responsibility. The Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-states Division has been renamed the Agriculture, Transportation and Regulation Division, and the State Departments

Division has been renamed the Economic and State Affairs Division.

Gaming Regulation

Sen. Charles Berg, chair of the newly configured Gaming Regulation Committee, said that one priority for the panel is to enact reforms that make it easier for both gaming enforcement officials and gaming organizations to understand the process. Berg said that changes in lawful gambling rules to ease the burden of paperwork on the organizations while at the same time allowing the organizations to operate more efficiently would come before the committee.

In the area of parimutuel betting, Berg said that he anticipated some proposals to expand to satellite betting operations; that is, free standing facilities that would simulcast races from Canterbury Downs. In addition, Berg said a proposal for telephone wagering would also probably be heard.

Berg also anticipates that there will be proposals to authorize video lottery games and video pulltabs. However, Berg added, "I would hope there isn't any expansion of gambling this session, but instead that we take a closer look at such issues as compulsive gambling."

Discussion about the advertising program for the lottery will also be heard by the panel, Berg said. He said that the issue revolved around the "subtle messages" contained in the advertising and the percentage of funds used. For example, Berg said he anticipates that there will be a proposal to prohibit any mention of Christmas in lottery advertisements.

Finally, the committee will make on-site visits to some of the gambling institutions currently in operation, Berg said.

Governmental Operations

At this point, the jurisdiction of the Senate Governmental Operations Committee is not certain, and it is still not known which issues will come before the committee. The separation of the Local Government and Metro Affairs Committee into two separate areas is expected to relieve the Governmental Operations Committee of some of its former jurisdiction over metropolitan agencies such as the Metropolitan Council.

Even so, it can be expected that bills on behalf of the Department of Employee Relations and "housekeeping" bills for the Department of Administration will be before committee members.

Also, the matter of restructuring in the governor's office and the possible initiative on the part of the governor to change high level department salaries could be part of committee business.

It is also likely that several professional groups will approach the legislature requesting that their profession be regulated through licensure.

Finally, a traditional role of the Governmental Operations Committee,



The Health and Human Services committee considers a wide range of social issues vital to all Minnesotans.

chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf, has been in the oversight of the various public pension plans. It is anticipated that the panel will continue in this role.

Health and Human Services

Chair Linda Berglin expects that health care access will be a central topic of discussion for committee members this year. Several proposals have already been submitted that address the issue of individuals without health insurance or with inadequate health insurance. In order to deal more efficiently with the various proposals, a new Health Care Access Division has been created and will conduct hearings on the issue.

In addition, the panel will devote a number of hearings to examining the effects of budget reductions, cancellations or delays on health and human services programs for both this biennium and the next biennium.

The "childrens agenda" will continue to be examined, however, budget priorities may limit any action. One issue pertaining to children that may come before the panel is the establishment of procedures for the placement and removal of foster children.

It is also expected that the wage fairness issue for employees of Intermediate Care Facilities for Mentally Retarded will come before the committee.

More than in previous sessions, budget priorities will shape the agenda of the committee. Although the panel is always on the lookout for ways to leverage other sources of funding without burdening local governments, the current budget situation will impact committee activity greatly. One of the fastest growing segments of spending occurs in the health and human services area, especially in expenditures associated with nursing homes and medical assistance. Thus, the committee will examine methods of cost containment and the impact of those methods on current programs.



Committee members will also consider legislation concerning domestic abuse issues, said Spear. He added that the legislature has passed considerable legislation in that area in the past few years, but that it is only working sporadically. He stated that there may be new legislation increasing both criminal and civil penalties, due to the horrendous cases seen in the past few years.

In addition, Spear said that the child protection system will need to be examined since it is not as effective as it should be.

Discussion concerning the issue of the inability of poor people to afford legal counsel will be considered especially in the areas of child custody disputes and marriage dissolutions, said Spear.

On the same line, Spear said he will propose some type of legislation that will allow individuals a fast-track divorce without requiring an attorney in those situations where there are no children and the issue of property is so

insignificant it doesn't concern the state.

Spear said committee members will also examine the possible inclusion of gay and lesbian rights in the state human rights law.

One issue returning from last session is in the area of joint and several liability. Joint and several liability deals with cases in which more than one party is liable, and one has money and the others do not, said Spear. Spear said he does not see a compelling need to change the formula, but is willing to listen to alternatives.

Local Government

Sen. Betty Adkins, the new chair of the Local Government Committee, said that she anticipates committee activities to revolve around concerns raised by the budget shortfall this

Judiciary

Members of the Judiciary Committee will be evaluating and assessing Minnesota's past legislation regarding both criminal and civil law, and carefully scrutinizing new proposals, said Committee Chair Allan Spear.

One major issue to be addressed is the issue of discriminatory penalties between crack-cocaine and powder-cocaine, said Spear. Spear said he is opposed to decreasing the penalty for crack-cocaine usage, but supports equalizing the penalties.

He said that Judiciary Committee members will also be hearing the Office of Drug Policy director's final report. According to Spear, the report recommends increased drug education and social services rather than enacting new laws relating to drug-related crimes.

A newly appointed Criminal Justice Review Subcommittee will be reviewing how the criminal justice system is adjusting to the pressures being placed upon it by recent legislation, and how this pressure can be relieved so that the system can adequately handle it, said Spear.

Sen. Betty Adkins

Photos by David J. Oakes



biennium. Early indications are that local units of government will be especially hard hit by the recommended cuts. Adkins said that the various local units will explain their budget process and how they are affected by the governor's recommendations in both the short and long term.

In addition, the various organizations representing local units of government, such as the League of Cities, the Township Association, the League of Small Cities and the Minnesota Association of Counties will all develop legislative packages that will be heard by the panel, Adkins said.

Adkins also indicated that there will be a number of bills that pertain to a particular city, township or county before the committee.

Finally, because there are so many new members on the committee, Adkins indicated that several hearings will focus on background presentations and overviews.

Metropolitan Affairs

Major issues facing the Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC), Regional Transit Board, Metropolitan Sport Facilities and the Waste Management Board will all come before the Metropolitan Affairs Committee as the committee of last review, said Committee Chair Don Frank.

One of the issues facing committee members will be a request by MAC to extend the current phase of the planning process for the projected site of the new airport, said Frank.

Committee members may also be reexamining the Metropolitan Council's mission statement, accomplishments and future plans, he said. He also mentioned discussing the issue of changing from an appointed Metro Council to one of elected members.

Proposing a possible half cent sales tax may be under consideration by members to help fund the light rail transit system, he said. However, he added that budgetary restraints will most likely postpone this issue.

A question that committee



A new committee, chaired by Majority Leader Roger Moe, will undertake the delicate task of redrawing legislative boundaries.

members may tackle this session is proposing the institution of metro-wide recycling programs versus county-wide recycling programs.

Frank said that while it's important for the committee to be able to coordinate all actions that influence the seven-county Metro Area, they must also focus on issues concerning Greater

Minnesota since the regions are interdependent.

Redistricting

The newest Senate committee, the Redistricting Committee, was created to develop the plan under which new political boundaries will be drawn in 1992. The committee, chaired by Majority Leader Roger Moe, will hold a series of hearings to obtain public input on the standards and procedures to be used in drawing new district lines.

Much of the committee's work is dictated by a time line that specifies the availability of population data and development of computer capabilities. For instance, February, 1991, is the time designated for public hearings on standards to govern the redistricting plans. January through March, 1991, is the time frame for the geographical data base to be made available from the

federal census bureau. In April, 1991, the committee plans to have drafted a resolution on the standards to be adopted. In May, the panel plans to begin testing the computer hardware and software with complete census data. Finally, also in May, the panel will begin to draw new district lines for congressional, legislative and Metropolitan Council districts.

Many of the standards are court imposed. For instance, the new district lines must use natural boundaries such as rivers, city lines, streets or county lines. In addition, there are prohibitions against discrimination against racial or language minorities. The new districts must also be equal in population and be drawn in a contiguous manner. However, there are numerous issues that the committee must resolve before the March 26, 1992, deadline by which legislative and congressional redistricting must be completed.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Sen. Douglas Johnson, chair of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee, conceded that it is difficult to project exactly which issues will be before the panel this year because of the new administration and the uncertainty of the economy. Johnson did say, though,

that the panel will be spending a great deal of time grappling with the budget shortfall situation.

The relationship between the state and local units of government will be closely examined by members of the committee, Johnson said. In addition, the panel will also examine property taxes with an eye to reform if there can be minimal revenue impact.

Johnson also said that fiscal disparities will be examined as will the 1990 tax increment financing law. He also said that the anticipated reductions in state spending will be reviewed in order to determine the impact on local government aids and property taxes.

In addition, Johnson said that the committee will deal with the departmental technical bills in several areas of taxation. Finally, Johnson said that the panel will update state income and corporate taxes to conform with the federal government's elimination of the tax "bubble" in order to conform with federal law.

Transportation

Much activity in the Transportation Committee's agenda this session will be driven by the Transportation

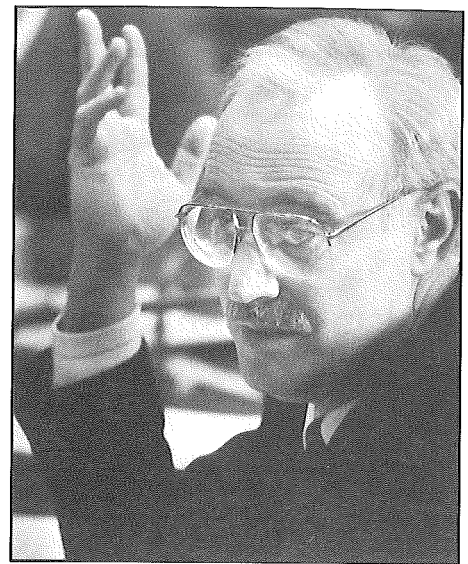
Study Board Report, which was presented to the governor Jan. 15. The study board, comprised of legislators and citizens, was appointed by the 1988 Legislature to assess the state's surface transportation needs for the next 20 years. The report details the board's findings and outlines state policy recommendations.

Committee Chair Gary DeCramer and members also plan to hear legislative program proposals originating from the Dept. of Transportation and the Dept. of Public Safety.

Veterans and General Legislation

Members of the Veterans and General Legislation Committee, chaired by Sen. Joe Bertram, Sr., will hold joint hearings with the House of Representatives on the POW/MIA issue. According to Bertram, the hearings will kick off a national program of similar hearings in other state legislatures designed to focus attention on the issue.

The committee will also be the starting point for legislation granting an extension on tax filing requirements for

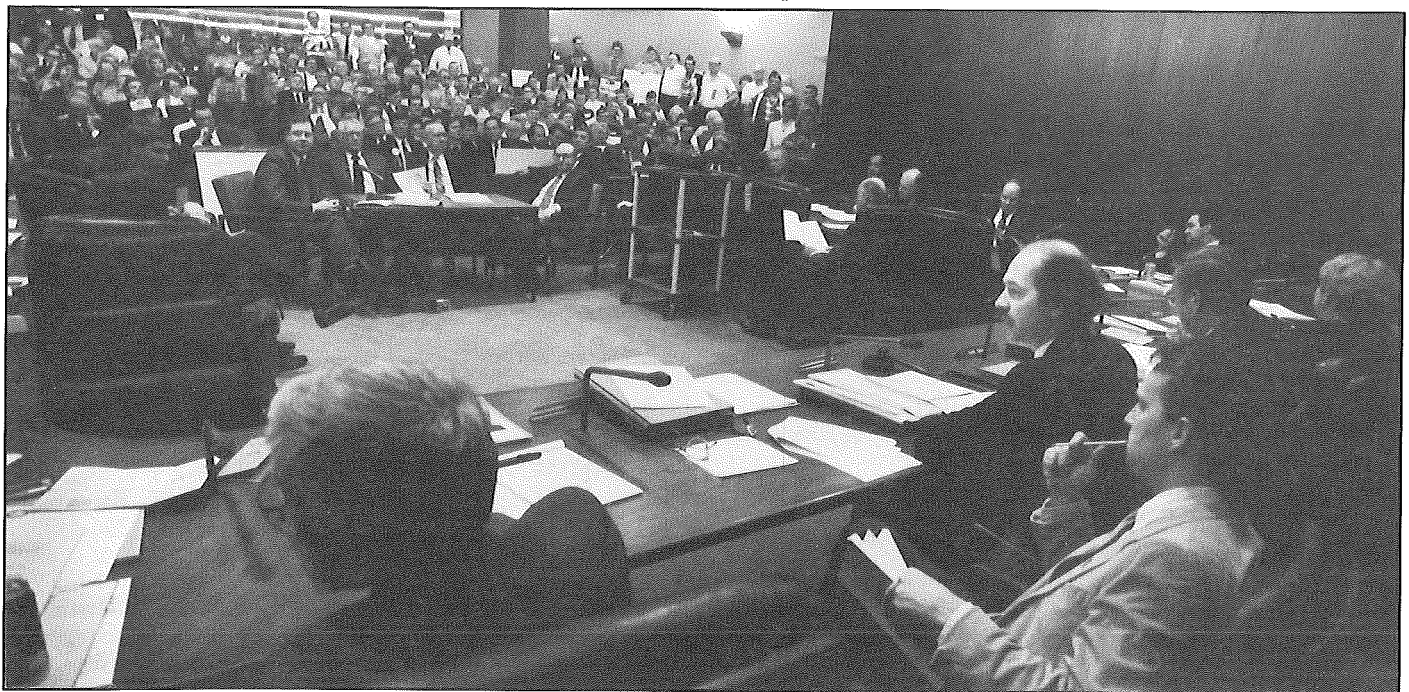


Sen. Gary DeCramer

servicemen and women currently serving in the Mideast. The extension would provide that returns do not have to be filed by the April 15 deadline and would eliminate the usual penalties for late filings.

In addition, the panel will also meet jointly with their House counterparts to discuss the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Finally, the panel will explore the possibility of additional funding for veterans homes, although the possibility of such funding remains slight in the current budget crunch.

Senate committees sometimes meet jointly with their House counterparts.



Senate committ

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (12)

CHAIR: Davis VICE CHAIR: Beckman
OFFICE: G-24 TELEPHONE: 296-7405
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
Beckman Day Morse
Berg Frederickson, D. J. Renneke
Bertram Frederickson, D. R. Sams
Davis Larson Vickerman

COMMERCE (16)

CHAIR: Solon VICE CHAIR: Pappas
OFFICE: 303 TELEPHONE: 296-4158
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p. m.
Adkins Cohen Larson Pappas
Belanger Day Luther Samuelson
Berglin Hottinger Mehrkens Solon
Brataas Kroening Metzen Spear

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING (12)

CHAIR: Metzen VICE CHAIR: Johnson, J.B.
OFFICE: 303 TELEPHONE: 296-8864
MEETS: M, Th; Room 107; 12-2 p. m.
Beckman Johnson, J. B. Neuville
Bernhagen Kelly Sams
Davis Kroening Storm
Gustafson Metzen Traub

EDUCATION (23)

CHAIR: Dahl VICE CHAIR: Traub
OFFICE: 235 TELEPHONE: 296-4185
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 15; 8-10 a. m.
Beckman Hottinger Mehrkens Pogemiller
Benson, J. Hughes Mondale Ranum
Dahl Johnston Morse Reichgott
DeCramer Knaak Neuville Stumpf
Dicklich Langseth Olson Traub
Frederickson, D. J. Larson Pappas

EDUCATION FUNDING DIVISION (14)

CHAIR: Dicklich
OFFICE: 235 TELEPHONE: 296-8018
MEETS: M, Th; Room 107; 3-6 p. m.
Dahl Hughes Mehrkens Reichgott
DeCramer Knaak Olson Stumpf
Dicklich Langseth Pappas
Frederickson, D. J. Larson Pogemiller

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (13)

CHAIR: Hughes VICE CHAIR: Luther
OFFICE: 328 TELEPHONE: 296-8866
MEETS: W; Room 107; 12 Noon. - 1 p. m.
Cohen Johnson, D. J. McGowan Samuelson
Halberg Laidig Moe
Hughes Luther Piper
Johnson, D. E. Marty Pogemiller

EMPLOYMENT (10)

CHAIR: Chmielewski VICE CHAIR: Mondale
OFFICE: 325 TELEPHONE: 296-8865
MEETS: M, W; Room 107; 10-12 Noon
Adkins Frank Kroening Solon
Brataas Gustafson Mondale
Chmielewski Halberg Piper

ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (12)

CHAIR: Novak VICE CHAIR: Finn
OFFICE: 321 TELEPHONE: 296-1767
MEETS: T, Th; Room 107; 10-12 Noon
Benson, J. Gustafson Novak Reichgott
Dicklich Johnson, D. J. Olson Storm
Finn Marty Piper Waldorf

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIR: Lessard VICE CHAIR: Price
OFFICE: 111 TELEPHONE: 296-1113
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 107; 1-3 p. m.
Benson, J. Frederickson, D. R. Merriam Pariseau
Berg Johnson, J. B. Mondale Price
Bernhagen Laidig Morse Riveness
Dahl Lessard Novak Stumpf
Finn Marty Olson

FINANCE (30)

CHAIR: Merriam VICE CHAIR: Vickerman
OFFICE: 122 TELEPHONE: 296-4157
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 123; 3-6 p. m.
Beckman Frederickson, D. R. McGowan Solon
Berg Johnson, D. E. Mehrkens Spear
Brataas Kroening Merriam Storm
Cohen Laidig Metzen Stumpf
Dahl Langseth Morse Vickerman
Davis Larson Piper Waldorf
DeCramer Lessard Renneke
Dicklich Luther Samuelson

GAMING REGULATION (10)

CHAIR: Berg VICE CHAIR: Bertram
OFFICE: 328 TELEPHONE: 296-5539
MEETS: M, W; Room 107; 8-10 a. m.
Berg Frederickson, D. R. Metzen Spear
Bertram Johnson, D. E. Price
Dicklich McGowan Samuelson

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (12)

CHAIR: Waldorf VICE CHAIR: Ranum
OFFICE: 317 TELEPHONE: 296-4175
MEETS: T, Th; Room 15; 8-10 a. m.
Belanger Frederickson, D. R. Pariseau Renneke
DeCramer Hughes Pogemiller Riveness
Frederickson, D. J. Morse Ranum Waldorf

tee assignments

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (17)

CHAIR: Berglin VICE CHAIR: Sams
OFFICE: G-9 TELEPHONE: 296-4151
MEETS: M, Th; Room 15; 3-6 p. m.
Adkins Finn Piper Vickerman
Benson, D. Flynn Sams Waldorf
Berglin Halberg Solon
Brataas Hottinger Storm
Day Johnson, J. B. Traub

JUDICIARY (17)

CHAIR: Spear VICE CHAIR: Kelly
OFFICE: G-27 TELEPHONE: 296-4191
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 15; 10-12 Noon
Belanger Knaak Merriam Spear
Berglin Laidig Neuville Stumpf
Cohen Luther Pogemiller
Finn Marty Ranum
Kelly McGowan Reichgott

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (9)

CHAIR: Adkins VICE CHAIR: Hottinger
OFFICE: G-29 TELEPHONE: 296-4150
MEETS: T, Th; Room 107; 8-10 a. m.
Adkins Davis Lessard
Bernhagen Day Neuville
Chmielewski Hottinger Traub

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS (13)

CHAIR: Frank VICE CHAIR: Flynn
OFFICE: 226 TELEPHONE: 297-8070
MEETS: T, Th; Room 15; 10-12 noon
Cohen Kelly Mondale Ranum
Flynn Knaak Pappas
Frank Laidig Pariseau
Johnston Langseth Price

REDISTRICTING (10)

CHAIR: Moe VICE CHAIR: Luther
OFFICE: 208 TELEPHONE: 296-4196
MEETS: On Call
Benson, D. Johnson, D. J. Moe Storm
Cohen Knaak Pogemiller
DeCramer Luther Reichgott

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (29)

CHAIR: Moe VICE CHAIR: Luther
OFFICE: 208 TELEPHONE: 296-4196
MEETS: On Call
Adkins Chmielewski Knaak Renneke
Belanger Dahl Laidig Solon
Benson, D. Davis Lessard Spear
Berg DeCramer Luther Storm
Berglin Frank Merriam Waldorf
Bernhagen Hughes Metzen
Bertram Johnson, D. E. Moe
Brataas Johnson, D. J. Novak

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (22)

CHAIR: Johnson, D. J. VICE CHAIR: Frederickson, D. J.
OFFICE: 205 TELEPHONE: 296-4839
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 15; 3-6 p. m.
Belanger Flynn Johnson, D. J. Pogemiller
Benson, D. Frank Kelly Price
Berglin Frederickson, D. J. Marty Reichgott
Bernhagen Gustafson Novak Riveness
Bertram Halberg Olson
Chmielewski Hughes Pariseau

TRANSPORTATION (14)

CHAIR: DeCramer VICE CHAIR: Riveness
OFFICE: 309 TELEPHONE: 296-4186
MEETS: M, Th; Room 112; 12-2 p. m.
Benson, J. Frank Mehrkens Riveness
Chmielewski Johnson, D. E. Novak Vickerman
DeCramer Johnston Olson
Flynn Langseth Pappas

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (11)

CHAIR: Bertram VICE CHAIR: Johnson,
J. B.
OFFICE: 323 TELEPHONE: 296-1771
MEETS: M, W; Room 112; 10-12 noon
Bertram Johnson, J. B. Pariseau Samuelson
Dahl Johnston Renneke Vicker-
man

Senators take the oath of office Jan. 8, 1991.

Sen. Randy Kelly and son Ryan.



New Senators face challenges

Each legislative session finds Senators with new issues, challenges and opportunities, and this year is no different. For each of the 16 newly elected Senators, one major challenge seems to be the “cash crunch” and how to deal with the expected state revenue shortfall. At the same time, each brings with them concerns for their own districts.



Joanne Benson - District 17

If someone wants to know how to get involved in politics, Sen. Joanne Benson (IR-St. Cloud) may be the person to ask. “It is much easier than people believe,” she said.

The greater part of Benson’s vocational life has been in service in areas of education. Education has always been at the top of her list of priorities, she said, and she plans to continue that orientation as she works in the legislative process. She said that she hopes to be a presence representing a perspective on education that is rare in the Senate.

Benson also mentioned that she wants to bring more recently gained knowledge from experiences talking with high school students in her district and from the establishment of a core group of Senate District 17 residents interested in education.

Environment and natural resources are other important areas of concern, and she looks forward to serving on that committee. Other matters she said she hopes to address and influence in the Senate are those dealing with nursing homes and with



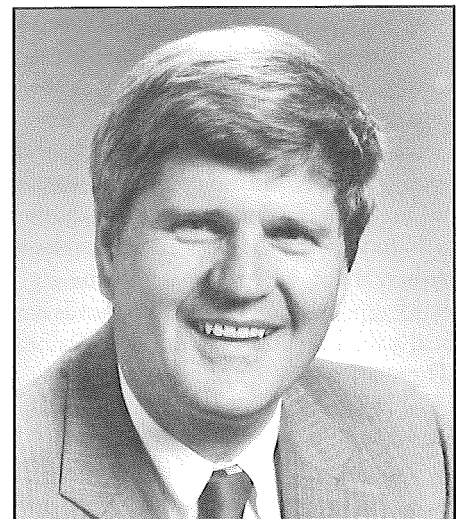
Sen. Linda Berglin and daughter Maria.



facilities for the mentally retarded. She said that there has been a lot of displeasure with how the Legislature has interacted with these facilities. "We (the Legislature) demand a service," said Benson, "but then we don't provide the expertise or guidance." For her, the relationship between the legislature and care-givers should be more than one where the state tells facilities what they need. She added, "We should be working together."

Benson sees several challenges for the Senate in this upcoming session. Dealing with the budget shortfall for the next biennium tops her list. She said, "I can't see any other challenge bigger than that." With that in mind, she said that looking at priorities and making government work better will be key to the success of the Legislature. "It is not just with money," Benson said, "but through philosophy and through the elimination of bureaucracy." It is this management approach to government and service that she said will be the most comprehensive and effective

one for the Senate. Benson admits one of her biggest personal challenges will be "figuring out how everything works." She said, though, that she is ready to face this challenge. She wants to bring her expertise in education and a "new look" to the Senate in order to play the most effective role for District 17 and for Minnesota.



Dick Day - District 30

For Sen. Dick Day (IR-Owatonna), a most pressing concern is the possible closure of the University of Minnesota-Waseca campus. According to Day, the closure of the school would be a tremendous blow to the Waseca, student and agriculture community. "Trying to keep the school open will

not be an easy challenge, but if I can muster up enough support, I hope that the University will remain open for the duration of this legislative session," said Day.

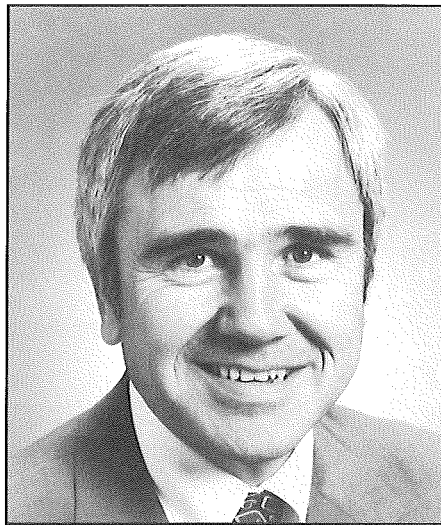
He added, "It's a great school with an excellent record of job placement, more so than many other state universities." He hopes to make this a legislative issue, due to the large budget the University of Minnesota receives from the state, he said.

According to Day, one area of contention among school administrators, teachers and school board members is the issue of tenure. "When you see that the Teacher of the Year is laid-off due to budget cuts, and other teachers are kept on the payroll just because of tenure, it points out that there's something wrong with the system," Day explained.

Day expressed concern over findings that students coming out of high school have lower SAT scores than in years past, and that college students spend 20 to 25 percent of their time in remedial training. Combine this with the fact that the state is spending more and more money on K-12 education and it points to a need for a reevaluation of the system, said Day.

Concerning a state sponsored health insurance package, Day does favor one. However, Day said that it should definitely be administered through private insurance companies and include co-payments by individuals.

In viewing the budget crisis, Day predicts there will be cuts across the board, especially in the areas of funds to local governments. According to Day, "There are a number of unnecessary social programs state-wide that need cutting, and it's about time that government gets involved to cut them." He added that government is trying too hard to take care of everyone's needs, and that it's just not realistic.



Harold "Skip" Finn - District 4

Sen. Harold "Skip" Finn (DFL-Cass Lake) said that one of his biggest challenges in his first legislative session will be "learning how to shuffle all those papers while still making the right decisions." Finn, though, is no stranger to the Legislature, having been a lobbyist for American Indian affairs and having followed the legislative process. Finn's new perspective as a Senator is not just an item of novelty for him, but he is making history as the first American Indian member of the body.

Health care access and affordability were major parts of Finn's campaign, and he plans to keep those issues at the top of his agenda, he said. "That's the basic start," he continued. "We're taking off from there—the idea of adequate health care for all." Finn said that the health care system is a starting point for a lot of other issues, including children's, education, economic and environmental issues. While recognizing the difficulties caused by the current budget shortfall, and its effect on our ability to provide those remedial services, he asserts that the idea of a healthy population is central to our ability to provide a good living environment for Minnesotans.

Finn said that he looks forward to working on issues that come before the Energy and Public Utilities Committee and their relationship with issues before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. He states, "These are the nuts and bolts of human destiny. How

we handle our energy issues and how we handle our environment will determine whether or not the human race is going to survive."

Finn points out that he is not so naive as to believe that we can solve the nation's environmental problem from Minnesota. Still, he stresses his commitment to economic development that is sensitive to the environment. "Hopefully we will not go too hastily forward in encouraging economic development and industry to the detriment of future generations," said Finn. He continued by saying that we have put too much emphasis on economic development without noting the implications to the thing that is the fundamental basis for our prosperity, development and basic existence, our environment.

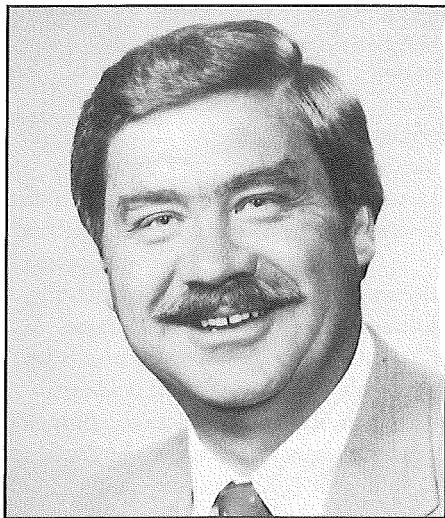
Finn identifies several sources that moved him to be involved in the public arena. He points to being influenced as a youth by the Kennedy philosophy and idea of hope.

The most significant influence, Finn said, came from the cultural philosophy he gained from his mother. It was one that emphasized sharing within the community. "Many times we didn't have much on our table at all; things were extremely hard... (Mom) always found room at the table for one more." It was this idea of sharing and cooperation that Finn has carried through his community involvement, he said.

Finn said he wants to be a conduit for the concerns of various elements in District 4, and for some ideas that have not been heard a lot in the legislative system.

"I don't have any burning desires to change the world," said Finn. "I'm not that kind of a personality." At the same time, he sees that Minnesota has been a great social state and has a great social conscience. "By and large (Minnesota) has treated the powerless in our society pretty well, and I want to continue that tradition."

"I hope to build on that history of the State of Minnesota," he adds, "and maybe bring a slightly different perspective."



Chuck Halberg - District 38

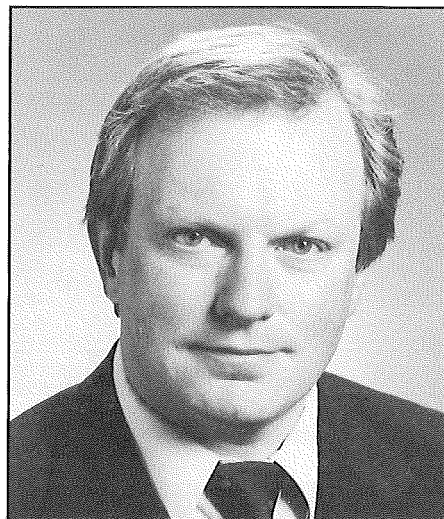
After serving four terms in the House of Representatives and retiring in 1986, Sen. Chuck Halberg (IR-Burnsville) is back in public office, serving his constituents from a seat in the Senate. "Though the Senate is new, I still feel like a veteran," Halberg said. He added that he feels he has more time to devote to public office now that his kids are in college.

Halberg said that his priority this session would be the budget shortfall, which he thinks will also dominate the Senate's agenda. Halberg said that he feels there are two parts to the budget shortfall; namely, what to do about the 1991 shortfall, and how to prepare for the next biennium's shortfall. He said it may be too late to use spending cuts as a remedy to this year's shortfall and that the legislature should consider turning to the budget reserve for this purpose. He added, "The reserve is there for situations like this."

In addition to budget balancing, Halberg will be putting effort into introducing a state-wide flat tax property tax bill. He said that he feels that the bill would win approval from constituents in most suburban areas, but that the challenge would lie in garnering support from those in Greater Minnesota because property values are generally lower in those areas.

As a member of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee, Halberg said that he will be utilizing both his background as a tax attorney and his experience in

workers' compensation legislation. He also looks forward to serving on the Health and Human Services Committee, "attempting to find a formula for correcting the inequities associated with nursing homes and retirement homes," he said.



John Hottinger - District 24

"Frankly, when I went to Washington, I was apolitical," Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) admitted, referring to his departure from Minnesota to attend Georgetown University Law Center and later to work as a staffer in the U.S. Congress. Politics and the Vietnam War are two things to which Hottinger points in characterizing the factors that motivated him to become socially involved.

Hottinger said that working for then-Congressman Don Fraser showed him that a life of public service is an honorable one, and that honorable men and women entered careers in public service. He said that he recognizes a trend where much of the public policy action is at the state level. "This is where the innovations are, where the tough decisions are being made," he

said, "the future is being plotted here."

"I campaigned on the principle that ultimately, when you elect an official, you elect the principles they support," said Hottinger. Hottinger said that he will take the approach to policy-making that it is not so important to have his name on a lot of bills. There are other ways in which to have influence, especially in this first session, he said.

Hottinger said that he wants to bring his new perspective and apply it to policy issues, especially in areas of education and health care. Specifically, with education, he said he wants to familiarize the public with the concept of outcome-based education in K-12. In higher education, he said that he hopes that the Legislature can do a better job for students by helping them know which programs are available to them and, then, help them make a good decision about which programs are best for them. In the area of health care, Hottinger echoed the common theme of access. He said that the words have come to be cliché but, expanding the health care system "fundamentally states what the problem is and what the needs are."

Hottinger said that he is anticipating two main challenges, one personal and one for the entire Legislature. For the Legislature, he said that it is imperative that efforts be focused on restructuring for the purpose of making government more effective in all areas. For himself, he said that he looks forward to chairing the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee.



Janet Johnson - District 19

For Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch), one of 14 women Senators, being the first woman ever elected in her district will be a new, but not unfamiliar role. "I've been active in my community for many years and have held numerous leadership positions," she said.

She predicts that there will be more and more women in leadership roles and a lessening of discrimination toward women in these positions. She also said that women will be evaluated on their credentials, and not because of affirmative action.

Johnson said she will concentrate on two major priorities for her district: to improve economic development opportunities for businesses, and to increase property values.

"I ran for office because of my insight into the needs of my district, and in order to be a part of the decision-making process that positively impacts my district and Minnesota," she explained.

She pointed out that just being concerned for one's own district isn't enough. "A good Senator needs to support his or her specific district, but also needs to go in the direction that will benefit the state as a whole," she said.

Looming on the horizon is the much-talked about budget shortfall. Johnson said, "We cannot get into a deficit mode. We need to find ways to

decrease spending." She anticipates that this could result in program cuts and using some of the budget reserve.



Terry Johnston - District 36

Sen. Terry Johnston (IR-Prior Lake) agrees with Day, "The State cannot be all things to all people, all the time." For instance, Johnston said she is cautious about instituting a state-sponsored health insurance program because she feels that the nation as a whole cannot afford this type of program. Not only that, government doesn't do as well as private industries in providing certain types of programs, she said.

She agrees with Day that co-payments are reasonable and crucial. She explained, "Medical care doesn't come without a price, and by including co-payments people will take more personal responsibility and not be so quick to rush to the doctor for a headache."

Johnston considers transportation, property tax and education vital issues for her district. Her district has been awarded \$10 million from the federal government for the building of the

Bloomington Ferry Bridge, but Johnston is worried that this could be given the hatchet due to the budget crunch. She added that the bridge isn't only beneficial for residents, but also for people visiting Valley Fair and Canterbury Downs. Above all, it would ease traffic congestion on Interstate 35W, she said.

Citing a pending lawsuit against the state from various school districts, Johnston said, "I believe the State Constitution provides equal access for equitable education for all students. However, in some districts the property tax base is not as broad, so they're taking more of the burden. This results in the inability to keep quality teachers on staff."

She recommends that state funding be tied closely with the number of pupils, and that funding should not necessarily include extra funds for AFDC recipient students.

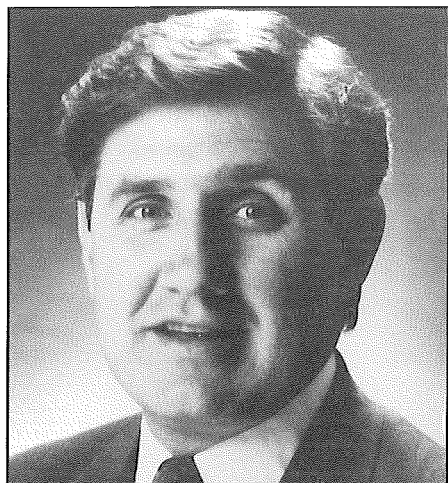
Furthermore, Johnston stated that there needs to be property tax reform to make it more equitable for the entire state.

Johnston views the budget crisis as an opportunity for the state to restructure many of the programs that are currently being funded. "For instance, there are so many different programs that deal with children. If there is some way that we can consolidate these programs so that one agency is in charge, I feel that we would be able to ensure that people are not falling between the cracks," she explained.

One area that is sure to be part of the budget cut is aid to local governments, said Johnston. "When we cut aid to local governments they are either forced to raise revenue, or cut programs," she said. "If we're going to cut aid to these local governments then we need to cut the mandates, because these cities still have an obligation to provide certain programs." She added, "Ultimately the taxpayer must pay for it with higher property taxes. They then criticize their local officials, when they should be criticizing the state and legislators."

Johnston believes that to be an effective public servant, "You can't want it for yourself, but that you're here for the people — casting their vote — not yours. I consider this to be a real

honor, and I'm very committed to learn, and be effective for the people in my district. If not, then I've been a real disservice to them," she concluded.



Randy Kelly - District 67

After eight terms with the House, Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) was presented with an opportunity to run for a vacant Senate seat. Thinking it would be a good opportunity to expand the base of St. Paul people he previously represented, Kelly ran. "I grew up in a time where people like Robert and John Kennedy and Martin Luther King instilled the idea that government was a place where you could change and improve the lives of people," he said.

Kelly said one of his priorities this session is to consider a housing bill that allocates resources to meet deteriorating housing, not only in St. Paul, but throughout Greater Minnesota. In that vein, he said that he looks forward to serving on the Economic Development and Housing Committee.

Another priority Kelly has is to propose youth initiatives that he said would involve youth in a more meaningful way, as in public service.

Kelly said he would also like to

support legislation designed to raise the minimum wage, a topic he said that may not be very popular to some people. Kelly said the challenge in achieving these objectives lies in acquiring resources for them, especially in light of this year's shortfall. He said another challenge would be working on the St. Paul and Ramsey County delegations and the Criminal Justice System Review Subcommittee, all of which he said would take a decent chunk of time this session.

Kelly said he looks forward to serving on the Judiciary, Taxes and Metropolitan Affairs Committees because, he said, "They reflect my interest and are congruent with what I'd like to do." In addition, he said he anticipates having an opportunity to "make a difference and be a player, for both my district and the state."



Ted Mondale - District 44

Coming off a campaign where he knocked on 18,000 doors, Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park) finds that education, child and health care and the environment are the issues that he finds are foremost in the minds of his

constituents. He hopes to address these issues as a freshman Senator.

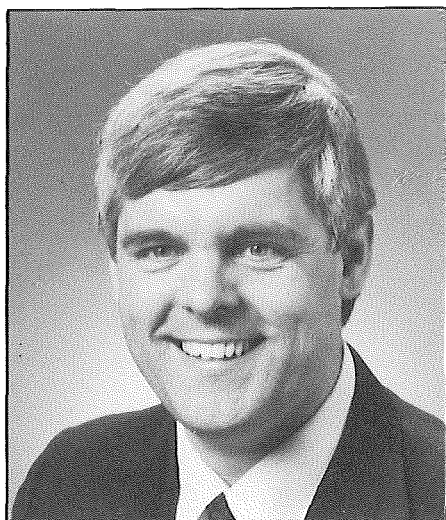
Mondale said that many of his constituents and local government interests have voiced concerns about cuts to local units of government, the fiscal disparities formula for the Metropolitan Area and the implications of the governor's policy on a tax-sensitive area. Other immediate local concerns that Mondale said he hopes to address include connecting a bike trail in St. Louis Park with the rest of Minneapolis' trail system and a landfill which is leaking methane near a St. Louis Park condominium.

As for his role in the Legislature, Mondale plans to immerse himself in the work of the committees on which he will serve. "I hope to be known as a hard working and knowledgeable member of those committees," he said, "and I hope to be looked to as an expert in some of these areas, in time."

Mondale said that he will bring a fresh face to the Senate, someone who will provide a different approach to the problems of the State. He stated that he has no false expectations. "I've been around (the process), and I know you don't just stand up, give a speech and all of our problems are solved. I understand that it's going to take some rolled-up sleeves and working hard," but he said he is ready to work for those needed changes.

A more serious challenge, he said, will be to show himself as a good representative of his area, someone who is bright, hard working, and knowledgeable about the issues. A lot of the task, he said, will be to take away some of the expectations, good and bad.

Mondale said he is happy with committee assignments. "I am pleased that all the committees are substantive ones from which much of the important legislation will be coming."



Thomas Neuville - District 25

Sen. Thomas Neuville's (IR-Northfield) work with local mentors' campaigns in the early seventies sparked what he calls "a love and interest in politics." This interest led to his successful bid for an open Senate seat in the 25th District.

As a freshman Senator in the minority, Neuville said he doesn't expect, at this time, to introduce any bills this session, but he said he does plan on putting time and energy into legislation that concerns his district. These areas involve wetlands, landfills, hazardous waste dumping and the kind of recycling programs that he says Rice County has been aggressive in instituting.

Neuville said he will also be looking at bills concerning criminal and family law because, he said, I believe these areas need some reform. Though he said the public's perception of lawyers isn't always positive, he believes it's an advantage to have lawyers on committees. In addition, he said that his experience in criminal defense law will aid him in evaluating legislation affecting these issues.

Neuville said he is looking forward to being a member of the Education Committee, particularly because of the private colleges located in his district. "My role concerning education affects more than District 25, it affects Minnesota as a whole....private colleges are the main feeder of the state's graduate school programs," he said.

Neuville said his number one goal this session is to "fully and completely learn the process and acquaint myself with other members." In addition, he said he will work toward establishing personal credibility and toward being as fair and articulate as possible.



Sandy Pappas - District 65

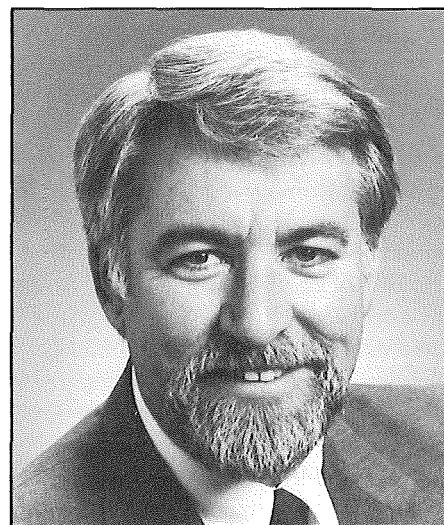
"I'm not interested in an individual agenda," said Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) of her priorities this legislative session. "I try to work in coalitions as much as possible," she added. On behalf of the 67th District, Pappas said that much of her time and energy will be devoted to issues such as neighborhood revitalization and the development of commercial strips.

Pappas said she would like to see continued funding for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth revitalization program, and to see the funding expanded to a state-wide level. She acknowledged the possibility of an uphill battle in achieving funding but said, "It's our challenge to make the case for it."

Pappas said she will enjoy being vice-chair of the Commerce Committee, especially, she said, since it will be looking at health care access legislation. She also said she anticipates

serving on the Education Funding Committee, noting that she feels she represents the St. Paul School District's interest in education.

Pappas said that she feels the challenge for her as a Senator lies in joining forces with other legislators to support legislation on health care, health care access and inner city education. She calls these serious problems that must be dealt with not only in her district, but in most of the other Senators' districts, too. Pappas said that since almost one fourth of this session's Senate is comprised of new Senators, it may be more receptive to a new agenda tackling the inner city problems of education, housing and welfare.



Len Price - District 56

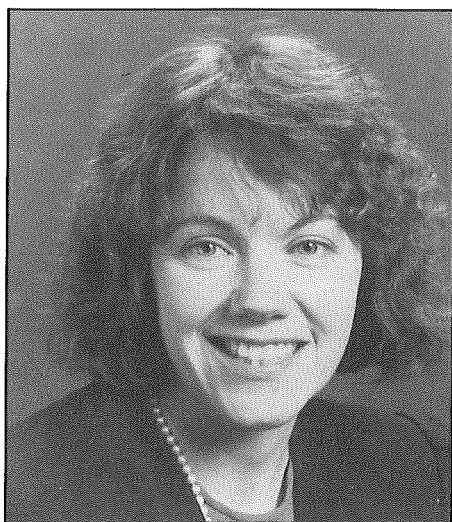
Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury), said he is concerned about property taxes in Minnesota, especially in suburban areas. Price claims his district is property poor and, consequently, he said he is concerned about the amount of state aid his district receives.

Price also said he is worried about the environment, specifically in the

areas of available public groundwater for small communities within his district, wetlands preservation, recycling and packaging.

Taking into account the budget deficit, Price said that he believes that many projects will either be scrapped or postponed. He stated, "We need to look carefully at increasing levels for those areas we've traditionally funded, such as property tax relief." He added that we need to reconsider the amount we spend for all existing programs, and then evaluate whether or not we can afford any new programs.

Price said, "I hope to be remembered by the people of Minnesota as someone who listens and acts pragmatically, and as someone who is concerned about education and the environment."



Jane Ranum - District 62

Sen. Jane Ranum's (DFL-Mpls.) background as a prosecutor with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office and as an elementary school teacher provide her with a perspective unique in

the Senate. She said that it is this experience that is the basis for her commitment to thoroughly addressing policy issues.

Ranum stressed the need to address the issue of education in its broadest sense. "We can no longer afford to look at education as simply funding programs for K-12," said Ranum. She pointed to her experience with Head Start, child development centers and other preschool programs that not only reach at-risk children, but children in general at a critical stage in life. "Much of what a person is going to be is determined by the age of five," she said. She noted that it is crucial to reach children before they pass this age.

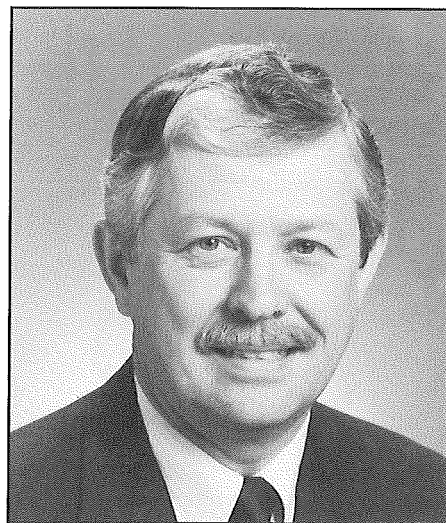
Other ways in which Ranum would like to see education develop deal with parent involvement and site-based management. She said that too much of what is done in the classroom is dictated from above and that she would like to see a model that empowers the teachers. Recalling her experience she said, "The Head Start model works, let's replicate it." Ranum said that several things like lowering student teacher ratios, need to be done, but the basis of policy needs to be built around allowing good contact between students and teachers. Making more efforts to involve parents, especially with at-risk students, is also vital, she said.

"From my experience as a prosecutor," Ranum said, "I am a strong believer that we need to hold people accountable for their actions, especially in the area of crime." Ranum has also become a victim's advocate. She pointed out that, especially in areas of domestic abuse, it is important to have effective means to protect actual and potential victims.

Ranum said her role in the Senate will be to listen, then initiate legislation. "I want to go out into the community and listen to what the folks say before we develop public policy," she said. "I think that's how you learn best; just listening. If you just listen, the common themes will come out, and it will become much more clear what the community wants; what the community sees as its top problems or challenges. Then, after the problem has been identified, those folks can give you

ideas that will work best in their community," Ranum said.

Ranum said that she has learned that people generally want to invest in children because it will pay off, that the citizens of the state are fair and that health care is something that should not be merely for those who can afford it. She said that the challenge is that people are often afraid that if more money is given to these areas, it will not be well spent. She said the key is to tell people specifically what the money will be used for.



Phil Riveness - District 40

Sen. Phil Riveness, Jr. (DFL-Richfield) echoed others' concern over the budget shortfall. "It's time for the reevaluation of our state government funds; actually, the reevaluation of everything," he said.

What propelled Riveness to run for public office was the opportunity to influence public policy critical in his district. And, with his recent appointment as Majority Whip by Majority Leader Roger D. Moe, he said he now has that opportunity.

According to Riveness, there are two major transportation issues facing Richfield and Bloomington: airport noise and possible light rail transit lines. He said that he's very pleased to be serving on the Transportation Committee.

Next on his agenda is concern for the environment—locally and nationally. He said, "We've not been particularly good at enforcing environmental laws, and it is important to me that we do." The issue of maximum recycling is also important, Riveness said.

He indicated a fourth critical issue facing Minnesota: the training and retraining of our work force. He stated, "To keep Minnesota in the forefront and be competitive in the 1990's, we must institute training now, regardless of the temporary recession."

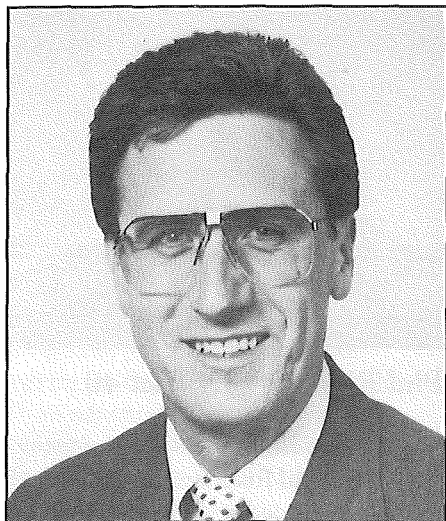
Finally, Riveness said that another of his primary concerns is access to health insurance for all Minnesotans.

Because the 12th District is a rural district, Sams' main concern this session is the health care access legislation, a version of which he is co-sponsoring. Though he said that the challenge will be to get the bill passed as written, he also said he does see the possibility of compromise. As vice-chair of the Health & Human Services Committee, Sams said he will be working hard to achieve success on legislation that would affect what he calls a crisis in his area.

Sams said he is also concerned about wetlands legislation and that he is serving on an ad hoc committee dealing with that issue. In addition, because his constituents are located in a tax base poor district, Sams said he will be paying particular attention to legislation affecting his district's economic development.

Sams said he believes his background as a farmer and as an adult farm management instructor will be beneficial in working on the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

Sams said he anticipates learning more about the legislative process through working with other Senate members. He also said that he is looking forward to serving his district "in the best capacity I'm capable of."



Dallas Sams - District 12

Like many of his colleagues, Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) first became involved in politics by working on other legislators' campaigns. His interest and familiarity with politics prompted him to run for a Senate seat when he became aware of his district's need for representation in the Legislature.



Judy Traub - District 45

For Sen. Judy Traub (DFL-Minnetonka), running for public office

resulted from having only one candidate on the ballot and the feeling that she wanted the people of her district to have the opportunity to choose between candidates. What's more, she said she has strong beliefs on certain social issues and strongly opposed the IR candidate.

She agrees with Johnson that more and more women will be holding public office, but she said the salary and part-time job issue of being a legislator will negatively impact women. The result according to Traub, is that women won't be able to take the pay cut.

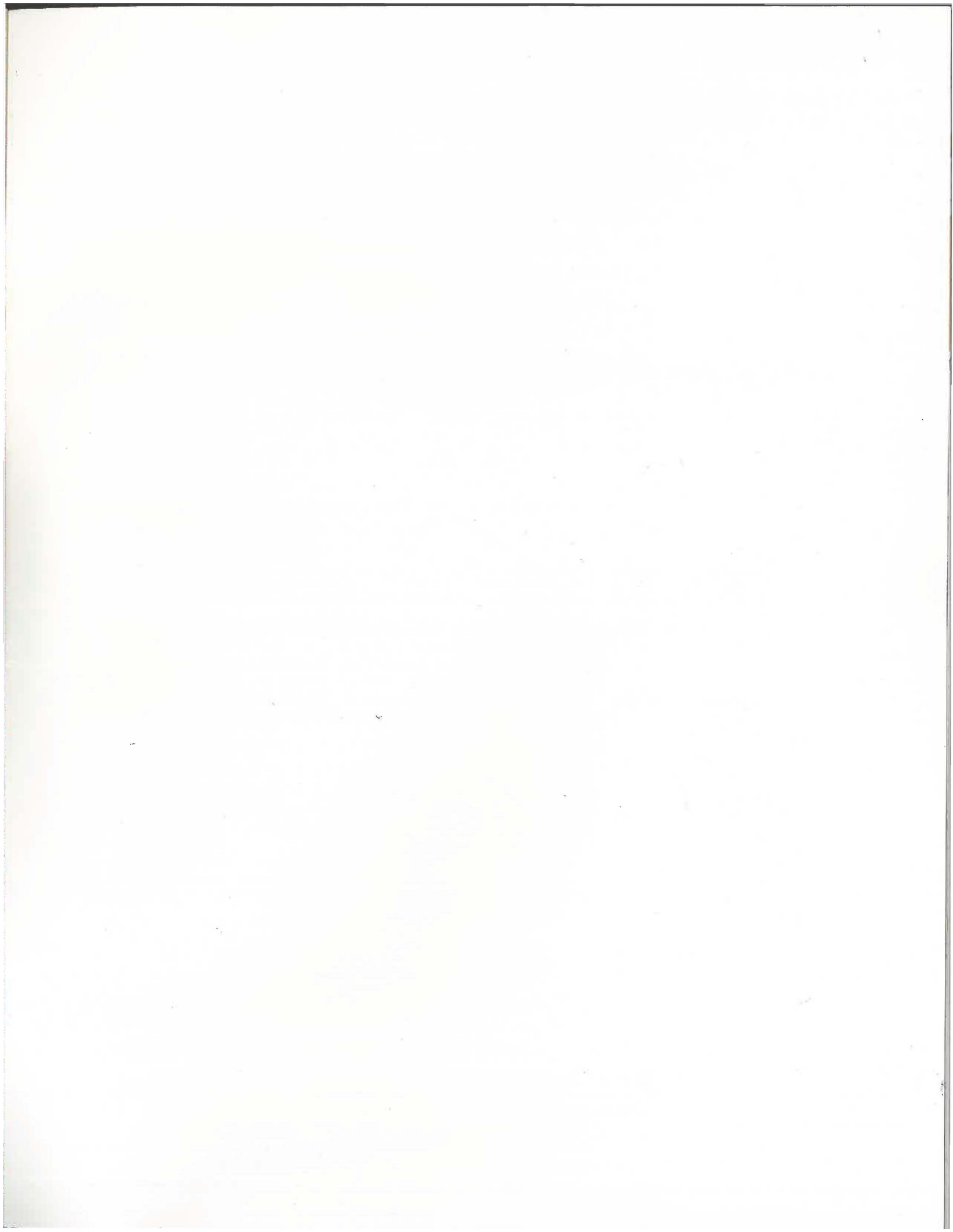
Traub remarked, "It's been said that when a woman gets a job, it means a man doesn't want it anymore." To ensure that this doesn't occur, Traub believes that we need to allow people the opportunity to take the time, without penalizing them for their other career. "This is the only way we'll attract good candidates," she said.

In reference to the budget crisis, Traub stated, "It's hard to balance the budget at the expense of the poor, children and the blind." She pointed out, "We must examine the programs that are currently working and make them better, and those that aren't working well, we need to improve."

She said, "We need to make the system meet the needs of the people, not make the people meet the system." At this time, we're providing services to an overlapping community; the result is that people are getting different answers from different agencies, said Traub. "I hope to help integrate some programs to prevent this from happening," she said.

"Next, we need to straighten out our tax system," said Traub. It's a complicated formula, and we need to make it easier for people to understand," she said.

Lastly, Traub's priorities are decreasing property taxes, increasing the quality of education and concentrating on saving wetlands.



Minnesota Senate

Senate Members --- 1991 Session

Party	Phone	Name	Room	Dist.	Party	Phone	Name	Room	Dist.
DFL	296-5981	Adkins, Betty	G-29 Cap.	22	DFL	3205	Langseth, Keith	G-24 Cap.	9
DFL	5713	Beckman, Tracy	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	5655	Larson, Cal	145 SOB	10
IR	5975	Belanger, William V., Jr.	107 SOB	41	DFL	4136	Lessard, Bob	111 Cap.	3
IR	3903	Benson, Duane D.	147 SOB	32	DFL	8869	Luther, William P.	205 Cap.	47
IR	6455	Benson, Joanne E.	153 SOB	17	DFL	5645	Marty, John	G-9 Cap.	63
DFL	5094	Berg, Charles A.	328 Cap.	11	IR	2159	McGowan, Patrick D.	129 SOB	48
DFL	4261	Berglin, Linda	G-9 Cap.	60	IR	8075	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	127 SOB	26
IR	4131	Bernhagen, John	113 SOB	21	DFL	4154	Merriam, Gene	122 Cap.	49
DFL	2084	Bertram, Joe, Sr.	323 Cap.	16	DFL	4370	Metzen, James P.	303 Cap.	39
IR	4848	Brataas, Nancy	139 SOB	33	DFL	2577	Moe, Roger D.	208 Cap.	2
DFL	4182	Chmielewski, Florian	325 Cap.	14	DFL	7-8065	Mondale, Ted	325 Cap.	44
DFL	5931	Cohen, Richard J.	G-27 Cap.	64	DFL	5649	Morse, Steven	G-24 Cap.	34
DFL	5003	Dahl, Gregory L.	235 Cap.	50	IR	1279	Neuville, Tom	135 SOB	25
DFL	2302	Davis, Charles R.	G-24 Cap.	18	DFL	4334	Novak, Steven G.	322 Cap.	52
IR	9457	Day, Dick	105 SOB	30	IR	1282	Olson, Gen	125 SOB	43
DFL	6820	DeCramer, Gary M.	309 Cap.	27	DFL	1802	Pappas, Sandra L.	G-24 Cap.	65
DFL	2859	Dicklich, Ronald R.	235 Cap.	5	IR	5252	Pariseau, Pat	109 SOB	37
DFL	6128	Finn, Harold R. "Skip"	321 Cap.	4	DFL	9248	Piper, Pat	G-9 Cap.	31
DFL	4274	Flynn, Carol	227 Cap.	61	DFL	7809	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	306 Cap.	58
DFL	2877	Frank, Don	225 Cap.	51	DFL	7-8060	Price, Leonard R.	111 Cap.	56
DFL	5640	Frederickson, David J.	306 Cap.	20	DFL	7-8061	Ranum, Jane	317 Cap.	62
IR	8138	Frederickson, Dennis R.	143 SOB	23	DFL	2889	Reichgott, Ember D.	301 Cap.	46
IR	4314	Gustafson, Jim	115 SOB	8	IR	4125	Renneke, Earl W.	117 SOB	35
IR	4120	Halberg, Chuck	133 SOB	38	DFL	7-8062	Riveness, Phil	309 Cap.	40
DFL	6153	Hottinger, John C.	G-29 Cap.	24	DFL	7-8063	Sams, Dallas C.	G-9 Cap.	12
DFL	4183	Hughes, Jerome M.	328 Cap.	54	DFL	4875	Samuelson, Don	124 Cap.	13
IR	3826	Johnson, Dean E.	131 SOB	15	DFL	4188	Solon, Sam G.	303 Cap.	7
DFL	8881	Johnson, Douglas J.	205 Cap.	6	DFL	4191	Spear, Allan H.	G-27 Cap.	59
DFL	5419	Johnson, Janet B.	303 Cap.	19	IR	6238	Storm, Donald A.	119 SOB	42
IR	4123	Johnston, Terry	151 SOB	36	DFL	8660	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	G-24 Cap.	1
DFL	5285	Kelly, Randy C.	G-27 Cap.	67	DFL	7-8064	Traub, Judy	235 Cap.	45
IR	1253	Knaak, Fritz	149 SOB	53	DFL	5650	Vickerman, Jim	122 Cap.	28
DFL	4302	Kroening, Carl W.	124 Cap.	57	DFL	3809	Waldorf, Gene	317 Cap.	66
IR	4351	Laidig, Gary W.	141 SOB	55					

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