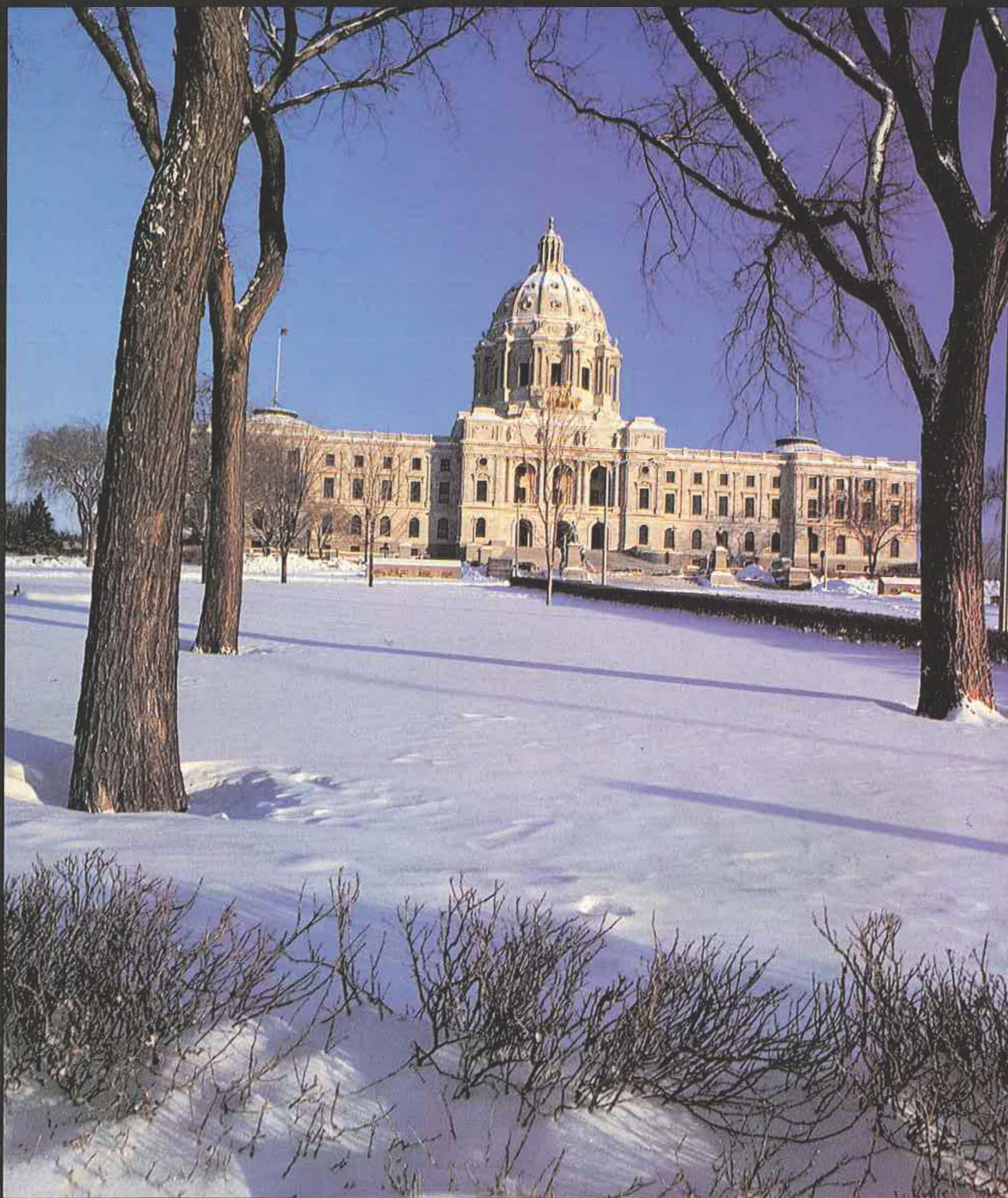


92, February

Perspectives

A Publication about the Minnesota Senate



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On the cover: Winter snowscape. Cass Gilbert's remarkable Capitol building is covered by a blanket of freshly fallen snow and gently illuminated by the morning sun on a crisp winter day. Photo by David J. Oakes.

This issue of *Perspectives* provides a glimpse of what is in store for Senate Committees for the remainder of session. In addition, there is a short profile of the Senate's newest member and a discussion of the redistricting process. Finally, there are lists of Senators with Capitol addresses and phone numbers and of all Senate committee memberships.

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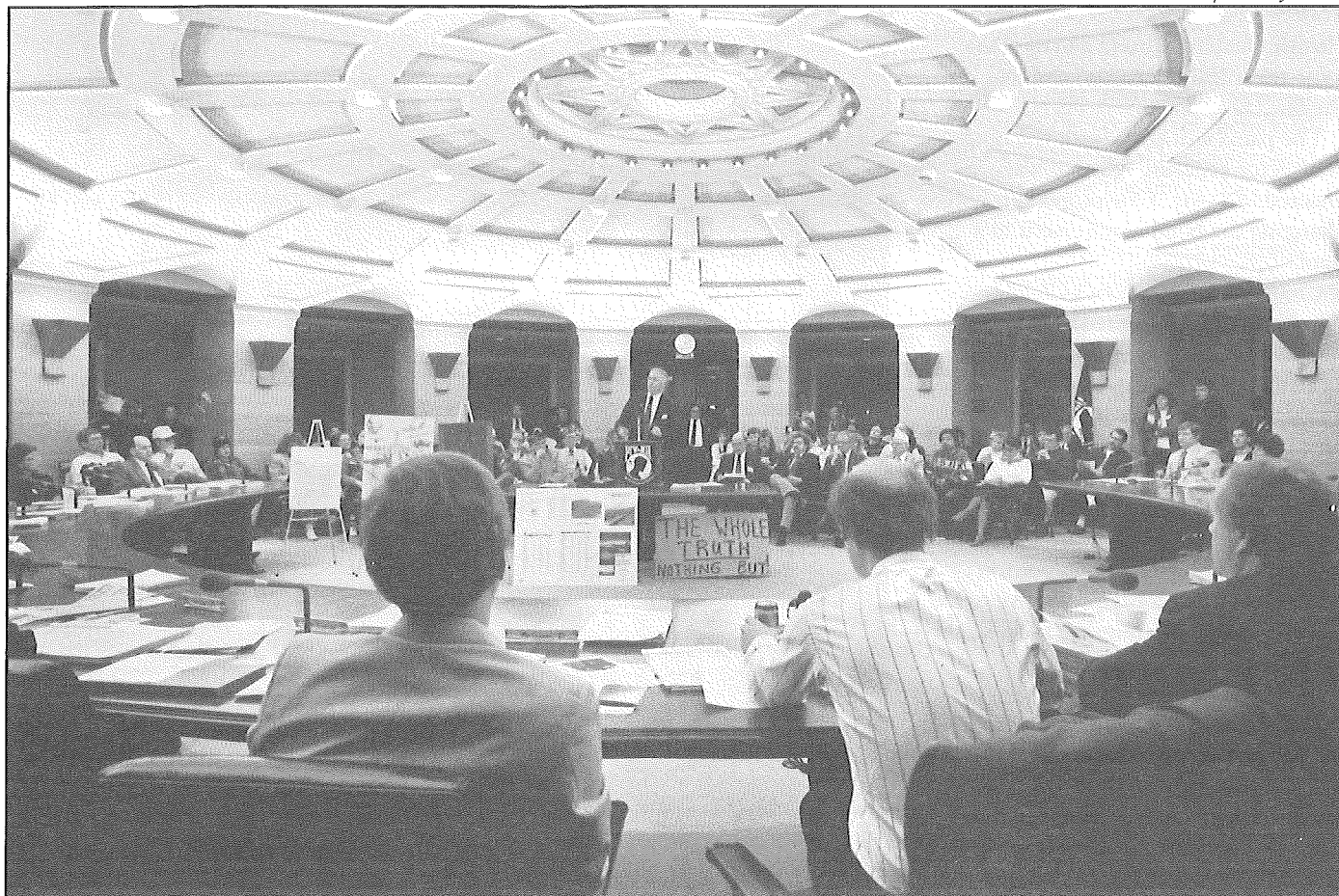
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David J. Oakes



Preview of 1992 legislative agenda

By Karen L. Clark

Despite predictions of a short session, most Senate committee chairs anticipate a heavy work load for the remainder of the session. Issues ranging from solving the budget shortfall to health care access for uninsured Minnesotans will crowd committee agendas for the four weeks before the first committee deadline. The following pages outline the issues and activities that Senate committee chairs and staff see on the horizon for the second half of the 77th Legislative Session.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Sen. Charles Davis said that the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee will, in addition to coping with other issues, focus on fine tuning the Wetlands Act of 1991. "We thought we had been very clear when we developed the legislation last year," Davis said, "but, it seems that there needs to be some clarification of our intent." In addition, Davis said that the committee will examine issues arising as "ripples from actions at the federal level." For instance, he said that the committee needs to determine what effect changes in the federal wetlands manual will have on Minnesota's law.

Davis also indicated that the committee will concentrate on "damage control in the face of cutbacks on extension

services and other programs that have a direct or indirect impact on Minnesota's agricultural industry." The committee will also discuss options for use of the U of M's Waseca campus that will still serve agriculture. "We also may look at whether we need to modify corporate farms laws," Davis said.

Finally, Davis said, "We must be realistic in what we can do versus what we can't do because of federal farm commodity laws. We need to help put more steam in the other end of the equation such as helping farmers get a handle on agricultural input costs."

Commerce

Members of the Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon, will devote some time to considering clarifications and modifications to the insurance solvency law that was passed

last year. The committee expects to work on clarifying provisions of the Life Health Guarantee Fund and to make some technical "clean-up" changes in the law.

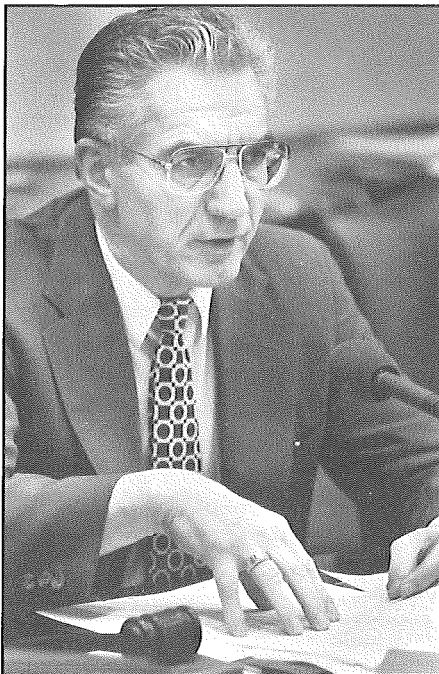
The panel will also revisit the home contractor licensure law that was enacted last year. One proposal involves changing the bond requirement to a fund.

Changes in Minnesota's Clean Indoor Air Act are also expected to come before the panel. One major proposal includes a number of provisions that will enhance Minnesota's anti-smoking law to provide for a cleaner indoor environment for non-smokers.

The committee will also consider an anti-car theft proposal aimed at decreasing auto insurance rates. A portion of the measure also contains provisions for the prevention of insurance fraud in car theft cases.

Modifications for the licensing of certified public accountants by increasing education requirements may also be discussed by the committee. There will also be several local banking measures that will need committee action. Finally, Commerce Committee members will also be involved in developing any health care access proposal that originates in another policy committee.

Sen. Sam Solon



Sen. Judy Traub



Economic Development and Housing

Members of the Economic Development and Housing Committee, chaired by Sen. James Metzen, are facing the twin constraints of time and money. However, the panel does anticipate devoting committee time to exploring the possibility of restoring Urban Revitalizing Action Programs (URAP) and to exploring the possibility of making the program state-wide. According to staff, the purpose of URAP is to rescue blighted neighborhoods. Thus far, cities have been successful in leveraging money with relatively few state dollars. As a result, committee members will continue discussion of the program.

The panel also expects to devote time to a tax increment financing proposal that makes both technical and substantive changes to existing law. In addition, the 1991 housing bill will again come before the panel. The measure passed the Senate last year but did not come before the other body for final action

before time ran out on the '91 session. It is expected that a controversial portion of the bill relating to replacement housing will generate considerable debate and may be stripped from the proposal. However, a proposal to exclude the sales tax on materials for the construction of low and moderate income housing may be considered by the committee.

In the area of economic development, committee members may examine a proposal that would offer small businesses incentives, similar to those offered Northwest Airlines, for economic development projects.

A proposal permitting cities and HRAs to have broader authority in redeveloping polluted lands is also expected to come before the panel.

A housing initiative developed by the Metropolitan Council may be considered by the committee. The proposal establishes a housing development fund and finances the fund through an increase in the mortgage registry tax.

Finally, the committee is expected to explore the linkage between housing, economic development and social services.

Education

According to Sen. Gregory Dahl, chair of the Education Committee, the panel may begin addressing issues raised by the Supreme Court in the Elk River law suit over equity in education funding. The case will have a significant impact on education policy in 1993 and the committee may begin work this year, Dahl said. Four issues were brought to the fore in the case: debt service equalization, reliance on the local property tax base for excess levy referenda, supplemental aid and small district consolidation, Dahl said. He said that he expects a thorough examination of those issues.

The panel will also focus on early childhood programs, Dahl said. There is a bewildering array of programs already in existence and a task force will be reporting on the coordination of social services to children, he said. Dahl said that in order for kids to come to school ready to learn it is necessary to make sure help is available to those that need it.

To that end, a Subcommittee on Early Childhood and Special Populations,

chaired by Sen. Judy Traub, has been at work. "We need to direct education to children throughout childhood, starting from birth," Dahl said. "We want to insure that every child is able to succeed," he added.

Dahl cited outcome based education and site based decision making as two of the tools designed to achieve that goal.

In addition, Dahl said that the committee will continue the commitment to voluntary school district consolidations and charter schools.

Elections and Ethics

The Elections and Ethics Committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes, has already acted on one of the major proposals scheduled to come before the panel. The bill to delay the presidential primary was approved by both bodies of the Legislature but was vetoed by the governor in January. Hughes said that paying for the primary was the issue at hand. The debate is over whether the state or local governments will pick up the tab for conducting the primary. At this point, Hughes said, it may not be

possible to override the veto because the election machinery is too far advanced in the process.

Hughes said that other issues expected to come before the committee include a proposal for a unicameral Legislature and a proposal to reduce the size of the Legislature.

Hughes also indicated that a proposal for term limitations may be before the committee. However, Hughes pointed out that there is a turnover of about one-third of the Legislature at every election and that 79 percent of the members have changed in the last ten years.

Housekeeping measures brought forward by the secretary of state are expected to round out the panel's agenda, Hughes said.

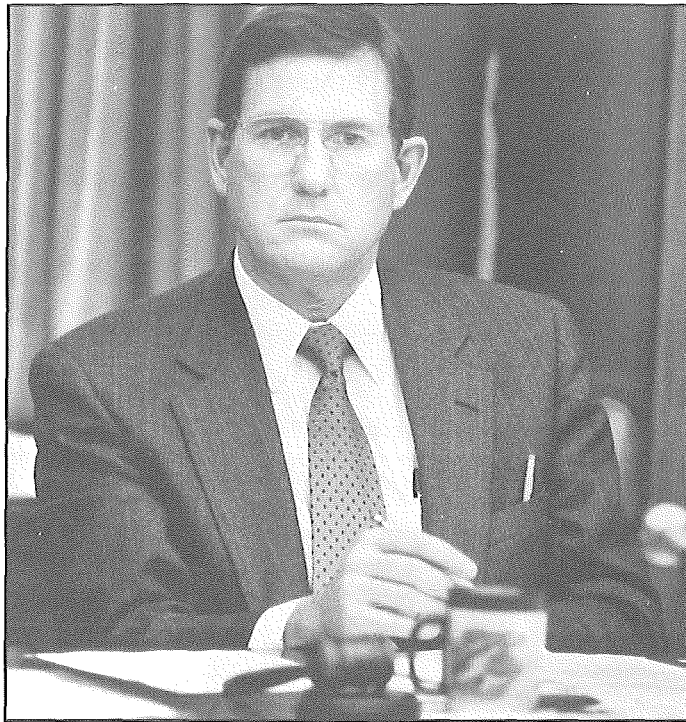
Employment

Workers' compensation is again expected to dominate the agenda for members of the Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski. Chmielewski is working on a comprehensive workers' compensation reform package with a focus on managed



Workers comp will dominate the agenda for members of the Employment Committee.

Photos by David J. Oakes



health care. Nationally, workers comp health cost have risen fifty percent faster than other health care system costs. In addition, other workers compensation proposals will be explored by the panel.

Unemployment insurance will also be a focus for the committee. The Department of Labor and Industry has expressed concern that the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund could be dramatically affected should the recession deepen and unemployment figures climb. The panel has already begun information hearings on the topics of unemployment insurance and the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Another issue scheduled to come before the panel is a proposal to raise the minimum wage. Under the proposal, there is a differential for large employers and small employers as defined by the federal government.

Energy and Housing

Chair Steven Novak said that the Energy and Public Utilities Committee will spend time considering updates and analysis of last year's comprehensive energy bill. The panel has already heard reports on energy assistance, weatherization programs and residential energy codes. In addition, Novak said that

electric co-ops and municipalities will be reporting on the voluntary implementation of the Cold Weather Rule.

Telecommunications changes resulting from the continued evolution of the industry because of deregulation will also be discussed by the committee, Novak said.

Novak also said that he hoped "that hearings relating to whether there should be nuclear waste at Prairie Island and to life extension for nuclear plants with good records will serve to educate us on the issues involved with nuclear power."

Development of ethanol products for fuel and new experiments with electric cars will also be explored by the panel, Novak said.

Novak said that the panel will also hear about a project, jointly conducted by NSP, the federal government and a coal company, experimenting with deliquifying coal. According to Novak, the end result is more efficient transportation of the coal and a cleaner, more environmentally sound, burning of the coal.

Other topics to be explored, Novak said, range from the purchase of power from other sources, such as Manitoban hydropower, and the development of other non-fossil fuel alternative powers such as wind generation.

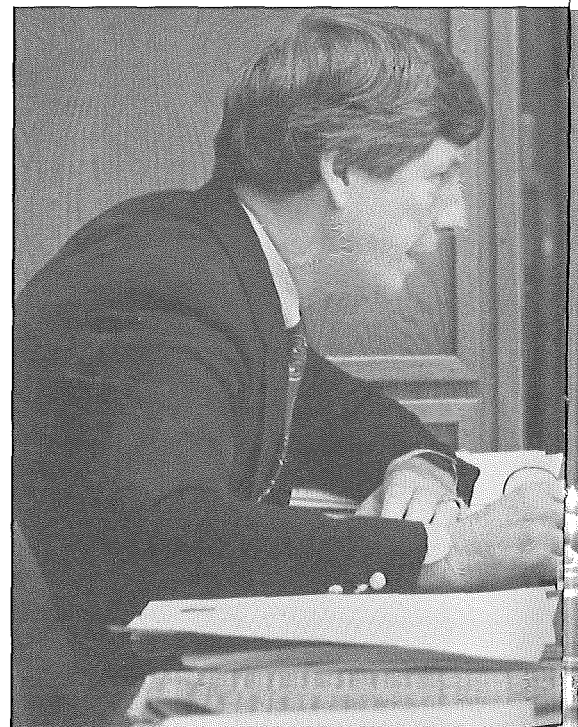
Novak said that the ultimate goal is the development of an integrated energy policy that moves away from a reliance on fossil fuels while maintaining ample supplies and affordable costs.

Environment and Natural Resources

Sen. Bob Lessard, chair of the Environment and Natural Resources, cited the time constraints of a short session when outlining the issues that will come before the panel. Chief among those issues are the proposals resulting from work done by the Select Committee on Packaging and the Environment (SCOPE). Lessard said that it appears legislative proposals are taking two different tracks and that it is problematic whether the versions can be resolved in a short session.

Lessard said that the panel will be addressing the Mille Lacs Band hunting and fishing treaty controversy. "We will bring the committee up to date and try to ascertain whether or not there is common ground for settling the issue," Lessard said.

The panel will also discuss finding a stable funding source for landfill clean-up, Lessard said. "The 'Superfund' is



not designed for landfills and we have to lay the groundwork for arriving at a solution," he said.

Waste Management Act amendments and issues relating to the transfer of contaminated property will also be discussed by the panel, Lessard said.

"The complexities and ramifications of laws relating to the environment are so enormous, it takes a lot of time to come up with answers that don't have to be undone the next year, Lessard said.

In the area of game and fish, Lessard said that there is a proposal to lower the deer hunting license fee, to \$11, for young hunters in order to encourage more young people to enjoy the outdoors experience.

Lessard also said that the deterioration of public parks is an issue for the panel but that budget constraints this biennium may prevent any definitive action.

Sen. Bob Lessard

Photos by David J. Oakes



Finance

Sen. Gene Merriam, chair of the Finance Committee, said that the top priority for the panel will be looking at ways to balance the budget. Currently, the shortfall stands at \$343 million but it may be more after the February revenue figures are released, he said.

Merriam said that no solution for the shortfall pops readily to mind and that the long term looks even bleaker. The operation of state government is a relatively small proportion of the overall budget, Merriam said. And, even though the last budget contained the smallest increase in two decades--roughly nine percent--certain portions, such as health care costs and education,

had more of an increase, he said.

Merriam said that he anticipates discussion about the use of the budget reserve, although the reserve is needed for cash flow purposes in order to avoid short term borrowing. "I have heard that the administration is anticipating short term borrowing this spring and that could have serious repercussions," Merriam said.

"We still haven't come to grips with a lot of things because the bad economy has masked underlying problems, Merriam said. For the long term, Merriam said that the aging population will place greater strains on medical care costs and that for the first time in quite awhile Minnesota is faced with growing school populations at both the K-12 and post secondary levels which place strains on the cost of education. Merriam also said that the shrinking middle-class places tremendous pressure on resources for the "safety net" programs and that there is increased pressure in the field of corrections.

The four divisions of the Finance Committee will be charged with coming up with the solutions for the shortfall and will work throughout the remainder of the session to arrive at legislative solutions.

"Demands on government resources are rising faster than those resources,



Sens. Dennis Frederickson, Patrick McGowan and Dean Johnson confer during a hearing.

Sen. Linda Berglin



Approval by committee members marks a key step in the process.

Merriam said. However, Merriam also said "Minnesota will be able to avoid the kind of financial difficulties other states are experiencing if we continue to think long term and exercise discipline."

Gaming Regulation

Sen. Charles Berg, chair of the Gaming Regulation Committee, said that his top priority for the panel is for there to be no expansion of gaming this year.

Berg said that a recent tour reinforced his position that Minnesota should not allow riverboat gambling. "The fact that Wisconsin turned down a similar proposal should cool the ardor for river gaming," Berg said.

Changes to existing law in order to address new problems will also be discussed by the committee, he said. For instance, Berg said that the definition of lawful purpose for expenditures needs further refinement. In addition, Berg said that the panel will explore the need to increase the complement of investiga-

tors because of illegal activities.

Berg also said that he was considering a proposal to eliminate the use of credit cards in betting activities. Another area that will be examined by the panel is that of gambling as an addiction. Current statistics indicate that about three to four percent of the people engaged in gambling become addicted, Berg said, so the panel will be looking at how the programs for addicted gamblers are working.

The dispute on Indian hunting and fishing treaty rights on Mille Lacs may influence the committee on the question of statewide casino gambling, Berg said.

Finally, Berg said that the committee will consider proposals to tighten the bookkeeping requirements for lawful gambling organizations.

Governmental Operations

Much of the work coming to the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf, is heard

first by the appropriate legislative commissions. This year is no exception. The panel will hear proposals advanced by the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations and the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement in addition to bills referred directly to the committee.

The committee will devote some time to recommendations by the employee relations commission concerning the transfer of three groups of employees from the unclassified service to the classified service. The panel must also act to ratify bargaining group contracts with the state.

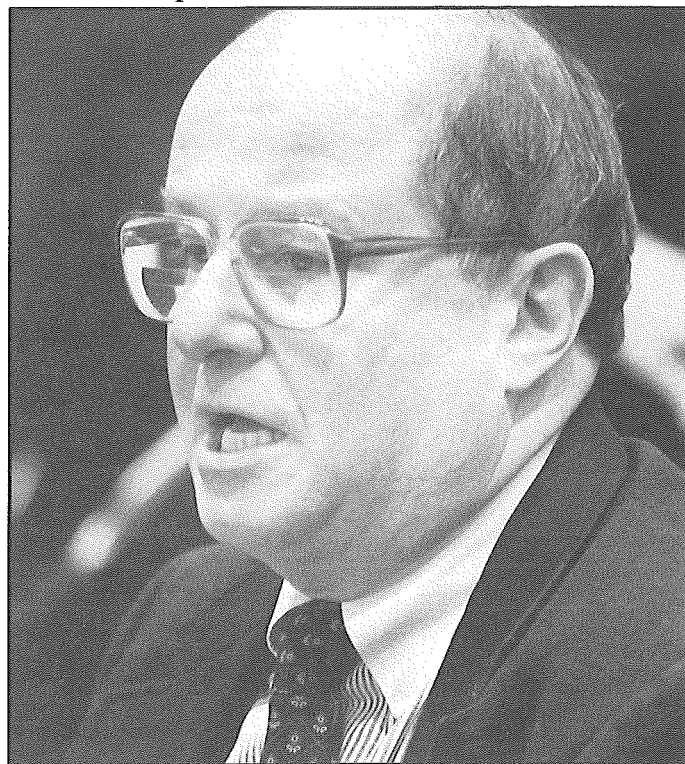
In the area of pensions, the panel may consider a proposal that provides service credit on salary earned for extracurricular activities. In addition, parts of an ambulance driver pension plan were found to be defective, thus, the committee must examine corrections for the legislation.

The panel will also explore a proposal put forth by the three major state-wide pension funds for a major restructuring of the post retirement investment fund



Sen. Allan Spear

Photos by David J. Oakes



that involves establishing an inflation based benefit increase up to three and one half percent with an investment performance base increase when earnings exceed eight and one half percent.

Pending the results of a task force, committee members also anticipate hearing proposals on various kinds of occupational licensure.

Health and Human Services

Last year, the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin, developed major health care access legislation which was subsequently vetoed by the governor. The issue of providing access to medical care to uninsured and underinsured Minnesotans remains a priority issue for the committee and will be the subject of a great deal of debate and discussion. It is anticipated that committee members will consider a number of proposals this

session dealing, in varying degrees of comprehensiveness, with access to health care.

In other topic areas, the committee will devote hearings to housekeeping proposals conforming state law with federal law in the human services area. Nursing home legislation dealing with surcharge issue will also come before the panel. The committee also expects to review human services budget cut proposals.

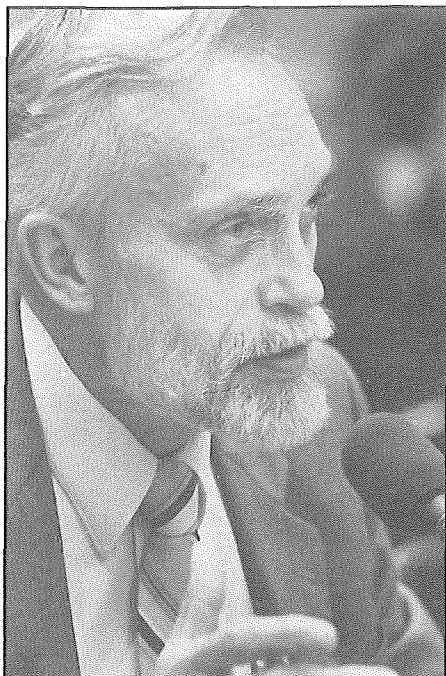
In the area of work readiness, the panel approved and both legislative bodies passed a bill in January to extend work readiness assistance. The measure was vetoed and it is expected that there will be an attempt to override the veto. However, even if the override is successful, committee members will discuss a proposal to further extend the time period for work readiness assistance.

Scope of practice bills, advanced by a number of groups such as physical therapists and chemical dependency counselors will also be heard by the panel.

Finally, a comprehensive child support proposal will be examined by the committee members. The measure is designed to clarify and strengthen current child support law and to provide for better enforcement.

Judiciary

A comprehensive anti-violence package is expected to provide the focal point for committee activity for members of the Judiciary Committee. Sen. Allan Spear, chair of the committee, said that he anticipates a productive session, in part because of the broad consensus that has already developed on the anti-violence proposal. The proposal takes a two pronged approach in that, in addition to addressing the sentencing of violent offenders, it also contains provisions for education and intervention aimed at preventing violent behavior. According to staff, the measure is both a reactive and proactive attempt to get at the problems of violence in our society.



Sen. Don Frank

Committee members will also be involved in the development of the comprehensive child support legislation that will also be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee. The proposal contains provisions changing almost all areas of current law dealing with child support, including amending child support guidelines.

Members of the committee will devote time to hearing the proposal to reinstitute the death penalty in Minnesota for certain types of crime. In addition, the panel will also hear a proposal that would prohibit issuing firearms permits to persons who have been convicted of domestic violence.

A package of proposals relating to DWI will also be examined by panel members. Included in the proposals are provisions making refusal to take a DWI test a crime and instituting a felony DWI penalty. The measure also includes a provision for the intensive supervision of repeat DWI offenders that was vetoed last year.

Finally, the panel may devote time to two additional issues. The first is the dilemma brought about by the explosion in prison populations. Staff indicated that as a result of sentencing under the laws enacted in the recent past there has been a substantial increase in prison

populations that may necessitate a new maximum security prison sooner rather than later. The second issue concerns how to address a growing problem of violence in the Hmong community. Very few resources are currently available for parents and teens confronted with violence.

Local Government

Three general topic areas will be the primary focus of the Local Government Committee. The panel, chaired by Sen. Betty Adkins, will continue to grapple with the problems arising from mandates imposed on local governments by the state without adequate funding, annexation, and planning and zoning.

In the area of mandates, the panel's priority is to insure that if mandates are placed on local governments then there must be an identified, adequate funding source.

An annexation proposal will also be before the panel. Under the proposal the entity that oversees annexations would be eliminated and the oversight function would be transferred to an administrative law judge.

In the area of planning and zoning, the panel will work with concerned parties to arrive at a set of guidelines to coordinate further land use planning and zoning.

Consolidation of services is another item for committee consideration. The panel will examine the work done by the Ramsey County Consolidation Commission.

Finally, members will also act on the traditional measures that come before the committee dealing with hospital districts, bonding issues and combining treasurer-auditor positions.

Metropolitan Affairs

The Regional Transit Facilities Plan will be one of the major issues before his committee, said Sen. Don Frank, chair of the Metropolitan Affairs Committee. The plan is the result of work done by

the Metropolitan Council, the Dept. of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transit Commission, the Regional Transit Board and the Regional Rail Authority and is the master plan for transportation in the Metro Area, he said. Frank said that the plan encompasses all forms of transportation, including light rail, buses, and high-occupancy vehicles lanes and could be very expensive. However, the recently passed federal transit law does allow states more flexibility in using federal funds, he said.

Frank said that the committee will also be looking into changing or altering metro governance of all the regional commissions. "Metropolitan governance is important for the long term," Frank said. "This session we will start the process and set the foundation for examining what we want from the Metropolitan Council and other metro commissions," he said. The question is, Frank said, whether the local units of government and the legislature will devise and pass a structure that will enable the Metro Council to do its job.

Committee members will also explore questions relating to urban sprawl. "We are one of the most spread out areas in the U.S. and we need to question whether it makes sense," Frank said.

Finally, Frank said that the panel will also be looking at the various taxing authorities such as the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District and the Metropolitan Airports Commission in order to study their role in the overall tax framework.

Redistricting

The Redistricting Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger Moe, completed most of its work early in January with passage of a bill setting forth the federal redistricting plan and of a bill making corrections to last year's legislative redistricting plan. However, both bills were vetoed by the governor. Redistricting of both legislative and congressional boundaries is now in the courts. The panel may meet to devise a plan for redistricting the Metropolitan Council but at press time no further information was available.



Committee hearings provide members with the opportunity to hear all sides of an issue.

Taxes and Tax Laws

"The goal of the Tax Committee will be to resolve the budget shortfall with no general tax increases," said Committee Chair Douglas Johnson. "We will play a major role in addressing the shortfall and we will look at a number of options," he said.

Johnson said that the options include rescheduling payments and interfund borrowing. "We want to avoid short term borrowing," Johnson said.

Johnson also said that the committee will be doing a lot of work in the area of property taxes to minimize increases in 1993. In addition, the committee will explore restoring the distribution of funds from the Local Government Trust Fund and preserving the fund.

There may be action on excise taxes, Johnson indicated, because health care access and transportation proposals making their way through the legislature use excise taxes as a source of funding.

Johnson also said that the committee will devote time to consideration of housekeeping measures brought forward by the Dept. of Revenue to conform Minnesota law with changes in the federal tax code. Johnson also said that he did not anticipate any major changes

in laws dealing with tax increment financing although he did expect some fine tuning of current law.

Transportation

Members of the Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Gary DeCramer, will devote time to analyzing changes in funding contained in the federal transportation funding act. The federal measure allows states much greater flexibility in the use of federal dollars and committee members will study ways to maximize the federal funding.

In addition, the Regional Transit Facilities Plan, the master plan developed by various transportation agencies, will provide the committee with a number of proposals. One such proposal involves establishing transit hubs in the metro area and designing transit to go between hubs rather than relying on the traditional suburb to downtown plan.

Another major proposal that the committee will consider restructures transit funding and includes an increase in the gas tax.

Committee members will also devote time to motor carrier regulation issues,

issues relating to the transporting of hazardous waste and to the gap between highway resources and highway needs. Finally, it is also expected that members will address concerns raised in the media about the length of time necessary to renew a drivers license and the problems of forging drivers licenses.

Veterans and General Legislation

Members of the Veterans and General Legislation Committee, chaired by Sen. Joe Bertram, will hold informational hearings this session on the effects in Minnesota of the proposed downsizing of the military. In addition, the committee plans to consider the recommendations made in two studies mandated by the Legislature last year. The first, conducted by the state auditor, examines the role of county veterans services officers. The second, conducted by the Veterans Home Board, is a long term planning look at the state's veterans homes to determine future needs.

Finally, the panel will hear those bills that don't fit readily into the other policy committee jurisdictions.

Senate committee assignments

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 Terwilliger
 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, R. D.
 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 Marty Piper
 Dicklich Johnson, D. J. Novak Terwilliger
 Finn Johnson, J. B. Olson 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. Luther Samuelson
 Berg Johnson, D. E. McGowan Solon
 Brataas Knaak Mehrkens Spear
 Cohen Kroening Merriam Stumpf
 Dahl Laidig Metzen Vickerman
 Davis Langseth Morse Waldorf
 DeCramer Larson Piper
 Dicklich Lessard Renneke

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (17)

CHAIR: Berglin
 OFFICE: G-9
 MEETS: M, Th; Room 15; 3-6 p. m.

Adkins	Finn	Piper	Vickerman
Benson, D	Flynn	Sams	Waldorf
Berglin	Halberg	Solon	
Brataas	Hottinger	Terwilliger	
Day	Johnson, J. B.	Traub	

JUDICIARY (17)

CHAIR: Spear
 OFFICE: G-27
 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
 OFFICE: G-29
 MEETS: T, Th; Room 107; 8-10 a. m.

Adkins	Davis	Lessard
Bernhagen	Day	Neuville
Chmielewski	Hottinger	Traub

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS (13)

CHAIR: Frank
 OFFICE: 226
 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
 OFFICE: 208
 MEETS: On Call

Benson, D.	Johnson, D. J.	Luther	Reichgott
Cohen	Knaak	Moe, R. D.	
DeCramer	Laidig	Pogemiller	

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (29)

CHAIR: Moe
 OFFICE: 208
 MEETS: On Call

Adkins	Chmielewski	Knaak	Novak
Belanger	Dahl	Laidig	Renneke
Benson, D.	Davis	Lessard	Solon
Berg	DeCramer	Luther	Spear
Berglin	Frank	Mehrkens	Waldorf
Bernhagen	Hughes	Merriam	
Bertram	Johnson, D. E.	Metzen	
Brataas	Johnson, D. J.	Moe, R. D.	

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (22)

CHAIR: Johnson, D. J.
 OFFICE: 205
 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
 OFFICE: 309
 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
 OFFICE: 323
 MEETS: M, W; Room 112; 10-12 noon

Bertram	Johnson, J. B.	Pariseau	Samuelson
Dahl	Johnston	Renneke	Vickerman
Johnson, D. E.	Lessard	Sams	



Redistricting sparks debate

By Sara Vail Palmquist

If the term redistricting means anything to the average Minnesotan, it probably conjures up images of complex partisan maneuvering - a political exercise that doesn't affect regular people in any meaningful way. But redistricting is the core of what our nation's political system is based on, according to Sen. Gary Laidig. Laidig just assumed his position on the Senate Redistricting Committee replacing retiring Sen. Don Storm as the IR point man in the battle over district lines. After a few brief weeks on the job, Laidig finds himself fully immersed in the brewing partisan fight that has recently moved from the Legislature to the courts.

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller, sponsor of the redistricting legislation and a DFLer,

argues that redistricting doesn't have to mean a big political fight. "I have asked the members of the minority party and my own caucus members to consider, just this once, that we be willing to place politics second to the interests of the citizens of this state."

The origin of redistricting can be found in Article I of the United States Constitution. "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers...The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they by law direct." The times have changed in 200 years; now every person is accorded representation, regardless of race or gender. However, tallying the populace

and divvying up the votes, while now computerized, is much the same exercise. And to the winners go the spoils.

First a short lesson. Every ten years, after the federal census is taken, state legislatures are charged with redrawing district lines to represent shifts in population. In Minnesota during the last ten years, that shift has largely been from rural and urban areas to the suburbs. On that point the two political parties agree. The disagreement lies in how to redraw the districts to reflect that change. The legislature must present a new plan in time for the first election following the census. This time around, the deadline is November of this year. Essentially, it boils down to this: the majority party, being in the majority, has the votes to pass a plan that will favor their platform and their incumbents. In Minnesota, that translates into a DFL stronghold on the redistricting process.

Neither Laidig or Sen. Fritz Knaak, another IR who serves on the panel, deny that they wouldn't do the same if they were the party in power.

"There is no way you can divorce politics from this process," Knaak said, "but our job is to see to it that our constituent's interests are served. The DFL wants you to believe that they're being magnanimous about this, there are, after all, no IR incumbents facing off with any other incumbents," Knaak said. He explained that the new district drawn for him includes every Republican enclave in the vicinity, areas, he said, that the Democrats know are lost causes. "Frankly, I'm sort of scared of it," Knaak said. "I don't know that I'd know what to do in a really Republican district."

Knaak said that the DFL's chief concern is re-electing incumbents. "I've never been comfortable being in the minority. The prospect of being in a somewhat larger minority and winning a little pat on the head doesn't satisfy me." The Republican strategy has always been to rely virtually entirely on the federal courts for redistricting, Knaak said, but he thinks it's the wrong approach.

Laidig disagreed. "Redistricting decisions have landed in the state courts every decade since the early 1900s. This time promises to be no different, but the new wrinkle is that there are two courts fighting over the decision, a state court panel and a federal court panel."

Laidig went on to explain that as the Legislature geared up to tackle redistricting last year, the DFL, in order to get a jump on the process, went to state court on the basis that the current (1982) plan was unconstitutional because of population shifts. Under the same reasoning, the IRs filed in federal court where they figured to get a better shake. In the meantime, the DFL, "assuming that a gubernatorial veto was inevitable, passed a legislative redistricting plan with a number of errors in it," Laidig explained. According to Laidig, the DFL was most interested in passing a plan that would give the state court something with which to work. "The glitch in the strategy of both sides was that the governor's veto was invalid because of a missed deadline so the legislative plan became law. The state court then issued a plan for the Legislature directing how

to correct the errors and make the plan constitutional," Laidig said. At this point, the federal court issued an order staying the state panel, until the Legislature was finished with their work, which included passing a congressional plan and correcting the flawed legislative law, he explained.

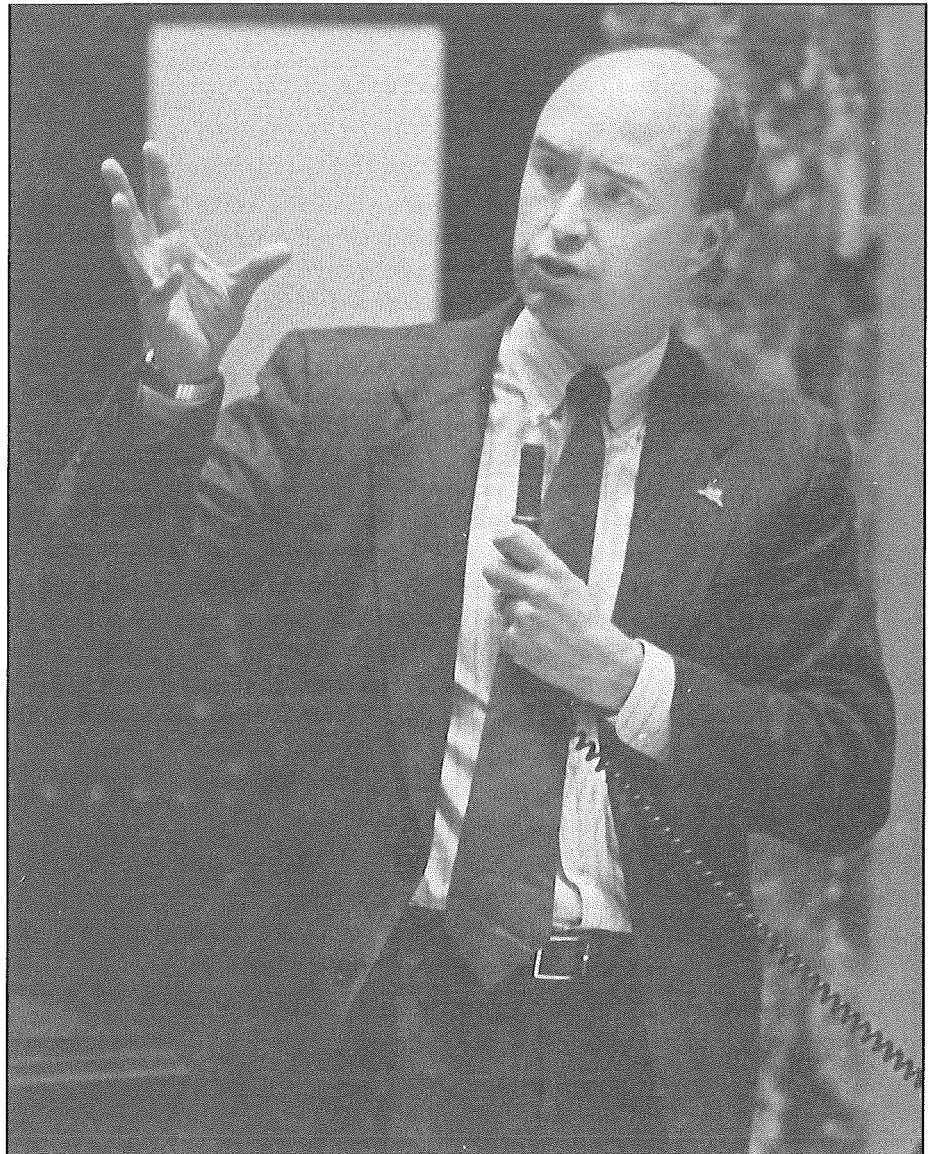
The state court then went to the United States Supreme Court and asked that it expedite the hearing and vacate the federal order. "The U.S. Supreme Court did both, in essence affirming that redistricting is a state matter and the federal courts cannot intervene," Laidig said. He explained that this, too, was bad news for the IRs who had assumed a fairer shake from the federal courts, the

judges of which have been appointed for the last decade by Republican presidents.

The U.S. Supreme Court has since dismissed the matter, declaring it "moot." What that leaves, as the Legislature gets ready to resume business on Feb. 18, is the two panels, state and federal working on redistricting plans at the same time. At some point one or the other must defer.

Laidig said that he thinks the state panel will make a motion in District Court to end the federal involvement and that will mark the beginning of the deliberations on which plan has precedence. Again, the state court and the Democrats appear to have the edge. "The DFL hurried their plans through

Sen. Fritz Knaak responds to the bill's author during floor discussion.





Sen. Gary Laidig and Minority Leader Duane Benson confer during redistricting debate.

the Legislature and the state panel started their plan before the federal panel and," Laidig said, "he who starts first very often wins."

Knaak said that he believes that if the Democrats had not moved as fast as they did and had allowed some negotiating, the process could have avoided the

courts. "The data came back faster than anyone thought and the Democrats just ran with it. While it's certainly not malicious, just run of the mill political maneuvering, I honestly think that the Democrats did not believe that we were willing to negotiate." Knaak said that there is still a chance that may happen.

"If the feds come back with their own plan and the state court must defer, the DFL may say to us, okay, is there anything we can do to make it acceptable to both of us."

Pogemiller said that the IR contention that the DFL hurried the plan through is not the case. "It's true that we got the data sooner than we anticipated but to paint this as anything but the process working the way it should is just plain wrong, he said. Pogemiller added, "if it were a case of incumbents looking for the best plan to save their necks, we'd have waited until the last minute to pass these plans. As it was we had the time to be very thorough, and to hold plenty of hearings. Everyone was invited to participate in the process. That the Republicans didn't spend every waking minute with this, like some of the rest of us, was their choice."

Pogemiller also pointed out that while the Republicans, in their role as minority party, may make a lot of noise about the plans, they would not have done much differently. "The fact of the matter is that things haven't changed that drastically in the last decade. There was the population shift to the suburbs, from both the rural and urban areas, and our plan reflects that," he said. The population shift has roughly flip-flopped, in that the rural areas of the state used to make up roughly 52 percent of the population and the metro area 48

Redistricting Time Frame

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| February 1991 | - Census TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographical Encoding and Referencing system-the Census Bureau's computer system used for drawing maps of census data) files available from Census Bureau. |
| February 1991 | - Public hearings on standards to govern redistricting plans. |
| May, 1991 | - Concurrent resolution on standards adopted. Population detail report to the governor and the Legislature. |
| May, 1991 | - Testing of system with complete census data. Legislature began drawing new congressional and legislative districts. |
| March 26, 1992 | - Legislative and congressional redistricting must be completed. |
| May 3, 1992 | - Candidates must be residents of new legislative districts in order to satisfy the requirement of living in the district for six months prior to the election. |
| May 10, 1992 | - New precincts and wards established. |
| June 1, 1992 | - New county and local districts established. |
| July 7, 1992 | - Candidate filings open. |
| November 3, 1992 | - General election using new districts. |

percent, the reverse now is true, Pogemiller said.

"In the congressional plan, it would not make sense to drastically change what is called the 4-4 plan, at this point." The 4-4 plan, Pogemiller explained, is the plan that the courts came up with after the 1982 redistricting attempt. It splits the state's eight congressional districts in half, four rural and four metro. In the current redistricting effort these districts are roughly maintained, with the rural districts being elongated into the outer suburban ring of the metro area and the metro districts being equally reduced, Pogemiller said. In another ten years, if current trends continue, he explained, and especially if the state loses one of its congressional districts, it will be a different story and the 4-4 plan will have to be altered considerably. Pogemiller also said that he agrees with Knaak that redistricting does not belong in the courts. "The state constitution is very clear in instructing and requiring the Legislature to redistrict, not the courts," he said.

Laidig's main complaint with the DFL legislative plan is that it is most concerned with returning as many incumbents as possible while the IR position, he said, is to make districts as competitive as possible. "My angle, if I'd had a chance to work with this from day one, would have been one person, one vote; that's where you start. The more the district is competitive, the greater the choices, the better the public is served," Laidig said. "Redistricting is a real chance at term limitation." Laidig added that he would pit every incumbent he could with another incumbent "and let the people decide."

Again, Pogemiller heartily disagreed. "People believe all the press they hear about the redistricting process and how 'political' it is, so they come at it that way, but nobody criticizes these plans except in the broadest of terms. I think if you were to go to most members of the Legislature and ask them privately for their opinion, they'd tell you it's a pretty darn good plan." And, Pogemiller said, other communities of interest, such as minorities and local governments have openly praised the effort.

Both parties claim to have paid the most deference to minority concerns, but



The Redistricting Committee, chaired by Sen. Roger D. Moe, developed plans for both legislative and congressional redistricting.

the Democrats have the endorsements to back up their claim. The NAACP and the Citizen's League are among the groups that back the DFL plans.

Pogemiller said that the work on redistricting is done and that he is proud of the Legislature's work. "The plan is fair. Of course my preference would have been for a more DFL plan, but if you're blatantly political like that, you're assured that the courts are going to toss it," he said. The reason there's a DFL stronghold on congressional seats has more to do with the personalities of those congressmen and not because the districts are DFL, he added. "As far as congressional seats go, on paper the make-up of the eight districts is five Republican, three Democrat." Pogemiller said that the changes in the legislative districts accurately reflect population shifts and have little to do with creating IR or DFL districts. "The population moved to the suburbs, we have three new suburban districts and a total loss of three, elsewhere. One in Northern Minnesota, one in Western Minnesota and one in the Metro Area, it's that simple," Pogemiller said.

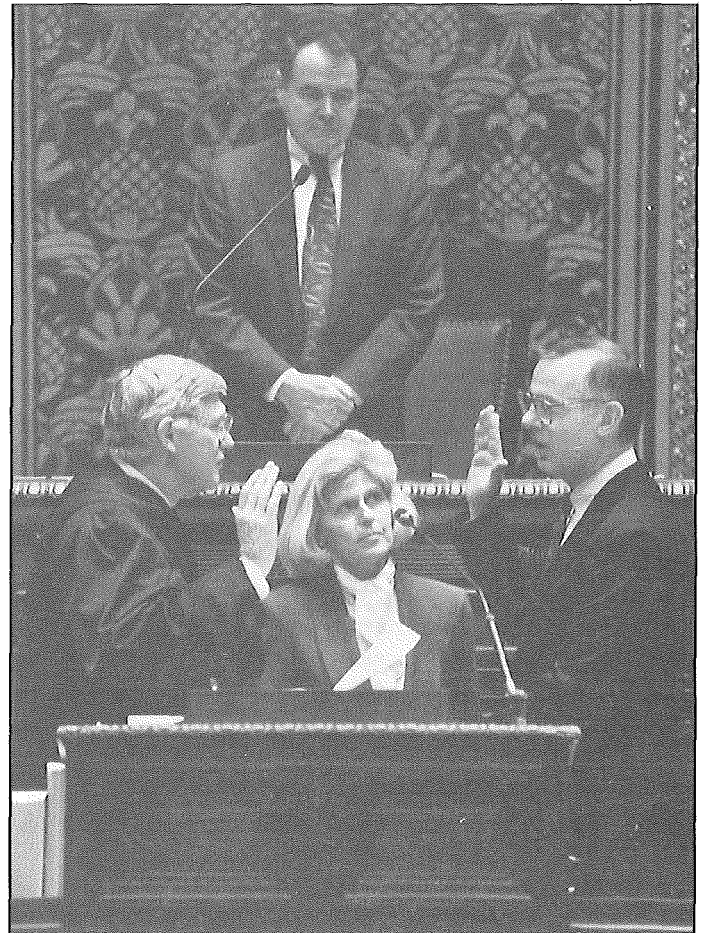
Laidig pointed to the difference in population deviation of the two plans to back up his claim that the DFL majority is most interested in helping incum-

bents. "They have the deviation in the congressional plan pared down to three people, that is, all the districts have the same number of people except three have one extra person, that's pretty exact. But then you have the legislative plan where there's widely differing population counts. The majority leader's district is off by about 1200 or 1600 people," Laidig said.

Pogemiller explained that the courts instructed the Legislature on deviation during the last redistricting effort. "The courts are very clear on deviation," he said. "They want zero deviation on the congressional plan and they allow for up to five percent deviation in the legislative plan. That's just logistics. Since we got the data a year and a half ago, how many people have moved since we got these figures? About four or five hundred per house district." It's hard to be more accurate within the legislative districts, Pogemiller explained.

While neither Laidig nor Knaak were willing to say the redistricting process is finished, Pogemiller was confident. "I don't mean to be a Pollyanna about this but we put together a very good plan, a fair plan and it will, with very slight changes, stand the scrutiny of the courts."

Newest Senator sworn in.



By Karen L. Clark

The newest member of the Minnesota Senate, Roy W. Terwilliger (IR-Edina) was sworn in Thursday, January 9, after whirlwind primary and election campaigns that lasted only a few weeks. The appointment of Sen. Don Storm to the Public Utilities Commission necessitated the special election for District 42, a district that is composed of Edina and Eden Prairie.

Terwilliger comes to the Senate with a wealth of experience in business and politics. "My work experience over the last 28 years has involved both business and politics," Terwilliger said. Terwilliger, a banker, said that his interest in running for the legislature is a natural outgrowth of a lifetime business career. "I was involved in legislation when I was the executive manager-treasurer of the South Dakota Bankers Association and again when I was the executive director of special activities for the American Bankers Association in New York and Washington, D.C., he said. "I also

gained valuable international experience as the secretary-treasurer of the International Monetary Conference based in Washington, D.C.," Terwilliger said.

After moving to Minnesota in 1974, Terwilliger started a bank in Eden Prairie, the Suburban National Bank, and served as president and CEO until the bank's merger with First Bank. He currently is chairman of two rural banks in Greater Minnesota. "I observed first hand the problems in Greater Minnesota during the farm crisis," he said.

In addition, Terwilliger has experience in small business start-up and economic development. "I felt that I would bring new and different practical business experience to the Legislature, especially in the areas of small businesses and small business start-up," Terwilliger said.

Terwilliger said that he is looking forward to serving on the three Senate committees to which he has been assigned: Energy and Public Utilities, Economic Development and Housing and Health and Human Services. "My district has many health care professionals so I feel fortunate that I'll be in-

involved in developing health care policies," he said.

"My biggest challenge right now, though, is to get up to speed on the issues and to have a positive effect on proposed legislation," Terwilliger said. "Even though I don't serve on the committees, I want to be able to have a positive impact on education, tax, spending and business climate issues," he said. "These issues are of great interest to the people of my district," Terwilliger added.

"The issues are going to be difficult to address because of the budget shortfall," he said. However, Terwilliger said that after becoming a member of the Senate, "I feel that there is a positive attitude about solving the problems facing Minnesota. Everyone is interested in the welfare of the citizens of Minnesota and wants to deal with the problems in a positive way."

Terwilliger concluded by saying that he felt very welcomed in the Senate and that he looks forward to returning on February 17 to begin the session in earnest.

Minnesota Senate

Senate Members --- 1992 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	Mehrkins, 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	123	SOB 25
DFL	2302	Davis, Charles R.	G-24	Cap. 18	DFL	4334	Novak, Steven G.	322	Cap. 52
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DFL	6820	DeCramer, Gary M.	309	Cap. 27	DFL	1802	Pappas, Sandra L.	G-24	Cap. 65
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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
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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	DFL	8660	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	G-24	Cap. 1
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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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