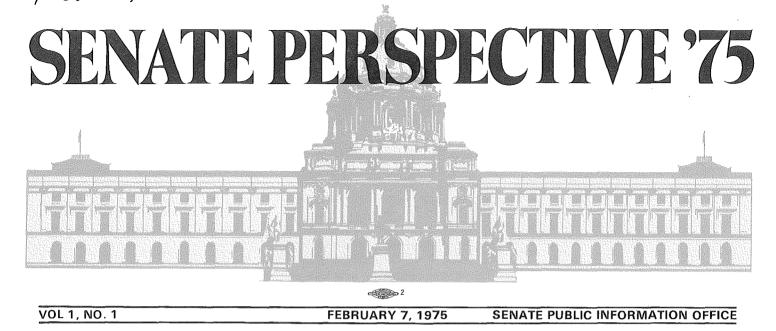
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Seminar Offers Challenge Senators Informed of Future Trends

A special three-day seminar entitled "Minnesota Horizons" merited top priority as lawmakers returned to St. Paul for the start of the 69th Legislative Session.

Billed as one of the most innovative programs ever presented in state government, the conference held January 14, 15, and 16 at St. Paul's Vocational-Technical Institute, afforded legislators an opportunity to hear experts discuss future trends in several areas including population patterns, the economy, housing, transportation, energy, agriculture and human services.

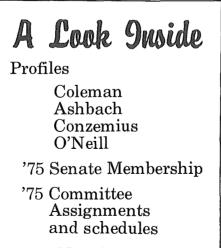
Some 13 speakers summarized the past, looked at the present, and speculated about the future of state planning. Highly technical and highly significant, the seminar drew widespread praise from both DFL and IRC caucus members.

Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman, who keynoted the opening session, termed the program as an "Outstanding, creative effort — a valuable overview which will help us to pass meaningful legislation to insure future growth of our state."

State Demographer, Hazel Reinhart, and Planning Agency Director, Gerald Christenson, opened the conference by projecting population patters. Legislators were told that the trend to outstate migration will continue, and that by the year 2000 the St. Paul, Minneapolis metro area will house about 50% of the state's total population. This came as a surprise to many who believed the Twin Cities might grow to include some 75% of the state's population by the end of the century. Christenson also predicted that the number of persons between the ages of 24 and 60 will increase, thus generating additional tax revenues. Conversely, school enrollments are expected to decline for a number of years and then, due to a "mini baby boom" around 1990, increase again and level off by the year 2000.

Economy experts, John Brandl, U of M Public Affairs Professor, and Bruce MacLaury, President of the 9th Federal Reserve Bank, provided legislators with optimistic news for the future of the state's economy — this despite the current economic slump.

Referring to Christenson's projection of



New Senators

-and more-

the increase in number of persons between the ages of 24 and 60, Brandl predicted that tax receipts will yield a surplus on the order of \$400 million by the end of the current biennium and an additional \$400 million by the end of the next biennium.

"As a result," he said, "the state may realize close to \$1 billion in extra monies available for appropriation to various state programs."

Although tax revenues will provide the state with extra funds, James Solem, Executive Director of Local and Urban Affairs, explained that \$2 billion is needed shortly to double the number of housing units in the state.

"This comes at a time," stated Solem, "when costs of all elements of housing, including capital for financing, are at an all time high."

Solem told legislators that the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency must find a way to ease the current credit squeeze and insure a continuous flow of dollars at a realistic cost to low and moderate income families.

Lawmakers also learned some equally distressing news from Harry Reed, Executive Director of Transportation, who said soaring inflation rates make the financial outlook for the future "bleak". The Department of Highways estimates that there will be insufficient funds available to undertake new construction programs by 1976.

Also/⁴concerning legislators quest for improving public transit systems, Reed stated that, "The operating deficit alone approximated \$12 million in 1974, \$11 million of which was for the Twin Cities (continued on page 10)

Coleman Calls for Reflective Session

Reflection, foresight, openness — in sum, a hard look at the Legislature now and where it should go in the future. These thoughts are central to Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman's view of the Minnesota State Senate.

Coleman points to the many changes in the operation of the Senate since the DFL acquired control of both Houses in 1973.

"We worked very hard for needed rules changes," Coleman states. "We opened up the process and the public, for the first time, gained real access to the Legislature. We opened up previously closed committee meetings, even conference committee meetings, provided tape recordings of both Session and committee meetings, required candidates to run for office with party designation, passed a major ethics bill calling for campaign spending disclosures and limitations requiring lobbyists to formally register."

The Majority Leader's desire for increased public participation is seen in his continuing attempts to expand television coverage of the Senate and, in general, upgrade the information flow to and from the Capitol. The Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Coleman, recently approved his proposal for 90 minutes of coverage each week by KTCA and its affiliates.

While Coleman speaks with pride about past accomplishments, he thinks the Senate should "take a breath" before moving into the fast pace characteristic of each Session.

"I hope this will be a more reflective Session," he says, "and that we can take a good, long look at ourselves. We can't be a reactive body — we can't simply apply band aids to problems. We have to look for solutions that will work in the long term."

It is Coleman's hope to "better organize ourselves. You will see better scheduling of committee and floor debates."

Minnesota's high quality of participants in the legislative process impresses Coleman. He is quick to point to polls which show that, in general, Minnesota's elected officials have suffered little during the present "credibility crisis." Now, says Coleman, we need to work harder to improve the technical quality of legislation.

"And we should better monitor the effects of laws we have passed. We should investigate their implementation to see if we have, in fact, accomplished what we set out to do."

Coleman's primary interests this Session focus on the "hard" times experienced by many Minnesotans during the present recession.

He advocates expansion of the working poor bill passed in the 1974 Legislative Session.



"It is entirely inappropriate at this time to increase taxes, he says. "In fact, we have an obligation to do whatever we can to ease the terrible burden on those people suffering the greatest, namely middle and lower income groups."

Financing education, Coleman thinks, is again one of the toughest problems facing the Legislature. In 1974 he authored two bills to help the Legislature solve this problem for the long term. One created a commission to study fluctuating school enrollments. Another created the Office of State Demographer in the State Planning Agency. Legislators recently heard the State Demographer project enrollments for the remainder of the century at the Minnesota Horizons Conference.

Coleman, a strong believer in the need for foresight, contends that "we have to look at the long-range situation just as diligently as the short-range outlook. When you consider that for every additional \$1 we allocate in school aids, this means a \$1 million decrease in the state treasury, it is obvious that we have to look at a number of remedies for solving school funding problems."

"Whatever we do," Coleman continues, "we have to bear in mind there is the possibility of a need for a temporary increase in teachers, facilities, etc., between the years 1985-1995. We have to look to the future. We can't afford another mistake like Southwest State College where enrollment is less than half the projected 4500 students."

Regarding hand-gun control, one of the most controversial issues again facing the Legislature, Coleman plans to push for a bill which he calls a modest approach.

"The bill's primary purpose" according to Coleman, "is to prevent the purchase of handguns by juveniles, the insane, and unrehabilitated drug addicts, alcoholics, and felons. We're making a few changes which I hope will make it easier for some people to vote for it. Also, the fact that Warren Spannaus received more statewide votes than anyone in last fall's election should make it clear to Legislators that they should not fear losing an election on this issue alone."

Referring to the need he sees for better technical quality bills, Coleman says it is important that the bulk of the work on any proposed legislation such as gun control be done in committee. "Effective functioning of the committees is the key to upgrading the performance of the legislature," Coleman states.

Coleman's penchant for asking questions of himself and other Legislators is a means he uses to spark discussion. While optimistic about the future, Coleman sights one overriding problem that still precludes total efficiency.

A key question he is asking now is "how do we gain control of the administrative machinery of government? It's very difficult to oversee the bureaucracy, but if and when we accomplish that, Minnesota will have the finest Legislature in the country."



Minority Leader Lists Priorities

Like his many counterparts in the Senate, Minority Leader Robert Ashbach believes that a top priority for this Session will be passage of some form of tax relief program. Indeed, it is apparent now that the Senate may have to contend with a virtual flood of tax relief bills sponsored by members of both political parties.

"I think it's a good idea," states Ashbach, "to implement Senator Coleman's "working poor" tax bill retroactive to January 1, 1974 — we should provide relief for low and middle income groups as soon as possible."

Ashbach, a veteran member of the Senate, recently offered his own bill which calls for Minnesota to follow the lead of the federal government, and return excess state taxes to insure Minnesotans full benefits from the proposed Federal tax rebate of 12%.

The Minority Leader also favors elimination of the sales tax on electricity, gas and heating oil used for residential purposes, Senator John Bernhagen's amendment to eliminate tax on oleomargarine, and elimination of the 2% tax on health insurance premiums.

"These are all steps," he says, "to aid the people hardest hit by inflation and the current recession."

Aside from tax relief legislation, various new matters, and a host of issues unresolved from the '74 Session, Ashbach thinks the current Session may be more low-key. He attributes this to the fact that the 1974 Session was "A particularly prolific and busy one. It was the first time there was a regular Session two years in a row. Also, the majority has now "flexed its muscle" and will want to assess what it has accomplished because they are more settled in the leadership role."

Ashbach thinks that a second Session of a biennium should meet only if very urgent matters need consideration and possibly to review revenue and budget needs.

"The state's business can be conducted in a much shorter time if more efficient and cost-conscious methods are used," Ashbach states.

One means to improve the operation of the Senate, he believes, is to impose a series of deadlines on committee and subcommittee chairmen. Ashbach says such a step would add to the efficiency of the legislative process and still permit adequate study and debate of bills.

One such issue sure to see debate this year is a catastrophic illness and accident health insurance plan. The Governor and many legislators have expressed a desire to pass some type of bill which would be among the first enacted in the nation, thus pushing Minnesota to the forefront



in health legislation. Ashbach supports Senator Rolf Nelson's proposal.

Senator Ashbach also believes that some type of compromise is in order regarding steadily increasing doctor and hospital fees. The consumer, according to Ashbach, is often burdened by excessive fees, sometimes with little explanation justifying such costs. On the other hand, medical personnel say they need these fees to meet inflationary costs of new equipment, etc., while some profit is necessarily diverted to other hospital departments where funds are in short supply.

"Still, he says, "government intervention almost always, in the long run, increases costs. This conflict makes the problem all the more complex."

There are other issues which also concern Ashbach this Session. He believes, due to increased costs and declining school enrollments, it is imperative to increase the amount of state aid to school districts. Ashbach calls for adjustments in the school aid formula to meet special problems, and assistance from the state for mandated programs which cause special financial burdens.



The Minority Leader also supports a proposal by Senators Frederick and Fitzsimons which will raise about \$68 million annually for construction of highways and bridges and which will provide for immediate employment of many workers.

"Specifically," Ashbach states, "the proposal asks for a 1¢ per gallon increase in the gas tax, shifting the cost of the Highway Patrol to the general fund and using half of the revenue generated by the motor vehicle sales tax to construct outstate highways."

Environmental concerns are also a priority this Session, and lawmakers may be forced to make some difficult decisions. Ashback believes some balance must be achieved between environmental, energy, and other considerations.

"For example, I believe nuclear energy plants should continue to be built in Minnesota. This would provide jobs and give the consumer a clean and efficient energy resource. We should not have to rely on other states for energy as much as we do."

Citing the need for a careful, considered approach to environmental problems, he supports Senator Ueland's idea that "An economic impact statement should always be required and considered when an environmental impact report is called for."

In other areas, Ashbach believes the Legislature is obligated this Session to make some final recommendations regarding mass-transit in the seven-county metropolitan area. Also, as an author of the legislation that created the Metropolitan Council in 1967, he still feels that the members of the Council should be appointed and not elected.

"I still feel the Council members should not be bogged down by having to run for office," he states. "If elected, this would make the Council less responsible to the legislature and would increase competition with Legislators. The appointive system means that legislators are held responsible for the Council's action.

Ashbach also feels that certain questions should be resolved before Senators vote themselves any raise in salary.

"I would think we have to ask ourselves, "Do we want a citizen, part-time or a full time, professional oriented Legislature? What should the size of the Legislature be? What is the 1970's role for the Legislature vis-a-vis its obligations to the citizenry?"

"A higher pay scale ultimately means, in my view, a full time Legislature where the members have no other avocation. I really do not support this trend."

Senate Membership Set For '75 Session

Following a special election in District 33, Saturday, February 1, the Senate will claim full membership for the '75 Legislative Session.

At time of publication, the DFL holds a 38-27 edge over Republicans with one independent,



Jerald Anderson D-North Branch Dist. 19 Room 327 Cap (612) 296-4184

Norbert Arnold D-Pengilly Dist. 3 Room 121A Cap (612) 296-4155

Robert Ashbach R-St. Paul Dist. 48 Room 123A S.O.B. (612) 296-4111

Otto Bang, Jr. R-Edina Dist. 39 Room 136 S.O.B. (612) 296-4122



Charles Berg Ind-Chokio Dist. 15 Room 132 S.O.B. (612) 296-4102

John Bernhagen R-Hutchinson Dist. 22 Room 145 S.O.B. (612) 296-4131

Jerome Blatz R-Bloomington Dist. 38 Room 121A S.O.B. (612) 296-4108

Winston Borden D-Brainerd Dist. 13 Room 208 Cap (612) 296-2607















Senator Charles Berg of Chokio.

DFL'er Tom Resner and Republican Nancy Brataas are vying for the seat vacated by Harold Krieger (R-Rochester) who resigned after his election as Olmsted County Judge.

Robert Brown R-Stillwater Dist. 51 Room 148B S.O.B. (612) 296-4133

John Chenoweth D-St. Paul Dist. 66 Room 303 Cap (612) 296-4172

Florian Chmielewski D-Sturgeon Lake Dist. 14 Room 329 Cap (612) 296-4182

Nicholas Coleman D-St. Paul Dist. 65 Room 208 Cap (612) 296-4196

George Conzemius D-Cannon Falls Dist. 25 Room 205 Cap (612) 296-4144

Jack Davies D-Minneapolis Dist. 60 Room 27 Cap (612) 296-4841

Ralph Doty D-Duluth Dist. 8 Room 303 Cap. (612) 296-4171

Robert Dunn R-Princeton Dist. 18 Room 131 S.O.B. (612) 296-4117



Richard Fitzsimons R-Warren Dist. 1 Room 138 S.O.B. (612) 296-4124

Mel Frederick

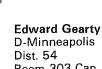
Dist. 32

R-West Concord

Room 137 S.O.B.

(612) 296-4123





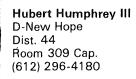
D-Minneapons Dist. 54 Room 303 Cap (612) 296-4174

Baldy Hansen D-Austin Dist. 31 Room 235 Cap (612) 296-4153

Mel Hansen R-Minneapolis Dist. 61 Room 126 S.O.B. (612) 296-4113

Roger Hanson R-Vergas Dist. 10 Room 144 S.O.B. (612) 296-4130

Jerome Hughes D-St. Paul Dist. 50 Room 328 Cap (612) 296-4183





Carl Jensen **R-Sleepy Eye** Dist. 28 Room 125 S.O.B. (612) 296-4112

J. A. Josefson **R-Minnesota** Dist. 20 Room 140 S.O.B. (612) 296-4126

John Keefe **R-Hopkins** Dist. 40 Room 124 S.O.B. (612) 296-4118

Stephen Keefe **D**-Minneapolis Dist. 59 Room 235 Cap (612) 296-4190

William Kirchner **R-Richfield** Dist. 37 Room 129 S.O.B. (612) 296-4115

Jack Kleinbaum



Dist. 17 Room 302 Cap (612) 296-4173 **Howard Knutson R-Burnsville**

D-St. Cloud

Dist. 53 Room 134 S.O.B. (612) 296-4120

AI Kowalczyk **R-Brooklyn Park** Dist. 45 Room 114 S.O.B. (612) 296-4100

Lew Larson R-Mabel Dist. 35 Room 141 S.O.B. (612) 296-4127







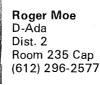
Roger Laufenburger **D**-Lewiston Dist. 34 Room 328 Cap (612) 296-4181

B. Robert Lewis D-St. Louis Park Dist. 41 Room 307 Cap (612) 296-4166

Bill McCutcheon D-St. Paul Dist. 67 Room 301 Cap (612) 296-4129

Gene Merriam **D**-Coon Rapids Dist. 47 Room 323 Cap (612) 296-4154

John Milton D-White Bear Lake Dist. 49 Room 305 Cap (612) 296-4168



Rolf Nelson R-Golden Valley Dist. 43 Room 130 S.O.B. (612) 296-4116

Robert North D-St. Paul Dist. 62 Room 306 Cap (612) 296-4165

Harmon Ogdahl **R-Minneapolis** Dist. 58 Room 122 S.O.B. (612) 296-4109



Wayne Olhoft D-Herman Dist. 11 Room 309 Cap (612) 296-4178



Alec Olson **D-Spicer** Dist. 21 Room 205 Cap (612) 296-4146

Howard Olson D-St. James Dist. 27 Room 325 Cap (612) 296-4187

John Olson **R**-Worthington Dist. 26 Room 142 S.O.B. (612) 296-4128

Joseph O'Neill R-St. Paul Dist. 63 Room 128 S.O.B. (612) 296-4114

John Patton **R-Blue Earth** Dist. 30 Room 116 S.O.B. (612) 296-4103





George Perpich D-Chisholm Dist. 5 Room 205 Cap (612) 296-4145

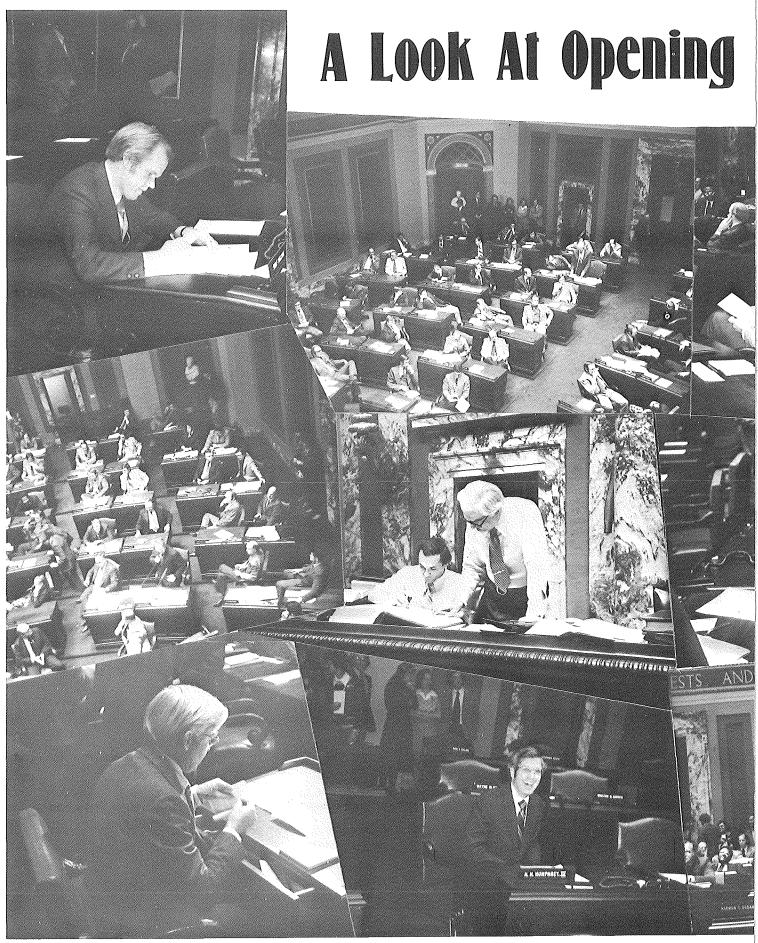
A. J. Perpich

Room 29 Cap (612) 296-4839

D-Eveleth

Dist. 6

George Pillsbury R-Orono Dist. 42 Room 143 S.O.B. (612) 296-4121







Clarence Purfeerst D-Fairbault Dist. 24 Room 326 Cap (612) 296-4167

Earl Renneke **R-LeSueur** Dist. 23 Room 139 S.O.B. (612) 296-4125



David Schaaf D-Fridley Dist. 46 Room 308 Cap (612) 296-4179

Robert Schmitz D-Jordan Dist. 36 Room 306A Cap (612) 296-7157

Ed Schrom D-Albany Dist. 16 Room 29 Cap (612) 296-4840







Douglas Sillers R-Moorhead Dist. 9 Room 133 S.O.B. (612) 296-4119

Sam Solon D-Duluth Dist. 7 Room 325A Cap (612) 296-4188

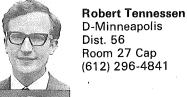
Allan Spear **D**-Minneapolis Dist. 57 Room 323 Cap (612) 296-4191

J. Robert Stassen **R-South St. Paul** Dist. 52 Room 135 S.O.B. (612) 296-4132

Eugene Stokowski D-Minneapolis Dist. 55 Room 2 Cap (612) 296-4192



Peter Stumpf D-St. Paul Dist. 64 Room 2 Cap (612) 296-4193





Myrton Wegener D-Bertha Dist. 12 Room 235 Cap (612) 296-4156

Arnulf Ueland

Dist. 29

R-North Mankato

Room 117 S.O.B.

(612) 296-4105

Gerald Willet D-Park Rapids Dist. 4 Room 205 Cap (612) 296-4147

3 DFL'ers Win Special Elections

Senate Democrats had reason to rejoice at the opening day of the '75 Legislative Session as three newly elected Senators, all DFL'ers, took the oath of office and thus increased the DFL majority by a 38-27 margin.

Bob Schmitz, District 36, replaces Jim Lord, newly elected State Treasurer; Peter Stumpf, District 64, fills the office vacated by Edward Novak who was recently appointed as a state commissioner of public safety; and Eugene Merriam, District 47, takes over the seat vacated by Stan Thorup, newly appointed County Court Judge.

Schmitz, appointed to the Governmental Operations, Local Government, and Transportation and General Legislation Committees, said during his campaign that he is opposed to gun control because of the unfair restrictions that could be placed on the sportsman and private citizen.

He has also voiced opposition to any pay increase for Legislators this year and believes the Legislature, "Must set an example in fighting inflation by avoiding

unnecessary programs that will burden Minnesota residents.'

Schmitz, married and the father of five children, advocates citizen participation in the Metro Council, and calls for local governments to retain their authority using the Council in an advisory capacity.

By defeating five fellow DFL'ers in a primary, and his Republican opponent in a special election, Peter Stumpf is one of the youngest members now in the Senate.

Pointing to education and housing as his main concerns this session, he advocates low-interest or no-interest loans for housing repair, and stricter enforcement of building codes.

Stumpf also believes that minority and welfare families in St. Paul should receive additional educational aid.

'Everyone should be guaranteed a quality education in this state," he says, no matter which side of Larpenteur Avenue you live on.'

Stumpf will sit on the Metro and Urban Affairs, Natural Resources and Agriculture, and Education Committees.

According to Gene Merriam, one of the first projects meriting his attention is a bill to help alleviate financial problems in School District 12 which includes Circle Pines, Lexington and part of Blaine. The former Coon Rapids Councilman who will sit on the Labor and Commerce, Natural Resources and Agriculture and Judiciary Committees, is now working with Representative Gordy Voss of Blaine to present such a bill for consideration.

Merriam feels one of the most controversial issues this Session is the question of state drainage policy. This problem might be solved, according to Merriam, "By drawing up a map and designating which waters are private and which are public and then permitting a town council or watershed district authority to issue permits for draining."

Merriam also supports gun control legislation, an environmental rights for labor act which would require the state to assist an individual who lost a job due to some type of state environmental action, and possibly a returnable container bill.

Conzemius Takes Hard Look At Senate

After eight years in the Senate, Majority Whip George Conzemius has formed some definite conclusions about the Senate's function and makeup. He sees, for instance, an imbalance in occupation and age — one he believes should be corrected.

"Overall, the Cannon Falls legislator says, "I would say we need more balanced representation both among age groups and occupational backgrounds if we are to have the insight and flexibility necessary to deal with all the issues facing the Legislature."

While the occupational imbalance Conzemius speaks of is now correcting itself, in the past attorneys, farmers and educators dominated Senate membership. In fact, as late as 1971 attorneys held 22 seats, farmers 13 while educators boasted 8 seats. This left only 24 seats for persons in other occupational backgrounds. Although the 1975 Legislature is more representative occupationwise, Conzemius is concerned that business and labor groups remain conspicuously under-represented.

One way, Conzemius believes, to possibly provide a better balance is to limit individuals to three Senate terms. Actually, this idea is not new. For years people have bandied about the idea of allowing members of Congress a limited number of terms. Conzemius believes that such a change in the Minnesota Senate would not only help to balance membership but, "Would provide a continual infusion of new blood while still allowing the Senate to retain a substantial number of experienced legislators."

Although the Majority Whip favors some procedural changes, he opposes any move which might promolgate a "bandwagon" approach to change the processes or operation of the Senate.

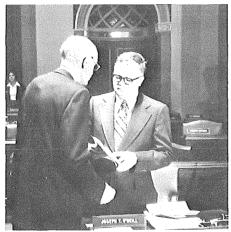
"I think," he says, "when people begin talking about changes in legislative processes in order to make the Senate more efficient, it really makes me a little wary. We must be careful to ensure that any changes would not result in censorship of ideas. We cannot, for the sake of efficiency, institute changes which will make it more difficult for citizens or legislators to have their proposals and views aired at the Capitol."

Anyone who follows the Legislature knows that the name Conzemius is linked closely to the areas of health and education. As chairman of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee, Conzemius has worked hard to create legislation which improves health care while studying costs which, today, are staggering for most people. In fact, the Health Costs Subcommittee turned up some shocking figures in a recent study—shocking even considering today's high inflationary situation.

According to Conzemius, "Since 1947 the cost of a semiprivate room has risen 653 percent and physicians fees are up 160 percent. Looking at Minnesota, we see that for Blue Cross subscribers the price of a hospital room has gone from \$72 to \$113 in the past five years—a 57.3 percent jump."

"But to be fair," he continues, "we also found dramatic increases in the cost of health care items used by hospitals and doctors, but not enough to justify the rate of health care costs increases."

Conzemius, who chairs the special subcommittee, has recommended several programs to cut costs including, most importantly, a strong endorsement of a national health insurance plan to remove cost barriers involved



in crisis and preventive care, and a number of health insurance reforms including the establishment of state supported catastrophic health insurance.

"Also," says Conzemius, "we recommended a two-year moratorium on construction of facilities for additional hospital beds (at present 30% of hospitals are empty), more organized training and distribution of our state's health care manpower, public disclosure of personnel salaries by hospitals, and the appointment of consumers to health boards."

Conzemius has also busied himself with a detailed study of the state prison system.

"I would like to see the Legislature continue to pursue community corrections and increased recreational, vocational, educational and rehabilitative programs in our prison system," he says. "We must continue to approach corrections with the realization that our prisons are intended to rehabilitate as well as to confine."

Regarding possible closings of cer-



tain correctional and public welfare institutions, Conzemius appointed a special subcommittee on Institutional Closings charged with developing a procedure by which institutional closings are to be studied. While cautious, he believes that the trend away from public institutions toward community facilities and service is a good one.

"We must be sure," he states, "that quality community facilities are available for the clients and that the staff can be retained and relocated before closing any institutions."

Other priorities for the '75 Session, according to Conzemius, include some form of tax reduction for individuals and businesses, and tying workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation to average weekly wages. Conzemius, along with Bill McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul) has proposed a tax relief plan which allows for a 10% reduction in state income taxes, a reduction of corporation taxes by 8%, and expansion of the "working poor" tax relief program.

"In times such as these," he states, "we are obligated to aid individuals and businesses, especially low and middleincome property owners who are hit hardest by inflation and recession."

He also supports making union dues for contributions to political candidates and campaigns voluntary.

"In Minnesota," he says, "the AFL-CIO alone spends nearly \$75,000 per year in Membership dues on political campaigns, depriving many members of the right to decide individually which candidates or party they will support."

Conzemius believes his eight years of public service (this Session marks his 9th year in the Senate) have provided him with an "outstanding" education. And he looks to this Session as one that demands legislative action in many areas.

"I'm confident," he states, "that the Legislature will meet those demands and improve the quality and scope of legislation now and in the future."

O'Neill Looks at State Education "Minnesota Can Be Beacon Light"

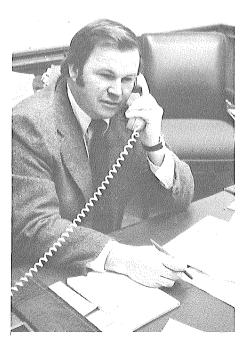
Assistant Minority Leader Joseph O'Neill is likely to talk "education" with anyone at just about any time. He looks to the legislature's past support of state education with deserved pride, pointing out that Minnesota ranks fourth nationally in monies spent on education, a commitment somewhat startling considering the state ranks 19th overall in per capita income.

But there are problems. Today, the problem of declining enrollment, high inflation rates and the present levy limit of 30 mills is causing the state's 439 school districts much difficulty.

"Under our present law," O'Neill states, "in order to reduce the number of teachers to teach a declining enrollment, newest teachers must go first, which makes tenured teachers on the staff at the high salaries the ones who remain. This results in escalating costs for teachers at a time when enrollment is decreasing."

Because education has been such an important priority in Minnesota, O'Neill believes ways will have to be found to increase the state aid to public schools, especially recognizing the special education problems faced by those districts teaching larger portions of the handicapped and educationally neglected.

Still, O'Neill is cautious. While he appreciates the high national standing of Minnesota's quality education, he believes that our present commitments must be reviewed in light of other priorities for state services to Minnesotans.



"There are two ways to meet the increasing costs of education," he states. One is just to increase state aid across the board and the other is to use our financial resources to attack those specific problems in our educational system which need special educational attention. I personally am in support of this latter approach."

O'Neill is quick to question the Governor's intentions concerning his proposed twenty- seven per cent increase in funds.

"We have to be aware that if the twenty-seven per cent increase is applied across the board," he says, "it would merely be reflected in higher teachers salaries throughout the state since seventy per cent of the local school district's budget is used for salaries."

Nonetheless, O'Neill strongly supports Anderson's proposals to expand aid for special education.

As in the past, Senators will again consider the question of financial aid to nonpublic schools. According to O'Neill, the 125,000 children who attend nonpublic institutions are allowed some relief by a tax credit bill passed in the 1971 Session. Now, O'Neill looks favorably to a minority proposal to raise the present income tax deduction from \$200 per student to an unlimited amount including textbooks, tuition, and transportation. He also supports the Governor's plan for additional auxiliary help to any child who satisfies the compulsory school attendance law by attending a nonpublic school.

Horizons (continued from page 1)

System." He pointed out that low income families and senior citizens are especially affected by inadequate service.

To no one's surprise, Edward Hunter, Deputy Director of State Planning, predicted that the energy shortage is here to stay for quite some time.

"Because we face not only a supply crisis but an increasing price crisis in oil," he explained, "the question is not whether we can reduce our level of petroleum imports but only how, and how soon."

Hunter stated that Minnesota's consumption of energy parallels that of the national average, increasing at a rate of 4.5% yearly while electricity costs are increasing at a rate twice as fast.

Philip Raup, U of M Professor and an expert in agriculture, began his presentation by stating that the standing joke of rural communities that "the best way to acquire a farm is to inherit or marry one," is much less a joke today than a bitter reality.

While Senator O'Neill channels his energy to seek ways to improve the educational quality of Minnesota's schools, he also expresses some definite beliefs about the quality of legislation passed out of the Senate each Session.

Like Senator Coleman, he would like to see the Senate spend more of its time looking at laws and programs passed in previous Sessions than emphasizing the need for passage of further legislation.

"Frankly," he says, "people today have been almost overcome with the multitude of bills and laws which pass each Session. I believe the Senate could display leadership more attuned to the public by taking a look at the programs we have passed by debating, if necessary, the philosophy of keeping or doing away with some of the programs after checking their efficiency or lack of efficiency."

"If we did this," he adds, "I think Minnesota could serve as a 'beacon light' for other legislatures throughout the country."



Raup informed lawmakers that an average farm in southern Minnesota now exceeds an investment of a quarter million dollars thus making it "out of the question for a beginning farm family to accumulate a sufficient down-payment even if the most generous credit terms are available."

Speaking at length about problems of specialization in agriculture, he reminded his audience that, "The good health of agriculture is inextricably related to the good health of the rest of the economy and the dire need for imaginative leadership in the agribusiness sector."

The question now, of course, is what effect will this seminar have on future legislation? There is no doubt that Minnesota lawmakers are better-informed, certainly more aware of what they must face in the years to come.

As one Senate staff member commented at the conclusion of the last session, "I'm excited about the prospects for the future, and I'm certain legislators will apply all this information to improve the quality of legislation. It's one big task though — a real challenge."

Page 10

Senate Lists '75 Committee Assignments

| COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES | EDUCATION | FINANCE | GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS | HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Davies, Jack <i>Chairman</i> Borden, Winston <i>Vice Chairman</i> Ashbach, Robert Coleman, Nicholas Conzemius, George Josefson, J. A. | Hughes, Jerome <i>Chairman</i> Anderson, Jerald <i>Vice Chairman</i> Dunn, Robert Humphrey, Skip Kleinbaum, Jack Lewis, B. Robert Moe, Roger Nelson, Rolf Olson, Howard O'Neill, Joseph Patton, John Sillers, Douglas Solon, Sam Stassen, J. Robert Stumpf, Peter Ueland, Arnulf Wegener, Myrton | Arnold, Norbert <i>Chairman</i> Anderson, Jerald Ashbach, Robert Borden, Winston Chenoweth, John Davies, Jack Doty, Ralph Fitzsimons, Richard Hansen, Mel Hughes, Jerome Josefson, J. A. Kirchner, William Moe, Roger Ogdahl, Harmon Olson, John Perpich, George Purfeerst, Clarence Renneke, Earl Tennessen, Robert Willet, Gerald | Gearty, Edward <i>Chairman</i> McCutcheon, Bill <i>Vice Chairman</i> Ashbach, Robert Borden, Winston Brown, Robert Chenoweth, John Hansen, Mel Hughes, Jerome Milton, John Nelson, Rolf North, Robert Ogdahl, Harmon Perpich, A. J. Pillsbury, George Schaaf, David Schmitz, Robert Stassen, J. Robert Stokowski, Eugene Ueland, Arnulf | Conzemius, George <i>Chairman</i> Perpich, George <i>Vice Chairman</i> Brown, Robert Keefe, John Keefe, Stephen Kirchner, William Knutson, Howard Kowalczyk, Al Lewis, B. Robert Milton, John Nelson, Rolf North, Robert Renneke, Earl Solon, Sam Spear, Allan Tennessen, Robert | |
| JUDICIARY | LABOR AND COMMERCE | LOCAL GOVERNMENT | METROPOLITAN AN URBAN AFFAIRS | D NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE | |
| Davies, Jack Chairman Tennessen, Robert Vice Chairman Anderson, Jerald Blatz, Jerome Doty, Ralph Humphrey, Skip Jensen, Carl Keefe, John Knutson, Howard McCutcheon, Bill Merriam, Gene Pillsbury, George Schaaf, David Sillers, Douglas Spear, Allan | Hansen, Baldy Chairman Keefe, Stephen Vice Chairman Bang, Otto Davies, Jack Hanson, Roger Kleinbaum, Jack Kowalczyk, Al Larson, Lew Laufenberger, Roger Merriam, Gene Olson, John Pillsbury, George Schrom, Edward Solon, Sam Spear, Allan | Olson, Alec <i>Chairman</i> Willet, Gerald <i>Vice Chairman</i> Bernhagen, John Chmielewski, Florian Dunn, Robert Hanson, Roger Larson, Lew Olhoft, Wayne Olson, Howard Patton, John Schmitz, Robert Stokowski, Eugene | Chenoweth, John <i>Chairman</i> Doty, Ralph <i>Vice Chairman</i> Gearty, Edward Humphrey, Skip Keefe, John Kirchner, William Knutson, Howard Lewis, B. Robert Milton, John North, Robert Schaaf, David Stassen, J. Robert Stokowski, Eugene Stumpf, Peter Ueland, Arnulf | Moe, Roger <i>Chairman</i> Wegener, Myrton <i>Vice Chairman</i> Berg, Charles Bernhagen, John Dunn, Robert Hanson, Roger Merriam, Gene Olhoft, Wayne Olson, Howard Olson, Howard Olson, John Purfeerst, Clarence Renneke, Earl Schrom, Edward Stumpf, Peter Willet, Gerald | |
| RULES AND ADMINISTRATION | TAXES AND TAX LAWS | TRANSPORTATION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION | | | |
| Coleman, Nicholas <i>Chairman</i> Conzemius, George <i>Vice Chairman</i> Arnold, Norbert Ashbach, Robert Blatz, Jerome Borden, Winston Chenoweth, John Davies, Jack Gearty, Edward Hansen, Baldy Hughes, Jerome Jensen, Carl Laufenburger, Roger Moe, Roger Ogdahl, Harmon Olson, Alec O'Neill, Joseph Perpich, A. J. | Perpich, A.J. <i>Chairman</i> Schrom, Edward <i>Vice Chairman</i> Bang, Otto Berg, Charles Blatz, Jerome Chmielewski, Florian Coleman, Nicholas Conzemius, George Frederick, Mel Gearty, Edward Hansen, Baldy Jensen, Carl Kleinbaum, Jack Larson, Lew Laufenburger, Roger McCutcheon, Bill Olson, Alec O'Neill, Joseph Sillers, Douglas Wegener, Myrton | Laufenburger, Roger <i>Chairman</i> Chmielewski, Florian <i>Vice Chairman</i> Bang, Otto Brown, Robert Fitzsimons, Richard Frederick, Mel Hansen, Baldy Hansen, Mel Josefson, J. A. Keefe, Stephen Olfhoft, Wayne Olson, Alec Perpich, George Purfeerst, Clarence Schmitz, Robert | Senate Room St. Pau James Editor Debi U Assista Majori Sen. H Sen. G Sen. G | Published monthly by Senate Public Information Office Room B14 - State Capitol St. Paul, Minn. 55155 James C. Pirius Editor Debi Unger Assistant Majority Liaison Sen. Hubert H. "Skip" Humphrey Sen. George Conzemius Minority Liaison Sen. Robert Dunn | |

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22

Schedule Set for Committee Hearings

| MONDAY | COMMITTEE NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE | ROOM 118 | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|---|
| | GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS | 112 | 8-10 A.M. |
| | EDUCATION | 118 | 10-12 NOON |
| | TRANSPORTATION AND | | |
| | GENERAL LEGISLATION | 112 | 10-12 NOON |
| | FINANCE | 120 | 2-4 P.M. |
| | TAXES AND TAX LAWS | 15 | 2-4 P.M. |
| TUESDAY | HEALTH, WELFARE, AND | | |
| TOLODAT | CORRECTIONS | 112 | 8-10 A.M. |
| | LOCAL GOVERNMENT | 118 | 8-10 A.M. |
| | METROPOLITAN AND URBAN | | |
| | AFFAIRS | 118 | 10-12 NOON |
| | LABOR AND COMMERCE | 112 | 10-12 NOON |
| | JUDICIARY | 118 | 2-4 P.M. |
| WEDNESDAY | NATURAL RESOURCES AND | 440 | 0.40.4.44 |
| | AGRICULTURE | 118 | |
| | GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS | 112 | • |
| | EDUCATION | 118 | 10-12 NOON |
| | TRANSPORTATION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION | 112 | 10-12 NOON |
| | FINANCE | 120 | |
| | TAXES AND TAX LAWS | 15 | 2-4 P.M. |
| | ····· | | _ |
| THURSDAY | RULES AND ADMINISTRATION | 118 | 8 A.M. OR ON CALL |
| | | | ON CALL |
| FRIDAY | HEALTH, WELFARE, AND | | |
| | CORRECTIONS | 112 | |
| | LOCAL GOVERNMENT | 118 | 8-10 A.M. |
| | METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS | 118 | 10-12 NOON |
| | LABOR AND COMMERCE | 112 | 10-12 NOON |
| | JUDICIARY | 118 | 2-4 P.M. |
| | | | |
| ON CALL | COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES | | ON CALL |
| | | | |