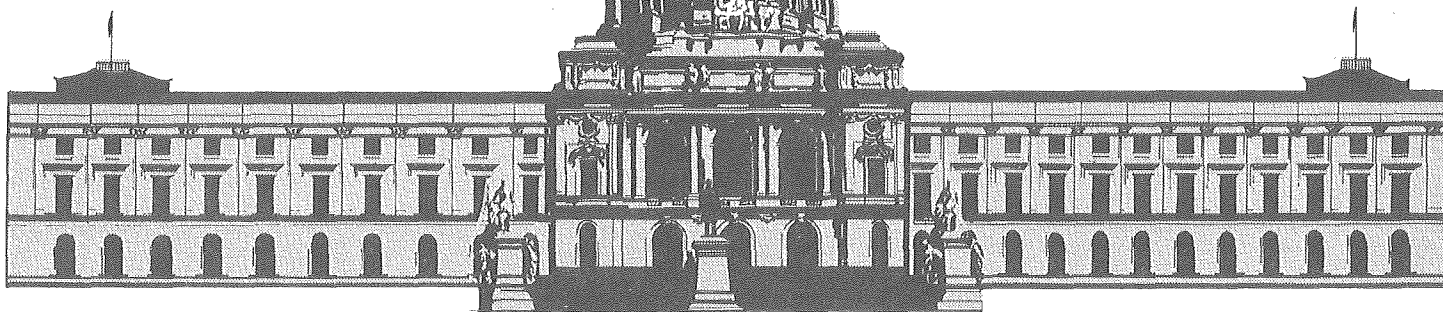


# SENATE PERSPECTIVE '76



VOL. 2, NO. 1

JANUARY 14, 1976

SENATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

## *Move To Determinate Sentencing*

# 1976 May Be Year Of Prison Reform

Case in point: two individuals with no previous record, each acting separately, commit an act of simple robbery. One offender is sentenced to a year's imprisonment at Stillwater State Prison. The other individual is sentenced to five years. A hypothetical case, *yes* — an unrealistic example of our present system of indeterminate sentencing, *no*.

Discretionary decisions like the above are every day occurrences in our state judicial system. Under present law, judges are allowed considerable discretion when deciding cases. In fact, most crimes carry only a maximum sentence penalty accompanied by equally vague statutory language.

But indeterminate sentencing may be on its way out. A special joint Senate subcommittee is preparing legislation that will recommend a move to a determinate sentencing program.

According to Senator Bill McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), subcommittee chairman, "determinate sentencing addresses the whole concept of punishment — and it changes the emphasis from a sentence based on the personal characteristics of an offender and a judge's own discretion, to a punishment which fits the crime. This is a move toward equality and a better justice system."

Subcommittee members, while differing on certain technical points, seem to support the move to determinate sentencing. Legislation most likely will support a fixed sentence for most crimes while allowing a judge a degree of discretion in final sentencing. One proposal

would set a determined, fixed sentence but would allow a judge a 20% leeway factor. Thus, a sentence for a crime like aggravated burglary might be fixed at 7 years, but a judge could increase or decrease the sentence by 20%. A judge would also be able to suspend the sentence, placing the offender on probation.

Central to the concept of determinate sentencing is a belief that the parole board, as it now exists, is unable to assess objectively an individual's progress.

"Under determinate sentencing," McCutcheon says, "the role of the parole board would be greatly diminished. It is impossible for the board to fairly appraise an offender's progress under therapy or rehabilitative programs. We need to look for something more concrete."

One idea supported by McCutcheon is a Mutual Agreement Program (MAP) which permits individuals to contract with the parole board for a vocational training program. Therapy programs, now mandatory, would be discontinued since, according to correctional officials, most prisoners are "not into the therapy game anyway."

Under MAP, persons could also earn "good time" days. For every day of good behavior, a person could receive a reduction of 1 day of his prescribed sentence. It is feasible, under this plan, that an offender could decrease his fixed sentence by one-half. However, some subcommittee members have voiced concern about this part of the plan as it leaves open the question of what behavior is acceptable and what to do when an individual does not exhibit "good" behavior. Senator Robert North (DFL-St. Paul) said at a recent meeting that if good time can be earned,

## A Look Inside

### FEATURES

Nursing Homes  
Corrections Board  
'76 Priorities  
Committee Corner  
Interim Review

### COLUMNS

Coleman  
Ashbach

### PRE-SESSION REFERENCE GUIDE SECTION

Senators  
Committee Assignments  
Committee Staff  
Committee Calendar  
General Services

### COVER STORY

Determinate Sentencing

(continued on page 2)

## YEAR OF PRISON REFORM

(from page 1)

there should be a way to administer a penalty (for instance, a certain number of days added to the original sentence) for inappropriate or unacceptable behavior.

While the concept of determinate sentencing is aimed primarily at more equity in our justice system, it also addresses the growing problem of accommodating prison populations in the state.

"This is a problem that isn't going to disappear," says McCutcheon. "Determinate Sentencing would allow us much more control over who goes to prison and how long a person will be there."

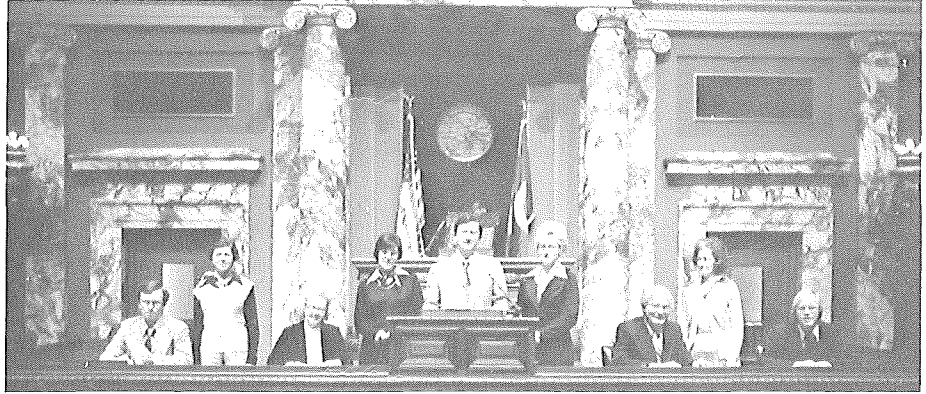
In addition, one serious drawback to the present system of indeterminate sentencing is the uncertainty on everyone's part of just how long an individual will actually be incarcerated once he or she is sentenced. As one subcommittee member put it, "inmates see no light at the end of the tunnel after they receive sentence." Experts in the correctional field have testified that this uncertainty causes serious problems because many persons are not motivated to undertake rehabilitative programs.

Subcommittee members emphasize that a move to a more determinate mode of sentencing is not devised to undermine a judge's discretion in any particular case. It is hoped that statutory language will at least have some influence over a judge when he rules — that a judge will "look at the crime and, with leeway, use guidelines when passing sentence." Obviously, repeat offenders would be subject to stiffer penalties than, for instance, a first-time offender.

"We are not trying to eliminate discretion but rather to limit discretion," McCutcheon states. "By legislation with specific language, we can restrict the limit of discretion and impose helpful guidelines."

According to McCutcheon, the proposed legislation will not address the question of whether a judge should or should not send an individual to prison. Also, there will be no language which deals with plea-bargaining (the charge that is actually prosecuted).

The subcommittee is scheduled to meet three more times this month on January 15, 16 and 21st. In addition to McCutcheon and North, subcommittee members include Robert Brown (I-R-Stillwater), Rolf Nelson (I-R-Golden Valley), Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), Allan Spear (DFL-Minneapolis). Ex-officio members include George Conzemius (DFL-Cannon Falls), Jack Davies (DFL-Minneapolis), Edward Gearty (DFL-Minneapolis) and B. Robert Lewis (DFL-St. Louis Park).



Senate desk staff. From left to right: Steve Goff, Patrice Urman, Janine Mattson, Natalie Kray, Secretary of the Senate, Patrick Flahaven, Sandra Read, Joe Vavrosky, Kay Ganje and Paul Johnson.

# Corrections Board Proposed

Majority Whip George Conzemius (DFL-Cannon Falls), and State Senator Robert Brown (I-R-Stillwater) will introduce legislation this Session to create a "Citizen Board of Corrections."

According to Conzemius and Brown, the new 10-member board would be appointed by the Governor to depoliticize the commissioner's role and allow the most qualified person for the post to be selected outside the political arena. It is also thought that an independent board would bring a greater depth of experience and diverse viewpoints to the formulation of corrections policy.

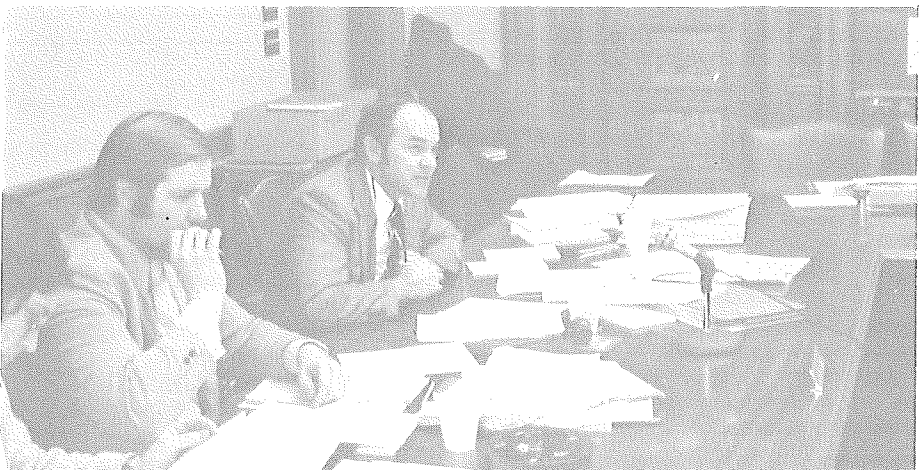
Currently, the Commissioner of Corrections has full authority and responsibility for correctional decisions and is allowed to nominate officials and employees. Under the proposed bill, such decisions would be subject to review by the board. Duties of the commissioner would also be delineated by board rules.

Conzemius and Brown contend that the new board is, in part, a response to needed changes which will be listed in a forthcoming report of the Prison Investigation Committee.

"A new board," says Conzemius, "will provide a continuity in the administration of the Department of Corrections, and this is a change the members of the Prison Investigation Committee found to be badly needed."

The bill is also expected to complement the community corrections efforts of the Corrections Department by providing departmental control from a board knowledgeable in corrections representing the eight Congressional Districts.

At time of publication, no hearing date had yet been determined. The bill will originate in the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee, chaired by Conzemius.



From left to right: Frank Fly, John Lennes and Subcommittee Chairman, Sen. Bill McCutcheon.



# Nursing Home Probe Nears Conclusion

The future of Minnesota's senior citizens who reside in nursing homes may be a bit brighter due to a near-completed investigation by both House and Senate select committees on nursing home care.

Since last Session, the two committees have met jointly on a regular basis, sorting through a maze of information collected through testimony and from nursing home records. The Senate committee is chaired by Senator John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake). James Swanson (DFL-Richfield) chairs the House Committee.

According to Milton, the scope of the investigation has been wideranging, partly precipitated by disclosures of allegedly fraudulent activities at several nursing homes, and partly as an overall reaction to the lack of enforcement of laws pertaining to licensing and inspections and to the care seniors receive in homes.

"Although much of the publicity has focused on a handful of homes," says Milton, "the entire system of long-term care indicates an appalling neglect of older citizens who are no longer capable of living independently."

"We hope to reduce opportunities for abuse by nursing home operators and to provide incentives for improving care.

"It seems clear that our state agencies concerned with nursing homes need better direction from the Legislature in the areas of licensing, inspections, complaints and misuse of medicaid funds," says Milton.

While all the evidence is not yet in, committee members contend that certain facts have emerged which dictate

the need for strong legislation this Session. The Health Department has been unable or unwilling to enforce licensing tagging laws (mandatory correction of inferior or substandard conditions in homes), and both the Health and Welfare Departments are apparently understaffed to conduct thorough investigations into the health and safety standards of homes as well as possible fraudulent misuse of public welfare funds.

Also under study is the Medicaid reimbursement formula administered by the Welfare Department. Evidence points to some instances where people have gone into the nursing home business as a real estate investment and not because of concern for the well-being of their patients. Most nursing homes are guaranteed a substantial return on their investment.

To deal with these and other problems, committee members, are now discussing several proposals including:

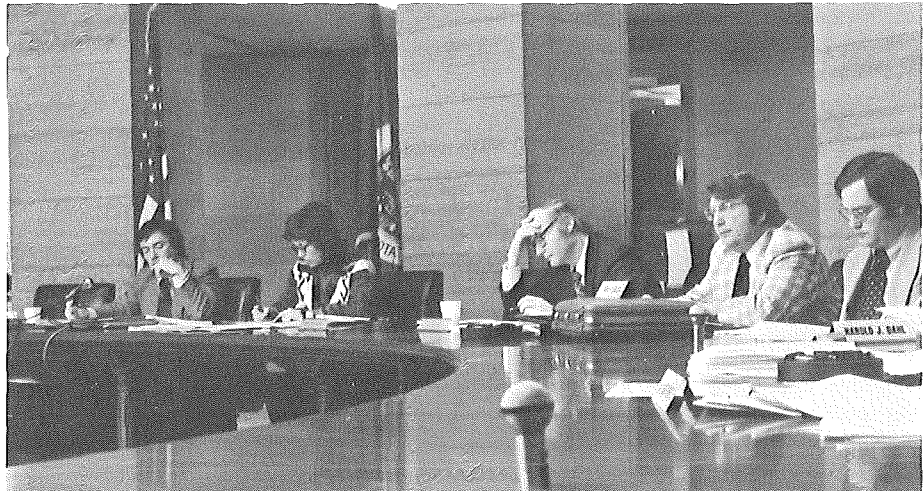
- a five-point bill, based on recommendations by the Attorney General, to strengthen laws with respect to medicaid fraud. Specifically, the bill would define nursing home fraud and make it a specific crime; make any provider found guilty of fraud ineligible for further medical assistance payments; require cost reports to be signed under oath; allow access to medical records for purposes of evidence in fraud cases; and allow the state to collect up to three times the amount in damages as determined in fraud cases.
- a proposal to establish an investigative unit within the Department of Public

Welfare to look into medicaid fraud.

- an amendment to the patient's bill of rights providing for private communication with doctors and lawyers; restrictions in the use of physical and chemical restraints; specific accounting of money administered for patients' needs; and a requirement that nursing home administrators notify both patients and guardians how to complain if their rights have been violated.
- the establishment of a permanent nursing home complaint team, to deal with and correct problems identified by nursing home patients and employees.
- a recodification of existing nursing home laws coupled with revisions in the present licensing and tagging laws.

Although these and other proposals would go a long way to improve present conditions, committee members also have an eye to long-range goals. There is widespread agreement that there should be a more careful screening of people who, for one reason or another, end up in nursing homes. Alternative services — such as part-time care in a senior's own home — or incentives for families to provide for their older relatives — are seen as valuable options.

Further committee hearings are scheduled for the 14th and 21st of this month and Milton hopes to present a final committee report along with recommendations to Senator George Konzemius, chairman of the Health, Welfare, and Corrections Committee by the opening day of the 1976 Session.



At left, Senate John Milton, Chairman Select Subcommittee on Nursing Homes. At committee meeting, Milton, Barb Glick, Sen. John Keefe, Rep. James Swanson and Rep. Harold Dahl.

# Senate Lists '76 Priority Legislation

Legislators and staff are busy gearing up the last weeks of the current interim for what promises to be a short but productive '76 Session. Priority legislation has already been approved by the Senate Steering Committee, and issues range from low-cost housing projects to a possible new stadium for the metropolitan area.

The Senate is expected to act promptly in approving the semi-state departments bill which has been in limbo since time prohibited its passage last year. The bill appropriates funds for several state agencies. The House has already passed the bill.

## HOUSING

Among top priorities in 1976, low-cost housing programs rank high. Prospective home buyers face a dramatic shortage of affordable housing (between \$20 to \$30 thousand) in the near future. New ideas may be amended to the Housing Finance Agency bill, authored by Skip Humphrey (DFL-New Hope), or emerge as separate bills. Humphrey said that he expects the work of a special Governmental Operations subcommittee, chaired by Senator Harmon Ogdahl (I-R-Minneapolis), will provide a better understanding for needs and requirements of legislation before the Senate and House.

Majority leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) is also investigating an MHFA program called "Basic Homes." Essentially, a rural program, Coleman believes it could be adapted to an urban environment. "Basic Homes", recently constructed in Bagley, Mn., are, in the words of Coleman, "attractive, functional but without all the amenities." Since much of the housing being built in the state is beyond the means of a majority of prospective home-buyers, Coleman is urging the Housing Finance Agency to consider alternatives such as "Basic Homes."

## HEALTH

Health-related issues abound this year and center on reform and standardizing of health insurance plans and the growing problem doctors are having with malpractice insurance premiums.

The Chemical Dependency Bill authored by Senator Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) and William Kirchner (I-R-Richfield) is now in the form of a conference report

before the Senate. It is aimed at the detection and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse in Minnesota. A major portion of the bill provides for intervention and treatment for chemically dependent employees and underserved groups such as women, native Americans and the elderly.



Members of the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs Committee toured Solid Waste Recovery facility in Saugus, Mass.

Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$3.5 million to area mental health boards to provide services to employers to help them develop personnel programs to prevent and treat drug abuse, and \$1 million for native Americans to obtain residential and after-care treatment. Programs would also be established for education, prevention, community awareness and training programs.

According to Moe, "the provisions in this particular bill distinguish it as the most comprehensive chemical dependency legislation ever proposed in Minnesota."

A special Senate subcommittee on Medical Malpractice, chaired by Senator Jack Davies (DFL-Minneapolis) has met monthly since last June. Extensive testimony has been taken on the nature of the malpractice problem and on possible solutions to the problem in Minnesota. Representatives of the insurance industry, the medical profession, the legal profession and the hospital industry have appeared before the committee. Subcommittee members are expected to consider specific legislation late this month.

## JUDICIAL

Three top priority bills — court reorganization, a senior citizen dental care pilot program and comparative negligence — will be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee this Session.

The Court Reorganization Bill authored by Robert Tennesen (DFL-Minneapolis)

and Doug Sillers, I-R-Moorhead) would reorganize Minnesota's courts by combining the County and District courts and giving the newly unified court statewide jurisdiction. This would allow greater flexibility by permitting the assignment of judicial manpower where most needed and would also clarify the appeals procedure from County to District Courts.

Tennesen and Otto Bang (I-R-Edina) are also authoring a Senior Citizen Dental Care pilot program. Because many seniors are unable to afford proper dental care — which leads eventually to a reduced level of general health — two pilot programs will be set up to test the feasibility of a statewide dental health effort.

Another proposal by Jack Davies (DFL-Minneapolis) would alter the current comparative negligence system which bars any recovery of damages in a tort suit if a person is equally or more negligent than another. Davies' proposal allows a person equally or more negligent to be compensated, though his award would be reduced by the percentage of his own negligence. Davies contends

that such a plan provides greater justice in cases where the assessment of the degree of the parties' negligence is very close by avoiding an "all or nothing" result, yet without allowing an individual to collect reward for his own negligence.

## TRANSPORTATION

Government Structure subcommittee members passed a proposed Department of Transportation bill, December 26 thus setting the stage for hearing by the Senate Governmental Operations Committee later this month.

The measure to create the new Department is authored by Senator Roger Laufenburger (DFL-Lewiston) and Senator Robert Brown (I-R-Stillwater). It would combine currently separate operating agencies such as the Departments of Aeronautics and Highways under the D.O.T. Additionally, important Public Service Department functions relative to railroads and motor carriers, and mass transit duties now performed by the State Planning Agency, would be transferred.

According to Laufenburger, one of the key features of the bill is the duty of the future commissioner to review inherited functions in order to consolidate them when they are common to many parts of the new department (personnel, accounting, etc.) or to enhance unique functions (air radio navigational aids, etc.) by being able to provide resources which can be fully utilized by all parts only within a D.O.T.

Another main feature of the bill is development of a state-wide transportation plan. The D.O.T. commissioner would rely on public hearings and also input from the energy agency, regional development commissions, the Metropolitan Council, and other political subdivisions in developing the plan.

## METROPOLITAN

The future of metropolitan land use planning and a possible new sports facility may be resolved this Session. Both have generated considerable public testimony and discussion this interim.

The land use planning bill requires local units of government in the seven-county metropolitan area to adopt comprehensive plans in conjunction with guidelines as set forth by the Metropolitan Council. The bill was rereferred to the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee last year after lengthy debate and a close vote on the Senate floor. Committee chairman John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) believes interim hearings have cleared up many misconceptions and misunderstandings about the proposed legislation.

The joint select Senate-House Sports Facility subcommittee is also preparing



Senators Ralph Nelson and Bob Stassen.

to recommend a proposal which sets legislative policy regarding the construction of a new sports facility in the metro area.

Senate chairman, John Chenoweth, said the prospect for a recommendation is likely by the beginning of the Session. Four meetings are scheduled for January to review alternative cost reports on stadium proposals prepared by the State Planning Agency. Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Architectural Firm will also present a plan for a multi-purpose stadium.

The subcommittee has met several times since the '75 Session. In addition to a multi-purpose stadium, subcommittee members are considering proposals for an open football-only facility, possible remodeling of Memorial Stadium or remodeling Metropolitan stadium.

According to Chenoweth, the construction of a new stadium hinges on the ability of the stadium to pay for

itself with no financing through property tax revenues.

## ENVIRONMENT

As always, environmental issues this Session should spark some lively debate in committee and on the Senate floor. Proposed legislation which would ban copper-nickel mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area has led the International Nickel Co. to cease operations because the regulations would be economically prohibitive. International's announcement may well have touched off the classic debate over the environment versus the economy.

Some of the things left over from 1975 that are likely to be back in 1976 include returnable container legislation (ban-the-can), an environmental permit coordination act; and the major rural controversy over which governmental units will be able to designate which areas as public waters.

# Senate Reference Guide

## 1976 Session

As a handy and useful reference guide, please note the information in this section. Provided is a complete list of office numbers and phone numbers for each Senator by District; a guide to committee membership for the '76 Session; scheduled meeting times of Senate committees, and names and telephone numbers of committee staff.

At time of publication, both the meeting schedule and committee assignment roster were tentative, subject to change by the Senate Rules Committee. An updated guide will be published if changes occur.

The first Senate Session for 1976 is scheduled at 12:00 noon, January 27, in the Senate Chamber.

### General Information Services

For reference, please note the following information.

Copies of bills are available at the Secretary of the Senate's office (Room 231). Individuals are limited to 1 copy of any bill requested. For information, call Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate, at 296-2343.

Information on the status of legislation may be obtained by calling Senate Index (Room 231) at 296-2887. Ms. Ardis Schultz heads the index service.

Persons wishing to subscribe to official Senate publications may do so by calling or writing the Public Information Office located in room B-29. Telephone number is 296-4917. James Pirius is the Senate Public Information Officer.

### Senate Committee Hearing Schedule

	COMMITTEE	ROOM	HOOR
Monday	Natural Resources and Agriculture	118	8-10 a.m.
	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 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.
Wed.	Natural Resources and Agriculture	118	8-10 a.m.
	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.
Thursday	Taxes and Tax Laws	15	2-4 p.m.
	Rules and Administration	118	8 a.m. or on call
Friday	Health, Welfare, and 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.
On Call	Committee on Committees		on call

### Senate Index

NAME	DIST.	OFFICE	PHONE
Anderson, Jerald C.	19	327 CAP	296-4184
Arnold, Norbert	3	121A CAP	296-4155
Ashbach, Robert	48	123 SOB	296-4111
Bang, Otto	39	136 SOB	296-4122
Berg, Charles	15	132 SOB	296-4102
Bernhagen, John	22	145 SOB	296-4131
Blatz, Jerome	38	121A SOB	296-4108
Borden, Winston	13	208 CAP	296-2607
Brataas, Nancy	33	113 SOB	296-4848
Brown, Robert	51	148B SOB	296-4133
Chenoweth, John	66	303 CAP	296-4172
Chmielewski, Florian	14	329 CAP	296-4182
Coleman, Nicholas	65	208 CAP	296-4196
Conzemius, George	25	206 CAP	296-4144
Davies, Jack	60	27 CAP	296-4841
Doty, Ralph	8	303 CAP	296-4171
Dunn, Robert	18	131 SOB	296-4117
Fitzsimons, Richard	1	138 SOB	296-4124
Frederick, Mel	32	137 SOB	296-4123
Gearty, Edward	54	303 CAP	296-4174
Hansen, Baldy	31	235 CAP	296-4153
Hansen, Mel	61	126 SOB	296-4113
Hanson, Roger	10	144 SOB	296-4130
Hughes, Jerome	50	328 CAP	296-4183
Humphrey, Hubert H. III	44	309 CAP	296-4180
Jensen, Carl	28	125 SOB	296-4112
Josefson, J. A.	20	140 SOB	296-4126
Keefe, John B.	40	124 SOB	296-4118
Keefe, Steve	59	235 CAP	296-4190
Kirchner, William	37	129 SOB	296-4115
Kleinbaum, Jack	17	302 CAP	296-4173
Knutson, Howard	53	134 SOB	296-4120
Kowalczyk, Al	45	114 SOB	296-4100
Larson, Lew	35	141 SOB	296-4127
Laufenburger, Roger	34	328 CAP	296-4181
Lewis, B. Robert	41	307 CAP	296-4166
McCutcheon, Bill	67	301 CAP	296-4129
Merriam, Eugene	47	323 CAP	296-4154
Milton, John	49	305 CAP	296-4168
Moe, Roger	2	235 CAP	296-2577
Nelson, Rolf	43	130 SOB	296-4116
North, Robert	62	306 CAP	296-4165
Ogdahl, Harmon	58	122 SOB	296-4109
Olhoft, Wayne	11	309 CAP	296-4178
Olson, Alec	21	205 CAP	296-4146
Olson, Howard	27	325 CAP	296-4187
Olson, John	26	142 SOB	296-4128
O'Neill, Joseph	63	128 SOB	296-4114
Patton, John	30	116 SOB	296-4103
Perpich, A. J.	6	29 CAP	296-4839
Perpich, George	5	205 CAP	296-4145
Pillsbury, George	42	143 SOB	296-4121
Purfeerst, Clarence	24	326 CAP	296-4167
Renneke, Earl	23	139 SOB	296-4125
Schaaf, David	46	308 CAP	296-4179
Schmitz, Robert	36	306A CAP	296-7157
Schrom, Ed	16	29 CAP	296-4840
Sillers, Douglas	9	133 SOB	296-4119
Solon, Sam	7	325A CAP	296-4188
Spear, Allan	57	323 CAP	296-4191
Stassen, J. Robert	52	135 SOB	296-4132
Stokowski, Eugene	55	2 CAP	296-4192
Stumpf, Peter	64	2 CAP	296-4193
Tennessee, Robert	56	27 CAP	296-4841
Ueland, Arnulf	29	117 SOB	296-4105
Wegener, Myrton	12	235 CAP	296-4156
Willet, Gerald	4	205 CAP	296-4147

<p><b>COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES</b>            Davies, Jack  <i>Chairman</i>            Borden, Winston  <i>Vice Chairman</i>            Ashbach, Robert            Coleman, Nicholas            Conzemius, George            Josefson, J. A.</p>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b>            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</p>	<p><b>FINANCE</b>            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            Tennesen, Robert            Willet, Gerald</p>	<p><b>GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS</b>            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</p>	<p><b>HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS</b>            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            Tennesen, Robert</p>
<p><b>JUDICIARY</b>            Davies, Jack  <i>Chairman</i>            Tennesen, Robert  <i>Vice Chairman</i>            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</p>	<p><b>LABOR AND COMMERCE</b>            Hansen, Baldy  <i>Chairman</i>            Keefe, Stephen  <i>Vice Chairman</i>            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</p>	<p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>            Olson, Alec  <i>Chairman</i>            Willet, Gerald  <i>Vice Chairman</i>            Bernhagen, John            Chmielewski, Florian            Dunn, Robert            Hanson, Roger            Larson, Lew            Olthoft, Wayne            Olson, Howard            Patton, John            Schmitz, Robert            Stokowski, Eugene</p>	<p><b>METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS</b>            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</p>	<p><b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE</b>            Moe, Roger  <i>Chairman</i>            Wegener, Myrton  <i>Vice Chairman</i>            Berg, Charles            Bernhagen, John            Dunn, Robert            Hanson, Roger            Merriam, Gene            Olthoft, Wayne            Olson, Howard            Olson, John            Purfeerst, Clarence            Renneke, Earl            Schrom, Edward            Stumpf, Peter            Willet, Gerald</p>
<p><b>RULES AND ADMINISTRATION</b>            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            Laufenberger, Roger            Moe, Roger            Ogdahl, Harmon            Olson, Alec            O'Neill, Joseph            Perpich, A. J.</p>	<p><b>TAXES AND TAX LAWS</b>            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            Laufenberger, Roger            McCutcheon, Bill            Olson, Alec            O'Neill, Joseph            Sillers, Douglas            Wegener, Myrton</p>	<p><b>TRANSPORTATION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION</b>            Laufenberger, 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            Olthoft, Wayne            Olson, Alec            Perpich, George            Purfeerst, Clarence            Schmitz, Robert</p>	<p>Published monthly by            Senate Public Information Office            Room B29 — State Capitol            St. Paul, Minn. 55155</p> <p>James C. Pirius            Editor            Debi Unger            Assistant            Majority Liaisons            Sen. Hubert H. "Skip" Humphrey            Sen. George Conzemius            Minority Liaisons            Sen. Robert Dunn            Sen. Ralph Nelson</p>	

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	ROOM NO.	PHONE	COMMITTEE AA	COMMITTEE SECRETARY
Education	Sen. Hughes	328 CAP	296-4185	Adelaide O'Brien	Phyllis Meryhew
Finance	Sen. Arnold	121 CAP	296-6436	Pat Kelly	Peggy Kormendy
Governmental Operations	Sen. Gearty	303 CAP	296-4175	Janet Lund	Dagny Swenson
Health, Welfare & Corrections	Sen. Conzemius	205 CAP	296-4151	Mike Ahern	Connie Dabelow
Judiciary	Sen. Davies	27 CAP	296-4841	Dale Ulrich	Mary Mogush
Labor and Commerce	Sen. B. Hansen	235 CAP	296-4158	Lucy Johnson	Josie Dario
Local Government	Sen. A. Olson	205 CAP	296-4150	Rosemary Goff	Ardy Vos
Metropolitan & Urban Affairs	Sen. Chenoweth	303 CAP	296-4176	Bill Conley	Laverne Swanson
Natural Resources & Agriculture	Sen. Moe	235 CAP	296-4157	Mark Andrew	Ardella Tischler
Rules and Administration	Sen. Coleman	208 CAP	296-4196	John Kaul	Dorothy Abell
Taxes and Tax Laws	Sen. T. Perpich	29 CAP	296-4839	Susan Chianelli	Betty Bates
Transportation and General Legislation	Sen. Laufenberger	328 CAP	296-4186	Linda Schutz	Mary Turk



# Majority

by Nicholas Coleman  
Senate Majority Leader

1976 is another election year. Once again, no doubt, we will see a proliferation of campaign literature with scoreboards — number of bills authored — number of bills passed. It will be an honest attempt to answer the question, "Well, what did you do as a legislator?" But scoreboards don't really answer the question.

Evaluating a legislator's performance solely on his "score" would be a serious error. It would be as erroneous as judging a legislature for its efficiency on the basis of the "fastest path is the best path." What these criteria fail to take into account is that the pace of democratic legislative processes is of necessity slow, often painfully deliberate. And it should not be any other way. In fact, that deliberate pace is a vital factor in the preservation of the basic principles of our democracy; principles which mandate a representative and participatory government undertaking rational and open consideration not only of the issues, but of the opinions and concerns of the widest possible portion of the population.

In Minnesota, we have increased our emphasis on deliberation and participation. The 1973 legislative rules changes which mandated open meetings at all levels of the process may have opened the door to additional delays. Those same doors were also opened to additional testimony, new opinions and greater public awareness and participation in the legislative process. I firmly believe that new input has been beneficial to the legislature.

The flexible legislative session, approved by the voters in 1972, has also allowed us to become more deliberate. In the past, time limitations often restricted the legislature to merely searching out arguments for and against specific proposals — a limited function at best. The new flexible session allows us to examine problems and formulate solutions within a much broader perspective. We have the time for in-depth study of critical and complex issue areas.

Another significant change that has helped us become more deliberative is our increased staff capability. We have, for example, created new capabilities such as our Senate Investigative Research office. This unit is looking deeply into areas such as housing problems, the status of school finances, the structure of Minnesota's higher education systems, the stadium issue, and our criminal justice system. We have also expanded our majority and minority research

# "Viewpoint"



units and the Senate Counsel as well as the staff of Senate committees. As our committees and subcommittees meet, they have at their disposal the expertise of researchers to dig out the answers to the myriad of questions that come up.

The end result has been intensive research and study efforts by senators and staff in a variety of vital issue areas. The Select Committee on Nursing Homes is preparing a legislative package designed to increase the quality and availability of nursing homes (and alternative care) in our state. It undertook several months of investigation and held more than 40 hours of formal hearings before considering specific legislative recommendations.

The Senate Subcommittee on Determinate Sentencing has been examining the principles of that system to determine if it could be adapted to improve the effectiveness of our criminal justice system. It held nearly a dozen hearings with testimony before opening consideration of specific proposals in that area.

Another subcommittee is examining the need for and possible financing of additional sports facilities in the state. Prison reform is being pursued by another task force. In fact, this past interim has seen a variety of senate subcommittees, committees and staff not only undertaking intensive research, but also taking part in more than 150 open hearings. Interim study has been approached with a broad and open view. We are making sure we understand the problems before we attempt to formulate the answers. That work will be reflected in the quality and productivity of the 1976 session.

Admittedly, if we measure legislative efficiency by the number of bills passed, this deliberative approach seems inefficient. However, if we measure efficiency in the impact of the bills passed and the input which produced those bills and the democratic participation which was part of that approval, the Minnesota legislature would rate high on the scale of efficiency.

# Minority

by Robert O. Ashbach  
Senate Minority Leader

It seems that we as legislators ought to be very concerned with preserving the integrity and authority of the legislative branch of state government. We hear much talk of late about the strong executive in Washington and how Congress has lost control. We must not allow this to happen in Minnesota. The legislature should be a co-equal branch of state government.

It is most appropriate that we as legislators be aware of our lawmaking authority in a stronger and more determined fashion for it seems all too easy to pass laws that give the executive branch the authority to get involved in major rule-making procedures and decisions which often do not reflect legislative intent.

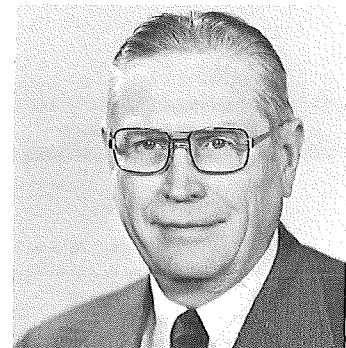
It would appear to me that five of six things should be considered if we are to maintain the legislature as a strong third branch of state government.

First, the legislature perhaps ought to consider providing more control on the receipt of federal funds and to whom and where they are going. Currently, we do not take the necessary steps in regard to this all-important matter which affects millions of dollars of federal funds. Under federal law the state legislature may designate the receiving agencies of federal funds. However, the legislature by default has allowed this authority to go to the executive branch. It does seem to me that we as a legislature should take appropriate action to alter this. In fact, I have already asked Senate research to come up with a sound and workable proposal in regard to this matter.

Second, the legislature has under Chapter 16 given the executive, together with the commissioner of administration, great powers in setting up commissions and boards and also the transferring of funds between state agencies and permits the diversion of appropriated funds. This should be corrected.

Third, many times legislation is passed

*(continued on page 9)*





## VIEWPOINT *(from page 8)*

that is very vague. Legislation cannot get into all details, but it does seem that we as legislators do have a responsibility for providing safeguards and guidelines. For example, I look at the Housing Finance Agency as one possible example. We appropriated \$1 million for a reserve fund for bonds issued. I don't know how many of us expected that the reserve fund be placed in interest-bearing deposits and that these earnings would be used in operating the agency. It is my understanding, and fairly well reflected by many legislators, that the agency would be run by fees it would generate in making loans to lenders, but that is not the case. As of July 1, for example, there were tens of millions of dollars on deposit in interest-bearing accounts of which the earnings from the interest can be used for the day-by-day operations of the agency.

I have just mentioned a few of these,

but I believe we as legislators, if we are going to do our job well, have to think about keeping our legislature (of which I am very proud) strong and a co-equal partner. We ought not hesitate, no matter to what party we belong, to quarrel with the executive branch if they are not doing legislative intent or if we think they are abusing certain kinds of privileges with the laws we pass.

Fourth, we as legislators should consider the practice of appointing acting commissioners. The commissioner of personnel is a glaring example where the executive branch has not followed the laws of the State of Minnesota which provide for the appointment of a commissioner of personnel with certain qualifications. The state now has an acting commissioner apparently without required qualifications over which the legislature has no control and who cannot be approved or rejected.

In line with that the legislature can strengthen these laws. For example, Senator Schaaf had a bill in that went at this particular problem. With some

modification, perhaps that approach may be used to see to it that the legislative intent is carried out.

Fifth, is the provision for unclassified positions in the State of Minnesota. We have had a tremendous increase in the number of unclassified positions and most of these come not from within the ranks of dedicated, long-term, knowledgeable state employees who have made a career in their fields and are experts, but some outsiders who have little experience in many instances and who perhaps are somewhat political to say the least. This is an area that the legislature could consider,

Sixth, we are aware of the situation with the state department commissioners who are serving at the pleasure of the Governor. It does appear, and it has been suggested, that the legislature is not able to and does not get the full import and the full feeling of the commissioners and the departments in regards to certain pieces of legislation because of their unsure tenure as head of the department.

# Committee Schedule Set For Jan. 15-22

## JANUARY 15, 1976

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Chrmn. Edward Gearty

9:00 A.M.

Room 15

### NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

Chrmn. Roger Moe

9:00-11:00 A.M.

Room 118

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE BOARDS

Chrmn. Robert North

3:00 P.M.

Room 112

### JOINT SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DETERMINATE SENTENCING

Chrmn. Bill McCutcheon

7:00 P.M.

Room 118

## JANUARY 16, 1976

### JOINT SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DETERMINATE SENTENCING

Chrmn. Bill McCutcheon

9:30 A.M.

Room 118

## JANUARY 19, 1976

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE BOARDS

Chrmn. Robert North

3:00 P.M.

Room 112

## JANUARY 20, 1976

### HEALTH, WELFARE, AND CORRECTIONS

Chrmn. George Conzemius

9:30 A.M.

Room 112

### METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS JOINT SELECT SENATE- HOUSE SPORTS FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Chrmn. John Chenoweth

1:30-4:00 P.M.

Room 118

## JANUARY 21, 1976

### HEALTH, WELFARE, AND CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NURSING HOMES

Chrmn. John Milton

9:00 A.M.

Room 15

### JOINT SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DETERMINATE SENTENCING

Chrmn. Bill McCutcheon

9:30 A.M.

Room 118

### METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS JOINT SELECT SENATE- HOUSE SPORTS FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Chrmn. John Chenoweth

1:30-4:00 P.M.

Room 112

## JANUARY 22, 1976

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Chrmn. Edward Gearty

9:00 A.M.

Room 15

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE BOARDS

Chrmn. Robert North

3:00 P.M.

Room 112

# Productive Interim Should Enhance Session

In many ways the 1975 interim was more like an extension of the Session than the usual respite interim periods afford legislators. From June to the present time, more than 150 committee and subcommittee hearings have been held at the Capitol and various municipalities throughout the state.

Majority leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) said that he expects the hours spent researching, analyzing, debating and soliciting testimony during the interim to be reflected in hours saved during the 1976 Session.

"In fact," says Coleman, "since the pace of the interim allows more time for study and evaluation between hearings, an hour of interim activity should provide more benefit than an hour during session hearings. Looking over what I expect to be major 1976 legislative issues, I can see how the interim work done by these committees and subcommittees will enhance the work of the 1976 legislature."

Coleman said the keys to interim productivity have been the pace of interim activity which allows comprehensive study between hearings, the ability to schedule hearings so that vital testimony from those outside the legislature can be heard in full; and the ability of the legislature to reach additional Minnesotans in familiar surroundings.

This segment of our regular "Committee Corner" feature capsulizes, in brief, major work undertaken by the Senate Standing Committees during the '75 interim period.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Jerome Hughes)



### Subcommittees:

*School Finance; Educational Organization; Assessments and Accountability; Post-Secondary and Higher Education Planning and Coordination; School Boards and Administration; Teacher Preparation Standards and Certification; Special Education in State Institutions.*

After a busy and productive '75 Session, Education committee members turned their attention to three problem areas — the future of post secondary education; statewide district administrative services; and special education in our state institutions.

Legislators are attempting to pinpoint problems inherent in our post secondary educational system by reviewing its historical background, the present status of all post secondary institutions in Minnesota and a comparison with other states.

There is a move under foot to create a new Higher Education Board by Senator Coleman — a need, he perceives, to realize greater efficiency in our Higher Education system. At a recent joint meeting of the Senate Education committee and House Higher Education committee, Coleman advocated the creation of a Higher Education Coordinating Board which would be empowered to assemble and approve higher education operating and capital improvement budgets and to approve or disapprove all capital improvement requests before passing them on to the legislature. The Current Coordinating Commission merely reviews individual institutions' budgets and passes such requests along with comments.

The District Administrative Services study is aimed at determining the role, function, number and present needs of district administrators of elementary and secondary education. A special subcommittee has conducted on-site visits to various schools, interviews with district personnel and demographic information compiled through computer runs.

Another subcommittee has concentrated efforts on educational opportunities available in Cambridge and Fairbault for deaf and blind students presently enrolled in state institutions. Cooperative efforts included working with the Department of Public Welfare, the Education Department and the Senate Education subcommittee on Special Education in state institutions.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Norbert Arnold)



### Subcommittees:

*Education; Welfare-Corrections; State Departments I; State Departments II; State Departments III and Semi-State Affairs; Claims*

The interim work of the Senate Finance committee centered around preparation of fiscal information regarding the 1975 Session — in other words, where all the money came from, and where it will go between 1975 and 1977.

Committee members are anxious to review the state budget with an eye to improving administrative procedure and state department budget presentations. Recommendations will be made during the '76 Session.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Edward Gearty)



### Subcommittees:

*Government Structure; State Boards and Commissions; State Employees; Pensions and Retirement.*

State Boards — State Commissions — State Agencies, all essential to an efficient state government, nevertheless underwent scrutiny this interim by the State Boards and Commissions subcommittee. Legislation is now being readied which will alter the status and function of many boards and commissions.

Of major import is a proposed reorganization bill. Authored by Senator Robert North (DFL-St. Paul), it proposes either abolishing or transferring powers of some 18 state boards.

A technical bill, also authored by North, would abolish a number of non-operative boards and commissions. It also speaks to the number of advisory commissions that can be created under state agencies without statutory authorization. In all, some 32 boards and commissions may be affected.

Other subcommittees busied themselves with proposed legislation to open up the appointment process by making more evident, through publications, etc., available vacancies in state government; legislation which would regularize the

procedure for issuing executive orders; and various administration and personnel legislation.

The Housing Finance subcommittee also met several times this interim. A proposal to create an oversight commission of five or so members is probable — this to ensure that the New York financial fiasco does not become a reality in Minnesota.

Government Structure subcommittee members met several times during the interim to hear testimony on a proposed Department of Transportation bill. The subcommittee recently passed the bill which will now go to the full Governmental Operations committee for a hearing later this month.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Alec Olson)

**Subcommittees:** none



Local Government committee members traveled outstate this interim to hear testimony from several of the states' 12 Regional Development Commissions. Commission personnel testified about problems they encounter when working with municipalities to learn what federal funding is available. The

Regional Development Commissions also coordinate activities between local, county, state and federal units of government.

Members are also looking at ways to write legislation that will accommodate special interests of counties brought to the committee each Session. Several counties have indicated a desire to establish their own personnel departments to help in this matter.

## METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator John Chenoweth)

**Subcommittees:**

*Operations and Structure; Land Use and Physical Development; Metropolitan Governments*



Metro and Urban Affairs was one of the busiest committees this interim. Land Use and Physical Development subcommittee members traveled to Anoka, Washington and Dakota counties to meet with local officials

and interested citizens about the future of land-use planning in the seven-county metropolitan area. The Comprehensive Planning bill is scheduled for an early hearing by the full committee.

A joint Senate-House subcommittee on Sports Facilities met several times to discuss and gather testimony on a proposed new stadium for the metro area. Meetings this month, according to committee chairman, John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul) should produce a recommendation for legislative policy regarding construction of a new stadium.

Other activities included committee review of the Metropolitan Transit Commission and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.

## HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator George Conzemius)



**Subcommittees:**

*Health; Corrections; Welfare; Adult Corrections; Special Subcommittee on Institutional Closings; Corrections/Secure Mental Health.*

Interim activities revolving around four select subcommittees have kept members busy since early June.

At time of publication, the State Prison Investigation Committee was about to release its final report which will recommend changes in the state corrections system. Meeting jointly with the House, the committee delved into a number of serious problems seemingly inherent in our prison system.

Another packet of legislative proposals is expected from an exhaustive investigation of the state's nursing homes. The Nursing Homes select subcommittee held over 40 hours of hearings during the interim (see story, p. 2)

Other select subcommittees held a number of meetings to study medical malpractice in the state — and its relation to hospital medical insurance — and determinate sentencing (see cover story).

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Jack Davies)



**Subcommittees:**

*Judicial Administration; Public Law Reform; Private Law Reform; Criminal Law and Corrections; Privacy; Revisor's Bill*

Although the full Judiciary Committee did not meet during the interim, committee members served on a number of select subcommittees and committees. Recommendations on priority issues such as determine sentencing, medical malpractice, prison reform and nursing homes will pass through the Judiciary Committee this Session.

## LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Baldy Hansen)



**Subcommittees:**

*Commerce and Insurance; Labor; Regulated Industries;*

Labor and Commerce committee members devoted time this interim to studying Workmen's Compensation rates and how they compare to those in other states. Since employers' rates are generally higher in Minnesota, the committee is attempting to determine what factors make this so. Also under investigation is the method, computation and status of how rates are determined.

Another important matter is the depleted unemployment compensation fund and what to do about it. Committee hearings, which began in December have focused on the current status of the fund, projected funding requirements, the Minnesota benefit schedule and a number of alternative methods to raise the necessary revenue to support the fund.

According to committee chairman, Baldy Hansen (DFL-Austin), "although the fund is depleted, the available federal assistance is in the form of non-interest loans, which means we can temporarily rely on federal aid with no financial

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

penalty to the state."

The committee also looked at possible legislation on unit pricing and an electric fund transfer.

### NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Roger Moe)



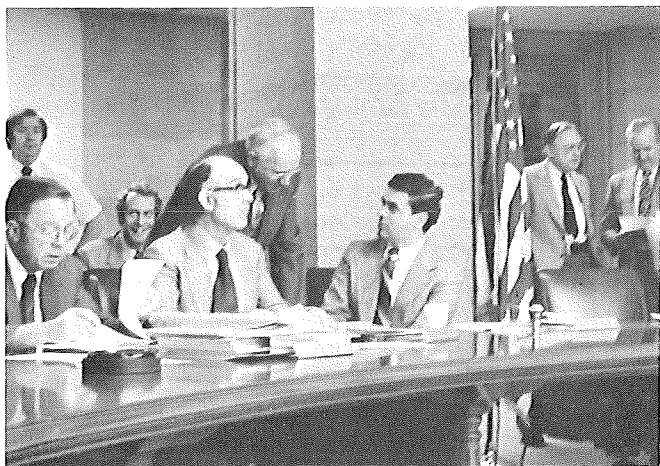
**Subcommittees:**

*Agriculture; Game and Fish; Public Lands; Water Resources; Environmental Protection;*

Environmental legislation should predominate this Session. Several bills — most notably legislation to limit copper-nickle mining — are in the works. Essentially, the copper-nickle bill would prohibit the operation and construction of open-pit mining in the state, prohibit nickel-smelters, and disallow copper-nickel mining within 5 miles of the Boundary Water Canoe Area.

Legislation is also being prepared which would ban activities such as snow-mobiling, mining, lumber concerns, etc. in the BWCA area.

Other interim studies may produce bills to prohibit the use of aerosol spray cans; technical changes in the Environmental Impact Statement; and another attempt to pass a returnable container bill.



Before Sports Facilities Subcommittee meeting, Senators Ed Gearty, Bill Kirchner and Bob North.

### TAXES AND TAX LAWS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Tony Perpich)

**Subcommittees: none**



this Session.

While the bulk of tax legislation was completed during the '75 Session, committee members are keeping close tabs on local units of government to ensure that tax reductions are passed on to the state's homeowners and renters. Some modification of the circuit-breaker provision in the tax bill is probable

This Session the committee most likely will focus on tax incentives as a means to encourage energy conservation.

### TRANSPORTATION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Roger Laufenburger)



**Subcommittees:**

*Highways; Elections; Veterans' Affairs and General Legislation;*

Two full committee hearings and several subcommittee meetings highlighted interim work for the Transportation and General Legislation committee.

The committee heard testimony from the Highway Department in July relative to noise barriers in the metropolitan area. In December, members discussed possible action on a '73 law that became effective this year and raised the gross weight tax on campers to \$15.

The Highways subcommittee held six meetings in outstate Minnesota and once in the metropolitan area to discuss road and bridge needs as well as other transportation issues.

Several bills were heard by the Elections subcommittee including legislation which would provide for a presidential primary. It was defeated by the subcommittee in October. Two other key bills which would have set all school district elections for November in odd-numbered years; and provision for a uniform municipal election day in November of odd-numbered years were also defeated.

Subcommittee members are expected to continue hearings on a bill which provides for ballot rotation by party designation.

Senate Public Information Office  
Room B14 — State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Paul, MN.  
Permit No. 2326

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY  
645 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please keep us informed of any changes in address. This is necessary to update our mailing list. If you have changed or plan to change address in the near future, please send the new address to our office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Senate Public Information Office  
Room B29 — State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155