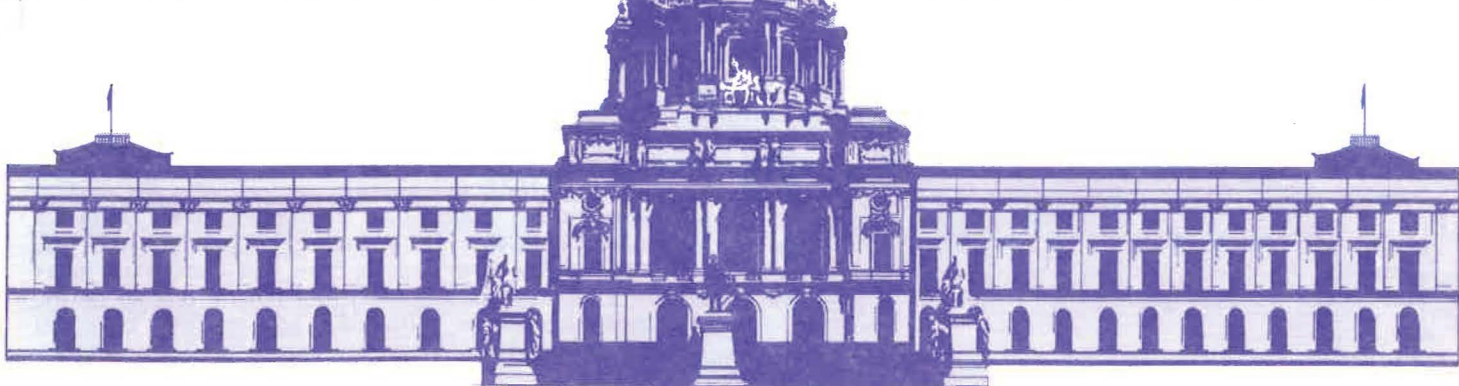


SENATE PERSPECTIVE '76



VOL. 2, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 18, 1976

SENATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

In Senate-House committees

STADIUM PROPOSAL TO BE DECIDED SOON

With only about 5 weeks remaining in the 1976 Legislative Session, the push is on to resolve the question of a new sports stadium for the Twins, Vikings and Gophers. And a special Senate-House subcommittee, which has studied the issue for months, decided recently that it is time for both houses to meet the issue head-on.

The current stadium proposal (and there have been many) calls for construction of a 65,000 seat, multi-purpose facility at the industry-square site in downtown Minneapolis. Estimated cost of the new stadium is set at \$46.5 million.

Although subcommittee members have not openly disagreed about the need for a new stadium, questioning on financing should spark some lively debate in both Senate and House committees.

Senator Robert North (DFL-St. Paul), a strong supporter of the proposal, believes that anyone who reads and understands funding for the stadium will agree that no burden of financing will fall on the shoulders of homeowners. In fact, all subcommittee members have been adamant that property-tax revenues not be used to finance the new facility.

The new sports facility would be financed through the sale of general obligation revenue bonds and a new 4-percent hotel-motel tax. One-half of the monies generated by the tax would go back to contributing municipalities, and the other one-half to a Parks-Arts-and Recreation Commission earmarked

to operate and administer funding for the stadium. It is expected that \$2.6 million would be raised in just the first year.

According to North, "it is likely that operating costs will increase each year, but not at a rate greater than the cost of admission to events. By the time the stadium opens, \$10.5 million should be available to pay off 2 or even 3 years of stadium costs."

It is also expected that a \$9.5 million reserve fund should be built up by 1981 to pay off stadium bonds if projected revenues fall short. Money collected the first year from the hotel-motel tax would be placed in the general reserve fund. In the second year, one-half would go to finance arts and cultural activities. In the third year, up to three-fourths could be allotted for the

arts if the stadium was, indeed, paying for itself.

"No matter how you look at the figures," says North, "homeowners will not pay for a new stadium. Our current figures do not even include additional revenue from a future soccer team, between \$10 and \$15 million recovered by the sale of land at the present Bloomington site, and first year revenues through ticket sales and other events."

The stadium bill will be scheduled for hearings soon by the Senate Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee chaired by Senator John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), and the House Local and Urban Affairs committee chaired by Representative Tom Berg (DFL-Minneapolis).

A Look Inside

- Stillwater Prison Report □ Opening Day
- Looking Back — An Historical Perspective
- Senate Committee Corner □ A new HECB
- Appointments □ Calendars □ Stadium Prospects

.....LOOKING BACK.....

An Historical Perspective



Joseph Rolette

Joseph Rolette "King of the Border"

Joseph Rolette (1820-71) was born at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He was the son of Jean Joseph Rolette, who controlled the Upper Mississippi Outfit of the American Fur Company, and of Jane Fisher Rolette, whose ancestry included four generations of French and Indian fur traders in the Minnesota-Wisconsin region. "Young Joe" was educated in New York, but his heritage drew him back to the upper Mississippi, and he was employed by Henry H. Sibley in 1843 to assist in setting up a fur post at Pembina on the international border. There he made his home until his death. He organized the cart brigades that traveled the Red River trails to bring furs and buffalo robes to St. Paul. He represented the Pembina district in the territorial legislature, 1853-55, and in the territorial council, 1856-57. He sat in the constitutional convention, and he continued as a member of the senate during the first state legislature, 1857-58, although it was well known that his place of residence (on the west bank of the Red River) was outside the new state boundaries.

Rolette's most memorable legislative act was his disappearance during the 1857 session with the enrolled copy of a bill moving the territorial capital from St. Paul to St. Peter. For a week he remained in hiding, reappearing with the bill only as his frustrated fellow members adjourned. He was jovial, generous, flamboyant, hard-drinking, and hard-living. His 400-mile winter treks to attend the legislature were accomplished either by dog sled or on foot, and he never missed a session. A contemporary described him as "a man of character who asserts himself always, whatever the right or wrong of the assertion. Of unfailing good spirit, brimful of humor . . . sticking to his belief in a breezy, healthy way, and believing first and always in Joe Rolette."

Next issue: IGNATIUS DONNELLY; The Sage of Nininger

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE STATE PRISON AT STILLWATER. YEAR 1891

Prison reports were simpler then.

Numbering 19 pages, the 1891 Stillwater Prison investigation focused on allegations that prison labor was competing with outstate labor. In answering these charges, the committee found that "it all results from some false ideas and notions that people gather from superficial thinkers, and which have no foundation to the real facts involved."

In support of this conclusion, the committee reported that "if all prisoners in the United States (60,000 according to the 1880 census) were applied to the single industry of making boots and shoes, it would not affect the market price of the manufactured product to any perceptible degree, nor the number of men outside the prisoners that would be engaged in the same occupation."

Addressing more general philosophies

Editors note:

This is the first in a series of profiles on prominent figures and interesting events in the history of the Minnesota State Senate. Features this month include Senator Joseph Rolette (1820-1871) and the not quite-so-famous prison investigation of 1891. We are indebted to Mr. Burt Cannon of the Minnesota Historical Society for his research assistance.

of prison labor, the special committee concluded that "the public sentiment that seems to demand that a man who is engaged in a gainful occupation before he commits a crime shall not be permitted to labor upon any occupation after he has committed it is not deserving of any consideration whatsoever . . . no reformation of a prisoner's character is likely to be affected unless he is taught habits of industry. Idleness and vice are almost always found walking hand in hand, while industry and virtue are rarely separated."

The 1891 report revealed that the highest average number of prisoners incarcerated at Stillwater was 412 during the year 1886, and that the average expense per prisoner was \$240.00 a year.

Recommendations forwarded

Prison Report Critical of Security & Administration

Consider the evidence: 19 public hearings; 2,500 pages of transcribed testimony; 110 interviews with prison staff; and 44 interviews with persons outside the prison system including penal experts and former inmates.

This rather imposing testimony was considered during more than six months of investigation by the joint Senate-House committee on Minnesota State Prisons. This month the committee released its findings and recommendations.

In an official summary, the report concluded that adequate security has not been provided at Stillwater Prison for inmates or staff, and that the basic responsibility for this inadequacy rests with prison administration.

The report also cited "new forces" emerging which influence the style of prison life and add to the problem. Among these are new legal standards imposed by the courts; inmate groups organizing for change; political groups seeking to radicalize those in prison; and community groups which have said, "Open up — we want to bring the life of the community to those in prison."

A second major conclusion of the report focuses on the need for additional facilities to house up to fifty percent of inmates currently at Stillwater. According to committee counsel, Bernard Becker, there is a need for both a medium security facility and a small minimum security building. Currently, inmates, regardless of the severity of their crime, are packed away together resulting in hardened criminals interacting with the rest of the prison population.

According to the report, Stillwater does not even come close to fulfilling what still remains one of its statutory obligations — rehabilitation. The summary points out that treatment programs are almost non-existent; education is underfunded and underplanned; medical and dental services are inadequate; and recreation is without a central purpose of direction and without sufficient funding.

In dealing with these and other findings, the committee report sets forth 177 recommendations ranging from security to legal services for inmates. Included are recommendations to:

- improve supervision of staff members and better communication lines between supervisors and staff
- separate dangerous and assaultive prisoners from the general population through the use of separate cell halls or sections of cell halls
- have the Bureau of Criminal Apprehensions investigate all criminal activities
- provide for the Department of Corrections to carefully analyze a prison's goals within the context of departmental policy
- provide a program encouraging family visiting at the prison
- make sure that the ultimate administrative responsibility rests with the warden.

It is likely that the legislature will take up the matter of new facilities once the Department of Corrections begins to initiate several of the proposed recommendations.

Library Head Named

Mrs. Linda Wallace has been named the new director of the Legislative Reference Library. The Legislative Coordinating Commission selected Mrs. Wallace, formerly with the University of Minnesota library, to succeed acting director Stephen Plumb.

Mrs. Wallace was selected from 14 applicants for the position at a meeting held Wednesday, January 14. Stephen Plumb has been appointed assistant director and will continue his duties as reference librarian.

Gove, Millhone Approved

In session, February 5, the Senate approved Governor Anderson's appointments of Peter Gove as director of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and John Millhone as director of the State Energy Agency.

Gove will replace Grant Merritt who resigned last April. He was approved on a 57 to 5 roll-call vote.

Millhone, former Iowa Energy Commission director, was approved by a unanimous vote.



PCA Director, Peter Gove



Energy Director, John Millhone

Opening Day: Jan. 27, 1976

Senate President Alec Olson (Spicer)



Senator Clarence Purfeerst (Faribault)



Senator Harmon Ogdahl (Mpls.)



Senator John Bernhagen (Hutchinson) wore his grandfather's derby and tails on opening day as a bicentennial commemoration. At right is Senator Arnulf Ueland (Mankato).



The Minnesota State Senate convened the second half of the Legislature's 69th session on Tuesday, Jan. 27th. Although the constitution would allow the Legislature to meet for 63 days, until May 17th, the Senate is not expected to meet beyond April 1st.



Senator Roger Moe (Ada) and his brother, Rep. Donald Moe (St. Paul) on opening day.



Senator Ralph Doty (Duluth) reacted to the remarks of a witness at a subcommittee meeting.

Committees anticipate busy remaining weeks

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 limited debate, committee members approved a bill which would give the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) authority to assemble and approve or disapprove education operating and capital improvement budgets before passing them on to the legislature (see story, p.8). Other legislation okayed includes a bill to allow a student or recent graduate to be a voting member of the University Board of Regents and a measure creating student associations at vocational-technical institutions.

According to committee chairman, Jerome Hughes, members will now turn their attention to recommendations from a special ad hoc citizens advisory task force regarding local incentives for early teacher retirement in the state. Also under study are the accounting procedures of the state's school districts. Further consideration of special education funding for Faribault's deaf and blind is expected. Another bill to be considered deals with special programs for urban schools.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Norbert Arnold)



Subcommittees:

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

Several committee bills are in the works outlining ways to simplify and clarify the legislative appropriations process and to increase legislator knowledge and control of state spending. Specifically, bills deal with revision of budget documents; language used in appropriation bills; and the reduction of standing, open and revolving appropriations.

Committee members will also begin meeting regularly to consider legislation passed out of other standing committees.

The building subcommittee is scheduled to meet every Monday and Wednesday for the next four weeks to consider bonding requests from various state departments.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Edward Gearty)



Subcommittees:

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

Two major pieces of legislation have been approved by the Governmental Operations committee. One, now in Finance, sets up an oversight commission to investigate federal and state funding programs for housing projects and to review and monitor housing finance agency operations and procedures. Hopefully, the commission will help guard against impending fiscal crises which now plague some cities like New York. Members also gave their approval to departmental status for the vocational rehabilitation divi-

sion of the department of education.

Looking ahead, legislators plan to tackle a complex reorganization bill which affects some 32 state boards and commissions. Other proposals sure to draw attention include judicial and executive pay raises, and a measure to set up a van pooling program for state employees.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator George Conzemius)



Subcommittees:

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

Both subcommittee and special committee recommendations in a number of areas promise to keep committee members busy for the remainder of the Session. Legislation that provides for determinate sentencing for convicted felons passed the committee after only one hearing.

A number of bills dealing with nursing home regulations and medicaid reimbursement policies are now in committee. The recommendations are the result of select committees of both houses which have spent hours poring over records and testimony.

Legislators also face medical malpractice insurance legislation — a problem especially serious for hospitals and medical specialists.

Lawmakers may also be asked to consider measures which provide for two new facilities to house up to 50% of the current Stillwater prison population.

LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Baldy Hansen)



Subcommittees:

Commerce and Insurance; Labor; Regulated Industries;

A number of measures have already passed the Labor and Commerce committee and are awaiting final Senate action. Legislators approved a bill which creates a 15-member study commission to study factors affecting jobs and business in the state including taxation, pollution control, environmental regulations, transportation, energy consumption and incentives for new industry and activities of the state department of economic development.

Also before the committee is legislation which alters public utility rates. In addition, unit-pricing legislation and a measure to raise usury rates to free mortgage monies are awaiting hearings.

The committee is also likely to take up a bill which would prohibit unemployment compensation benefits for persons who voluntarily quit their jobs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Alec Olson)



Subcommittees: none

At recent meetings, the Local Government Committee approved bills which would allow counties, on a voluntary basis, to set up personnel departments and establish subordinate service districts. Both measures may help lighten the load of special interest legislation the committee must handle each year.

(continued on next page)

Committee Corner

(continued from page 6)

An important measure which would affect municipal bonding rates is currently before the committee. The legislation calls for no maximum to be placed upon the rate of interest that an issuer might agree to pay on bonds advertised at public sales. Bonds sold privately could not exceed the maximum 7% rate.

Another measure would permit building T.V. translators in outstate Minnesota.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Jack Davies)

Subcommittees:

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



At time of publication, Judiciary committee members were considering the determine sentencing bill already passed by Health, Welfare and Corrections. The bill is expected to pass to the Senate floor soon.

Bills are also before the committee dealing with harsher penalties and mandatory health programs for persons convicted on DWI charges.

Committee members have already approved legislation dealing with landlord and tenant rights.

METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator John Chenoweth)

Subcommittees:

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



An important comprehensive planning bill which would require local units of government in the seven-county metropolitan area to adopt land use and public utility plans consistent with an over-all plan by the Metropolitan Council passed to the Senate floor. The House has already approved a similar measure.

In coming weeks, substantial time should be devoted to discussing and debating the merits of a new stadium. A joint-Senate-House subcommittee recently recommended that a proposal for a multi-purpose stadium in downtown Minneapolis be referred to both Senate and House committees.

Committee members are also scheduled to take up the

question of a solid waste disposal system for the metropolitan area. Another measure would set up a commission to study the possible merging of the Duluth and Superior Port Authorities.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Roger Moe)

Subcommittees:

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



Thus far the committee has approved a \$300 thousand appropriation for the Minnesota Historical Society for the completion of the Minnesota Valley Restoration Project and measures which authorize fishing and moose hunting seasons.

Members are scheduled to hear several important bills soon. One would provide tax breaks to help young farming families purchase farms in the state. Other legislation will deal with the drainage controversy in rural areas. If the House approved returnable container legislation (mandatory deposit on cans), the committee might also give that issue another go-around.

Environmental issues include a bill that prohibits commercial development in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA); a measure that regulates the use of pesticides and brings the state into compliance with federal EPA standards; and legislation that would mandate that manufacturers of spray cans using fluorocarbons label products as such.

TAXES AND TAX LAWS COMMITTEE

(chairman, Senator Tony Perpich)

Subcommittees: none



Commissioner of Revenue Arthur Roemer recently addressed the Taxes and Tax Laws committee and explained certain problems and intricacies of the circuit-breaker provision in the omnibus tax bill passed last Session. The committee continues to keep close tabs on local units of government to ensure that tax savings are passed on to homeowners and renters.

Further modifications in the circuit-breaker should guarantee rent credits for certain senior citizens who live in subsidized housing.

Pending legislation also would provide tax breaks for businesses and private homeowners who adopt solar-energy saving devices.

(continued on page 8)

Senate Committee Hearing Schedule

	Committee	Room	Hour		Committee	Room	Hour
Monday	Natural Resources and Agriculture	118	8-10 a.m.	Thursday	Governmental Operations	112	8-10 a.m.
	Governmental Operations	112	8-10 a.m.		Education	118	10-12 noon
	Education	118	10-12 noon		Transportation and General Legislation	112	10-12 noon
	Transportation and General Legislation	112	10-12 noon		Finance	120	2-4 p.m.
	Finance	120	2-4 p.m.		Taxes and Tax Laws	15	2-4 p.m.
	Taxes and Tax Laws	15	2-4 p.m.	Friday	Rules and Administration	118	8 a.m. or on call
Tuesday	Health, Welfare, and Corrections	112	8-10 a.m.		Health, Welfare, and Corrections	112	8-10 a.m.
	Local Government	118	8-10 a.m.		Local Government	118	8-10 a.m.
	Metropolitan and Urban Affairs	118	10-12 noon		Metropolitan and Urban Affairs	118	10-12 noon
	Labor and Commerce	112	10-12 noon		Labor and Commerce	112	10-12 noon
	Judiciary	118	2-4 p.m.		Judiciary	118	2-4 p.m.
	Natural Resources and Agriculture	118	8-10 a.m.		On Call	Committee on Committees	On all

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(continued from page 7)

TRANSPORTATION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE



(chairman, Senator Roger Laufenburger)

Subcommittees:

Highways; Elections; Veterans' Affairs and
General Legislation;

A major bill which creates a new state Department of Transportation passed out of committee early this Session and is now before the Finance committee.

Members are scheduled to tackle legislation which alters the gas-tax measure passed last year in relation to the moratorium on interstate routes, noise barriers and the question of a constitutional amendment on future gas tax proceeds.

Other issues before the committee include a bridge bonding bill, and a number of election bills dealing with ballot rotation and permanent voter registration.

Higher Education Coordinating Board

...A MOVE TOWARD EFFICIENCY

Anyone who is looking for a large number of big, controversial bills this Session is likely to be disappointed. Well, there are a few, but if one takes the time to sort through legislation now in Senate committees, it is obvious that legislators are taking a hard look at state government with an eye to making it more accountable and efficient.

In addition to a host of bills which reorganize the many boards and commissions in the state, one of the more interesting proposals addresses the question of how best to deal with budget requests from our higher educational institutions. Each year, the Governor and the Legislature must grapple with individual budget and capital improvement appropriations. Of course, the Senate and House finance committees usually end up with a different set of figures; complicated all the more by another set forwarded from the Governor's office. It all seems to work out in the end, but only after a lot of talking and a lot of compromising.

To remedy this, Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul), and Senators Rolf Nelson (I-R-Golden Valley) and Jerry Anderson (DFL-North Branch) are authoring a bill which would

empower the current Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to approve, disapprove or modify all requests by the U of M Board of Regents, the State University Board, and State Board for Community Colleges, before passing such requests on to the legislature.

"It is simply a move to realize greater efficiency," says Coleman. "Dealing with individual budgets and capital improvement requests each year is a very complicated task for part-time citizen legislators. The HECB should be able to forward over-all recommendations before we, as legislators, decide on appropriations."

Currently, the HECB, which can only review and comment on budget requests, is composed of 11 members appointed by the Governor. Under Coleman's bill, membership would be increased to 15. The Governor would appoint twelve public members (one from each Congressional District), and three representatives would be appointed by each of the higher education systems. In addition, the Executive Director of the Private College Council would serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) member.

Although the HECB would be granted additional powers under the bill, the

legislature would continue to exercise final authority in all funding measures. Any higher educational institution displeased with HECB recommendations would have an opportunity to present its case before the legislature.

Both Senate and House versions of the bill have already passed their respective education committees and will be heard by Governmental Operations committee members before final floor action.

Corrections, Additions

The following names should be added to the committee roster which appeared in **Senate Perspective**, January 14.

EDUCATION — Nancy Brataas

LABOR AND COMMERCE —

Nancy Brataas, Winston Borden

METROPOLITAN AND URBAN

AFFAIRS — J. A. Josefson

Due to a typographical error, the caption under the picture on page 5 of the January 14 issue should read Senator Rolf Nelson, not Ralph Nelson.

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