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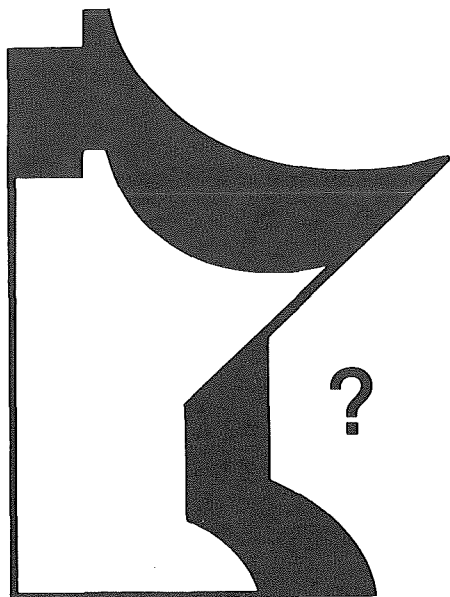
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Perspectives

A Publication about the Minnesota State Senate



The Future: Through a glass darkly



**"Everyone is an amateur
on the future."**

— Frances Naftalin
Co-chairperson
Commission on Minnesota's Future

The Cover

Gov. Rudy Perpich delivered his first budget message on Jan. 25 to a joint session of the House and Senate. Seated beside the Governor are the Constitutional Officers. Behind him are House Speaker Martin Sabo and Senate President Edward Gearty.

by David Peterson

Senators and Representatives, other state officials and guests, all gathered for two mornings early in January to consider Minnesota's future. Presented was a program that included a combination of hopes and fears, problems and solutions, ideas and actions.

The program, called Minnesota Horizons II, was a joint presentation of the State Planning Agency and the Commission on Minnesota's Future. The idea, said Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman in his introductory remarks, was born in 1975 and was an attempt to give all legislators a common data base and get everyone looking at some of the same problems. Horizons I, held last session, was widely acclaimed a success and so the planning went ahead for Horizons II.

Coincidentally, it was also time for the Commission on Minnesota's Future to make its report to the Legislature. The Commission, authorized by the 1973 Legislature, was charged with these duties: "to prepare, for consideration by the governor and the legislature, a proposed growth and development strategy; to prepare reports assembling relevant information regarding the state's future; to examine the long range plans of state departments and agencies, including the University of Minnesota, state colleges and junior colleges, and to assess their possible impact on state growth and development; and to report to the governor and the legislature at regular intervals on the development implications of major state decisions."

Not a small task by any means. The commission was to consist of 40 citizens appointed by the governor and was to be assisted by a small staff and by the state planning agency. It was to have reports of all state agencies available to assist in its task.

It did not take long, Frances Naftalin reported in her opening remarks, for the commission to realize that it would have to proceed a bit differently than such commissions normally do. For one thing it was realized that so many of the problems and possible developments were so totally interwoven that it would be impossible to approach individual problems on a separate basis.

Watchwords & world systems

Two watchwords soon emerged: interdependence and holism. Bucky Fuller and Allen Toffler would have been delighted — for futurists were finally getting through. Again and again those two words ap-

peared in the presentation. But perhaps this is not surprising — for the two terms are fundamental to what futurists have been saying for years.

Interdependence refers to the increasing degree to which the affairs of one state or region or nation are linked to another. It is Bucky Fuller's "spaceship Earth". The need for holism is related: the holistic approach must be taken, commission members argued, because it is growing increasingly impossible to separate out single issues or single areas.

Alternative futures

Noting that there are basically two ways of reacting to change, Roland Comstock, Vice President for Communications at NSP, warned that we must begin to control the future — to mold it rather than to react to various developments. Too often change occurs and we react, Comstock said. The alternative is new gain, new understanding and then direct the changes, he argued.

Comstock offered these four observations:

1. New and important changes are coming.
2. Change is holistic — it affects all parts of the whole.
3. We **can** — by our efforts — make a difference.
4. Tools do exist to help us in shaping the future.

Economic trends

Minnesota's economy will become more and more a microcosm of the national economy in the future, with agriculture making up a smaller percentage of the work force. While agriculture will shrink in importance, it will not shrink as quickly as it does nationally, commission members told the Senators and others assembled. With the growth in the labor force created by the baby boom peak of 1959 just now coming of work age, and with more and more women entering the work force, it will be necessary to create 416,000 new jobs by 1990.

And there may be more difficult poverty problems — for while the total "pie" will be larger, there will be more demanding a share and so the individual shares will be smaller. But one hopeful sign was seen: Minnesota has a history of "homegrown" corporations — entrepreneurship has created jobs in Minnesota well beyond what could be expected on the average with a total of 55,000 job creating organizations now existing in the state.

Future — to page 5

Seasoned Senate veteran Harmon Ogdahl (I-R-Mpls) stops to confer with Sen. Steven Engler (I-R-Randolph), who, at 27, is one of the Senate's more "junior" members.



Senators' profiles disprove myths

This year's Senate is young and there aren't that many lawyers . . .

by Karen Clark

When most people think about legislators, particularly members of a "Senate", they very probably have two stereotypes in mind — first that lawyers predominate, and second, that government is still run by dozing octogenarians.

The 1977 Minnesota Senate proves both stereotypes wrong.

Businessmen, not lawyers, are the most common vocational group comprising roughly 37 per cent. Lawyers are the second largest group — 20 per cent — but they are followed closely by farmers with 16 per cent and educators with 13.5 per cent. All other occupations account for the remaining 13.5 per cent. While attorneys are still over represented in terms of their corresponding percentage of the total population they are out-numbered by the non-attorneys by a margin of four to one.

Even more startling, however, is the age pattern of the current Minnesota Senate.

Only two senators are over age 60. The oldest is 65. Twenty-three senators — or over one third — are under age 35. Eight are under 30. Forty-nine senators are under 50 and only 17 are over 50. In fact, the average age in the Minnesota Senate is a youthful 42.

Another interesting statistical aspect of this youthful trend in legislators is that it is a state wide phenomenon. The under 35 group is evenly divided between urban and rural districts.

When asked about the age distribution of the Senate, Senator Jack Kleinbaum — at 59 the second eldest member of the DFL caucus — replied that he was very pleased with the current composition of the Senate, adding "I am impressed by the younger members of the Senate because they are so knowledgeable and well equipped to deal with the issues."

Senator Harmon Ogdahl of the I-R caucus commented on the age composition of this year's Senate saying that the younger members from outstate are "a reflection of the high degree of political sophistication reaching the rural areas". As an experienced Senator, Ogdahl also observed that this particular session would be of good use to the new younger members because "I sense a little bit of a 'go — slow' attitude generated by the leadership." — an attitude that will give new members time to study and become familiar with the activities of the Senate.

Two of the younger members of the Senate, Steve Engler of the Independent Republicans and Robert Benedict of the DFL, emphasized the lack of any "generation gap" or divisiveness across age groups in the Senate.

Benedict stated "the senior members have gone out of their way to make the younger Senators feel comfortable and to insure that all members will work as a team". And Engler commented that he thought any division in the Senate would be along more traditional lines such as party affiliation or rural — metropolitan divisions.

Benedict said that while the younger members might go out of their way sometimes to break tradition he felt that all the members of the Senate were reflections of their districts and were concerned about issues that cross the spectrum of age divisions.

Senator Engler echoed those remarks stating that the Senate needs the balance of diversity to accurately reflect the people of Minnesota.

The 1977 Minnesota Senate seems, then, to be a refreshing mixture of youthful energy and flexibility tempered by the wisdom and legislative know-how that comes with experience. Add to that the wide diversity of occupational backgrounds found among individual Senate members and it seems likely that the work done during the 70th Session will reflect the diversity of Minnesota itself. □

Capsule

Senate News Round-up

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, (DFL-Park Rapids), journeyed to St. Cloud, Wed. Jan. 12, for a joint meeting with the House Agricultural Committee to hear testimony on the controversial power line issue.

Other committee sessions have been devoted to overview presentations by state officials such as Agricultural Commissioner Jon Wefald, members of the State Planning Agency and members of the Environmental Quality Council.

The committee approved the appointment of Sandra Gardebring as director of the Pollution Control Agency on Thurs. Jan. 27.

At the Thurs. Feb. 3 meeting committee members heard a synopsis of several bills that have been introduced that deal with shade tree diseases and preservation. No action was taken since the legislation will be heard by a subcommittee first.

Commerce

The insurance and banking industries were spotlighted during the first meetings of the Senate Commerce Committee. (Chairman Sen. Robert Tessessen, DFL-Mpls.). Insurance Commissioner Heaton and Banking Commissioner Manpel outlined the organization and responsibilities of their departments. Representatives of each industry were called upon to make brief remarks about their segments of the banking and insurance industries.

The Commerce Subcommittee on Regulated Industries began hearings Thurs. Feb. 3 on a controversial utilities rate bill. The measure (S.F. 7), introduced by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would require differences in rates to be based on differences in the cost of providing services.

Education

The Education Committee, headed by Chairman Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), has devoted the first weeks of the session to a series of background presentations on issues related to education. Reports on Alternative Education, PER (Planning, Evaluating & Reporting), Educational Cooperative Service Units, Open Schools, Bilingual Education and Education for the Handicapped were just some of the topics heard.

An Education Subcommittee on School Aids has been studying the formulas used to determine state aid to school districts in a series of weekly meetings.

Elections

The newly formed Elections Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Gearty (DFL-Mpls.), met jointly with the House General Legislation Committee Thurs. Jan. 13 to hear a report by Ethical Practices Board Chairperson, Elizabeth Ebbott.

Tues. Jan. 25, Secretary of State Joan Grove outlined the responsibilities of her office in operating the Elections Division. The Elections Division oversees all the elections in the state.

Sen. Mike Menning (DFL-Edgerton) introduced a bill (S.F. 51), Tues. Feb. 1 that incorporated several of the Secretary of State's suggestions to clarify and amend existing election laws. The Committee approved the measure at the Thurs. Feb. 3 meeting.

Employment

Sen. Roger Laufenburger's (DFL-Lewiston) Employment Committee has devoted its meetings so far to overview presentations on the current economic and employment situation in Minnesota. Speakers have included representatives from state agencies, the University, and public and private employees organizations.

Energy and Housing

The Energy and Housing Committee has been primarily concerned with the state's energy emergency. Energy Agency Director John Millhone has given several presentations to the committee and to the Subcommittee on Energy. Chairman Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch) said that the fundamental issue facing the committee would involve how to change citizen attitudes toward energy consumption.

In the area of housing the committee devoted two meetings, Tues. Jan. 25 and Tues. Feb. 1, to hearing testimony from Jim Dlugosch, Director of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, about the activities and accomplishments of the agency.

Finance

Finance Committee Chairman Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) laid out a complete schedule for the completion of the committee's work

at its first meeting Wed. Feb. 2. Moe said he wanted to end all hearings by April 1, complete allocations by April 14 and complete full committee action on omnibus bills by or before April 20. Finance Commissioner Gerald Christenson then explained the current budget and the processes that were undertaken in its preparation.

General Legislation and Veterans Affairs

Members of the General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee, chairman Sen. Howard Olson (DFL-St. James), met Wed. Jan. 5 to discuss the aims of the committee and the types of legislation that would fall under the committee's jurisdiction.

Tues. Jan. 11 the committee heard representatives from the Department of Veteran's Affairs profile the operations of the department. Also at that meeting members discussed a bill that would remove the prohibition on state lotteries from the state constitution. The bill (S.F. 12), authored by Sen. Jack Kleinbaum (DFL-St. Cloud), was laid over by the committee.

Government Operations

The Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chenoweth (DFL-St. Paul), conducted a series of overview sessions during the month of January. Commissioners and agency heads profiled the activities of their departments.

At the meetings Tues. Feb. 1 and Wed. Feb. 2 the committee approved seven appointments to the Metropolitan Council and six others to various state boards.

Government Operations now includes metropolitan affairs which previously had been a separate committee.

Health, Welfare & Corrections

Health, Welfare & Corrections Committee members, led by Chairman George Perpich (DFL-Chisholm) toured several state agencies, such as the Minnesota Department of Health and the Department of Corrections, in order to become better acquainted with agency functions.

Tues. Jan. 25 the committee met to approve the appointments of Ms. Thaloyce Wells, Dr. Van S. Lawrence and Ms. Beverly Smerling to the Minnesota State Board of Health.

The Committee acted on two bills at the meeting Thurs. Feb. 3. The first measure (S.F. 21) to be passed was introduced by Sen. Myrton Wegener (DFL-Bertha) and would allow qualified Canadian doctors to practice in Minnesota. The second bill passed (S.F. 43) authored by Sen. Arnulf Ueland (I-R Mankato), extends handicapped parking privileges to those with temporary as well as permanent physical handicaps.

Judiciary

The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.), devoted their first meeting Jan. 5 to a discussion of recent Supreme Court decisions concerning Implied Consent License Revocations.

The committee met Mon. Jan. 24 to hear the final report of the Select Committee on the State Judicial System. State Supreme Court Justice Lawrence R. Yetka outlined major recommendations such as empowering the State Court Administrator to shift the workload among judicial districts and to put all courts on a continuous term.

Three bills were introduced at the Wed. Jan. 26 meeting. Sen. Marvin Hanson (DFL-Hallock) introduced S.F. 107, a bill that would establish definite guidelines for jurisdiction in child custody cases. The bill was laid over for several technical amendments. S.F. 48, relating to forfeited lands in Becker County was discussed by its author Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes) and Sen. Jack Davies introduced S.F. 70, a measure that would limit relitigation of judgments made in other states. Both bills were passed by the committee.

The Judiciary Subcommittee on Law Reform met Wed. Feb. 2 to hear testimony on a bill (S.F. 56) introduced by Sen. Gerry Sikorski (DFL-Stillwater) which would provide mandatory quality guarantees on all new homes constructed in Minnesota. The subcommittee recommended that the full committee pass the bill.

Local Government

The Local Government Committee (Chairman Myrton Wegener, DFL-Bertha) has also held a series of overview meetings with representatives of city, county and state agency representatives.

At the meeting Wed. Jan. 18 the committee passed its first bill of the session. The measure (S.F. 11) authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) would allow the city of Kenyon to finance a clinic with general obligation bonds rather than revenue bonds.

The mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis, George Latimer and Charles Stenvig, appeared before the committee Wed. Jan. 26 to profile each city's form of government and to emphasize their willingness to work closely with the legislature to deal with the unique problems that confront the state's largest urban areas.

Rules & Administration

The Rules and Administration Committee headed by Chairman Nicholas Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) met briefly Tues. Jan. 5 to organize the agenda for the first Senate session of the 70th Legislative session.

On Thurs. Jan. 13 the committee appointed the Subcommittee on Committees. That same day the subcommittee approved the appointment of senators to committees and commissions for the current legislative biennium.

The Rules and Administration Committee does not have a regularly scheduled meeting time, rather, the committee meets only when specific business arises.

Taxes and Tax Laws

The Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws, chaired by Sen. William McCutcheon (DFL-St. Paul), heard Commissioner Arthur Roemer describe the organization of the Revenue Department at the opening meeting of the committee Wed. Jan. 5.

The Tax Subcommittee on Income Tax has been holding a series of meetings to review the changes made by the Federal Tax Reform Act of 1976 and their impact on Minnesota Tax Laws. The subcommittee began work on the first draft of a bill that would alter the definition of gross income for tax purposes at the Wed. Feb. 2 meeting.

Transportation

The newly formed Transportation Committee (Chairman Sen. Clarence Purfeerst, DFL-Faribault) met Mon. Jan. 10 to hear representatives from the new Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) explain the reasons behind the department's reorganization.

Committee members then spent the next several meetings touring Transportation Department facilities.

Discussion at the Tues. Feb. 1 committee meeting centered on stricter speed law enforcement and the controversial "Fuzz-Buster" devices.

Future — from page 2

Back to the Capitol

After coffee and conversation, the fanciful flight to the future ended and the commission got down to its recommendations for the here and now. It happened easily — the line from the future to the present was clear and concise.

Bruce MacLaury, former President of the Federal Reserve Bank for the upper Midwest and co-chairperson with Mrs. Naftalin, presented "Strategies for State Government: Recommendations." The recommendations were divided into two groups — the first should be undertaken as quickly as possible in the opinion of the commission; the second group should be studied further before implementation. (The recommendations that follow are given in their report on pages 60-62.)

First, the establishment of a Public Policy Institute that would carry on future studies and policy analysis.

Second, the adoption of specific goals and objectives for Minnesota as a state.

Third, broad reorganization of state government to enable it to deal more effectively and efficiently with future needs.

Fourth, the development of long-range plans for all state agencies.

After further study, the commission suggested these changes also be considered:

First, the establishment of an "information clearinghouse" to provide more accurate, easily accessible, and consistent data to state officials and decision-makers.

Second, the adoption of some form of zero-based budgeting.

Third, the implementation of Sunset Laws that require agencies to expire after a charter time is passed (unless renewed by the legislature).

Fourth, the adoption of a unicameral (single body) legislature to speed up the legislative process.

Fifth, an even more radical suggestion — the adoption of a parliamentary form of government to eliminate the possible conflict between legislative and executive branches.

The last two suggestions were given with a smile and greeted by a few chuckles around the auditorium, for acknowledged political realities make their implementation less likely than the others. But who knows? As Mrs. Naftalin said, quoting Heraclitus earlier in the day, "Nothing is permanent except change."

Energy Energy Energy

Editor's note: The Senate leadership created a new Committee on Energy and Housing in December 1976. With the advent of "phase 2" of the energy crisis in January, that committee assumed instant importance. Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch)- chairs the committee and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope)-chairs the subcommittee on energy. **Perspectives** put a series of questions to each of them. The questions and their answers follow.

You said in your introductory remarks at the first Senate Energy and Housing Committee that one of your fundamental objectives would be to change public attitudes toward energy consumption. Specifically, what kinds of efforts do you envision being undertaken in this regard?

Senator Anderson: Mike Murphy of the Midwest Council recently testified before our committee. And he isn't too enthused about the idea but I see no reason why the Legislature can't appropriate some dollars to finance energy savings commercials. I believe some states are already doing this — Washington, I believe is one. I think that a lot of the immediate effect is going to have to come through mass media. It may be like what happened with adults smoking. I think six to ten year old kids talked to their parents and urged them to quit. Public service announcements urging people to turn off lights or not run the water all the time while brushing their teeth — I think this could help make the public more aware of the fact that the crisis is serious and we're wasting energy.

I think, you know, that we also have to do more through the educational process — in state universities and so on. I'd like to see a requirement that a course on energy conservation be required for certification of engineers and architects.

Finally, I think we will probably try to have funds appropriated to expand the educational programs currently undertaken by the State Energy Agency.

Senator Humphrey: I think the first thing in energy conservation that we have to understand is what has been happening. While we have achieved significant productivity increases in the industrial sector and thus actually lowered energy demand in relation to output, there has been a mushrooming at the end user stage. Look around your kitchen and you'll see what I mean. So I think energy conservation efforts have to focus on the consumer or end user. We've got to look at peak energy periods. Maybe we could encourage staggered work hours so that we could lengthen the demand periods and therefore lower the energy consumed during the peak. I think there's no doubt that the federal government has already es-

tablished that there must be standards of efficiency for appliances but there's some question as to when those standards will be promulgated. To the extent that there is delay, the State should move in.

People reacted to the last energy crisis temporarily but then seemed to forget and returned to their old patterns of big cars and big homes. Do you think that the severity of the current energy crisis will be enough to make people realize that per capita energy consumption in this country has got to be cut?

Senator Anderson: Yes, I do because now I think the handwriting is on the wall and it's quite evident that we have only 12 to 15 years lead time to develop alternatives because by that time our current reserves will have run out.

Senator Humphrey: People are definitely more sensitized. But the problem is that the really significant things we can do are well beyond the means of the individual consumer. How do we encourage on site goal gasification? That's going to be the primary energy source for the intermediate period — and how does the State encourage it? We also have to get people thinking about centralized energy facilities for a community. And these kind of things involve some fundamental attitude changes. I don't think a single cold winter is going to create that and so we have to continue public education.

A related question . . . One of the startling figures in the Report of the Commission on Minnesota's Future was this fact: Were the United States to rely solely on our proven reserves, our current petroleum supply would run out in only six years. As a responsible person in a responsible position, doesn't that frighten you? At present do we even have the necessary lead time to develop alternative energy sources?

Senator Anderson: Well, it seems to me that our whole national energy policy is based on trying to buy and use foreign oil precisely for that reason — to buy us the necessary lead time and to save our own limited resources. I'm convinced that this is what has been behind Kissinger's policies and I'm also convinced that maybe it hasn't been such a bad idea.

Senator Humphrey: From everything I've read it's not really a matter that we're going to run out of fuel supplies at a given time — it's our dependence upon petroleum that has to be changed. National studies done by the Joint Economic Commission of Congress estimate that there are still about two barrels in the ground for every one we've taken out but it's probably never going to be economically feasible to recover half of that. It's not so much a matter of

supply — the question is cost dependent, what we face are massively increasing costs. Then too, I'm not so sure we should be using current proven reserves as a measure — for current reserves are always expanding.

Clearly, much depends upon federal energy policy and legislation. But what can we in Minnesota do on our own?

Senator Anderson: One of our proposals is that we should lift the state sales tax on fuel oil and propane during the warm months between May 15 and September 15. This would provide an added incentive for people to buy at non-peak demand periods and increase our secondary storage capacity.

The State Energy Agency is also looking at possible underground storage in granite quarries near St. Cloud. The federal government is also interested in the site and the idea and there are important questions concerning what the respective roles of the state and federal government should be. A full three months state supply could be stored underground in one of the quarries — we use about four and a half million barrels monthly and the capacity would be about 15 million barrels.

There's also the questions of whether we should store crude oil or refined product — I tend to think it might be better to store crude because this would give us greater flexibility and we have the state refineries that could refine it according to what ever was needed at the time of use.

Senator Humphrey: Well, the State can certainly play an important role in encouraging energy conservation and I think we're doing that. I understand Gov. Perpich may request some legislation that would set minimum insulation standards for every new home built in Minnesota. But as your question suggests, the State of Minnesota has to live within national and international price structures and energy policies. A comprehensive federal policy is in the works and we have to complement it. But we've got good low-sulfur coal supplies close by in Montana and we've got to encourage plans to use that coal. And there are potential hydro electric sources that could be developed in Canada and perhaps there could be energy exchange across that border with Minnesota trading excess electrical energy in winter and Canada giving back its excess during the summer. We also need to develop long-range energy alternatives in a partnership with industry. We want SERI (Solar Energy Research Institute) in Minnesota and I support the Borden bill providing tax credits for solar energy investments. But those efforts are going to have a limited benefit over the next ten years. We can't expect that doing a few things with solar energy is going to solve the shortage problem.

Energy Energy Energy

What if the current cold is part of a long-range climatological change — as some experts contend? Do you intend to look at long-range weather forecasts and their impact on energy needs?

Senator Anderson: Yes, but we haven't done it yet. Also, we are going to be very interested to find out next August or September just how much fuel oil and other heating supplies are being allocated to Minnesota. That allocation is made by September 1. With that information and a computer program being developed to simulate energy consumption under varying weather conditions we should have some early indication next year of what the situation is going to be.

Senator Humphrey: Of course, the development of a national and statewide energy policy has to take long-range climatological estimates into account. But our problem this year was not just caused by cold weather — the cold just aggravated it. Even if we do have to curtail our energy consumption in the economy to provide more heating fuel, we can still maintain a reasonable level of growth.

Would you give three examples of legislation you think your committee might pass out to the full Senate?

Senator Anderson: Well, I've already mentioned several. This committee has only been in operation for one month now and we can't presume to have instant answers to so complicated a situation.

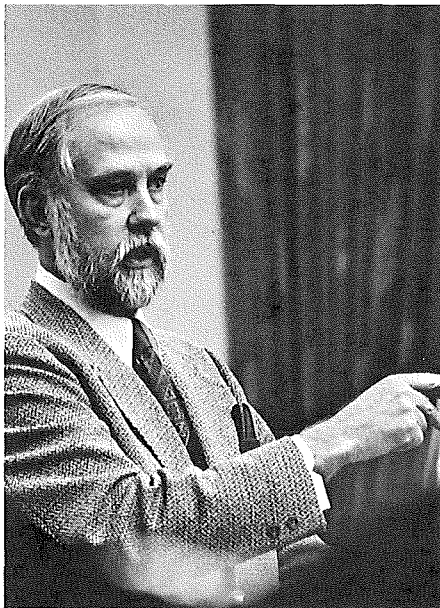
We've discussed increasing credits for housing insulation. Someone also suggested giving state tax credits for people who car pool or who live within a certain distance of where they work. One of the things we did wrong in the 1950's with highway building and so on was to encourage urban sprawl. Now we're beginning to see some of the consequences of that in terms of energy use per household.

There are a lot of good ideas that need to be looked into. Let me say in conclusion that we would welcome public input and any suggestions anyone may have.

Senator Humphrey: Generally, I think we're going to be looking at several objectives — promoting a comprehensive conservation program, creating long-range incentives for developing alternative energy sources, encouraging coal gasification, and developing incentives to encourage individual efforts. It's too early in the legislative session to point to specific measures yet. □



Sen. Jerald Anderson (DFL-North Branch), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Housing, questions a witness at a recent hearing.



Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III (DFL-New Hope) listens as Energy Agency Director John Millhone briefs the committee.

Sen. Roger Laufenberger (DFL-Lewiston), Chairman of the Senate Employment Committee, confers with a colleague about changes in the State's Unemployment Compensation Program. But Laufenberger's big job is to figure out how to *prevent* unemployment by creating 85,000 new jobs.



Employment: Where are those 85,000 jobs?

by Karen Clark

The employment issue is high on the list of both state and national priorities for 1977. President Carter has repeatedly pledged his administration to dealing with problems related to employment. Governor Perpich, in his State of the State address, declared that "The most important thing we have to do this year is to put people back to work".

The Minnesota Senate is also placing a strong emphasis on employment issues. And in order to deal thoroughly and efficiently with all the elements encompassed by employment issues, it has created a standing Committee on Employment chaired by Sen. Roger Laufenberger (DFL-Lewiston).

In the first weeks of the new session, the Employment Committee has attempted to gain a broad overview of the entire economic situation in Minnesota. Committee members feel that they would then be better able to deal with the complex problems of employment.

In addition to hearing speakers from state departments concerned with employment, the committee has also heard testimony from University of Minnesota faculty members and from representatives of labor and economic groups from all parts of the state. And, in keeping with the committee's goal of obtaining a thorough comprehension of Minnesota's economic climate, Sen. John Milton (DFL-White Bear Lake) will head a subcommittee which will undertake a total Economic Development Study of Minnesota.

Laufenberger stated that "the Employment Committee is one of the two key committees for this legislative session". He added, "We must have full employment or 85,000 jobs within the next two years to maintain economic viability in the state of Minnesota."

Key issues that will come before the committee and the Senate this session are those dealing with the creation of new jobs, putting the unemployment fund back on a sound financial basis, and determining the true business climate in Minnesota.

"We must find out if businesses are leaving the state and, if so, why," Laufenberger commented, adding "We must put this in perspective". It is obviously important from an employment standpoint to identify the factors that businesses regard as favorable and unfavorable in Minnesota.

Even though the unemployment figures for Minnesota are better than for the nation as a whole, the influx of women and young people into the labor market will be a severe test in the creation of new jobs. When asked about such jobs Sen. Laufenberger replied that the Committee will have to look at several possible alternatives. "We can look at concepts like FDR's Conservation Corps and WPA," he suggested. "I would rather see the government paying people for services rendered — and collecting taxes — instead of just paying them unemployment and welfare dollars that are tax free," he added.

The problem of the state's unemployment fund insolvency will be very difficult to resolve, according to Laufenberger. The committee has already heard several recommendations from speakers giving presentations, but specific measures have yet to be introduced and worked out by the committee.

Governor Perpich, in his Budget Message to the Legislature, conceded that the state's ability to deal with unemployment is limited. However, the new Employment Committee seems determined to do something to help provide job opportunities for Minnesotans.

Everything you wanted to know about Dutch Elm

(and were afraid to ask)

Editor's note: Eight bills have been introduced in the Minnesota Senate to deal with the expanding problem of Dutch Elm Disease. The bills vary in the amounts of spending involved (with the highest cost estimated at \$49 million). The bills also give varying emphasis to the reforestation aspect of the problem, something that promises to be as expensive as the removal of the diseased trees. The following article is adapted from a briefing paper prepared by Gary Botzek of Senate Research in October 1976. Because of space limitations, we have only reprinted the opening sections of the paper, "Dutch Elm Disease Facts and Figures."

What is Dutch Elm Disease?

Dutch Elm disease is a vascular disease, caused by a fungus technically called *Ceratomyces ulmi*. After being introduced into the water conducting vessels of the sapwood of an elm, the fungus spreads throughout the tree and together with by-products produced by the host tree is able to grow and prevent the uptake of water, causing the host tree to wilt and die.

The main carrier of the disease is the small European elm bark beetle, but the native elm bark beetle also spreads the disease. The bark beetles breed in dying and dead elm trees. The fungus grows and fruits abundantly in beetle galleries. Beetles emerging from these galleries carry the fungus on their bodies. They feed in the young twig crotches of healthy trees and, while feeding, deposit the fungus spores in the feeding wounds.

The average life expectancy of an American elm is 75-150 years, but Dutch Elm disease can bring them to the ground in 1-3 years.

There is presently no cure for Dutch Elm disease. Trees have no immunity system as do animals, therefore they do not build any resistance to diseases like Dutch Elm. Forty years of research have been unsuccessful in developing a cure.

History of Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch Elm disease was brought into the United States from Europe around 1930. Apparently, the fungus was carried across the Atlantic in elm logs imported for the purpose of making elm veneer in Ohio. These logs were host to the European bark beetle and were infected with the fungus. The bark beetles emerged from their breeding place and transferred the fungus:

back to elms in the neighborhood. The American bark beetle then picked it up and began to aid in the spread.

From Ohio, the disease quickly spread into the northeastern states and eastern Canada. Today the disease can be found in 40 of the 50 states. The disease was first spotted in Minnesota in 1961.

Elm Inventory

According to the latest figures put together by National Biocentric Inc. of St. Paul there are 4.9 million elms in the seven-county area. Of those 2.7 million or 56% are over 5 inches in diameter. 2.2 million or 44% are under 5 inches in diameter.

The remaining 80 counties of Minnesota are estimated to have 140 million elms.

History of Elm Losses

In 1961, eight Dutch elm disease cases were diagnosed as "positive" in Minnesota. By 1967, the number of positive cases had reached 136.

Elm losses in the seven-county area totaled 9,800 in 1974 and 27,100 in 1975. In 1976, losses were expected to reach 60,000.

It is important to keep in mind that these figures include mostly public elms reported to public agencies. No attempt has been made to assess the private property elm losses over the years. Due to the fact that millions of elms are located in outstate woods, forests, pastures, and on field front land it would be extremely difficult to save all the elms in some of these remote areas of the state. To date all efforts have consisted of establishing "control areas" — in effect, restricting elm control programs to residential municipalities only.

St. Paul Losses

St. Paul has about 130,000 elms which is 80% of its entire tree inventory. Since 1961, over 21,000 elm trees, or 17% of the total elm population, have been lost to Dutch Elm disease. These losses include 2,995 elms in 1975 and 15,100 in 1976. According to a study done by Dr. David French and Dr. Robert Shrum of the University of Minnesota, if a stricter control program is not instituted, 95% of St. Paul's elms will be gone by 1983.

Minneapolis Losses

Minneapolis has about 170,000 elms, which comprises 90% of the city's tree population. The city lost 1,700 elms in 1975 and was expected to lose another 3,500 in 1976. According to French and Shrum, under current control methods, 95% of Minneapolis' elms will be dead by 1989.

Bloomington Losses

The city of Bloomington has about 200,000 elms. Losses in 1976 are over 1,400; 431 on boulevards, and 1,010 on private property.

St. Cloud Losses

St. Cloud has about 20,000 elm trees. In 1976, 465 elms died, up from 64 in 1975. The St. Cloud situation illustrates the extent of the problem in outstate municipalities.

Projected Losses for 1977-78

Based on losses totaling 60,000 elms in 1976, elm losses are expected to reach 100,000 in 1977 and close to 200,000 in 1978 just in the metro area. Based on 1976 reported elm losses of 10,000 trees in outstate Minnesota, we are projecting losses of 17,000 in 1977 and 35,000 in 1978. The loss estimates assume no change in control programs. If beefed up sanitation methods are used, losses could be kept down somewhat, especially in 1978.

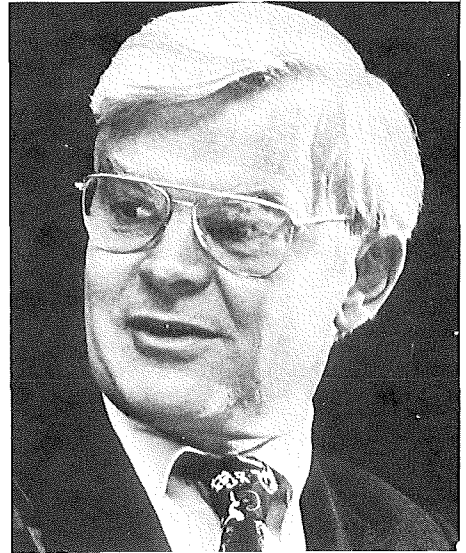
Based on rough elm inventories, there are 145 million elms in Minnesota. The total cost of removing that many elms (based on the average removal cost of \$125) would be \$18.235 billion. In addition, it would cost another \$14.5 billion to replant all 145 million trees (based on an average replacement cost of \$100). The total cost of such an effort would be over \$32.6 billion. Such an effort is out of the question. It would physically and financially be impossible to perform such a job.

On the other hand, doing nothing would be expensive too. In cities like Waukegan, Illinois, Des Moines, Iowa, and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where little or no effort was made to combat Dutch Elm disease, the costs of removal were realized all within 5-10 years, leaving cities without elms. Dead trees have to be removed as they die. Public nuisance or hazardous trees have resulted in injury and even human death in Iowa, New York, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

Priorities must be established. Control areas must be set up. To date all the control efforts have been centered around residential areas. It is homeowners that are most concerned about losing their elms. Most Minnesota communities are blessed with tree lined streets, and in most cases the trees are elms. Elms provide shade from the hot summer sun, insulate from the long, cold winter, and provide the city with a beauty that is difficult to find anywhere else in the world.

So many elms were planted because they were an inexpensive tree to plant and maintain and because of that they were over planted. Many street elm trees are planted too close together, aiding the spread of the disease. Replanting efforts should bear this in mind. □

Opinion



Majority

by Sen. Nicholas Coleman
Majority Leader

These are exciting times. The Carter-Mondale administration is only several weeks into a four-year term. Our new Governor, Rudy Perpich, has assumed his responsibilities with open and determined enthusiasm. As the 1977 Legislative Session began, 20 new Senators (nearly one-third of the Senate) are sharpening the tools to accomplish their goals. These people are bringing their knowledge from diverse backgrounds and fresh determination to the task of solving our complex problems.

I am an unabashed believer in the vitality of state government. Elections tend to renew that vitality with fresh contributions of talent and creativity. I am not interested in "dotting i's" and "crossing t's". Instead we are looking deeply into areas such as simplification of tax forms and tax reductions, the status of school finance, our criminal justice system, ways to curb the spread of Dutch Elm Disease, energy problems, housing problems, and the powerline and Reserve Mining controversies. Our DFL caucus has pledged to work hard on major legislation in all of these areas before we go home.

The experience of the last four years proves that through imagination and hard work we can make unprecedented strides in tackling complex problems. Our 1974 "Working Poor" legislation, in fact, became a model for federal tax reform. Many other states have imitated our innovative approaches to school finance and other ways of easing the burden on local property taxes.

Including the federal portion, we now have a state budget in excess of \$8 billion. With those resources and our collective determination we should be as hard working and creative in the areas of health care, housing, energy and education as we were in the development of the "Working Poor" legislation.

Minority

by Sen. Robert Ashbach
Minority Leader

Among the major legislative issues we anticipate will come before us this session will be tax reform proposals, an equitable educational aids bill and determinate sentencing.

A major concern of Independent-Republicans in the Senate is the economic plight of the people of Minnesota. Last December there were more than 97,000 on the state unemployment rolls. While some seem to take pride in the fact that our unemployment percentage is consistently under the national average, it is small consolation to those without jobs. Consequently, our caucus will be authoring and supporting legislation that deals with this problem.

Another important concern is in the area of energy. I believe that our citizens are to be commended for the way in which they have met the challenge presented by this crisis. And legislation providing long-range solutions to this problem will be a paramount concern to I-R senators.



We must also examine the role of the legislature to be sure that we are fulfilling our responsibility as an equal branch of government.

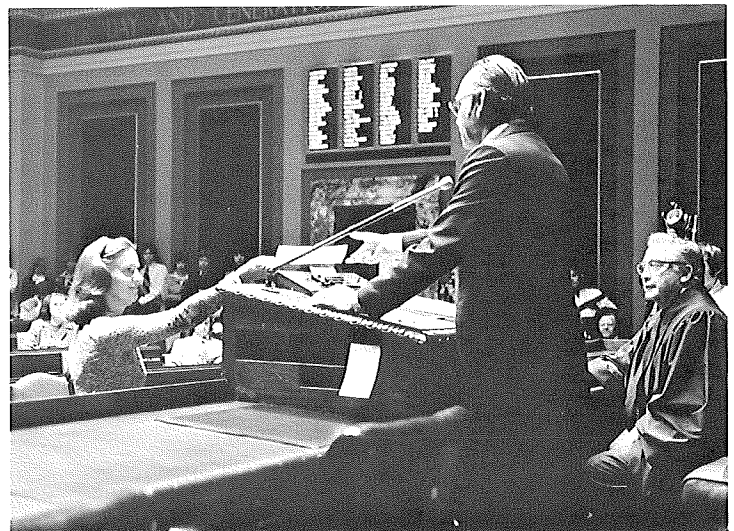
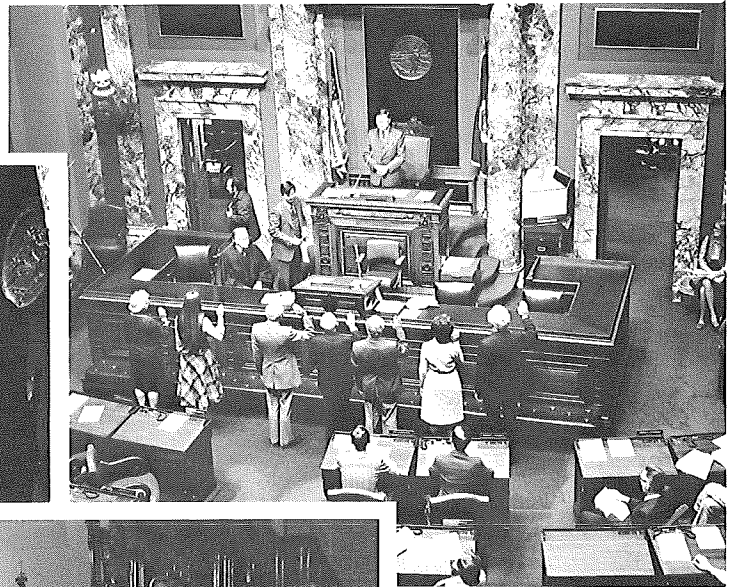
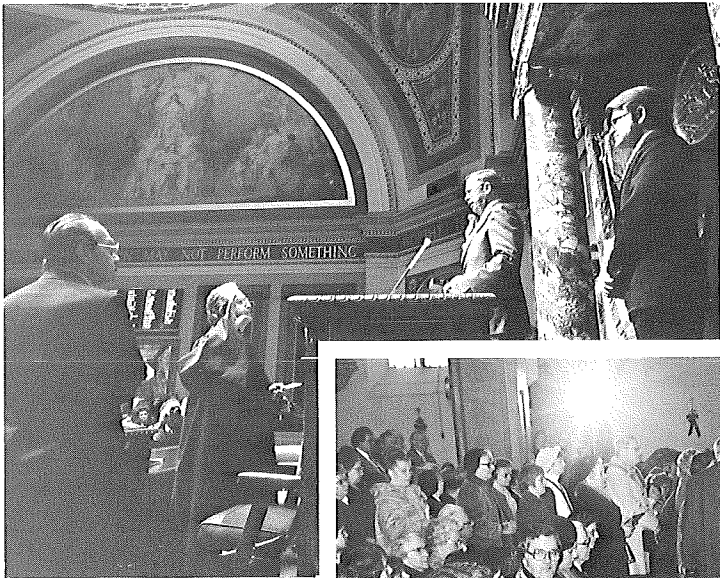
The growth of bureaucracy at all levels is an example of what can happen when the legislative branch abdicates its power to the executive. As legislators we must demand accountability from all of our state agencies. We owe this to the people we represent.

We also must answer the question of whether we want a citizen legislature or one comprised of full-time professionals. The salaries paid and how they are paid will determine to a large extent which direction the legislature will continue to drift. This decision will be primarily up to the majority leadership. I believe the people of Minnesota prefer a citizen, part-time legislature.

Recently there has been much talk of this being a tight budget year. No increase in major taxes is planned and in reality no increase is needed. The state has profited so greatly from inflation, and has overtaxed to such a great extent in the last few years, that it appears to me that there will be a surplus greater than anyone is willing to admit at this time. We would hope to find support for a proposal to limit state spending, which could ultimately result in a tax cut for our citizens. Through improved efficiency we should be able to cut cost without cutting services to those in need.

And, finally, we plan to do our best to fulfill our traditional role of the loyal opposition. As a minority our caucus will be unable to pass legislation on our own. But nonetheless we will still continue to offer alternatives as we have done rather prolifically in the past. And we will continue to offer constructive criticism when it is warranted. If we can do this, we will be doing our job.

Senate Scenes '77



Clockwise from top left:

Senator Edward Gearty is sworn in as the new President of the Minnesota Senate by Robert Sheran, the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. Senator Jack Kleinbaum (left) and Lieutenant Governor Alec Olson, the former Senate President, watch the ceremony on opening day.

Members of the Senate front desk staff are sworn in.

Senator Emily Staples, one of only two women in the State Senate, turns in her certificate of election.

Governor Rudy Perpich, his wife Lola, and Lieutenant Governor Alec Olson. Both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor are former Minnesota State Senators.

Center: Governor Perpich attends a "Polka Mass" prior to his inauguration.

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Debra Unger	Minority Liaisons
Assistants	Sen. Robert G. Dunn
Charles R. Geer, Jr.	Sen. John Keefe
Photographer	



Committee Schedule

Committee Guide

Please note the information in this section. Provided is a list of office numbers and phone numbers for each committee; scheduled meeting times of Senate committees, and names and telephone numbers of committee staff.

General Information

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 Schulz 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 296-4916. David Peterson is the Senate Public Information Officer.

	COMMITTEE	ROOM	HOURL
Monday	Employment	118	8-10 AM
	Judiciary	112	8-10 AM
	Local Government	15	8-10 AM
	Education	118	1-3 PM
	Transportation	112	1-3 PM
	Taxes and Tax Laws	112	3-6 PM
	Finance	15	3-6 PM
Tuesday	Education	118	8-10 AM
	Transportation	112	8-10 AM
	Commerce	112	10-12 PM
	Energy and Housing	118	10-12 PM
	Governmental Operations	118	1-3 PM
	General Legislation & Veterans Affairs	112	1-3 PM
	Health, Welfare, and Corrections	118	3-6 PM
	Elections	112	3-6 PM
Wednesday	Agriculture and Natural Resources	15	3-6 PM
	Employment	118	8-10 AM
	Judiciary	112	8-10 AM
	Local Government	15	8-10 AM
	Governmental Operations	118	1-3 PM
	General Legislation & Veterans Affairs	112	1-3 PM
	Taxes and Tax Laws	112	3-6 PM
Thursday	Finance	15	3-6 PM
	Education	118	8-10 AM
	Transportation	112	8-10 AM
	Commerce	112	1-3 PM
	Energy and Housing	118	1-3 PM
	Health, Welfare & Corrections	118	3-6 PM
	Elections	112	3-6 PM
Friday	Agriculture & Natural Resources	15	3-6 PM
	Employment	118	8-10 AM
	Judiciary	112	8-10 AM
	Local Government	15	8-10 AM
	Commerce	112	10-12 PM
	Energy and Housing	118	10-12 PM
	Governmental Operations	118	1-3 PM
	General Legislation & Veterans Affairs	112	1-3 PM
	Taxes and Tax Laws	112	3-6 PM
	Finance	15	3-6 PM

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	ROOM NO.	PHONE	COMMITTEE AA	COMMITTEE SECRETARY
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Sen. Willet	205 CAP	296-4147	Mike Robertson	Bunny Gordon
Commerce	Sen. Tennesen	309 CAP	296-8885	Dale Ulrich	Fern Oveson
Education	Sen. Hughes	328 CAP	296-4183	Adelaide O'Brien	Phyllis Meryhew
Elections	Sen. Gearty	235 CAP	296-4174	Janet Lund	Dagny Swanson
Employment	Sen. Laufenburger	235 CAP	296-4181	Linda Schutz	Joyce Bukosky
Energy and Housing	Sen. Anderson	303 CAP	296-4184	Mark Karnowski	Sandra Wendt
Finance	Sen. Moe	121 CAP	296-2577	Mark Andrew	Ardella Tischler
General Legislation & Veterans Affairs	Sen. Olson	325 CAP	296-4187	Rick Holte	Sherry Tyler
Governmental Operations	Sen. Chenoweth	205 CAP	296-4172	Larry Bye	LaVerne Swanson
Health, Welfare and Corrections	Sen. Perpich	303 CAP	296-4145	Connie Chamberlain	Bonnie Featherstone
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Rules and Administration	Sen. Coleman	208 CAP	296-4196	John Kaul	Dorothy Jung
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Transportation	Sen. Purfeerst	323 CAP	296-4167	Steve Chapman	Sandra Brown