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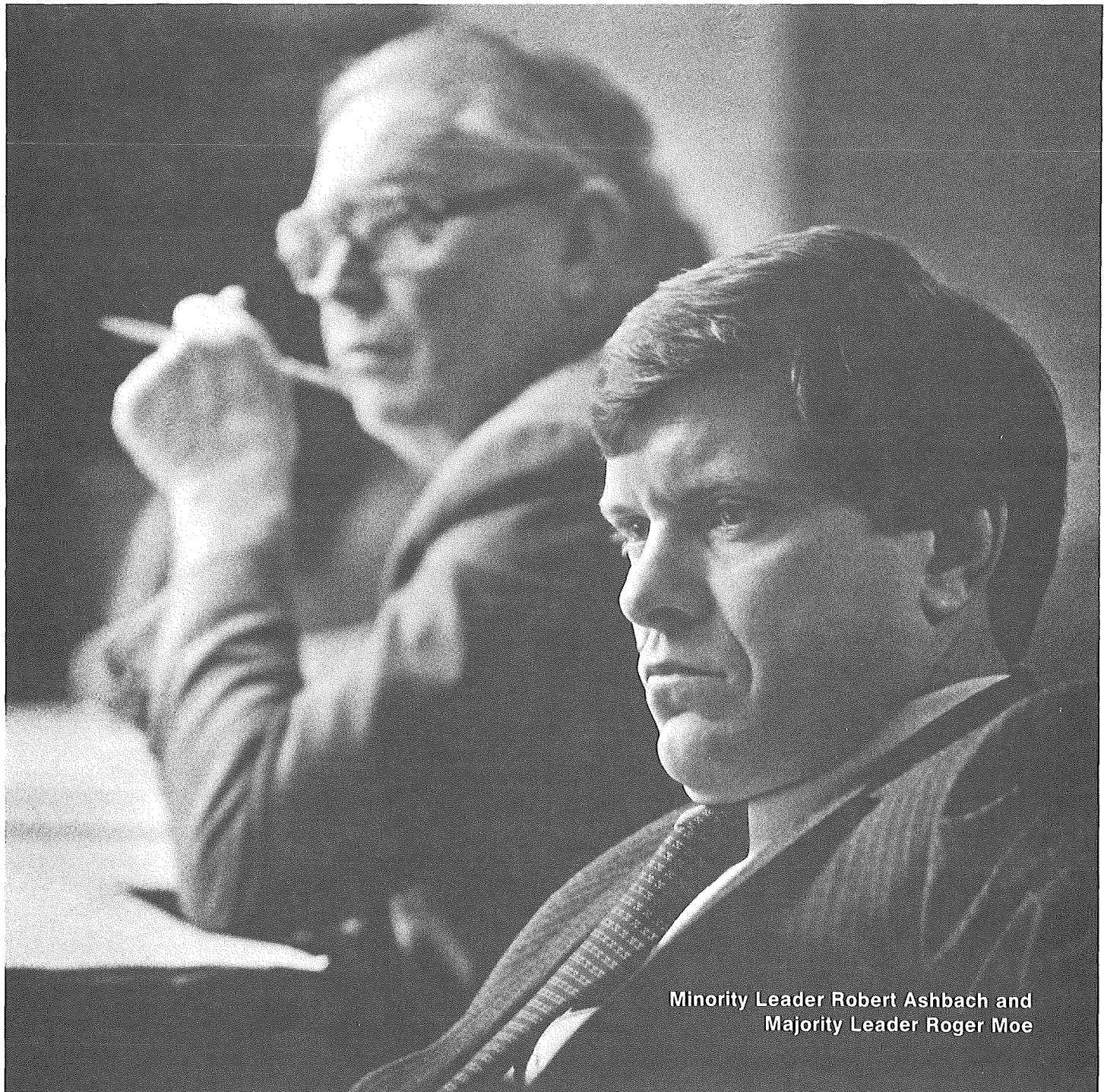
FEBRUARY, 1981

Perspectives

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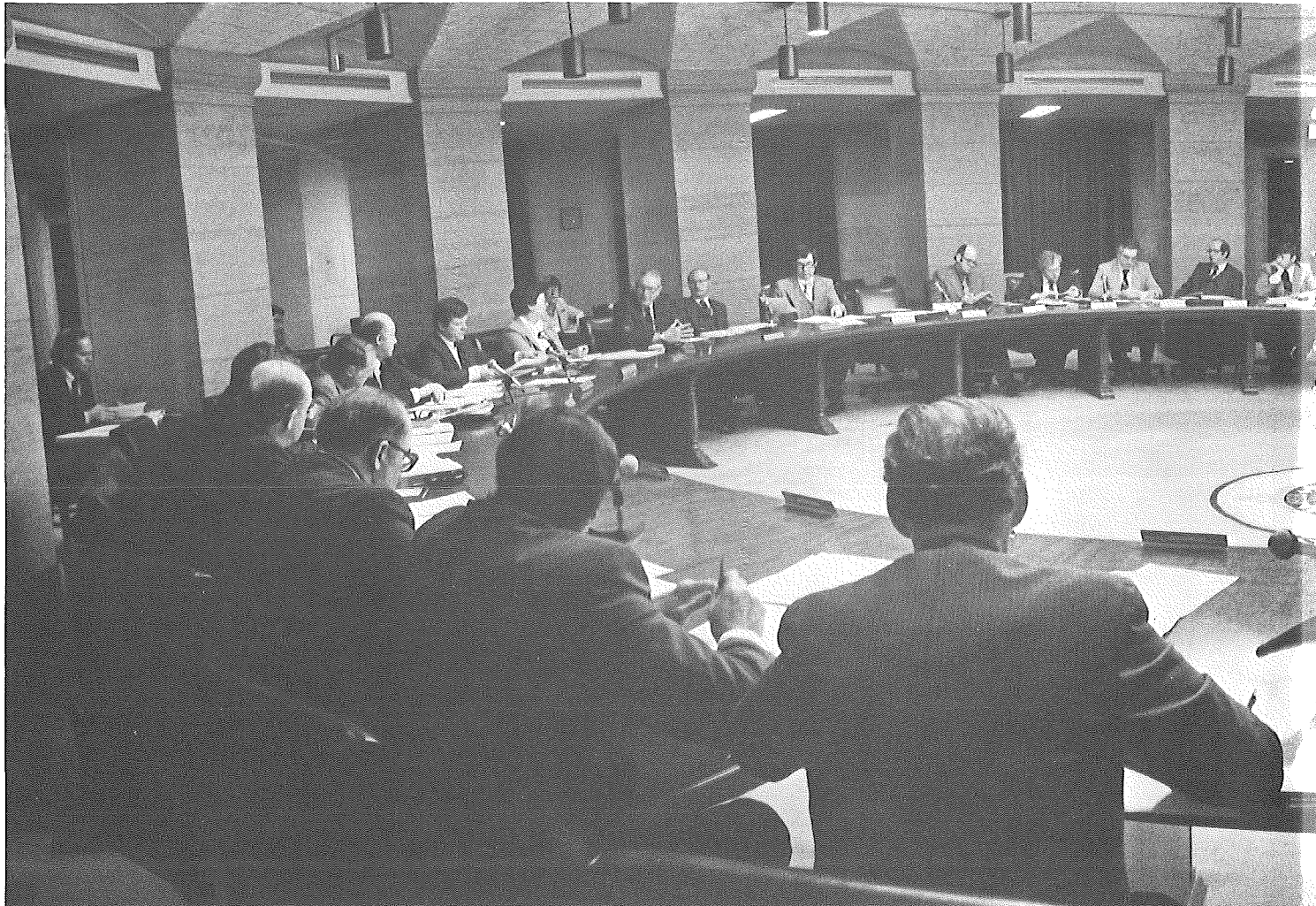
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A Publication about the Minnesota State Senate



Minority Leader Robert Ashbach and Majority Leader Roger Moe

1981 Session . . . off to a running start



Committee chairmen outline upcoming issues

by Karen L. Clark

Nothing endures but change
— Heraclitus

Any living institution must undergo a constant process of change and adaptation if it is to survive as a responsive, responsible body. The Minnesota Senate of 1981 is a product of just such a process of change brought about by the elections of 1980. There have been changes in the leadership of the majority; there have been changes in the very composition of the body; and there have been changes in the committee structure, the heart of the legislative process.

One new committee has been created, there have been changes in jurisdiction for some committees and chairmanships, and memberships have changed for others. Yet, the

committees, even as they have changed and developed, will continue the process of hearings and debate that have long been tradition. And, the committees will still be dealing with the same wide variety of issues that have been the hallmark of past legislative sessions. The following then, is a brief rundown of some of the major issues senate committee chairmen expect to be discussing this year.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The new chairman of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sen. Gene Merriam, sees the development of a state policy on copper-nickel mining as one of the top environmental issues facing his committee this year. Merriam added that other mining



issues such as peat and uranium mining will follow closely in importance.

In the area of agriculture, Merriam said, "I think some problems need addressing in closing loop-holes in the 'alien farm' and 'corporate farm' bills to protect the small family farm." He indicated that those loop-holes were causing concern for Minnesota farmers, especially in the southern part of the state.

Because of the work done last year on solid and hazardous waste, Merriam said he doesn't foresee major legislation dealing with the subject to come before his committee. However, he did express a desire to explore "establishing a mechanism to establish a clean up fund similar to the federal 'Super Fund' to aid in cleaning up disposal sites." Further, he indicated a need for enabling legislation that would allow Minnesota to tie into the "Super Fund." Finally, Merriam sees a need to "do something on a state level so the Pollution Control Agency can clean up waste sites and enter into litigation later."

Other subjects that will be before the committee include water management policies, drainage issues and the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources' recently completed timber study on forest management. Merriam also anticipates doing some fine tuning on the Waste Management Act of 1980.

Commerce

The Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Tennesen, will again be faced by issues relating to branch banking. This year, though, one of the relatively new wrinkles in the perennial controversy surrounding branch banking will be the concept of reciprocal interstate branch banking. Such a proposal would allow banks from other states to open branches in Minnesota and, conversely, Minnesota banks would be accorded the same privilege in those states. Regional branch banking within the state will again surface before the committee.

Finally, the panel will be working on the Uniform Consumer Credit Code (UCCC) in an attempt to organize

Minnesota's many, and varied, usury ceilings. The UCCC would also further define the relationship between businesses and the consumer.

Education

Money, or the lack of it, will be the overriding issue before Sen. Jerome Hughes' Education Committee. The education aids bill, the largest single item in the state budget, will be the focus of attention for the months ahead as members of the committee struggle to improve the quality of education in the face of declining enrollment and dwindling dollars.

Tax equity between school districts is another issue of importance that will be before the panel, according to Hughes. He is also intent on developing legislation that will help school districts make better use of technology in education. That is, maximizing the potential educational value of computers and electronic communication tools in a classroom setting.

Other measures expected to come

before the group will deal with student discipline, smaller class sizes and teacher retirement issues.

Elections and Reapportionment

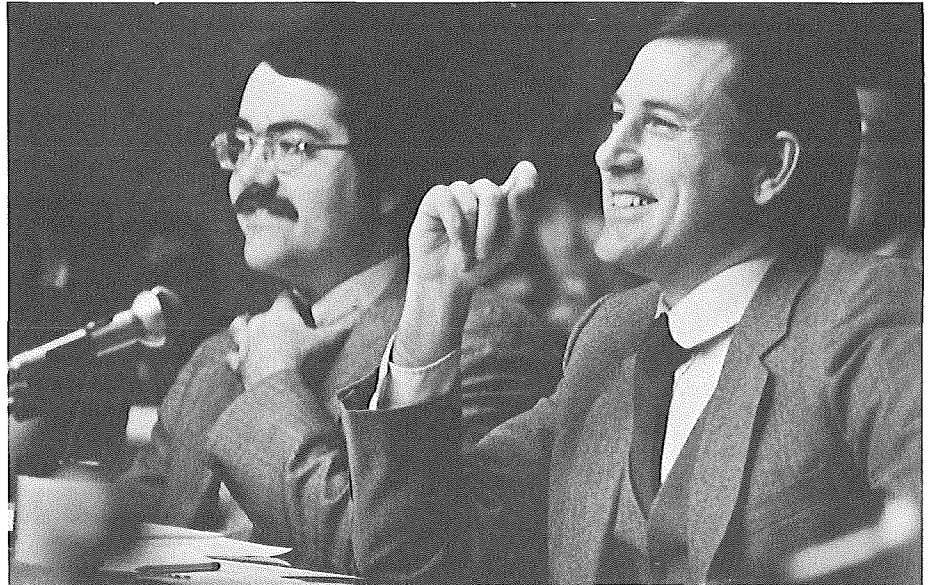
The Senate Committee on Elections has had its jurisdiction expanded to include the potentially volatile subject of reapportionment. "My intent," said new chairman Sen. Peter Stumpf, "is for the legislature to reapportion itself." He acknowledged the political sensitivity of the undertaking but added, "We will have to put political considerations behind us in redrawing district lines. We will have to bend over backwards to be open about the process."

Stumpf foresees some difficulties in the possibility that the final census data will be delayed because of law suits filed by a number of cities alleging undercounting of their populations. The data is needed to form a basis for redrawing legislative and congressional district lines.

Stumpf anticipates having extensive interviews with every legislator to get information on each district's community of interests and the socio-economic factors that might influence the reapportionment process. He also emphasized the distinction between apportionment (setting up completely new districts) and reapportionment (redrawing existing boundaries). He commented that he expects "modest changes in current district boundaries."

Stumpf said "Reapportionment is one area that gets all three branches of government involved, yet, the constitution clearly states that it is a legislative responsibility. It will be a test to see if the legislature can stand up as a third *equal* branch of government."

Finally, the committee will also be dealing with a number of statutory changes in the elections laws and reviewing the Fair Campaign Practices Act.



Sen. Gene Merriam (right) and Senate Counsel Alan Williams listen to testimony during an Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

Employment

Issues relating to Workers' Compensation will be of major importance to members of Sen. Florian Chmielewski's Employment Committee. Businesses continue to voice concern over Minnesota's workers' compensation insurance rates especially in comparison to the rates in neighboring states. The number and cost of workers' compensation cases in litigation and the payment of benefits are instrumental in the insurance rate structure and will be examined by the committee.

Chmielewski also indicated another priority item on the committee's agenda will be restoring the state's unemployment insurance fund to solvency. Currently, the fund is operating in the red and must borrow from the federal government to pay unemployment insurance claims. The committee will explore both short and long term solutions, ranging from tightening eligibility requirements to increasing insurance rates.

In addition, the committee will again be looking at the controversial "successor bill." The "successor bill" stipulates that labor contracts would remain in effect even if a company is sold or merged with another firm.

Energy and Housing

"In the energy area, our main thrust and effort will be to establish programs to implement the public policy goals set last year," said the new chairman of the Energy and Housing Committee, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, III. He went on to say, "Our goal is to stabilize energy resources through conservation, alternative sources and the wise management of existing resources."

The new role of public utilities in providing financial aid to consumers, district heating programs and the monitoring of the federal regulatory process are other energy issues the committee will be exploring, Humphrey indicated.

High on the priority list in the area of housing, he said, will be "the examination of the current state housing program in relation to federal tax exemption bonding limitations." In addition, he plans to survey the Minnesota housing market to find out the availability of housing and financing. Such a survey will help the panel determine if people, in the housing market, can find suitable, affordable housing. The committee also plans to explore the subject of condominium conversion and its effect on apartment dwellers.

Finance

The state's budget quandary will be the key issue before the Finance Committee this session. The new chairman, Sen. Gerald Willet, expects the projected deficit will be the overriding concern as committee members attempt to balance the needs of various state programs with the limited dollars available. Willet does not foresee a sweeping reduction of services or programs in any one area. Instead, he indicated a general "belt tightening" across the board. "There will be a priority setting series of hearings," Willet said, "where we decide what are the essential things that the people of Minnesota need." He added, "The debate will center on what makes that priority list."

In order to gather more detailed information on the spending needs of the state, Willet said, "I will try, early on, to set up meetings with representatives of local units of government, like the league of cities and the township association, because I want to work very closely with the people who are affected by the budget process."

"I think," he continued, "elected officials have a responsibility to deliver services at all levels of government and together we can do this without being arbitrary."

The only new issues Willet thought the committee would explore are issues arising from work done by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. Willet echoed Merriam's call for a state policy on copper-nickel, peat and uranium mining and a policy for forest management.

Willet also emphasized that he wants the committee to strongly exercise its oversight function in regard to state agency spending, especially during the interim period between legislative sessions.

General Legislation and Administrative Rules

The General Legislation and Administrative Rules Committee plans

to devote most of its initial meetings to background and informational hearings, said the new chairman, Sen. Wayne Olhoft. The hearings will review the activities of the Minnesota Zoological Society, the Historical Society, The Public Safety Commission and the Humane Society.

Olhoft added that the committee will also devote time to investigating complaints against the State Arts Board's procedures for awarding grants. "It's difficult," he said, "because subjective judgements are required, yet some people have viewed the Board's decisions as elitist."

Another important item before the panel, Olhoft said, would be the creation of "one stop licensing" for businesses. Under such a proposal, businesses would just be required to fill out one form and have all the appropriate licenses issued at the same time.

As for the administrative rules area of the committees jurisdiction, Olhoft anticipates overseeing the revisor's recodification of rules. The recodification, for purposes of clarification and simplification, is expected to take nearly three years to complete.

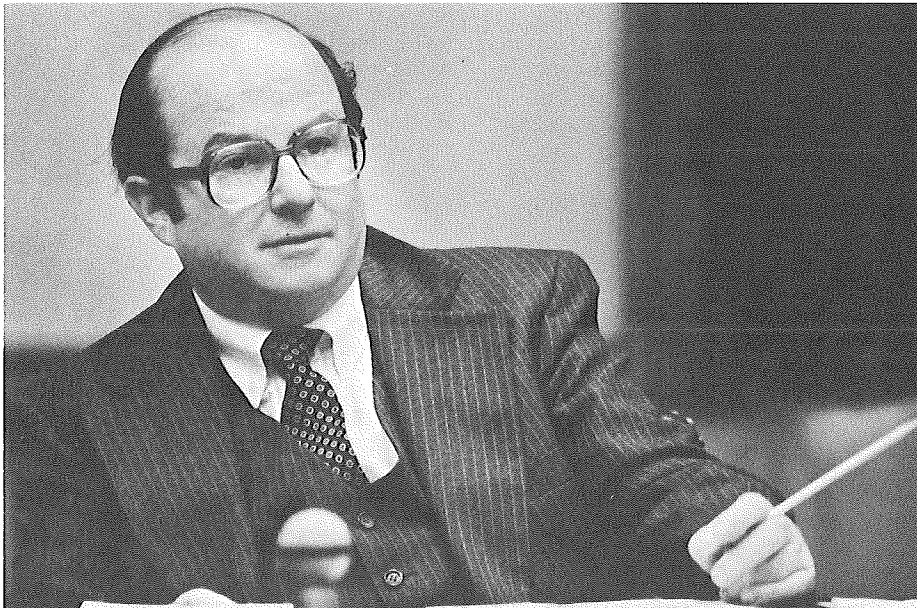
Governmental Operations

Although there are still some jurisdictional questions, agency oversight is high on the priority list for Sen. Franklin Knoll, the newly named chairman of the Governmental Operations Committee. "I'm extremely interested in agency oversight and how programs that have been instituted are working," Knoll said. He observed that it is important in the legislature's relationship with the executive branch to "make sure what we have passed is working in terms of what we intended."



The Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, is reviewing the current and proposed state department budgets.

Photos by Mark M. Nelson



Sen. Allan Spear heads the newly formed Public Employees and Pensions Committee.

Knoll also expressed interest in the Housing Finance Agency's policies and procedures because "That kind of capital formation needs state wide uniformity."

Other questions Knoll considers of major importance will deal with whether the metro council should be elected; whether certain professional and non-professional groups should be licensed by the state, and the recurring debate over "sunset" legislation.

Health, Welfare and Corrections

Legislation concerning corrections is of prime importance to the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee's new chairman, Sen. Sam Solon.

Citing the lack of a statewide program for women offenders, Solon stated that establishing a program for women offenders and building a suitable security facility were high on his list of personal priorities.

Solon pointed out that, because so many of the senators are new to the committee this year, he is working to insure members have a solid background in the subject matter likely to come before the panel. To this end,

he plans at least three trips to visit institutions with which the committee is concerned. The first will be a tour of Faribault State Hospital and the second will be of the women's correctional facility at Shakopee. Tours of both the old, medium security prison in Stillwater and the new, maximum security facility in nearby Oak Park Heights are also in Solon's plans.

Committee members will be hearing a number of informational reports early in the session on topics such as the Department of Public Welfare's budget request and whether programs such as the Community Health Act are succeeding in carrying out the legislature's goals. "My concern is that we not cut back any necessary services, especially in areas like medical assistance," Solon stated.

Judiciary

As in past sessions the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Jack Davies, will hear a multitude of bills dealing with the finer nuances of Minnesota law. And, as in the past many of the major issues before the Senate will also pass through Judiciary. One of the larger tasks looming before the committee will be a major rewrite of the state corporation statute modernizing the 1933 Business Corporation Code.

The subject of "economic crime" will also come before the committee this session. Legislation is being developed to cope with such crimes as the theft of services, commercial bribery, the fencing of stolen goods and illegal gold and silver sales transactions.

In addition, there will be more legislation dealing with privacy and further modifications to the guardianship law. Finally, it is anticipated that the panel will consider legislation authorizing recreational enterprises to compensate injured individuals on a "no-fault" basis.

Local Government and Urban Affairs

Sen. Myrton Wegener's Local Government Committee is another case of expanded jurisdiction. Now the panel will hear issues dealing with metropolitan issues under the umbrella of "Urban Affairs." Within that context the group will have responsibility for urban bonding and some issues dealing with the Metro Council.

Wegener indicated that one of the chief issues before the committee will be a measure to prohibit the use of revenue bonds for recreational and commercial development, a proposal Wegener said was sure to cause controversy. Wegener also expects a number of bills to be heard dealing with township, city and county governments.

Public Employees and Pensions

Sen. Allan Spear has taken the helm as chairman of the Senate's newest committee, Public Employees and Pensions. Spear noted that "because it is a new committee, there are still jurisdictional questions but pensions will be the most visible issue."

A related topic Spear sees as a vital subject for discussion is state investment policy. "I plan to follow up on the state auditor's report to see if we can do something better and to see if we can't be doing more with the funds to help the state's economy." He

continued, "The Investment Board's report looks negative and I'm really disappointed. I think there is a real opportunity to target businesses and institutions within the state for investments to improve the quality of life for Minnesota citizens."

Unfunded liability, particularly in the teachers' retirement fund, is another concern of Spear's and he expects the committee will look closely at the issue.

As for the public employee area of the committee's responsibility a major issue will be dealing with the state's pay bill for the first time. Spear also indicated the panel would examine the procedural aspect of the Public Employees Labor Relations Act.

Taxes and Tax Laws

According to committee chairman Douglas Johnson, "At this point it is very difficult to chart a direction for the Tax Committee. We need to see the Governor's budget message and the

department's revenue forecast." "As a personal concern," Johnson added, "I don't want the legislature to turn its back on 10 years of progress in reducing and holding the line on property taxes."

He also indicated that one of the major goals of the committee will be to establish a tax policy designed to encourage new development in the state that will broaden the tax bases and relieve revenue problems.

Transportation

Highway funding will again be an item of considerable controversy for the Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst.

The DOT has developed four programs for highway funding that will be closely examined by members of the committee. The programs range from letting the existing highways deteriorate with no need for additional funding to a program requiring \$425 million for limited development.

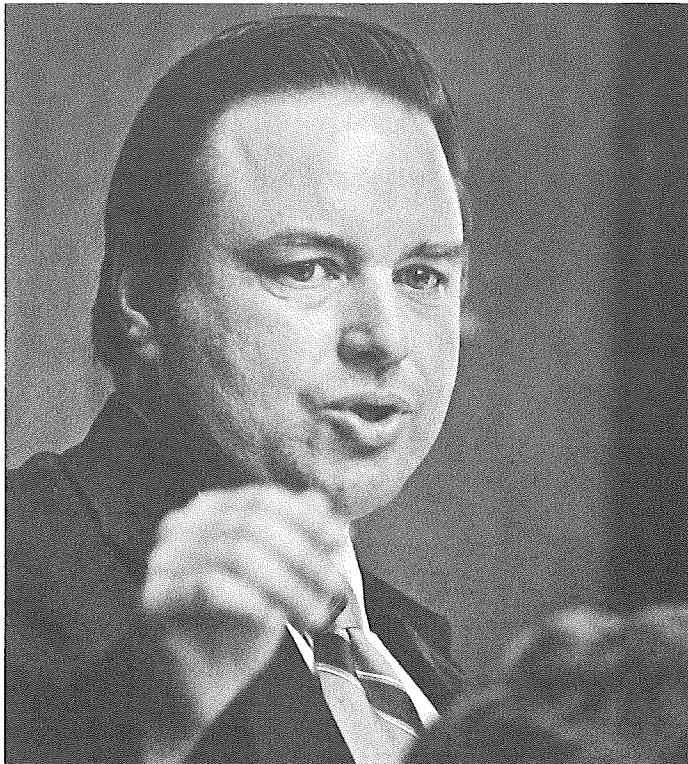
Purfeerst also indicated that a variety of transit funding proposals will receive close scrutiny by the panel.

Other issues include a new truck weight bill to allow trucks to add a sixth axel and increase their allowable weight to 80,000 pounds; additional funding for the MTC; and the revival of a new kind of financing for a state rail bank.

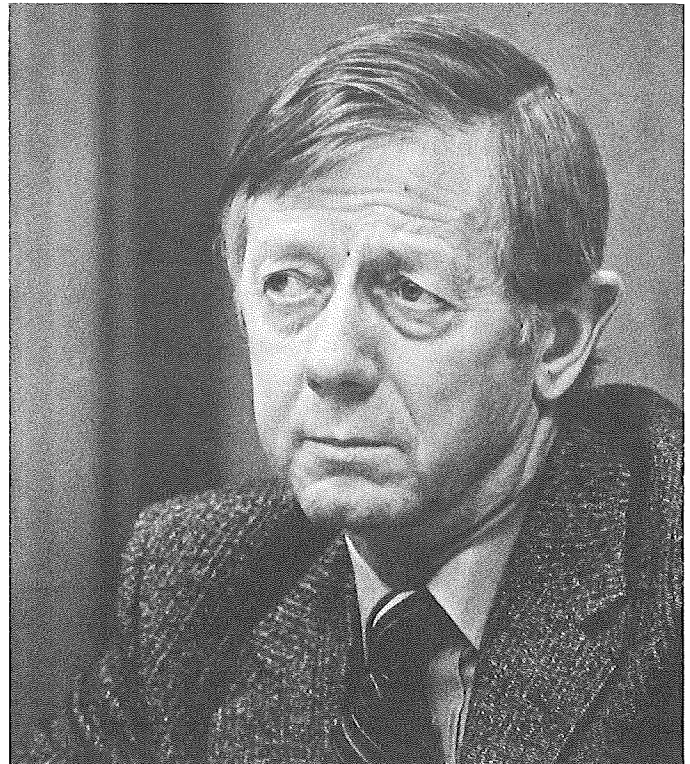
Veterans' Affairs

One of the legislative priorities for Sen. Robert Schmitz's Veterans Affairs committee will be to continue funding for a program allowing eligible Vietnam era veterans no-interest loans up to \$4000 for housing purchases.

Other priority items include discussion about establishing a domiciliary facility to serve veterans in northwestern Minnesota. Schmitz indicated that discussion on such a proposal would take into account the development of an overall health care plan for Minnesota's aging veteran population.



The Taxes and Tax Laws Committee, chaired by Sen. Doug Johnson, develops and fine tunes state tax policies.



Sen. Robert Schmitz heads the Veterans' Affairs Committee that examines veterans' programs throughout the state.

Photos by Mark M. Nelson

One of the first tasks for Sen. Greg Dahl and the other new senators was settling into their offices.



Freshmen bring new viewpoints, experience to Senate

by Anita L. Neumann

On January 6, 23 newly elected state senators took the oath of office and joined their 44 returning colleagues in commencing the 1981 session of Minnesota's Senate. A variety of problems, ranging from reapportioning state legislative districts to determining the best location for the construction of county drainage ditches, will face them as they begin their legislative duties.

Meeting challenges

Despite the diversity in the backgrounds and the outlooks of the new senators, they quickly agree on the main issue confronting the state: the current and projected budget deficits.

"Nothing equals the importance of the budget question," said Sen. Donald Moe (DFL-St. Paul), a 10-year veteran of the state House of Representatives who made the jump to the Senate in

the last election. "We absolutely must come up with an adequate budget that meets the state's needs and also resolve the question of how we are going to pay for it," he said.

The current state deficit of approximately \$200 million and worries over the next biennium's budget, affect not only new proposals which may have to be cancelled, but also existing programs which may suffer crippling shortages in manpower and materials if the money to fund them is no longer available.

The Senate will be forced into "dealing with cutbacks and defining priorities" for existing and proposed state programs, according to newly elected Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Plymouth).

Many freshman senators are concerned with the effects these budgetary problems will have on education, specifically local schools and school districts. Unlike many

problems the senators will encounter, this issue cuts across all partisan and geographical lines; affecting Democrats as well as Republicans, metropolitan areas as well as rural school districts.

Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone), a member of the Winona School Board for the past eight years, said this problem was one of the concerns that prompted her to run for state office. "Especially alarming is the fact that my area is immediately faced with the prospect of closing several schools" due to shortfalls in funding, she said. Kronebusch intends to be "on guard" and support legislation that will keep the small schools in her area open.

Two metropolitan area senators, Greg Dahl (DFL-White Bear Lake) and Steve Lindgren (IR-Richfield), find their districts facing some of the same problems as those occurring in Kronebusch's district.

As a result, Dahl sees the problem as two-fold. In the short run, he said, the problem lies in handling the immediate deficit problems. The long-run problem,

he pointed out, "is coming up with a scheme that ensures that the state is able to maintain its reputation for high quality education. During the campaign few people had any real idea as to the magnitude of the deficit. The concern then was with educational cuts."

"Education is the highest priority in my district," agreed Lindgren, a former member of a Senate research staff. The entire concept of school district funding "merits a rethinking" because of the current trend of declining enrollments, he said. His district includes the Richfield area where school enrollments are projected to decline by 50 percent in the 10-year period 1975-1985.

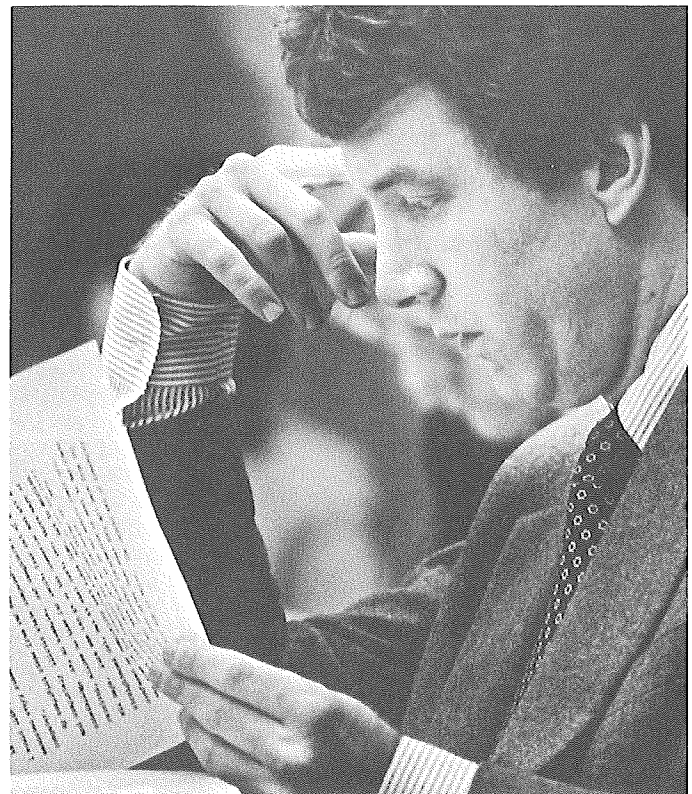
Another economic concern voiced by several incoming senators is the necessity for the legislature to adopt incentives to improve the state's business climate.

"We must do something to encourage businesses to locate and stay in Minnesota," said Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio), who previously served one term in the state Senate.

Comparative workers' compensation rates and benefits and their effects on the state's business climate have long been a matter of contention among various business and labor interests in and out of the state.

Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), whose district extends to the Minnesota-North Dakota border, believes the legislature should "make Minnesota's workers' compensation rates more competitive," with those of neighboring states. Langseth, like Berg, has some legislative experience having served in the state House from 1974-1978.

"A healthy economic climate and the creation of jobs," is a concern Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.) said he heard a lot about during his Senate campaign. Petty, whose south Minneapolis district is traditionally republican-oriented, sees "modifying the present workers' compensation situation and an easing of the regulatory burden on small business" as one of his top concerns during his first session. Senate committees have already begun hearings to examine the state's workers' compensation structure.



Senators Steve Lindgren (left) and Jim Ramstad discuss and study bills now that they are directly involved in the legislative process.



Sen. Mike Menning (left) solicits Sen. Joe Bertram's support as a co-author on an education bill.

Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing) said he will push "to keep the present level of workers' compensation benefits but set up ways in which smaller businesses can become self-insured for that kind of compensation." Establishing co-operatives for that purpose among such businesses is a way this could be done, he said.

Dicklich, a former St. Louis County commissioner, sees human services as a major consideration within the scope of the budget discussions. Labor matters, education and care of the elderly are prime concerns in his iron-range district. Dicklich said he "intends to serve the people 100 percent."

Representing people

Many new senators enumerated other concerns voiced by the people they represent. Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan) stressed that transportation matters, especially funding for highway construction and maintenance, are of prime concern in his district. Frederickson, a farmer from District 28 in the southwestern part of the state, said his constituents will be expecting him to take "a hard look at our inadequate highways which are not only the cause of so many accidents but, also hamper the transportation of the area's agricultural products to market." This problem could affect consumers all over the state.

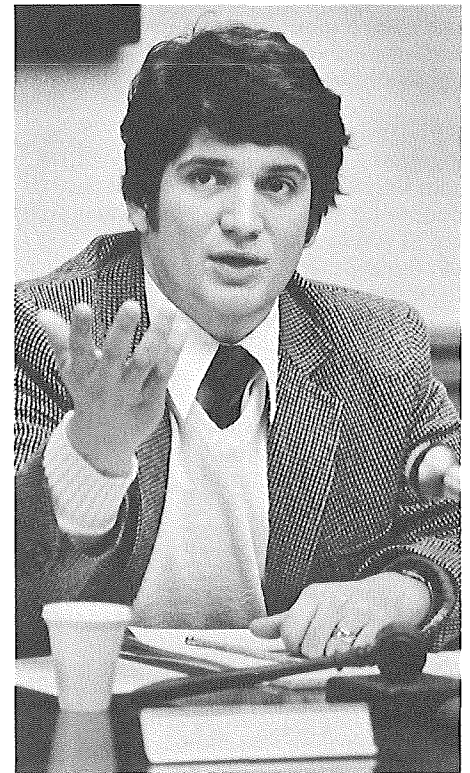
Two other veteran senators who have served in the House, are preparing legislation reflecting items important to their districts.

Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), a three-term member of the House who represents a strong, pro-labor area of Minneapolis, said he is "ready to go" on a variety of issues ranging from property taxes to consumer protection. Kroening is also involved in energy matters as Vice-Chairman of the Senate's Energy and Housing Committee.

"Preservation of the environment, industrial expansion and working to preserve the integrity of neighborhoods" are concerns that



Photos by Mark M. Nelson



Sen. Marilyn Lantry confers with Sen. Anne Stokowski during a DFL caucus meeting.

Sen. Ron Dicklich convenes the Employment Subcommittee on Economic Development.

Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud) said his constituents expect him to concentrate on. Pehler, who served in the House for eight years, pointed out that hazardous waste disposal problems are particularly important to him in light of his work on the Legislative Commission on Waste Management.

Some senators believe their legislative duties should go beyond problem solving and include efforts to bring government closer and make it more responsive to the people.

Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) said his constituents want to see government become more "self-contained by increasing state emphasis instead of Congress'."

Bertram, who was an aide to former U.S. Rep. Richard Nolan, feels he has experience in handling constituent concerns and is "ready to go" now that he is a member of the Senate.

Running for office

In outlining the reasons behind their decision to run for office, many of the new senators agreed that an underlying commitment to work in the public interest was a motivating force.

"A general concern over the government's relationship in dealing with the future of the people" prompted Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) to run for office. As a businessman, Taylor's concern over

the state budget shortages also was a factor in his decision.

For some, it was a matter of moving to what may be perceived as a more effective level of government.

"The state is where the power is," according to Sen. Bill Belanger (IR-Bloomington), who said that realization generated his initial interest in seeking the Senate seat. Belanger, who served on the Bloomington City Council for 12 years, said he learned from that experience "that most city power comes from the state."

Being at the "right place at the right time" was an impetus for others.

Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), a

legislative aide to St. Paul City Councilman Vic Tedesco, said she has been interested and involved in politics a long time. "This time around," she said, "the opportunity presented itself" when Sen. Bill McCutcheon resigned last April to become St. Paul's police chief.

Several members indicated that personal encouragement from family, friends, and others in their districts spurred them to seek office.

Sen. Darrel Peterson (IR-Fairmont), a member of the House from 1974–1978, said his decision was "reinforced by people I'd served in the House asking me to run for the Senate." This encouragement finally convinced him to return to political life.

"The many encouragements in the district," which backed up a personal conviction that he could do the most effective job of representing the people of District 18, prompted Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton) to run for the Senate.

Willing to learn

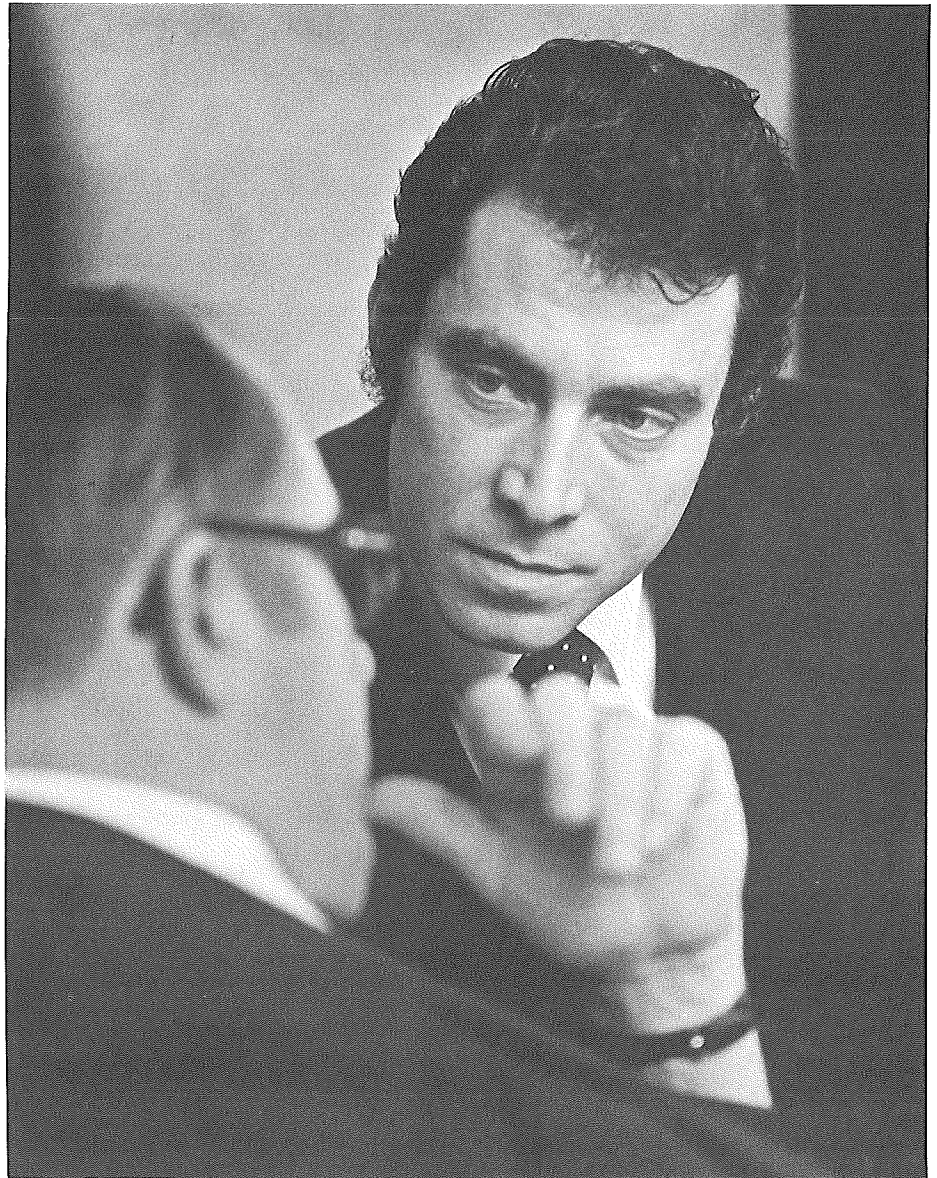
Only 8 of the 23 new senators have previously served in the legislature so it comes as little surprise that most expect a large part of their first session to be a learning experience.

"Realistically, any legislator's first term has to be a learning process," said Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), a farmer from District 35 in southeastern Minnesota.

Sen. Dahl, from White Bear Lake, echoed Benson, declaring "I'm not afraid to admit I've got a lot to learn. I intend to keep my eyes open so that in the future I'll have much more impact." Although the new senators expect this session to be a learning process, they plan to do everything possible to fulfill the commitments they made to their constituents.

Even legislative veterans find that there is always something to learn.

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), a House member since 1972, conceded that "it's necessary to learn a little bit



Sen. Chuck Davis listens to Sen. Myrton Wegener's viewpoints on prospective legislation.

about the rules of the game" in any new organization.

Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), also a former House member, agreed with Berglin. "You've got to make an effort to establish your own credibility with other members," he said.

Looking back

Reflecting on their past campaigns, most of the new senators admitted that the process was much more intense than expected. Only one, Belanger,

found the Senate campaign to be less extensive than his former campaigns. Belanger's campaign for the Bloomington City Council was more extensive because council members are elected at-large and usually must canvass the entire city of Bloomington during their campaign. Belanger's Senate district includes only a part of Bloomington.

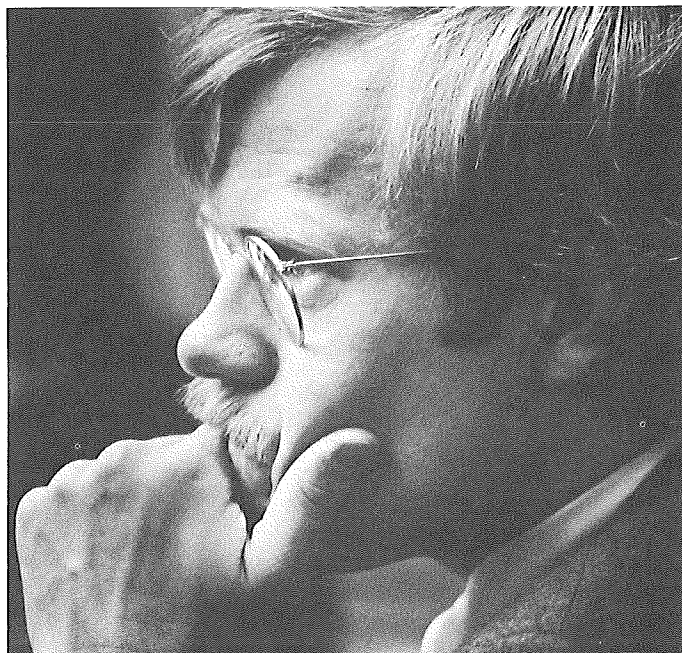
Nearly all agreed, however, that no matter what the size of the campaign, keeping the lines of communication open is one of the most important elements.



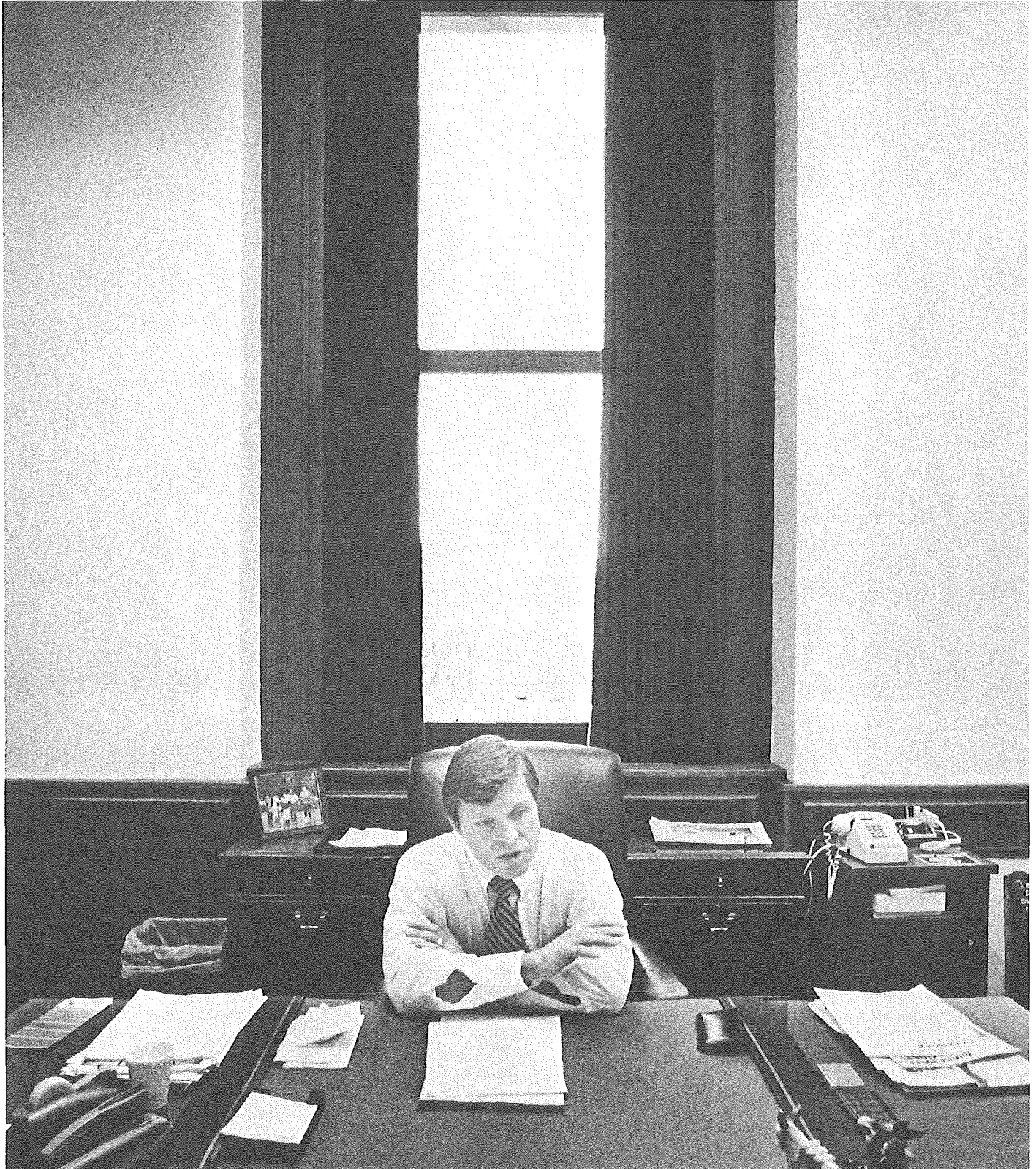
Senators Darrel Peterson, Linda Berglin and Randy Peterson (right) contemplate committee testimony.

Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park) believes that campaigns force office holders to keep in touch with their constituents. "It forces you to be responsible," he said.

"Having been through one campaign gives you a much clearer vision of what to expect next time," said Sen. Randy Peterson (DFL-Wyoming). The 1980 Senate campaign was his first for public office. Peterson, whose 19th District ranges from the metro area in the south to rural areas near Cambridge and Rush City in the north, added, "No other job offers such an opportunity to get to know and keep in touch" with people.



Senate leadership launches legislative session



Majority Leader Roger Moe

Photos by Mark M. Nelson

by Judith M. Strobel

Leaders of the Minnesota Senate got the 1981 session off to a running start by working together despite the philosophical differences of their caucuses.

Team work

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) said he and Minority Leader Robert Ashbach (IR-Arden Hills) understand the realities of a political discussion. "We will have some differences of opinion but at the same time we have reassured one another that we will work together to process the work because you can't do it alone."

Ashbach indicated that "probably more than in the past we will be working together." "However," he said, "the minority has a distinct role in the legislative process to respond to majority actions and proposals and to provide constructive alternatives that we think would better benefit the state. I do not feel that we have to be obstructive in any way and we will cooperate when we agree on the issues."

Ashbach, who was elected to the Senate in 1966, is starting his fourth term as minority leader. He has the full cooperation and enthusiasm of the IR caucus, according to Sen. John Bernhagen (IR-Hutchinson), assistant minority leader. "He is thorough, meticulous and has a way of involving many individuals. Yet, his easy-going personality is not one to be cut up when dealing with the issues."

Moe, who is beginning his first term as majority leader, was elected to the Senate in 1970 and served as chairman of the powerful Finance Committee since 1976. "I'm not a political scientist so I rely on my instinct and governmental experience," said Moe. "My new role involves a gentle blend of administering personnel with the Secretary of the Senate, guiding the committee process and serving as chief spokesman for the DFL caucus on issues and political decisions."

Bernhagen said Moe is "mild-mannered, but I have known

him long enough to know he will be thorough and expect things to happen the way he wants. That's natural for a leader to want things to happen his way and I think he commands that type of respect.

"As an outstate legislator, I think Moe will show a little more consideration for other outstate legislators when scheduling legislative activities," he said.

Majority Whip Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) described Moe as calm and deliberate. "I think he will try to operate the Senate in a less hectic manner than in the past. I don't think Moe can overly structure committees but I think things will be much more orderly on the Senate floor."

Staying on track

Moe said he plans to structure the Senate so that "everybody feels they have some part in the process. I want the Senate to be predictable. I want people to know when major issues will be debated so they can be prepared to testify at a committee meeting or offer

amendments on the floor. That way the public can also participate and see that it is an open process — a process that is fair."

He said there has been some criticism that bills are enacted with little public testimony on the issues. "Although many of these critical bills come up at the last minute," said Moe, "I hope to restrict the problem."

A gentleman's agreement exists between the two leaders to provide "reasonable" notice about bills accelerated through the process as special orders. These bills come up quickly because they are not required to lie over before being given a final vote.

Ashbach said "you need a chance to see what you have to vote on since most senators don't know the details of a bill unless they are on the committee."

In addition, Ashbach wants stronger enforcement of the germaneness rule which restricts amendments to the subject of the bill. A non-germane amendment includes one that relates



Assistant Minority Leader John Bernhagen



Minority Leader Robert Ashbach

to a substantially different subject, or is intended to accomplish a substantially different purpose than that of the bill to which it is proposed. Whether an amendment is germane is a question decided by the president, who may put the question to the body if he chooses.

Calling the plays

The new President of the Senate, Jack Davies (DFL-Mpls.), said he intends to monitor the germaneness rule closely during the session. He observed, however, that it will take a bipartisan effort to achieve its enforcement.

Davies, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, is the senior member of the Senate with 22 consecutive years of service. He will be assisted during the session by another Senate veteran, Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), who was elected President Pro Tempore. Hughes, the Education Committee

chairman, was first elected to the Senate in 1966.

Davies said he plans to give each senator an opportunity to preside over the Senate when it functions as the Committee of the Whole so he can participate in debates on his bills and those of other senators. Parliamentary procedure prohibits the presiding officer from participating in floor debate.

Davies said he may differ from many past presidents who called upon other members for advice when "the waters got choppy" because "I'm more likely to call for a short recess when I see a strong parliamentary call to talk privately with the senator rather than letting the conversation go on and on. I think debates on points of order prove to be unproductive and private conversation moves the matter to a resolution more quickly."

In the long run

An advocate of "civilized" session hours, Davies intends to call occasional recesses during long sessions so that senators and staff can make telephone calls and get something to eat. "Hopefully, this will reduce some of the hustling and bustling that used to go on during senate business."

He also wants more control on the length of individual sessions. "I expect Sen. Moe will realize when senators have run past their preparation and probably will agree to adjourn because he will want the homework to be done. However, there is no way to avoid the logjam at the end of the session. It's built into the institution.

"What people don't understand is that the legislature is an absolutely human institution and nobody makes tough,

difficult decisions until they are to deadline," he said.

Moe said he plans to work with the House leadership to schedule deadlines for committee hearings so that bills receive sufficient time for debate on the Senate floor. These deadlines usually allow enough time to catch any mistakes or omissions that might have been made while discussing the issues at the committee level.

The main event

The state's poor financial picture and reapportionment procedure will be the session's major issues, according to Ashbach and Moe. "Everything that we are going to be doing over the next four and a half months will be tempered by the state's fiscal problem," said Moe. "It looms far above everything else."

Ashbach said the state budget will be tight so "we will need to make

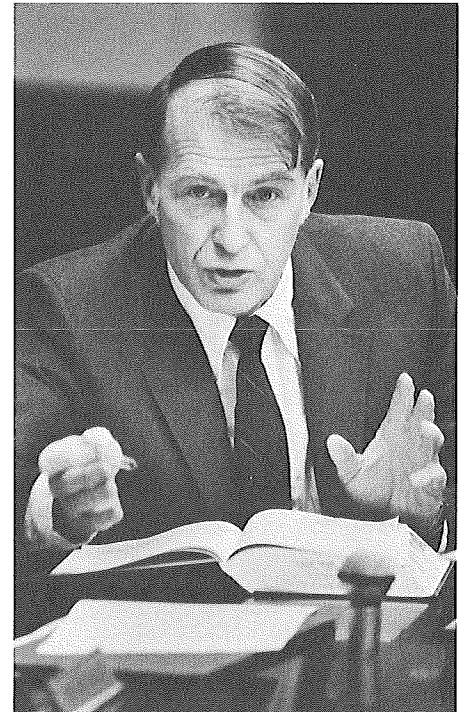
decisions rather than accommodate every request we receive for money."

Assistant Majority Leader Marv Hanson (DFL-Hallock) said the DFL caucus members won't be able to address the budget issue in a full manner until they have carefully reviewed Governor Quie's budget message which was given Tuesday, Jan. 27.

"This will be my twelfth budget message," said Davies, "and it should be far and above the most interesting. When we see it we will see which state program has to be saved or rescued from the budget decisions offered by the governor."

"State programs should be given real scrutiny," said Ashbach, "to see if they need as much and if they could do with less. Our caucus takes a conservative yet compassionate view of the needs of people. I don't see a change in direction because you can't be a November conservative and a January

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Senate President Jack Davies

Senate Secretary aids members

by Judith M. Strobel

Smoothing the path for leadership's running start on the 1981 session is Secretary of the Senate Patrick Flahaven.

Flahaven, who manages the Senate's internal operations, has earned respect from legislators from Minnesota and other states for his efficient operation. In fact, legislative groups have come from other states to observe the staffing procedures and facilities used in Minnesota.

"These visits are a reflection of Minnesota as a state and of Pat Flahaven's ability to run the internal operations of the Senate," said Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Ada). "They should be interpreted as a feather in his cap because nationally people recognize the great things about him that we in Minnesota already recognize."

Flahaven, who has served as secretary since 1973, handles the Senate budget, supervises personnel and arranges outside service contracts. His first priority, however, is parliamentary work that includes the processing and legal record-keeping of bills. He reports bills and keeps procedural minutes of the session for the Senate journal with the help of his assistants. He also advises the President and members of the Senate, if necessary, on parliamentary procedure.

"Parliamentary procedure is a complicated subject that you have to work with all the time to stay fresh and keep it all straight," said Flahaven. He became familiar with the procedure while working as a legislative staff assistant for former U.S. Rep. Joseph Karth in Washington D.C. and as a political science major at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

"His work performance can be measured by the fact that he was re-elected unanimously for the 1981 session, said Assistant Minority Leader John Bernhagen (IR-Hutchinson). "We in the minority feel that he has done a good job of handling the affairs that need to be done to run the whole Senate and that he has treated us fairly just as he would treat any colleague. I think that's a good hallmark and a good attitude because he is the Secretary of the Senate and not secretary of a partisan body."

Moe said Flahaven has a "calm, cool, confident manner that is very important in this process because things get quite harried. He has an excellent rapport with the senators and House members. He is the right person for the job."

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liberal unless you are a complete chameleon."

Moe said it isn't inconsistent for a progressive to talk about streamlining government. "The traditional interpretation of fiscal liberalism is that the only way to solve a problem is to throw money in it. I don't believe that. It isn't always necessary to put more money into a program to make it better. The legislature's test is to prove these improvements can be made without providing more money to do it."

Hanson said "it's not only the conservatives who feel that programs should be cost-effective and efficiently provided to the people who are to be served. It's a facile assumption by many political observers that the national trend is more conservative. I don't see the public backing away from

people-oriented programs that have been established by Democrats nationally and by the DFL in the state."

New line-up

Presently, the DFL holds 45 of 67 Senate seats. Although the ratio is the same as the 1980 session, it includes nine new IR senators and 14 DFL freshmen. "The new members won't be left at the starting block," said Moe, "because many of them have had legislative experience in the House or at the local level."

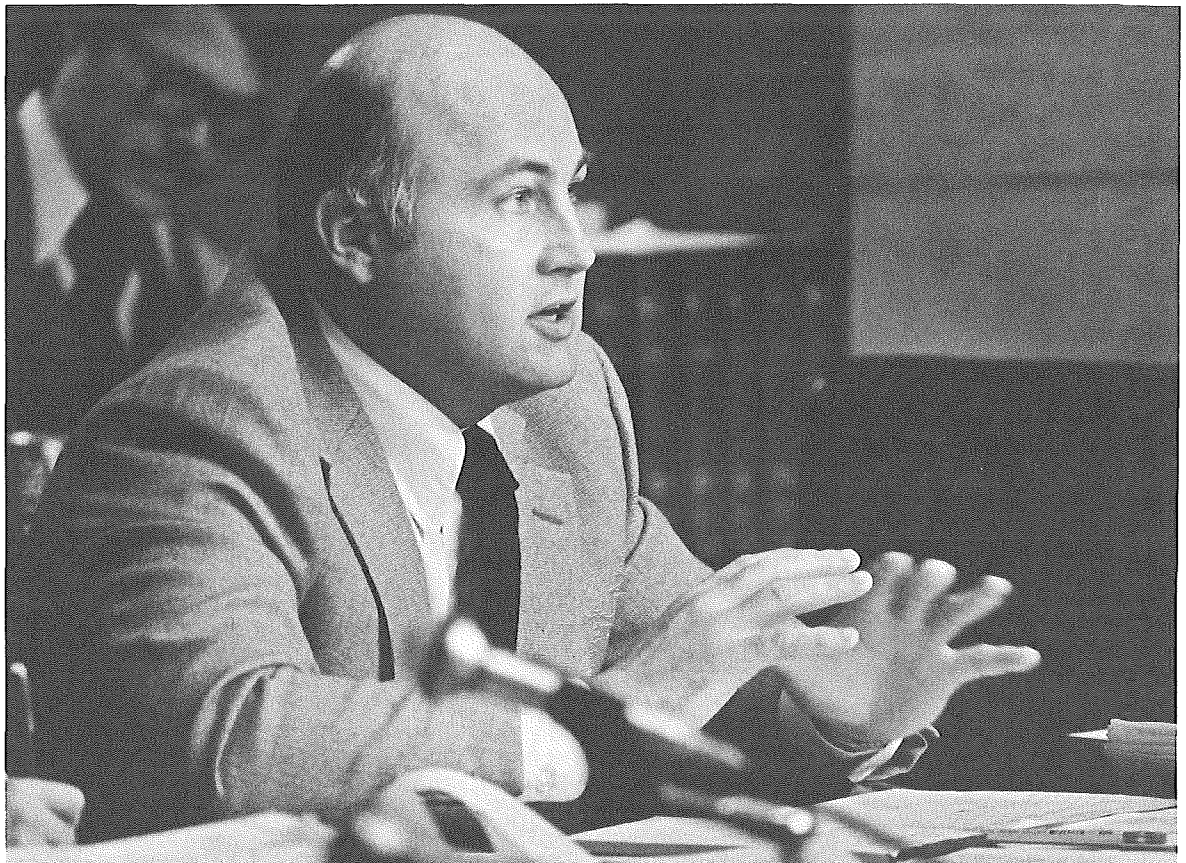
Ashbach said caucus presentations and an orientation were held for the freshmen senators. They also received office space and staffing assistance prior to the start of session.

"There is no comparison between today and the days when I was a freshman," said Moe. "When I first got

here there was no staff, no say-so in anything and it took me awhile to be recognized for motions in a committee. I recall as a senator going to the Rules Committee to which I was not a member and being ushered out because it was a closed meeting. Those days are long gone."

Staffing assistance has increased since Moe's freshman days because of the change in 1973 from biennial to annual sessions, said Davies. The change has proven to be "extremely valuable because the first year is a learning experience for the new senators that pays off in knowledge during the second year. In the past, people would go home and forget, go home and get beat or go home and retire."

He said the challenge of the 1981 leadership will be to draw the full talents from each senator by working together to pass legislation that will benefit the state.



Assistant Majority Leader Marv Hanson

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Flahaven said "State legislatures have a difficult time in exchanging information since there is only one in each state. It's not like having a similar agency or business just down the street where someone else does the same work."

He said two organizations: the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) provide a vehicle to exchange information, conduct training programs and discuss the problems involved in providing more efficient operations in each state. Flahaven is the current staff vice-president of NCSL and a former ASLCS president.

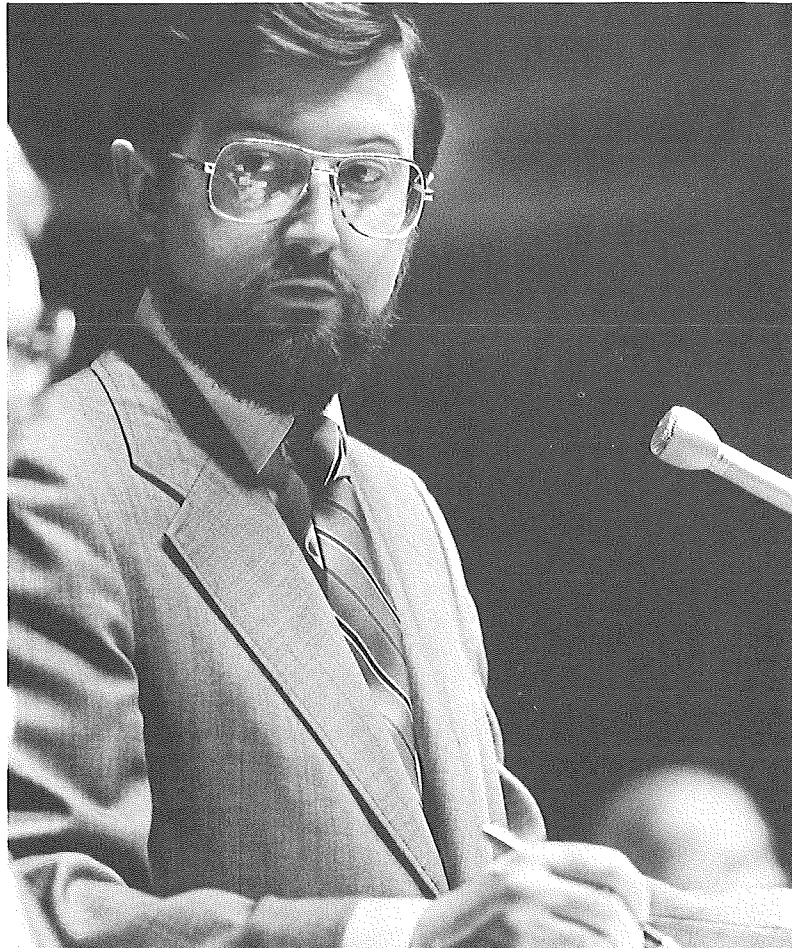
NCSL is a nonpartisan organization that officially represents the nation's state lawmakers and their staffs. Flahaven holds the top staff position in the organization which works to improve the effectiveness of state legislatures by lobbying on their behalf at the federal level and fostering interstate cooperation.

Flahaven sits on the Executive Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and appoints legislative staff members to NCSL committees. NCSL employees provide information on current issues of concern to state legislatures through publications, seminars and workshops. "The employees of NCSL are extremely competent and hard working," said Flahaven. "They have been the catalyst for the continued success of the conference."

Last August, NCSL officials arranged a visit to Minnesota for a legislative commission on facilities and staffing from Rhode Island. The group came to study the administrative services provided by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Minnesota was one of five states used as an example because "it has developed a good personnel system and that has happened in the Senate under Pat Flahaven," said Cindy Simon, NCSL's legislative management program director.

Recently, Flahaven spearheaded an



Secretary of the Senate Pat Flahaven

effort to establish a legislative institute "to train new legislative staff and serve as a continuing education device for experienced staff." The NCSL Executive Committee made a commitment to sponsor a seminar for experienced staff members in 1981 and a training institute for legislative staff in 1982.

Simon indicated that Flahaven's idea for the institute stemmed from his work as chairman of a subcommittee on staff development that accomplished some "landmark work" in staff planning, personnel management and professional development. "The subcommittee was the impetus for major publications and new activities in the personnel management area," she added.

Flahaven initiated another "landmark" project in 1977 as ASLCS president. He

paved the way for the first exchange of visits between American and Canadian legislative clerks which was held last August in Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

It was one of the the most educational programs that I have attended," said Ed Burdick, chief clerk of the Minnesota House. "My interest is in parliamentary procedure and I learned that the Canadians and Americans have much in common. I commend Pat for putting it together."

Flahaven said his association with NCSL and ASLCS and his years as secretary have helped him to improve the internal operations of Minnesota's Senate. "I have also gained a better appreciation for the legislative process and people who are involved in it after having spent so much time watching it up close," he said.

Perspectives

Perspectives is a publication of the Senate Public Information Office. The office also issues weekly news summaries and other publications that are available free of charge to interested and concerned citizens. For further information, call (612) 296-0504 or write to:

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St. Paul, MN 55155

Cover photo by Mark M. Nelson

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55155



1981 Senate Directory

Telephone	Senator	Dist.	Room No.*	Telephone	Senator	Dist.	Room No.
296-4111	Ashbach, Robert O.	48	123 SOB	0760	Petty, Eric D.	58	24E Cap.
4122	Bang, Otto T., Jr.	39	140 SOB	4121	Pillsbury, George S.	42	114 SOB
5975	Belanger, William	38	129 SOB	4167	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	24	303 Cap.
3903	Benson, Duane D.	35	131 SOB	9251	Ramstad, Jim	43	136 SOB
5094	Berg, Charles A.	15	141 SOB	4125	Renneke, Earl W.	23	121A SOB
4261	Berglin, Linda	59	303 Cap.	4100	Rued, Dave	13	137 SOB
4131	Bernhagen, John	22	130 SOB	7157	Schmitz, Robert J.	36	235 Cap.
2084	Bertram, Joe	16	231 Cap.	8086	Setzepfandt, A.O.H.	21	24G Cap.
4848	Brataas, Nancy	33	139 SOB	4310	Sieloff, Ron	63	142 SOB
4182	Chmielewski, Florian	14	325 Cap.	4700	Sikorski, Gerry	51	23L Cap.
5003	Dahl, Gregory L.	49	24H Cap.	4188	Solon, Sam G.	7	303 Cap.
4841	Davies, Jack	60	27 Cap.	4191	Spear, Allan H.	57	323 Cap.
2302	Davis, Charles R.	18	306 Cap.	4166	Stern, Irving M.	41	309 Cap.
2859	Dicklich, Ronald R.	5	306 Cap.	4192	Stokowski, Anne	55	29 Cap.
8867	Dieterich, Neil	62	326 Cap.	4193	Stumpf, Peter P.	64	235 Cap.
4103	Engler, Steve	25	116 SOB	9457	Taylor, Glen	29	135 SOB
2877	Frank, Don J.	46	23D Cap.	8885	Tennessen, Robert J.	56	309 Cap.
4123	Frederick, Mel	32	122A SOB	4314	Ulland, James	8	143 SOB
8138	Frederickson, Dennis	28	133 SOB	4101	Vega, Conrad M.	52	303 Cap.
4835	Hanson, Marvin B.	1	205 Cap.	3809	Waldorf, Gene	66	235 Cap.
4183	Hughes, Jerome M.	50	328 Cap.	4156	Wegener, Myrton O.	12	328 Cap.
4180	Humphrey Hubert H., III	44	301 Cap.	4147	Willet, Gerald L.	14	121 Cap.
8881	Johnson, Douglas J.	6	205 Cap.				
4118	Keefe, John B.	40	124 SOB	Telephone	Committee	Room No.	
7196	Knoll, Franklin J.	61	306 Cap.	296-4157	Ag. & Nat. Resources	24 Cap.	
4120	Knutson, Howard A.	53	125 SOB	4158	Commerce	309 Cap.	
4302	Kroening, Carl	54	235 Cap.	4185	Education	328 Cap.	
1945	Kronebusch, Patricia L.	34	126 SOB	8866	Elect. & Reapport.	235 Cap.	
3205	Langseth, Keith	9	328 Cap.	8865	Employment	325 Cap.	
8017	Lantry, Marilyn M.	67	23J Cap.	8864	Energy & Housing	301 Cap.	
4136	Lessard, Bob	3	328 Cap.	6436	Finance	121 Cap.	
1736	Lindgren, Steve	37	128 SOB	8863	Gen. Leg. & Ad. Rules	29 Cap.	
8869	Luther, William P.	45	203 Cap.	4175	Gov. Operations	306 Cap.	
4171	Menning, Marion (Mike)	26	28 Cap.	4151	Health, Welfare & Corr.	303 Cap.	
4154	Merriam, Gne	47	24F Cap.	4841	Judiciary	27 Cap.	
4264	Moe, Donald M.	65	323 Cap.	4150	Loc. Gov. & Urban Aff.	328 Cap.	
2577	Moe, Roger D.	2	208 Cap.	8412	Pub. Employ. & Pensions	323 Cap.	
4871	Nelson, Tom	31	23K Cap.	4196	Rules & Admin.	208 Cap.	
4474	Nichols, Jim	20	325 Cap.	4839	Taxes & Tax Laws	205 Cap.	
4178	Olhoft, Wayne	11	29 Cap.	4186	Transportation	303 Cap.	
4241	Pehler, James C.	17	306 Cap.	1771	Veterans' Affairs	235 Cap.	
4165	Penny, Timothy J.	30	121 Cap.	Telephone	Service Office	Room No.*	
4135	Peterson, Collin C.	10	205 Cap.	296-2887	Index	231 Cap.	
3988	Peterson, Darrel	27	138 SOB	2343	Sec. of the Senate	231 Cap.	
8018	Peterson, Randolph W.	19	27 Cap.	0504	Public Information	B29 Cap.	
				8088	"Hotline" (daily schedules)		

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