

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Chase Hibbard, on March 25, 1997, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 437.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Chase Hibbard, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Robert R. Story, Jr., Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)  
Rep. Robert R. "Bob" Ream, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)  
Rep. Peggy Arnott (R)  
Rep. Paul Bankhead (R)  
Rep. John C. Bohlinger (R)  
Rep. Bill Carey (D)  
Rep. Alvin A. Ellis, Jr. (R)  
Rep. Marian W. Hanson (R)  
Rep. Hal Harper (D)  
Rep. Dan W. Harrington (D)  
Rep. Rick Jore (R)  
Rep. Scott J. Orr (R)  
Rep. Bob Raney (D)  
Rep. John "Sam" Rose (R)  
Rep. William M. "Bill" Ryan (D)  
Rep. Emily Swanson (D)  
Rep. Lila V. Taylor (R)  
Rep. Jack Wells (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Richard D. Simpkins (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Services Division  
Donna Grace, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None.

Executive Action: None.

Chairman Hibbard announced that the committee meeting would be dedicated to discussion of tax policy. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.3; Comments: .}*

Speaker of the House, John Mercer, spoke to the Committee. He said there are many tax philosophies in the state but no agreed upon tax policy. The state relies too much on property tax and the public is demanding action to take care of the reappraisal problem. He asked the Committee to come up with a complete and comprehensive tax package, or the reason why it can't be done at the present time, prior to the end of the session. The Speaker indicated he would support the Committee's decision and would work to suspend rules if necessary. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.1; Comments: .}*

Committee discussion. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 11.9; Comments: Discussion continued on Tape 1 B.}*

Rep. Cocchiarella, Minority Floor Leader, also spoke to the Committee. She suggested the Committee use the Governor's Task Force on Taxation recommendations as a starting point. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 3.4; Comments: .}*

Discussion followed. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7.1; Comments: .}*

Chairman Hibbard stated that the Committee had been issued an exciting challenge and had a unique opportunity to step outside the norm to work toward a common goal. *{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.4; Comments: .}*

The Committee was divided into five sub-groups to develop ideas for tax policy and the meeting was recessed for one hour. *{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25.8; Comments: .}*

Following the recess, each sub-group presented a report on its deliberations. The reports are attached as **EXHIBIT 1**. Discussion followed. *{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 0.1; Comments: Discussion continued on Tape 3 A and B.}*

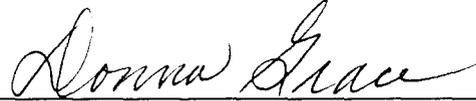
*{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 2.0; Comments: Adjourn..}*

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:30 a.m.



REP. CHASE HIBBARD, Chairman



DONNA GRACE, Secretary

CH/DG