MINUTES OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The regular meeting of the Appropriations Committee was called to order by the Chairman at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was taken and all members were present. Also present were Joe Quilici, Chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee and John LaFaver, Fiscal Analyst.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION #6: A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana placing legislative employees and attaches on the statewide pay plan.

The Chairman stated this pay plan is the result of a resolution of the House and Senate last session to have the fiscal analyst prepare a pay plan to avoid the hassles of previous sessions, and introduced Mr. Quilici, Chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee to explain the plan.

Representative Quilici stated Mr. LaFaver's office had given the Legislative Administration Committee a guideline on how to pay the attaches according to the pay plan. Each House employee has been taken by name, past experience and job classification, and then been classified into the plan. Experience is a factor in determining steps. The Chairman asked for an explanation of grades. Chief Clerk and Secretary of the Senate are Grade 19; Sergeant at Arms is Grade 17. These are based on a 40-hour work week and are salaried positions. Below Grade 17 are hourly employees. Overtime is paid only to hourly employees. Representative Marks asked what steps will there be in Grade 17 and up. These employees will be Step 1.

There are 65 full time employees in the House under this pay plan, about the same number as last session. No benefits are paid for these employees other than Social Security. Representative Moore asked if step classifications can be appealed. Representative Quilici replied that every employee has that right.

The Chairman asked for a "dollar" breakdown. The Chaplain is paid \$13.78 per day; Chief Clerk, \$438 per week. Assistant Chief Clerk, \$6.29 per hour; Bills Clerk, \$5.60 per hour. Using the Journal Clerk as an example, under this plan pay is \$5.22 for a Journal Clerk with no previous experience. The present Journal's Clerk has 5 sessions experience and is paid \$5.73 per hour, up about 2 steps.

The Chairman said he would like to see more accurate records kept on the exact number of employees of each session. Mr. Quilici replied they are going to do exactly that, keeping names of employees, salaries, changeovers, replacements, etc.

After brief discussion, Representative Lynch moved that House Joint Resolution BE CONCURRED IN. Lund seconded. Question called. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman announced that on adjournment the Fiscal Review Committee would meet with Mr. LaFaver, the fiscal analyst, for a review of the budget, and the appropriations committee is welcome to sit in.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Francis Bardanouve, CHAIRMAN

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