

January 20, 1977

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A meeting of the House Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was held on Thursday, January 20, 1977 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 431 of the State Capitol. All members were present with the exception of Rep. J. D. Lynch, who was excused.

The first bill to be heard was HOUSE BILL NO. 176, sponsored by Chairman Menahan. Ben Johns, SRS, was supposed to appear in behalf of the bill, but failed to appear. Mr. Dean Zinnecker, Montana Association of Counties, then spoke in favor of the bill. The counties reimburse the state government 50% of the cost for administration and the federal government reimburses the state 75%, so the state gets a total of 125%. This is unfair to the taxpayer. This bill would reduce the cost of local government.

There were no opponents. The committee voted to DO NOT PASS HB 176, and hold the report in committee until Mr. Johns had a chance to testify.

HOUSE BILL 174 was then heard. The sponsor Rep. Holmes explained that she was attempting to undo what had been done four years ago. The terms of the act have proven to be unworkable. The same services are being provided, in a much more orderly fashion, by the Family Planning clinics. Another proponent was Dr. John Anderson, Dept. of Health. He stated that this bill was at the Agency's request. It is difficult to determine who is a qualified counselor. Ms. Dee Capp also spoke up in favor of the bill; see prepared statement. Mr. Philip Powers, Chief of the Bureau of Mental Health and the Dept. of Institutions, was also in favor of this bill.

There were no opponents to HOUSE BILL 174. The committee asked several questions, and then went into executive session. Rep. Palmer moved that HOUSE BILL 174 DO PASS. Motion was carried unanimously.

Rep. Palmer then moved to pass till Thursday, Jan. 27 the hearing on HOUSE BILL 184. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Wm. 'RED' Menahan
Chairman-Rep. Wm. "Red" Menahan

Debbie J. Jovanac
Secretary