

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 21, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m., with all members present except Rep. Kennerly, who was absent.

House Bill 199 was discussed. Rep. Metcalf, chief sponsor, explained that the bill is an outgrowth of a recommendation made by the Montana Justice Project; which said that the State should consider action to develop schools as community centers and to develop leadership in those centers. They felt most schools were not being utilized to the fullest. This bill clarifies the authority of school trustees to let buildings be used if such use will not interfere with school use. It is a multiple use concept, and also allows fees for using the school to cover janitorial services, etc.

Proponents were: Gerald Dunbar, Charles O'Reilly and Rep. Holmes. Opponents were: Wayne Buchanan, Richard Baker, John Campbell, Jim Watkins and Chad Smith. Their testimony is attached.

Rep. Metcalf said he will have Gladys Elison submit written testimony on this bill as she was not able to be present today. The Chairperson said the committee will hold action on the bill.

The Committee then went into executive session.

The Chairperson appointed subcommittees on the following bills:

House Bill 69 - Reps. Barrett, Kessler and Gilligan. They are to look at proposed amendments, find other statutes that might be affected by the bill and report to the whole Committee on Wednesday.

House Bill 66 - Reps. Courtney, Meyer and Eudaily. Rep. South has amendments and so do the firemen. They are clean-up and clarification amendments. The subcommittee will report Monday or Wednesday.

House Bill 119 will be held until Monday.

There was more discussion on the ramifications of House Bill 69.

Rae Haas then explained her analysis of the foundation program schedules of the Office of Budget and Program Planning, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Montana Education Association. Her analysis is attached.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

ANN MARY DUSSAULT, Chairperson