

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 2, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m., with all members present.

House Bill 489 was discussed first. Rep. Eudaily, chief sponsor, said the bill will not change anything for districts that want to continue their mill levy as they have been but it allows those who wish to extend it to do so. The thought is that voted levies would coincide with other levies, and by combining them with foundation program schedules would improve budgeting. If something comes up it can be sent back to the people for another vote to change the levy.

Proponents were Maurice Hickey, Dr. Kenneth Olson, Len Sergeant and Jim McGarvey. Ed Nelson spoke as an opponent. Their statements are attached.

Rep. Eudaily closed by saying that out of 454 elementary districts, 311 had to vote additional millage and out of 160 high school districts 156 voted special levies last year. In the last few years percentages of voted levies have begun to stabilize so we can begin to plan for more than one year at a time.

House Bill 449 was discussed next. Rep. Barrett, chief sponsor, said the bill would bring accreditation standards in institutions schools to a level comparable to public schools in Montana. Jim McGarvey testified as a proponent of the bill. His testimony is attached. In closing, Rep. Barrett questioned all the figures and conclusions on the fiscal note (attached). Irving Dayton said that only high school graduation is required for admission to unit of the university system. Nothing is said about being a graduate of an accredited high school. In discussion, it was decided that the only two schools this bill would apply to are those at Boulder and Warm Springs, because the age of people at Swan River and the Prison means they do not come under the compulsory education requirements.

House Bill 485 was discussed next. Rep. Gunderson, chief sponsor, said this bill would change the law on school discipline and corporal punishment. Proponents were Lloyd Markell, Len Sergeant, Chadwick Smith. Their testimony is attached.

House Bill 463 was discussed next. Rep. Holmes, chief sponsor, gave the background of the Indian Studies Act. She submitted the master plan and other material which is attached. Maurice Hickey testified as a proponent. Opponents were Harold Grey, Darryl Grey, John Sunchild, Wayne Buchanan, Dwight Billedeaux, Karen Fenton, Jessie James, Elaine Clayborn. Their testimony is attached. Bill Yellowtail, OSPI, said that the only federal funds tied to Indian enrollment are Title IV. A district must have 50% Indian enrollment or 10 Indians enrolled to qualify.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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ANN MARY DUSSAULT, Chairperson