

February 14, 1977

#### LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A meeting of the House Labor and Employment Relations Committee was held on Monday, February 14, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 225 of the State Capitol. All members were present.

The first bill to be heard, HOUSE BILL 670, was sponsored by the chairman, Rep. Kimble. Rep. Lynch took over the chair for the duration of this hearing. Rep. Kimble outlined the bill and explained a proposed amendment. This bill would give the Board of Regents the authority to arrange state holidays to better conform with school schedules. See prepared statement. Steve Veazie, attorney for the Commissioner of Higher Education, then spoke. Then Stan Zezotarski, a Legislative Intern for the Commissioner of Higher Education, stated that passage of this bill would provide for greater efficiency in the University System. The day before thanksgiving at present is a "lost Day"; such days cause school terms to be longer. At present, rescheduling of classes around these days causes confusion. He reassured the committee that passage of this bill would not cause students or employees to lose any holidays. Mr. Veazie then spoke up again, spelling out the intent of the bill, which is to relocate these holidays so that they would occur when the students were not on campus.

The only opponent to HOUSE BILL 670 was Stan Gerke, representing the AFSCME, AFL-CIO. He expressed concern about the possibility that this might eliminate the 3-day weekend concept which has arisen in the past years. He suggested several amendments; see copy.

Questions about HB 670 were then asked. It was explained that the bill would cause a savings because employee services are not in demand on the student holidays. The savings is a concept; because the services are unneeded on those days the work input would tend to be less. The hearing was then closed.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 51 was then heard. Rep. Frates as chief sponsor explained that in the past several years, the population has shifted and civil defense training programs have suffered as a result. He would like to address this problem by starting a retraining program on the ground level. He said that it would not cost the state any money. C. L. Gilbertson, State Civil Defense then spoke. Montana people are concerned with the overall level of civil defense preparedness, and want the Congress to properly fund the programs. The nation spends less than 40 cents per individual in the national civil defense program, compared with Russia's more than \$4 per capita. The main problem is lack of funding from the federal government. There are programs in every county in the state. The federal budget varies each year; last year \$82.5 million was budgeted. Civil defense should be important in Montana since it is classified as a high danger area. He finished by reviewing the

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present preparations across the state.

There were no opponents to HJR 51. The sponsor closed. His main concern is that we are in the condition Russia was in when they tried to move their missiles into Cuba. We are in a position where we are subjected to blackmail, but if the program can get back to where it used to be, we would not be. Questions were then asked. Montana received \$130,000 for salaries, and special project applications are also considered. This year Montana probably received about \$.5 million in federal funds. This resolution would ask for state assistance to make educational funds available for the ongoing programs. This would cover all types of disasters. This resolution calls for the nuclear aspect only, however. \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 1977 came from federal funds. The hearing was closed.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 52, also sponsored by Rep. Frates, was then heard. The reason for the resolution sprung from a letter received from Great Falls. The city is losing their funding and they wanted the problem addressed. This apprenticeship program prepares young people to enter into industry with skills. The resolution asks that Congress continue to fund this program of apprenticeship. He suggested several amendments to the measure, see copy. Dave Fuller, Dept. of Labor and Industry then spoke. He supported this concept and the resolution as amended meets his approval. (1) apprenticeship has survived the test of time. (2) The training programs are effective, and will continue to be expanded into new areas and trades. (3) It is important to recognize that apprenticeship success is dependent upon the economy. He went over the current programs which are being expanded. Dick Michels, Montana Apprenticeship Bureau Chief, made himself available for questions from the committee. A brief background report was given on the number of persons involved in the apprenticeship programs. It was pointed out that the state apprenticeship law is voluntary in all aspects. Ernie Post, Montana State AFL-CIO, then explained that it was he who had suggested the amendments to the sponsor. He gave his reasons. There were no other proponents.

There were no opponents to HJR 52. The sponsor Rep. Frates closed. This program needs continued federal funding. Questions were then asked.

The committee then went into executive session to consider the following bills:

HJR 52 - Rep. Williams moved, Rep. Baeth seconded, that it DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

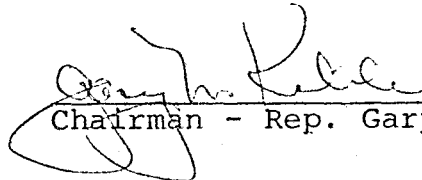
HJR 51 - Rep. Dassinger moved that it DO PASS; Rep. Porter seconded the motion. Discussion took place. If this resolution

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will help stimulate the program, Rep. Brand stated that he was all for it. Question was then called for. Motion carried unanimously.

It was decided that executive action on the remainder of the bills would be postponed until the next meeting, due to the absence of part of the committee members.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Chairman - Rep. Gary N. Kimble

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Secretary