

2/15/1977

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOUSE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

February 15, 1977
10:10 a.m.
Rm. 434
State Capitol Bldg.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairwoman Bengtson, with all members present except, Chairman Day, who was excused.

Representative Dave Aageson, chief sponsor of HJR 49, explained that this resolution protested the federal grain inspection supervisory fee requiring the Department of Agriculture's grain laboratory to pay the supervision fee. This would amount to approximately \$35,000, annually, which is 22% of the departments grain laboratorys' present personal services expenditures. His feelings were that this is not necessary.

Mr. George Lackman, Department of Agriculture, proponent to HJR 49, stated that the Montana grain laboratory inspects all grain within the state and the federal inspects all that is going out of the state. Presently there are 4 inspectors, 4 graders, 2 samplers and 2 laboratory aids. We feel this is just an added expense when we have these people doing a fine job. He concluded by stating that the state grain laboratory is run by earmarked revenue funds and is in a fairly good financial situation, but this would make a need for more money to cover the added expense.

Representative Aageson, closed by stating that he didn't feel it was the intent of congress to put such an added expense on the state of Montana.

Representative Teague, chief sponsor of HJR 41, was present to explain that this resolution was commending the efforts of the American Council of Spotted Asses. He stated that this was the only breed ever started in Montana. His feelings were that we should support the hard work of the promoters of this breed, to the United States and other nations. This is a nonprofit organization with headquarters in Fishtail, Montana. He concluded by stating that Mr. Dave Parker, a raiser of Spotted Asses was present to answer any questions the committee might have.

Representative Ellerd asked how may breeders there are in the state at present? Mr. Parker replied their were 25.

Representative Lien, chief sponsor of HB 526, explained that HB 526 had a proposed amendment which would change most all of the bill. The reason for this amendment, which had been drawn up by the Department of State Lands, was that the bill as written jeopardized the prior preferance rights. This was not the intent of the bill. The amendments would protect the prior preference rights. The board shall accept the highest bid, but if the lessee exercises their preference right and believes the bid to be excessive, he may request an administrative hearing. The rent may then be decreased if the lessee shows that the bid is not in the best interest of the state, because it is above community standards for a lease of such land and would cause damage to the tract or impair its longterm productivity. One fifth of the

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ranchers in Montana bid on these state lands.

Commissioner Berry, State Lands, author of the amendments, was present in support of HB 526 as amended.

Mr. Mons Teigen, Montana Stockgrowers and Montana Woolgrowers, went on record as a proponent to HB 526 as amended.

Representative Staigmilller asked if this bill gave the Department of Fish and Game the right to bid on these lands? Mr. Berry replied that it did not give them anyother rights than they already have had in the past.

Representative Meloy, sponsor of HJR 54, explained that this resolution commended the National High School Rodeo Association people for their time and efforts putting together the 1977 rodeo. An appropriation had been turned down last session to raise money for the '77 rodeo, but was raised separately on their own. He stated that the rodeo was held in different states each year and Montana will not have the rodeo here again after 1977, until 2007. It is estimated that 3 to 4 million dollars will come into the state from people coming to see this event. Representative Meloy then suggested an amendment to be it further resolved that the legislature commends the Helena '77 Rodeo Association and other organizations for a job well done. (attached information)

Representative Meloy closed with a do pass as amended, recommendation.

Representative Gunderson presented the committee with the committee bill which was drafted by researcher, Dave Cogley, relating to HB 344. Also presenting a substitute proposal, which he preferred. This substitute proposal would amend the present law by putting in a new section requiring corporations to file a form stating the amount of acreage, were located, etc. At the present time out of state and foreign corporations do file with the Secretary of State corporation forms. The additional form mentioned would specify additional information concerning their involvement in agricultural production. The cost would be minimal, because it would be an attached form to those already required. He stated that he preferred this substitute amendment over the committee bill and hoped the committee would support his recommendation. This will allow the state to obtain information for the next legislature, to determine if a Family Farm Act is necessary in the state of Montana. The committee members requested that Representative Gunderson present each member with this proposal and the said form for observation before Thursday's meeting.

Representative Conroy moved HB 372, do not pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmilller. Representative Brand made a substitute motion that HB 372, do pass as amended. Other amendments were proposed. Representative Brand moved the amendments be adopted. the motion failed 9 to 3. The motion to do pass as amended was voted on and failed 8 to 1. The original motion to do not pass was voted on and passed uananimously.

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Representative Conroy moved HB 509, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Smith. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Severson moved HJR 41, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmilller. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Smith moved HJR 49, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Curtis. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative McLane moved the amendments to HJR 54. It was seconded by Representative Curtiss. The motion was passed unanimously.

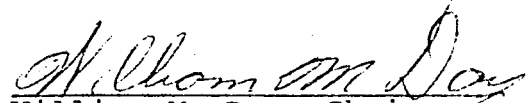
Representative Johnston moved HJR 54, do pass as amended. It was seconded by Representative McLane. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Severson moved the adoption of the amendments to HB 526. It was seconded by Representative Davis. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Johnston moved HB 526, do pass as amended. It was seconded by Representative Severson. The motion was passed 9 to 2.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.


William M. Day, Chairman