

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

February 17, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m., with all members present.

House Bill 657 was discussed. Rep. Curtiss, chief sponsor, distributed her testimony, which is attached. She requested an amendment to page 1, line 21, after "citizen" to add "in its most productive use. Use is to be determined at the time of acquisition." Proponents were John Bell, Steve Turkewics, Franklin Grosfield, Bob Biggerstaff, Tom Lane, Gene Spilde, Glen Childers. Wes Woodgerd testified as an opponent. Their testimony is attached.

House Bill 752 was discussed next. Rep. Huennekens, chief sponsor, said most of the people who might come to testify for this bill are tied to their city jobs and cannot come. Although this is a big game bill, there are references to bird hunting and fishing also. There are about 245,000 people who hunt and fish in Montana. Wildlife is the property of the state. The big game feeds on private land but that is not relevant to the ownership of the game. In the opinion of city people, pay hunting is not right for this state. No one should have the right to hunt on any land that is posted against hunting. It is very maddening for the city hunter to feel that he cannot hunt on the land but then he sees out-of-state hunters on it.

Opponents were Tom Lane, Mons Teigen, Anne Howe, Mrs. Virge Holliday, Franklin Grosfield, Ralph Holman, Glen Childers, Ray Meyers, Jr., Bob Bagerstaff, Leo Berry.

Rep. Huennekens closed by saying the bill does not say that you must let anyone hunt. He does not agree with Senator Graham's survey and city people don't believe it. They are shut out of public lands. Trespass fees would not be included. It does not look like this bill will be enforceable if someone really wants to get around it.

HR 15 was discussed. Rep. Turner, chief sponsor, said it requests the Fish and Game to take the opinions of local rod and gun clubs into consideration when setting seasons and limits. Wes Woodgerd testified as an opponent, as did Ralph Holman. Their testimony is attached. Mr. Holman said wardens are not allowed to testify because it creates friction. Rep. Turner said he had no objections to amendments.

Rep. Johnston moved that the committee submit a resolution about coyotes on the Fort Peck. The committee adopted the motion unanimously.

Rep. Seifert moved that House Bill 752 DO NOT PASS. The motion passed 10-1 (Courtney voted NO). The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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JOHN B. STAIGMILLER, Chairman