

April 5, 1977

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A meeting of the House Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was held on Tuesday, April 5, 1977 in Room 431 of the State Capitol. All members were present with the exception of Reps. Holmes, Palmer, Colburn, Gunderson and Lynch, who were excused.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95, sponsored by Chairman Menahan, was heard. The basic idea of this measure is to cut down on some expenses. Cat scanners can determine quickly what is wrong with a person; they are the latest thing in the diagnostic field. They are very expensive. Montana has not gotten into this field yet, but will do so in the future. The government ends up paying much for these scanners through Medicare and Medicaid payments; in turn, medical costs go up. A committee will be appointed to study this field in the interim, and this resolution will direct that this area be included in the study. This will help determine the accountability of some of these new programs and services.

Jerry L. Tavegia, Montana Association of Counties, then spoke, concurring with Rep. Menahan's statements.

There were no opponents to HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95.

Discussion took place. The amount of money spent on funding for mental health services and other related services and programs was discussed. The House has appropriated \$5 million for these people, and now in the Senate they are asking for \$2 million more.

Rep. Feda moved that HJR 95 DO PASS. Further discussion took place. The possibility of forming regions in which to have the cat scanners located was talked about. These regions might include neighboring states. Question was then called for and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Wm 'RED' Menahan
Chairman-Rep. Wm. "Red" Menahan

Debbie Johnson
Secretary