

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 5, 1977

The first meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 331 of the State Capitol. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Senator Thiessen at 8:35 A.M. Roll call attached.

Sub-Committee assignments were discussed in regard to the overlapping of assignments, and thus duplication of work in some areas.

John LaFavor, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, discussed the major changes in the sub-committee structure and distributed a copy to the members, exhibit 1. He said the theory was to keep as much as possible, the related fields together as well as to balance the work loads. He said there was no change in the institutions sub-committee since that was already more than a full time job but would be impractical to split up.

Senator Thiessen gave copies of the new sub-committee assignments to the members of the committee, copy attached, exhibit 2. He said there would be two changes: The names of Agency I and Agency II would be put back on the titles.

John LaFavor also named the staff members who would be serving on the sub-committees as well as to Finance and Claims, and are as follows:

Finance and Claims	Judy Rippingale
Institutions	Tom Briggs
Elected Officials	Bill Gosnell
Education	Judy Rippingale
Agency I	Curt Nichols
Agency II	Bob Robinson
Long Range Building	Judy Rippingale (etc)

Senator Boylan asked the fiscal analyst if there were some way to avoid "back-dooring". He said after the budgets were set bills would be passed that changed the amount of money that had been budgeted by the committees.

John LaFavor said there will be a constant check on all bills introduced that will affect the budgets and the sub-committee chairmen will be kept informed, thus hoping to avoid this problem.

Senator Smith asked if it were possible to control the increase of staff or salaries by the agencies, departments, etc, which had not been allocated in the budget.

Senator Etchart asked if it were possible to change the order of introducing the budget bills. He felt when a proposed budget was introduced that they had not had a chance to work on it gave a paper bill to work on and fight, not reality. He felt the Governor's introduced bill gave the sub-committees a disadvantage.

Senator Smith pointed out the Education budget last session and what happened. He said the Governor's introduced bill set a raise for the universities. The sub-committees cut the introduced bill while still raising the universities 32% increase over the past biennium. He said people actually thought the Legislature had cut the university budget, not realizing the raise.

Discussion was held on comparison figures of an introduced bill for carrying the bill on the floor, the extent of control the Legislature has on university spending the Legislature has, and the change of sub-committees in regard to the Superintendent of Schools.

John LaFavor said the Supreme Court decision was clear that line item appropriations by the Legislature is legal and proper.

Legislative interns for Senators Smith and Regan were present at the meeting.

Asked about files for sub-committee records, Mr. LaFavor said he understood they would be available in the House and perhaps in the Senate in the room in which the committee members had their first meeting of the day.

Senator Thiessen requested the sub-committee chairmen to meet with the sub-committee chairmen from the house and tell them they were available immediately. He also asked them to give the secretary of Finance and Claims the time and topic of discussion for their meetings and it would be posted on the bulletin board in room 331.

Senator Thiessen requested members making trips to list with the Secretary of the Senate office that it was on state business so that they were not merely listed as "excused".

The meeting was adjourned.

1/6/1977

Senator Thiessen, Chairman

MTG: Joint Senate & House, Governor's reception room for briefing on budget--Jan 6 9 A.M.

MTG: Joint Senate Finance & Claims and Taxation, Jan 12, 8 A.M. Taxation Committee Room.

Appropriations - Finance and Claims

Joint Subcommittees

1. Agencies I

Labor and Industry
Health and Environmental Sciences
Community Affairs
Business Regulation
Public Service Regulation

2. Education

Board of Public Education
OSPI
Operations
Foundation
School Lunch
Transportation
5 Vo-tech Centers
Vocational, Secondary & Post Secondary
Advisory Council for Vo-ed
Library Commission
Historical Society
Arts Council
School for Deaf and Blind
Community Colleges
Commissioner of Higher Education
Bureau of Mines
Agricultural Experiment Station
Cooperative Extension Service
Board of Regents
University of Montana
Montana State University
Eastern Montana College
Western Montana College
Northern Montana College
Mt. College of Mineral Science & Technology

3. Agencies II

Fish and Game
State Lands
Livestock
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Professional and Occupational Licensing
Social and Rehabilitation Services

4. Institutions

Central Office
Boulder River School and Hospital
Children's Center
Center for the Aged
Eastmont Training Center
Galen State Hospital
Mountain View School
Pine Hills School
Prison
Swan River Youth Forest Camp
Veterans' Home
Warm Springs State Hospital
Board of Pardons
Drug Program
Board of Visitors

5. Legislative, Judicial, Administrative

Legislature
Legislative Auditor
Legislative Council
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Environmental Quality Council
Governor's Office
State Auditor
Secretary of State
Treasurer
Judiciary
County Attorneys
Administration
PERS
Board of Examiners
Tax Appeals Board
Justice
Revenue
Commissioner of Campaign Finances
Crime Board
Military Affairs
Civil Defense
Highways

FINANCE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

*Judy Rippengale*INSTITUTIONS SUB-COMMITTEES - *Dane Briggs*

SENATE

Flynn, Chairman
EtchartHOUSEGerke, Chairman
Lund
Ellis
HansenJOINT SENATE-HOUSEGerke, Chairman
Flynn, V. C.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SUB-COMMITTEE

*Bill Caswell*Regan, Chairman
Lockrem
NelsonLynch, Chairman
Wood
GundersonLynch, Chairman
Regan, V. C.

EDUCATION

Himsl, Chairman
Fasbender*Judy Rippengale*South, Chairman
Moore
Kvaalen
HalvorsenSouth, Chairman
Himsl, V. C.*Agency #1*
HUMAN SERVICES*Curt Nichols*

Roberts, Chairman

Bradley, Chairperson
Marks
GundersonBradley, Chairperson
Roberts, V. C.

Thomas

Stephens

Orry

Agency #2
NATURAL RESOURCES
& BUSINESS REGULATION*Bob Robinson*

Boylan, Chairman

Manuel, Chairman
Estenson
AagesonManuel, Chairman
Boylan, V. C.

Mehrens

Kolstad

Smith

LONG RANGE BUILDING

Judy Rippengale and others

Fasbender, Chairman

South, Chairman
Kvaalen
Lund
HalvorsenFasbender, Chairman
South, V. C.

Roberts

Himsl

Etchart