

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 7, 1977

The second 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 Senator Thiessen, Chairman at 2:41 P.M. Roll call attached.

HOUSE BILL 1 was explained as the Legislative feed bill, by Representative Bardonoue who said this bill was prepared by the Legislative Administration Committee and the Fiscal Analyst.

Discussion followed and included HJR 6 which directly affected the figures in this bill and was known as the attache pay bill. He said HB 1 included \$50,000 additional funds for the Legislative Council but the largest increase was Legislator pay and an increase to \$40 per diem on expenses.

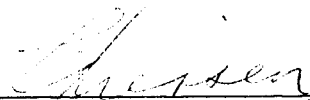
Representative Joe Quilici, Chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee said they had asked John LaFavor to draw up an attache pay plan which coordinated with the state pay plan and felt he had done a good job. He had based the figures on the type of work and the work load and that this was done by finding the grade and using the step system within the grade. He gave an example on secretaries in Grade 10 but steps 1 and 6 would differentiate between, for example, a secretary to the leadership and a standing committee secretary. He also listed researchers in the House, some of whom had BS degrees, one a law degree. He felt this would help future Legislators and let an attache be hired at a specific salary at the time he was hired.

Rosie Weber explained the additional \$50,000 request from the Legislative Council. In past sessions the money to pay for the binding, printing, etc was appropriated later and the people who did this work had to wait until late July to get their money which she did not feel was fair. She said this was in the bill plus the business manager's office was now under her, and thus the pay for the assistant and the House Pay-roll Clerk. Asked if their salaries would be based on the lower Legislative Council pay, or on an increase over the duties of the office from last legislature, she said when the pay plan had passed she would adjust the salaries of the two people involved, Monida Vaughn and Anne. Rosie said the other large item of expense was the public relations officer which was now under the Council with 5 employees and a hot-line phone which cost \$695 per month. She also explained the larger staff at the present time which were 9 attorneys working on the recodification of the Montana codes, and that these people would be working with the Legislature, then go back to the recodification.

John LaFavor explained the work on the attache pay plan, and explained that the plan he had been requested to work was based on step 1 of each grade and this would possibly change the figures in HB 1 or necessitate a supplementary feed bill later.

Motion by Senator Fasbender to pass consideration until the next meeting of Finance and Claims. A quick calculation by John LaFavor said he felt the margin requested by the committee and left in the figure allocations would take care of this without a supplemental bill. Senator Fasbender then withdrew his motion.

Motion by Senator Regan we concur in House Bill 1. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



Senator Thiessen, Chairman