

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 7, 1977

The twelfth meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator Elmer Flynn, Chairman, at 4:30 p. m. on the above date in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call all members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 241: An Act to extend and further describe the requirements for plugging and reclaiming "shot holes"; establishing additional penalties for failure to comply with those requirements.

Senator Ed Smith, Sponsor of SB 241, briefly explained this bill. He said the bill was introduced for three purposes, first, to define shot holes, second, to define proper plugging, and third, to require extra penalty. We wanted to curtail the improper plugging. He stated that they are required to file a separate bond in every county. He said he had never had a seismograph crew come on his place without getting a permit.

Senator Roskie wanted to know if it is a county permit is the bond filed with Secretary of State.

Senator Smith said they also file a separate bond in every county. He said that everybody's land plot is at the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Senator Flynn asked if the Oil and Gas Commission would be calling the Clerk & Recorder's Office every day.

Senator Smith said the only time they would call is if they had a problem. If I have a problem I call the Oil and Gas Commission and within twelve hours they are at my place.

Senator Roskie wondered if the Clerk & Recorder's Office is going to supervise the job.

Senator Smith answered, no.

Senator Galt added that the Oil and Gas Commission knows that they are operating because they put a bond up.

Senator Smith said that first of all he would want to know who was in the area. He said that he signs a sheet saying where they are going to put the shot holes on his property.

Senator Flynn said that it hasn't worked that smooth for some of the people who testified.

Senator Smith said then there is something wrong with those people.

Senator Roskie asked if the Oil and Gas Commission is going to supervise everything that is done.

Senator Smith said that if the Oil and Gas Commission is going to supervise every seismograph crew out now you would have a budget of a million dollars.

At this point, Mr. Larry Weinberg, explained some technicalities relating to the bill.

Senator Jergeson said, the problem is enforcement.

Senator Galt stated that he thought the Clerk and Recorder and the Oil and Gas Commission do have a connection. Maybe a sub-committee could be appointed to look into all this.

Senator Flynn appointed Senators Jergeson, Smith, and Roskie, to a sub-committee to study SB 241 and SB 257 further.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senate Bill No. 302 and Senate Bill No. 388 will be heard on Thursday, February 10, 1977. Senate Bill No. 247 will be heard on Saturday, February 12, 1977.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p. m.



SENATOR ELMER FLYNN, CHAIRMAN

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date 2-7-77

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