

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 11, 1977

The thirty first meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 331 of the State Capitol. Roll call was taken and the meeting was called to order at 8:06 A.M on the above date.

HOUSE BILL 693 was explained by Representative Meloy. He said this bill would make Montana Legislators a part of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He said Montana is one of two states which do not belong to this organization. He said they have discussed many problems that are a problem in Montana. He said when states are having problems with legislation or need help they schedule a meeting to help.

Morris Bursett, Legislative Auditor, said the National Council of State Legislatures has served as a vehicle for exchanging ideas and has really been a help. He said they get together to study problems. He said about two years ago they denied access to SRS accounts. Through the state auditors getting together we prevailed on HEW and as a result we are doing an audit of SRS.

John LaFavor spoke on this bill. He said he would like to let the committee know the type of service it has been to his office. Several times he has had questions as to what the Federal is doing in matching money--in fact Senate Finance and Claims had held up a bill until he could get the information for them. He said they have a staff of five in Washington who specialize on these things. Within an hour or so he can get on the phone and have the information for you.

Senator Flynn asked if this figure were just for membership, and asked for a figure on the travel. John LaFavor said it would depend on how many legislators would be interested in attending.

Senator Regan said she had talked to Carl Kurtz about this. Two years ago we made a choice in the Legislature between these two organizations. If you go back in history they were to join and there was not to be any charge for this one.

Representative Meloy said the Council of State Governments is oriented much more to state government. This organization is oriented more to legislatures and legislators.

HOUSE BILL 649 was explained by Representative Bertleson. He said when he was teaching school he found that one picture takes the place of a million words. He said there are about one hundred families that are affected by this. He showed a picture drawing of a school and the different homes along the route to pick up children at different times. He said if a home has a child that goes at 7 and another at 9 you cannot deliver them both at the same trip and therefore both trips should be paid.

Senator Smith said the other bill is for 15¢ per mile and would pay for both trips, and Representative Moore said the Appropriations Committee had tabled that other bill. Senator Flynn said if

this included the kindergarten children that are now starting up in his area it would certainly affect more than one hundred families.

Mr. Stockton said when this bill had been drafted they had left out the transportation problem that had been explained here, it was to have been left in, and was inadvertently left out, and did make a hardship on many rural families.

HOUSE BILL 781 was explained by Representative Marks and he handed out some letters, attached. He said this would amount to \$50,000 from the general fund. He said back when the housing was so critical and all the trouble had been going on at Boulder the state had considered building pads to put trailers on. The town of Boulder had put in some houses, but there had evidently been an implied promise that the state would help the city on the water and sewer lines. The houses are in, the contractors want their money, and Boulder needs this help.

Mayor Dave Kirsh, Boulder, spoke briefly in favor of the bill. He said this was an attempt for Boulder to help the state to solve the problems involved in housing after the strike, and the state had promised help and now they did not get it.

Judy Carlson spoke for the Governor's office. She said the situation was as Representative Marks had presented it and they are very supportive of this bill.

Senator Fasbender said they had gone through this in Long Range Building when it was amended into the bill. There was an EPA grant. Representative Marks said this was money to expand the sewer Lagoon, it was shared by the city of Boulder and the institution. Questions were asked as to whether the city owned the homes, and was told, no, they were sold. Questions were asked as to whether those people were not now paying for these services, whether the housing had been relieved and what difference it had made to the institutions, etc. Mayor Kirsh said the people were not giving the turn-over problems they had had at the institution before, that the only land available to build the houses on at the time had to have water and sewer, etc.

Dave Kirsh said there had been a series of meetings with Keith Colbo and Mike Billings. They said they were going to get us some help. We believed the state and obviously the only help they could give us was financial. We didn't need moral support. Being not very good businessmen we did not say specifically "how much" nor get it in writing.

HOUSE BILL 622 was explained by Representative Marks. He said this is an act to establish a pilot program in the state so that participants could pay back into the state for some of the assistance they receive. Mr. Waterman had brought this idea up. This would take some people off the welfare rolls that should not be on there, and put them to work.

Mr. Waterman working with the Helena Welfare Program, spoke in favor of the bill. He said one child on ADC received \$160 per month and that is pretty skimpy living. He said he envisions a little more money than welfare on this work program to give them a little better living and to provide an incentive to stay off welfare. He said also that a person should not be penalized for being under the work program.

Jack Carlson, Director of Economic Assistance Program under SRS spoke in favor of the bill. He said it looks as though there will be some federally sponsored work programs coming through Congress, and he would like Montana to be ready to participate in them. He said at the present time they are having trouble getting everyone employed.

Representative Moore said he looked at this in another light. He said he felt many of them are able to work, don't have a job, and don't want to work. He said he felt this would be a way of giving something back for the assistance check they took. He said in California if you are able to work you work for your check, and they find something for you to do.

Senator Hims1 referred to page 3, section 5 and asked if this really set into the the plan this program you are talking about, does it?

Judy Carlson answered that in Utah they have a waiver to put ADC poeple to work. She said her main concern is the new legislation that has not passed yet. She said in addition to the testimony of Mr. Waterman and Mr. Moore, there was a \$35 allowance to cover the expenses of working. The rest of the money they would work for.

Senator Hims1 asked if after working to cover the amount of the check at minimum wage was it possible for them to do more work, and Ms. Carlson answered no, but they would get \$35 per month out of the grant to cover work expenses.

Senator Thiessen asked if under these programs since we lost our sovereign immunity are we going to have to carry insurance on these people also?

Senator Fasbender asked about Federal help if this type of program went through, or would we lose the federal participation in these programs.

Ms. Carlson said we need to seek out and search for waivers to be established. Everyone receiving welfare has not even been listed at an unemployment office, many cities in Montana do not even have an office.

Senator Thiessen told about the food for work program in Korea and the big project they had built there.

Senator Lockrem said in his case it had cost more to try to get some of these people to work than he had gotten out of them. Some just did not want to work.

HOUSE BILL 797 was explained by Representative Mular. He said this would insure water rights on school lands, etc.

Leo Barry, State Lands, spoke in favor of the bill. He said this money would be from the renewable resource fund. He said in answer to a question from Senator Etchart that they can go in and reserve water that is not already appropriated. He said they wanted to get this done now before the water was appropriated, and at the present rate it would take 10 to 20 years.

Some questions were raised in the minds of the committee members as to the amount of water that was to be appropriated. The Montana Homestead Act set up 3 acre feet of water, and we are saying here that Montana needs 3 or 4 because of its soil.

HOUSE BILL 233 was explained by Dan Mizner in the absense of Representative South. He said this was a technical assistance program offered in relation to local government and was their method of delivering services to local governments. He said the fiscal note would be cut in half since half of this amount had been intended to go to House Bill 122. This money will be used to contract assistance at the local level. He said ordinarily you appropriate the money to the state departments and they set up their own programs with people to staff them and they tell the local governments what they can do and how to do it. This bill would let the local governments use the money were they feel it is needed the most and they contract the services.

Steve Turkowitz, Montana Association of Counties spoke and said they will just get the money, they will have to compete for it the same as any institution or agency.

HOUSE BILL 272 was explained by Representative Meloy. He said this bill would provide funds for the aging services bureau of SRS. He said senior citizens had gotten together and had asked for this type of service. He said in many of the smaller towns the programs are not functioning since the money does not go that far.

Mrs. Willard Dobson, Senior Citizen from Missoula said there is a definite need for state money to help these service programs, and direct aid to the centers. She said many times a senior citizen can then be kept in their own home rather than to be put into an institution or home if there is a program available to help them with some cleaning, buying groceries, a hot meal per day or some of the other programs of help.

Mr. Willard Thomas, Missoula told of senior citizens doing the work in the senior center to get it ready to use. This would have cost \$40 or \$50,000 to do had they had it hired out.

Walter Taylor, executive in the Missoula center said senior centers are the best basis of activity for the senior citizens. He said the present operation is mostly cities and counties. It is now 1400 members, and the remodeling was done by their own people.

Oliver Dahl spoke as the executive director of the senior citizens organization with 41 chapters throughout the state.

He said many of the senior citizens are living below the poverty guidelines. He told what the aging services program does for the senior citizen. He submitted 38 resolutions for House Bill 272 as well as testimony.

Representative Bardanouve said this was the largest hearing this session. The only one that could compare was last year on the pay plan. He said they gave a very fine hearing with excellent presentation.

Senator Fasbender said there is about \$4 million that is appropriated in SRS aging services and \$1.3 million for aging people, making a total of \$5.6 million. Some of the things covered here would be covered by SRS also? Such as \$100,000 for home health care and some for transportation, etc.

Representative Meloy said the title 20 money was all used, and the only flexibility was on how much title money was available. Transportation and nursing homes is general fund money, this money in House bill 272 is designed to supplement all those activities and any other programs that the local counties cannot carry on because of limitations on title 20 money.

Discussion was held on H. B. 663, coverage in H. B. 145, the possibility of title 3 money for building improvements, and how the bill originated. Representative Meloy said this bill was drafted at his request, after talking to many of the senior citizens.

The hearings ended, Senator Thiessen said they would move the evening hearings up to the afternoon, and that people sponsoring the bill should be notified. The committee then went back to discussion of HOUSE BILL 145.

It was mentioned that somewhere in the House they appropriated \$3,000, to the institutions from the institutions budget. This provides travel funds for some people in the joint subcommittee.

Motion by Senator Regan to reconsider our action on passing HB 145 out of committee. Voted, unanimous.

Motion by Senator Regan to amend page 28, section D, line 19 to strike \$5,472,238 and insert 5,469,238. This would reduce this by \$3,000. On line 24 you will reduce the first figure by \$3,000 and on page 33, line 9 you will reduce the amount by \$3,000 the first year. Representative Gerke said this had been his idea. He said with the deinstitutionalizing this was the year to hit the institutions. He said when they visited, there were so many people up in the air, and he felt it would be wise to follow this closer this year.

Senator Flynn said he felt it would be better to visit some of these areas during the interim since it was so hard to get the time during the session.

Motion by Senator Boylan to amend the bill as suggested by Senator Regan, second by Senator Etchart, voted and passed.

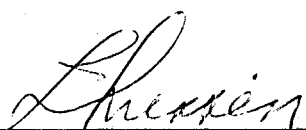
Motion by Senator Flynn to concur in House Bill 145 as amended.

Senator Lockrem referred to page 9, line 22 and 23. He said the Western States Forest Task Force was presented by Senators Brown and Roberts. At the present time speaker Driscoll has appointed two people from the same political party for the task force.

Senator Regan suggested that Senator Lockrem take this up on the floor if he so desired at this time.

The motion to recommit House Bill 145 was voted and passed.

The meeting adjourned.



SENATOR THIESSEN, Chairman