

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE

January 4, 1979
8:30 A.M.
Room 108
State Capitol Building

Subject: Orientation Session

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Francis Bardanouve.

Chairman Bardanouve welcomed all members aboard and introduced the new Committee Secretary Roberta Stipcich.

The members of the committee introduced themselves and roll call was taken. All members of the committee were present with the exception of Representative Kvaalen.

Chairman Bardanouve explained that as in the past, this will be a difficult session and the budget will be tight. He asked that all the members work together in order to present a reasonable budget to the people of the State of Montana that they can accept and live with. He also asked that the members of the appropriation committee be as bi-partisan as possible during the session. He explained that we will be working with the Senate and that Senate members will be on the sub-committees. Senator Himsl will be in charge of the Finance and Claims committee and he will be working with us.

Chairman Bardanouve then introduced John LeFaver, of the Fiscal Analyst office. Mr. LeFaver provides us with recommendations and information as to why we do this and that in making the appropriations. He has done a remarkable job for the Legislature.

Chairman Bardanouve then asked that the majority party show respect to the minority party during the session and also asked that the minority party return the respect.

Chairman Bardanouve reported that he hasn't quite finalized his selection of the sub-committees; he hopes to have them finalized before the day is over. He also stated that he would like to begin working on the appropriations this coming week. He requested the Fiscal Analyst to please have his preliminary recommendations on the budget ready by the first of next week.

Chairman Bardanouve stated that he has a suggestion that enlargements of programs be brought to the full committee for consideration before being written into the bill.

Representative Marks inquired if reductions in programs would also have to be brought to the full committee and various members stated that they didn't think that reductions could be handled in that manner. Representative Moore asked that the members be allowed some time to think this suggestion over.

Representative Lund stated that one thing that bothered him in the past session was hearing the same testimony over and over again from witnesses. He wondered if there would be some way of alleviating that problem.

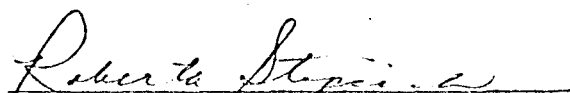
Chairman Bardanouve responded that he would look in to the problem. Chairman Bardanouve also stated that he would like his sub-committees to begin setting up their hearings right away. He would like to get the bills out earlier than we ever have in the past if at all possible. He cautioned members that may be sub-committee chairmen that they will have to put a cut-off on hearing testimony. Otherwise they will go on indefinitely

Representative Lund stated that he would like to request that proponents of bills not be allowed to come back in after a hearing and ask questions of the members of the committee who are still present. He feels that this is not fair to the opponents of the bill, and feels that both sides should be presented the same opportunities. Chairman Bardanouve stated that Representative Lund has a good point and cautioned members to be aware that this situation can arise.

Representative Moore asked when the next meeting will be held. Chairman Bardanouve responded that he hasn't set anything up yet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 A.M.


FRANCIS BARDANOUE, Chairman


Secretary