

JANUARY 25, 1979
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Williams. The secretary took roll. All members were present.

HOUSE BILL 200: Rep. Pistoria, sponsor, said the bill is a repealer that does away with a section of the law that should be done away with. He said the Conciliation Law has created a bureaucracy that is a burden to the taxpayer. He stated the Conciliation Law takes counseling services away from the churches and ministers and turns them over to politicians. He said the time for marriage counseling is before marriage and not after. Rep. Pistoria cited problems with the conciliation courts and said only a few counties take advantage of the service.

Proponents were: Shirley Gray, Great Falls, MT (exhibit 1). Mr. & Mrs. J. Gray, Great Falls, MT (exhibit 2), and Mrs. Robert Groener, Great Falls, MT (exhibit 3).

Opponents to HB 200 were: Elizabeth Wheeler, Conciliation Court, 18th Judicial District, Michael R. Mongold, Montana Association of Family Court Services, Jan Brown, Montana Association of Churches, Helena (exhibit 4) and John Frankino, Director of the Montana Catholic Conference and Catholic Social Services for Montana (exhibit 5). Mr. Vernon Hanks, Great Falls, Montana, also spoke as an opponent to HB 200. Mr. Hanks said he was hired by the 8th Judicial District to organize and direct the Conciliation Court in Great Falls and worked for them from July 1967 through February 1, 1978. He said the Conciliation Law gives the courts a tool to help people going through divorce and if the law is repealed the tool will be taken away. Mr. Hanks presented each Committee member a folder with letters of opponents to HB 200 (exhibit 6).

HOUSE BILL 177: Representative Underdal, sponsor, explained the bill to the Committee (exhibit 7). He said the Restaurant, Bar, and Tavern Wage Protection Act is discriminatory, since only those under this Act are required to post bond. He stated the law is unnecessary, as there is protection in the code under Section 39-3-201 through 39-3-215.

Proponents were: Jerry Baker, Missoula, Mt, and Phil Strobe, Montana Tavern Association, Helena.

The following spoke in opposition to HB 177 and gave written statements: James Murry, Montana State AFL-CIO, (exhibit 8), Dick Kane, Administrator, Labor Standards Division, Dept. of Labor and Industry, (exhibit 9), Josephine Jensen, Hotel, Motel, Restaurant, and Bartenders Union Local # 101 (exhibit 10), Seymour Flanagan, Hotel, Motel, & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union Local, (exhibit 11), Billy E. Revell, Hotel, Motel & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union Local #56, (exhibit 12), Wilma Christopherson, Montana State Culinary Council, Local 312, (exhibit 13). Rep. Underdal submitted letters of opposition from Roy L. Derr, Valier, MT (exhibit 14) and Pearl Nasset,

Shelby, MT, (exhibit 15).

HOUSE BILL 189: Rep. Keyser, sponsor, said this is a housekeeping bill that was requested by the Dept. of Administration. He said early retirements were never the intent of the law and this bill clarifies that. Rep. Keyser introduced Mr. Tom Schneider, who spoke for the bill. Also supporting the bill was Jim Tureotte, PERD, Helena. There were no opponents.

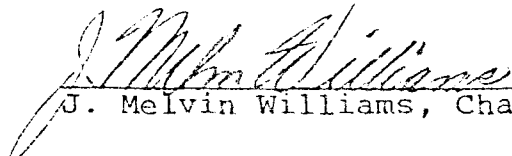
HOUSE BILL 195: Rep. Menahan, sponsor, introduced Russell L. Myers, Business Agent, IUOE, Local #927, Anaconda, MT, who spoke in support of the bill (exhibit 16) and offered the following: 4 color prints of a boiler burnup (exhibit 17), newspaper clipping of a boiler explosion (exhibit 18), list of occupational duties of the maintenance engineers at school dist. #10, Anaconda-Deer Lodge Counties, day shift (exhibit 19), afternoon shift (exhibit 20).

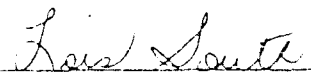
The following testified in opposition to HB 195 and gave written statements: Edward W. Nelson, Montana Taxpayers Association, Helena, (exhibit 21), R.E. Vandell, Resident Engineer, The Great Western Sugar Company, Billings, MT, (exhibit 22), G.E. Kirk, Operations Manager, Exxon Company, Billings, MT, (Exhibit 23), Elton J. Ahlgren, Mechanical Superintendent, Continental Oil Company, Billings, MT (exhibit 24). The following testified in opposition and offered amendments to HB 195: Phil Strobe, Montana Innkeepers Association, Helena, MT (exhibit 25), Les Loble II, Montana Dakota Utilities, Helena, MT (exhibit 26), Dennis Lopach, Helena, MT (exhibit 27), Chad Smith, Montana Hospital Association, Helena, MT (exhibit 28).

Also opposing the bill were: A. Avon Teylingen, representing the Commissioner of Higher Education, H. Sonny Hanson, Montana Technical Council, Don Allen, Montana Petroleum Association, Tom Dowling, James R. Hughes, Mountain Bell, Robert N. Holding, R.L. Prussing, Industry Dennis Rehberg, Montana Association of Realtors, Joseph P. McCarthy, Anaconda Copper Co.-Butte Operation, Rosemarie Strobe, Montana Chamber, and Wes Banta, Kaiser Cement. Eugene Fenske, Director of Physical Plant Services, St. Peter's Hospital, Helena, MT said if a boiler is properly tuned and cleaned, it is unnecessary to have constant watch.

Rep. Fagg asked Mr. Myers if the boiler that blew up in Billings a few years ago was manned. Mr. Myers said he did not know. Rep. Fagg said that he knew and the answer was "no."

Questions were asked by the Committee. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


J. Melvin Williams, Chairman


Lois South, Secretary