HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A Human Services Committee meeting was held on January 26, 1979 in the Capitol Annex room #20. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Polly Holmes at 1:30 and all members were present.

HOUSE BILL #206--SPONSOR: Rep. Steve Waldron, District #97, introduced his bill to eliminate the medical-related qualifications for the Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and to provide for a Deputy Director who must be a physician. The reason behind this bill is that in the past, there have been problems because the Director of this department has had no experience or knowledge of administrative duties. PROPONENTS: Dr. Jack McMahon, Medical Association, said that the purpose is to allow the appointment of this Director who doesn't necessarily have to be a doctor. A doctor is trained to do just that, not to be an administrator. An exception has been with Dr. Knight, but in the past there have been alot of problems because of the lack of expertise in running such a department. This bill also provides for a deputy director who must be a doctor who could advise the administrator on medical-related problems. OPPONENTS: Mr. David Lackman, Montana Health Association, feels that although the department Director should be a competent administrator, it is more important that he have a medical background. Increasing responsibilities for supervision of medical services for state departments of health are on the way and non-medical personnel in the Department require supervision by a person licensed to practice medicine in Montana. This is a legal requirement and cannot be assumed by a depty director. Details of administration can be handled by an administrative assistant under policies formulated by the Director and the Board. A do not pass is recommended. Mr. Jerome T. Loondorf, Montana Medical Association, said that he had been lobbying since 1971 for this and other medical related organizations and feels that a medical degree is necessary because of the technical sub-systems and that a layman wouldn't know how to handle the reports, etc. Out of 50 states, only six do not have doctors as the heads of their Health Departments. I urge you to give this a do not pass. Don Pratt, Optometric Association, said that he concurred with others and that he had previously worked with the Health Department. He felt that without having a physician as the Director of this Department that many of the functions could not have been implemented. Also, passage of this bill would entail many changes in current rules. I urge a do not pass on this bill.

SENATE BILL #45--SPONSOR: Senator Himsl, District 9, introduced his bill with his apologies for taking up the committees time to correct changes in laws relating to professional and occupational licensing; but they do deserve our scrutiny. These changes are not substantive, but rather primarily punctuation, spelling, grammar or typographical changes. PROPONENTS: Mr. Bob Pyfer, representing the Code Commissioner, claimed to be available for any questions and that his office request that the committee give a do pass recommendation.

The following action was taken:

Senate Bill #45 was given a do pass recommendation to the Consent Calendar by Rep. O'Connell. The motion was passed unanimously.
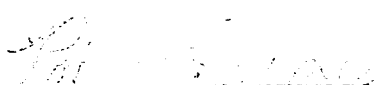
House Bill #206 was given a do not pass recommendation by Rep. Fabrega. The motion was carried with an 18 to one vote in it's favor.

House Bill #34 was given a do pass as amended by Rep. Frates. The motion was passed unanimously.

House Bill #112 was given a do pass as amended by Rep. Gould. The motion was pass unanimously.

House Bill #201 was given a do not pass recommendation by Rep. Keyser. A substitute motion was made by Rep. Azzara to table the bill for further action. This motion was not carried with a 15 to 4 vote. A do no pass recommendation was made by Rep. Stobie which carried with a 15 to 4 vote also.

The committee meeting was adjourned at 3:30 by Chairman Holmes.

_____
          CHAIRMAN

_____
          SECRETARY