

State of Montana  
46th Legislative Session

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives was called to order February 28, 1979 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5 of the Capitol Annex by Chairman Peter J. Gilligan.

The roll was taken and shows Representatives Eudaily, Lund, Yardley and Kemmis excused; all other committee members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear Senate Joint Resolutions 13 and 17, and Senate Bill 192.

Chairman Gilligan requested Senator Blaylock to explain to the committee SJR 13. Senator Blaylock told the committee this resolution directs the Montana Arts council to initiate a program of commemorative wall niches in the State Capitol Building. There are fourteen niches on the second floor of the Capitol Building where photographs of Montanan's who have brought honor to our State could be placed. Senator Blaylock asked for the committee's support of this resolution.

Proponent of SJR 13 was:

J.D. Holmes, Montana Institute of the Arts Foundation, Helena, Mt. -  
Mr. Holmes told the committee these wall niches are now being wasted, and listed several people from Montana, whose photographs would grace the corridors of the Capitol Building.  
(See exhibit 1)

There were no opponents of SJR 13 present. Senator Blaylock told the committee the cost of this project would be approximately \$2,600 for the photographs, and \$400 for the administration of the project. He estimated the most the project could cost would be \$5,000 which he feels is a very moderate cost to enhance the hallway. Senator Blaylock also told the committee the Montana Arts Council would be empowered to change the photographs periodically. The committee was allowed to question the witness. The hearing on SJR 13 was closed.

Senator Theissen was asked by Chairman Gilligan to explain to the committee Senate Bill 192. Senator Theissen stated, "Because Montana law does not specifically permit school districts to make revenue refunds in this manner, the Office of Public Instruction has prohibited any school district from making refunds from the operating fund. Because a law exists specifically permitting state agencies to make refunds without decreasing appropriation authority in 79-415(3), R.C.M., 1947, (17-8-101, MCA) OPI officials believed that such a law was necessary to permit the same accounting for local school districts." (See exhibit 2 for written presentation)

There were no proponents or opponents of SB 192. The committee was allowed to question Senator Theissen about this bill. The hearing was closed.

Chairman Gilligan asked Senator Manley to explain Senate Joint Resolution 17 to the committee. Senator Manley told the committee of the plight of Lincoln School District in Lewis and Clark County whose school recently was destroyed by fire. The tax base of the school district can't generate enough money under the school district's borrowing capacity to meet the cost of replacing the facilities. The resolution asks that the situation be evaluated by the state of Montana and the federal government and a satisfactory solution be achieved in order to replace the school. The Secretary of State is asked to send copies of the resolution to all the newspapers in the state, the U.S. Congressional Delegation from Montana, the U.S. Congress, the Secretary of the Dept of Health, Education and Welfare, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Regional Chairman of the Federal Regional Council for Region VIII.

There were no proponents or opponents of SJR 17 present. The committee was allowed to question Senator Manley about the resolution. The hearing was closed.

The committee went into Executive Session. Representative Pistoria moved that SJR DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Uhde moved that SJR 13 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Lory moved that SB 192 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously. Representative Oberg moved that SB 192 be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Representative Lory moved that HB 855 BE TABLED. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

  
Peter J. Gilligan, Chairman

MJW