

April 10, 1979

AUG 10 1979

## LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

## OF MONTANA

A Joint Meeting of the House and Senate Legislative Administration Committees was called by the Senate, with Chairman Kolstad presiding.

Senators Hazelbaker, Graham and S. Brown were present, and Senator Rasmussen was absent.

All members of the Legislative Administration Committee of the House were present.

Also in attendance were Chief Clerk of the House, Martha McGee, Assistant Chief Clerk Art Noonan, Diana Dowling, Carmella Elphison and Sharole Connelly of the Legislative Council, and Doris Cason and Dorothy Hill, Bills Clerks from the Senate.

Discussion of the Legislative Improvement Committee, which was set up by the Rules Committee of the Senate during the interim, was the first order of business.

Questions about the funding of this committee were raised, and Sharole Connelly said that there was a \$75,000 fund for this committee, with \$69,700 remaining in the fund.

The committee will probably meet three or four times. Rep. Metcalf inquired if some of this money has been committed for travel, and Chairman Kolstad asked if it were for travel during the session, for presession travel, or both. It was determined that presession travel for the next session as well as the present one is included in this fund.

Senator Kolstad cautioned about depleting the fund, and Rep. Quilici asked about the cost of the Legislative Improvement Study Committee. Dowling responded that it would depend entirely on the number of members, the distance they must travel and the number of meetings.

Discussion developed on the post-session inventory of supplies, and Chairman Kolstad said that some of the inventory has already been completed. He asked who would be conducting the inventory in the House, and Martha McGee said she and Dick Meyer, the Sergeant of Arms, would be doing it. Rep. Lory said he thinks each House would want to do its own inventory, and Quilici proposed that the Council, the Sergeant of Arms and the Chief Clerk work together for the Legislative Post

Inventory. Senator Kolstad said Monida Vaughn of the Senate would also be available to work on the inventory.

He presented another problem involving the bills books, and asked Dorothy Hill to comment. She pointed out that the bills books have fallen apart, and that they are permanent records which should have much better protection.

Senator Graham inquired about the origin of the bills books, and Chairman Kolstad said that these books had to be ordered early and the printers rushed through the order and therefore the job was not done really well. The State Publishing Company prepared the books, and if they were to take the books back and rebind them, there would be an additional charge of \$50 each. Chairman Kolstad said that there was an outfit in Salt Lake City that is supposed to do a good job but it would be the same cost.

Martha McGee said that spaces were left in the books for the consent calendar and statement of intent and Chairman Kolstad mentioned that the rules were set on the consent calendar and statement of intent and would not be changed before the next session.

Doris Cason remarked that it appeared that costs of these books would be three to four times what they have been, around \$1500, and they probably should be ordered some time in advance. Diana Dowling said that this is provided for under the law, and should be let out for bids. It would seem that those who are actually having to use the books should have some input as to what kind should be ordered.

Martha McGee said that those who would be using them should have some input into the type of book, because the House clerks have not been happy with them. Diana Dowling suggested that these "gals" who are in the know could get together and report back as to what would be best to be included so that an order could be placed by December before the next session.

Rep. Metcalf suggested that these clerks meet with the Legislative Improvement Committee, and pursue this matter further.

Dorothy Hill suggested that Color World (of Salt Lake City) rebind the books, and that someone from the Legislative Council who is bonded, actually deliver them there. Probably fifteen books for the Senate (with four needing binding) and about the same in the House. They are to be gold-embossed at Color World.

A motion was made to send the bills books to be rebound at Color World in Salt Lake City, and it passed unanimously.

Following this Art Noonan inquired if anyone had tried to get the State Publishing Company to rectify the situation of inferior quality binding of the books, since they might make some restitution. No discount was given for the poor quality of the books. Rep. Magone said their price did not reflect the poor quality of the books.

Discussion of purchase of future books on bids, and the procedure for setting up time limits and process for printing followed. It was agreed that the clerks and others involved will work together to direct the way the books will be printed.

Diana Dowling of the Legislative Council was asked about the cost of meeting in the interim and she said Bob Pearson from the Council figures that it averages out to about \$1500 for each committee meeting (with eight members).

Chairman Kolstad said that \$7500 would be set aside for such meeting or study on Legislative Improvement.

After discussion on interim travel for legislators, Diana Dowling said there would have to be a decision on who could sign the "chits" for the travel, whether it would be the President of the Senate; the Speaker, and the two chairmen of these committees; and the leadership would have to determine who could sign when they weren't here. Also, it was agreed that John Vincent would work the post session for a few days. Vincent said the speaker and majority leader were planning to leave immediately after the session, and he would be flexible in the number of days he would stay on to finish up. Rep. Quilici said each House could determine their own needs regarding this--If Mathers was planning to stay, and who he would appoint if he weren't, could be decided and each house would be informed about this.

Sen. Hazelbaker moved that the committee authorize post session leadership travel with signed permission by four members, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dorothy Hill inquired as to the necessity of having printouts on every bill, and if it is necessary for such printouts to come with the original bill or could the enrolling printouts be used, to which Rep. Metcalf said it was the only way of checking back and should be continued.

Martha McGee brought up the subject of the copy machines, saying that the way it has been done this session there has probably been a loss of about \$10,000.

A motion was made that Martha McGee and Dennis Casey of the Senate would get together and provide a written report on what would be needed in the future for copy machine contracts. The motion passed unanimously. Further discussion followed about the recommendations which Martha McGee and Dennis Casey would provide and they were directed to provide this information to the Legislative Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Zorka DaSilva, Secretary

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Chairman Metcalf