

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 3, 1979

The joint meeting of the House and Senate Legislative Committees was called to order by Senator Kolstad. The secretaries took the roll, and all members of both houses were present. Also attending the meeting were Diana Dowling, Executive Director of the Legislative Council; Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Martha McGee; Assistant Chief Clerk, Art Noonan; Nancy Aagenes, secretary to Rep. Dussault; Jean Fallon, Assistant Secretary to the Senate; Mr. Loren Davis from Davis Business Machines, Inc., and John LaFaver.

Senator Kolstad called on Rep. Jerry Metcalf, Chairman for the House Legislative Administration Committee, to give a resume on the adoption of the pay scale for the attaches. Rep. Metcalf said there had been some changes from the last session regarding this matter, and then called on John LaFaver to explain these changes.

Mr. LaFaver explained the increases, which were based on the overall state employee pay plan, and said that the higher paid employees would receive a smaller increase and the lower paid employees would receive a larger increase with this plan.

Senator Kolstad asked if there were any questions regarding the pay plan, and Rep. Quilici asked if the proposed twelve-cent increase would be in lieu of health benefits that state employees receive. Mr. LaFaver said that was correct.

There was more discussion regarding the benefits state employees receive, and Diana Dowling asked if there would be a provision for employees transferring from state jobs to legislature, and how that would be handled.

Rep. Quilici suggested that the proposed Resolution concerning this should be changed to cover some of these items. Diana Dowling said they could add the language in Section 8 of the Resolution to read: "Section 2-18-617(2) does not apply to legislative employees". The committee members voted on this and it was unanimous. (that the language be added)

Senator Kolstad asked the Senators how they felt about adopting the pay scale that the House had already adopted. Senator Hazelbaker said he thought they should go along with it and adopt it also, and made a motion that they do so; Senator Rasmussen seconded the motion, the members voted and it was unanimous.

Senator Kolstad then brought up the item of the Business Manager for the Senate, but added that this didn't pertain to the House and that issue would be resolved at a Senate Legislative Administration meeting. He asked the members to consider the issue of the travel allowance, and asked if that was for travel during the interim and/or pre and post legislature.

Rep. Metcalf said they found that there was never enough money available for travel during the session, and that members who were invited to go to meetings should have this expense covered, and the House Legislative Administration Committee had asked the Legislative Council to include this in their budget, and they had arrived at the figure of \$75,000 for this matter.

Senator Kolstad said \$75,000 seems to him to be a very large figure, and asked if they had any figures from past sessions concerning this matter.

Rep. Metcalf said there had not been any records for this in the past but that this session the Legislative Council planned to keep exact records for all of this and in the future they would have a complete record.

Senator Kolstad said he knew they ran on a "shoestring", but said there was so little money to start the session, and he wondered about making a provision for that in the future.

Rep. Quilici said this was the reason they set such a figure, that to go into legislature was so costly and there should be some funds for that purpose.

Rep. Lory said his impression was that the sum of \$75,000 was for both Houses, and Senator Rasmussen asked exactly what this amount would cover.

Rep. Metcalf said it would be for travel money during the session, and prior to the session and did not include the interim.

Senator Graham said that he thought in the past the travel allowance had been abused by some members and that he thought there should be some way of the money being supervised more closely, and that he would hesitate to adopt it without having some assurance of someone "riding herd" on the fund.

Rep. Metcalf suggested that it could be supervised by the Legislative Administration Committees of both Houses, and specifically be allocated for travel during the session, pre-session and post-session. Senator Kolstad asked if that would be during the interim then, and Rep. Metcalf said not.

Senator Kolstad said he assumed that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House would have to O.K. the trips proposed, and Rep. Quilici said also the Chairmen of the respective Legislative Administration Committees should oversee it as well.

Senator Graham said he would like to put this into a motion, if it could be somewhat controlled. Senator Kolstad asked if that was a motion . . . and then asked the Senators what they thought of this and did they really want to do it.

Senator Rasmussen wanted to know if this would be a joint fund and how it would be divided between the Houses.

Senator Kolstad said what with the deficiency of \$9,000 in the feed bill for this session, they should give it careful consideration. Then Diana Dowling explained how she intended to set up the feed bill this time; she said, though it would appear that the budget for the Council would be huge, she intended to show no separation for each house, as had been done in the past.

Senator Rasmussen said he felt that \$75,000 was a bit too steep.

Rep. Metcalf said that figure was a tentative figure, but that they wanted to be sure that they had enough.

Rep. Gerke said that the \$75,000 was just a round figure and that they tried to stay as close as they could in determining the amount, but that there are always some meetings that the leadership needed to go to during the session. He also said that he thought there was no reason why legislators should be asked to use their own money to subsidize legislative duties, that these people were entitled to expenses for these matters, and that it was necessary to have these funds available.

It was asked if this would also be used for pre-session expenses for the attaches, and Rep. Metcalf said that item was covered under the feed bill.

Senator Kolstad said if some of these things were to be covered, then that figure of \$75,000 was not too high, and that any travel the leadership would do would also come out of this fund.

Senator Brown said he thought the funds should be definitely defined as to the use thereof.

Senator Graham said he thought this could be worked out, and that if there was a way to supervise the spending of the funds, he would agree to the adoption of this amount being allowed.

Senator Kolstad said what they were trying to get away from is that they didn't want to have to come back in a week asking for appropriation for more money, and further suggested that these committees should meet, jointly, in the final days of the session to assess the amount left of the \$75,000.

Then Senator Kolstad referred to the motion Senator Graham had made earlier, and it was clarified as to what the motion was: to authorize \$75,000 to provide for pre-session and post-session travel, and for travel during the session, to be approved by the leadership of both houses and acted upon jointly by the chairmen of both Legislative Administration committees.

At this point, Senator Rasmussen made a substitute motion that the figure be changed to \$50,000, but that the last part of the motion remain the same.

There was some discussion regarding this matter, and then Senator Kolstad said they had the substitute motion and they would vote on it. The voting on the substitute motion was as follows:

Senators:	Kolstad	NO	Representatives:	Metcalf ...	NO
	Hazelbaker	NO		Magone	NO
	Rasmussen	YES		Quilici ...	NO
	Graham	NO		Lory	NO
	Brown	YES		Meyer	NO

The substitute motion failed.

Senator Kolstad then called for a vote on the original motion and the results were as follows:

Senators:	Kolstad	YES	Representatives:	Metcalf	YES
	Hazelbaker ..	YES		Magone	YES
	Rasmussen ...	YES		Quilici	YES
	Graham	YES		Lory	YES
	Brown	NO		Meyer	YES

(The secretary for the Senate Legislative Administration Committee polled the Senators and submitted the above results, and the secretary for the House Legislative Administration Committee polled the Representatives and submitted the above results.)

Senator Kolstad said that Rep. Magone would like to make a motion that we reconsider this in the final days of the session at a joint meeting of the two committees, to meet and review any decision regarding post-session expenses.

Rep. Lory said he thought they had always done this in the past. Rep. Meyer suggested that the Council keep track of the expenses involved for this expenditure.

Diana Dowling said she was sure they would do that and that in that final meeting she would have some figures for them and then they could plan for the next session.

Rep. Magone's motion was acted upon and it was unanimous.

The next item of business was the issue of the copy machines as provided by Davis Business Machines. Mr. Davis said it was his understanding from the contract that he had provided the machines called for, and felt that his contract should be up-dated to include the automatic-feed machines needed.

After considerable discussion, the members determined that there had been a misunderstanding in the wording of the contract, but that the contract should be up-dated and that they were bound by the contract. They agreed that there was no doubt the specifications in the contract had not been written properly, and that at this time they would, however, honor the contract. (detailed discussion attached)

Senator Hazelbaker made a motion that the Department of Administration be instructed to order the automatic machines needed, and to up-date the contract and have verification on an immediate shipping date. The members voted and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Davis said he would attend to it immediately.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



SENATOR ALLEN C. KOLSTAD, Chairman

ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

46th Legislative Session - 1979

Date 1-3-79

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
KOLSTAD	✓		
HAZELBAKER	✓		
RASMUSSEN	✓		
GRAHAM	✓		
BROWN, STEVE	✓		

SENATE COMMITTEE Joint Legislative Administration Committee

\$50,000 Travel Reimbursement for

Date January 3, 1979

~~Bill No.~~ Comm. Mbrs Time

NAME	YES	NO
Kolstad		x
Hazelbaker		x
Rasmussen	x	
Graham		x
Brown	x	
Metcalf		x
Magone		x
Quilici		x
Lory		x
Meyer		x

Secretary Betty Jakovac
SUBSTITUTE

Chairman Kolstad

Motion: \$50,000 be budgeted for pre-session and post-session
travel of committee members and for travel during session to degree
approved by both houses.

(include enough information on motion—put with yellow copy of committee report.)

JOINT
 SENATE COMMITTEE on LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Date January 3, 1979 \$75,000 Travel Reimbursement for
 - Bill No. Comm. Mbrs Time

NAME	YES	NO
KOLSTAD	x	
HAZELBAKER	x	
RASMUSSEN	x	
GRAHAM	x	
BROWN, STEVE		x
Metcalf	x	
Magone	x	
Quilici	x	
Lory	x	
Meyer	x	

Secretary Betty Jakovac Chairman Senator Kolstad

ORIGINAL
 Motion: \$75,000 be budgeted for pre-session and post-session
travel of committee members and for travel during session to
a degree approved by both houses.

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)