

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE LABOR AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
January 6, 1980

The Labor and Industry Committee met at 12:30 p.m. on January 6, 1981, in Room 129 of the State Capitol, with Chairman Robert Ellerd presiding and all members present except Reps. Briggs and Harrington who were absent.

Chairman Ellerd welcomed the committee members and introduced the staff - Anne Brodsky, staff researcher, and Emelia Satre, secretary. He then had each committee member introduce himself. Chairman Ellerd mentioned he had requested Rep. Keedy's membership on the committee so the committee would include a lawyer.

Chairman Ellerd said he wished to be fair and wanted to hear from anyone who felt he wasn't. He introduced Randy Siemers, Operating Engineers Union of Billings, who was present. Mr. Siemers said he would be happy to provide any information he could to the committee.

Chairman Ellerd discussed committee procedures. It was brought out that if a member were questioning a witness he could continue such questioning without going back to the Chair for recognition as long as it remained orderly. Chairman Ellerd expressed a concern on absentee voting, especially on an amended bill which could be different from the bill for which the absentee ballot had been cast. He felt some judgement would be needed in such cases. However, if a member has a legal excuse he would be entitled to leave an absentee vote with the chairman.

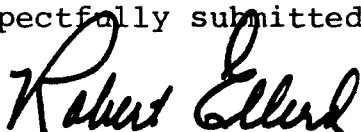
Chairman Ellerd asked that all people using the room during a meeting refrain from smoking due to the lack of ventilation.

Rep. Dozier asked of the possibility of lengthening the two weekly meetings so the Saturday one could be eliminated. Chairman Ellerd said he would do what he could but it would depend on the work load. He stressed the need to know if a bill is controversial so it could be scheduled accordingly. Any overrun hearings would continue on adjournment so that witnesses would have an opportunity to present their testimony.

Rep. Keedy brought up the problem of witnesses leaving before members have an opportunity to question them. He requested the Chair make it clear they are expected to remain for questions. After discussion it was decided if the witness has an excellent excuse for leaving, he could be questioned immediately following his testimony.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT ELLERD, CHAIRMAN