

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

February 23, 1981

The Executive Session meeting of the Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on Education was called to order at 12:40 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 1981 by Chairman Donaldson in Room 104, Capitol Bldg., Helena, Montana.

All members were present including Bruce Shively and Curt Nichols, Fiscal Analysts.

A presentation concerning possible loss of Federal Funds to the Montana Historical Society was given.

DR. BOB ARCHIBALD, Director of the Historical Society, stated that the Preservation Office was started ten years ago, and it was transferred to the Society three years ago. They are responsible for collecting and preserving resources of all kinds. They are also responsible for archaeological and historical resources that are scattered across the state.

MARCELLA SHERFY, Deputy Director of Preservation (Historian) Office stated the legal mandates for the Historical Society. The grants that this program has been receiving were partly the result of a National Act of 1966. The law gave Montana four tools to work with:

- (1) To list properties in National Register of Historical Places.
- (2) Federal Grants proposed to restore physical structures that are listed.
- (3) Restoration of Commercial properties listed.
- (4) To provide technical assistance to people who own properties.

The Historical Society works with people and gives technical assistance to them in restoring such privately owned property of historical significance. The information given to the Society last Wednesday concerning President Reagan's budget cuts are:

- (1) The functions currently funded within the Department of Interior are anticipated to lose funding and these functions may be transferred in part or in total to other agencies, principally the National Park Service.

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- (2) President Reagan has impounded all grant dollars to this fund.
- (3) The budget showed no item for the fiscal year beginning in October.

Montana has been previously allotted \$400,000 in Federal Funds. This money has been used to finance restoration and preservation of historic sites located in Montana. President Reagan's proposal includes no money for this purpose. Congress will be taking action on this sometime in the Spring.

REP. DONALDSON asked how much has the committee appropriated to this fund.

BRUCE SHIVELY stated that the amounts appropriated are \$57,301 for FY 82 and \$60,254 for FY 83 from the General Fund. This amount is matched by Federal Funds.

REP. BENGTON asked if the coal tax money goes to the preserving of buildings.

DR. ARCHIBALD stated that HB550 allocated a percentage of interest (1/3% interest income) is funded to cultural assistance projects. However, the money has never been appropriated before. The estimated figure from this tax allocation is \$669,000 over the biennium.

REP. DONALDSON stated that there is not much the committee can respond to at this time. At this point it is difficult to anticipate what Congress will do. If Congress approves this cut, this Legislature Committee will meet again in September and look at this closely again. At this time, the Society looks quite safe at this time.

SENATOR HAFLEY asked what one thing will not be done if these are cut.

MARCELLA SHERFY stated that no other people in Montana will get any assistance for preserving their properties. There will be no funds for surveying, and no communities will have any money for preservation, restoration, or excavation.

REP. BENGTON asked if the Society will be able to continue to list historical sites in the national registry if the funds are cut.

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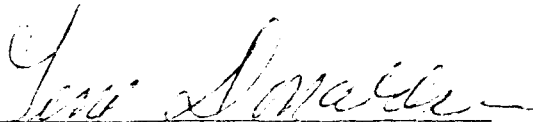
MARCELLA SHERFY stated that it was unclear of how much will go into the registry. However, it has been rumored that "Indeed we will be able to continue to list."

REP. BENGTON asked how the \$660,000 from HB550 will be spent.

DR. ARCHIBALD answered that those monies must be appropriated project by project on the basis by the Legislature. As of now there are two projects they have allocated funds for. Renovation of the prison in Deer Lodge, and Restoration of the murals in the capitol building. These appropriations have been referred to the Long Range Building Committee.

There were no further questions from the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



REP. GENE DONALDSON, Chairman