

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
MARCH 18, 1981

The Senate Committee on Education and Cultural Resources met Wednesday, March 18, 1981, in Room 402 of the Capitol Building. Senator Bob Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present were Senators Brown, Smith, Mazurek, Thomas, McCallum, Severson, Haffey, Hammond, and Blaylock.

House Joint Resolution 45 was heard by the Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

"A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO MONTANA BY CHARLES MONROE BAIR, A PIONEER MONTANA SHEEPMAN, AND DIRECTING THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO COOPERATE WITH THE BAIR FAMILY TO PRESERVE THE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUES AND ARTIFACTS COLLECTED BY THE FAMILY OF CHARLES M. BAIR."

Representative Bardanouve, District 6, sponsor of the resolution, said the resolution directs the Historical Society to make plans and cooperate with the Bair family for preservation of the Bair mansion and artifacts. Representative Bardanouve presented a delightful biography of Charles Bair, noting he had been born in Ohio and during his childhood was a good friend of a young man who later became President McKinley. He left Ohio as a young man and moved to Michigan where he was employed by the railroad and soon thereafter transferred to Montana where he was employed by the Burlington Northern Railroad in Helena. Being an enterprising sort, he ran a call service for the railroad crews and also was a sort of "walking bank", providing check cashing and financial services for fellow employees, in addition to his regular railroad duties. Using his accumulated savings, Mr. Bair bought a sheep ranch near Lavina and left the railroad behind. During the Alaskan gold rush, he invented a machine for thawing the frozen tundra and thereby added to his already growing estate. He expanded his sheep ranching operation until he had leased an entire indian reservation and a great deal of surrounding federal and state land eventually becoming the largest sheep rancher in North America.

Mr. Bair was fond of racing cars and raced a \$5000 Steamer in national races in Nashville. He was great friends with the Indian nation and counted Chief Plenty Coups as a good personal friend. He was a man of man and varied interests: buying a great deal of oil rich land in Wyoming, as well as holdings in Oregon and California, he was one of the first promoters of irrigation in southcentral Montana, an avid horseman, invested heavily in coal mining in the state, became a well known banker, was a great friend of Charles Russell, Will Rogers, Will Hart, and of Presidents McKinley, Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, Coolidge and Hoover. Mr. Bair built a large mansion out of Martinsdale which he and his two daughters, Alberta and Marguerite, filled with antiques, Indian artifacts, and art treasures including original Russells, Italian art, western art, and a cross-section of pieces from well-known European and American artists.

Upon her death, Maruerite Bair left half of her interest in the mansion and the ranch to the state of Montana. The surviving daughter, Alberta, still maintains residence in the mansion and this resolution would authorize the Montana Historical Society to make further contact with her to develop a plan for the preservation of the mansion and its contents.

PROPOSERS

Bob Archibald, Director of the Montana Historical Society, stated the Society has discussed with the Bair family the preservation of the Bair mansion and said he supports the resolution as an act of appreciation for the gift already made and an encouragement to further development of the preservation of the mansion.

J.D. Holmes, representing the Montana Institute of the Arts and their legislative wing the Montana Arts Advocacy, said he supports the previous testimony and that the Montana arts community sees this resolution as an expression of appreciation to the Bair family.

Mike McCourt, Curator, Montana Historical Society, stated he had already done some work with Miss Bair and confirmed the collection is very unique and unusual. He said the Historical Society would cooperate fully in an effort to keep the collection for the state of Montana.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the resolution.

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Minutes of the Meeting
March 18, 1981
Senate Committee on Education and Cultural Resources

ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

Senator Severson moved House Joint Resolution 45 Be Concurred In.
The motion carried unanimously, Senator Brown will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 662

The committee discussed safety features as regards small vehicles such as Broncos or Suburbans and wondered whether safety standards could be developed for them or if they could be exempted from school bus safety standards. Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council Researcher, was asked to contact states surrounding Montana to see how they handle rules or standards for 10 or under passenger vehicles used for school transportation. The committee will further consider the bill at the next meeting.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 174

Senator McCallum moved House Bill 174 Be Concurred In. The
motion carried unanimously. Senator Brown will carry the bill.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene Friday, March 20, 1981.



Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr

ROLL CALL

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date 3/18/81

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Ed Smith	X		
Senator George McCallum	X		
Senator Elmer Severson	X		
Senator Swede Hammond	X		
Senator Chet Blaylock	X		
Senator Bill Thomas	X		
Senator Joseph Mazurek	X		
Senator Jack Haffey	X		
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman	X		

Each day attach to minutes.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

DATE March 18, 1981COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Res BILL NO. HJR 45

VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppo
J.D. Holmes	Inst. of the Arts Foundation	✓	
R. Archibald	MT Hist. Soc.	✓	
Mr. Williams	MT HIST Soc.	✓	
Mark French	P.H.S.	✓	
Susan Argo	Plains	✓	
Lisa French	Plains High School	✓	
John (unclear)	Plains High School	✓	
Mike Briggs	Plains High School	✓	
Dan Skel	Plains High School	✓	
Edward Burnham	Plains High School	✓	
Shawn Bunday	Plains High School	✓	
Jim Blum	Plains High School		✓
John Howard	Plains High School		✓
Ping Cleveland	Plains High School	✓	
Maia LaPointe	Plains High School	✓	
Keith White	Plains High School	✓	
Steve Shred	" "	✓	
Melody Shaner	Plains High School	✓	
Janette Padden	Plains High School	✓	
Bryan Braun	" " "	✓	
John Lukas	Plains High School		✓
Gregory Glen Davis	Plains High School	✓	
Garret Spring	Mr. Art (unclear)	✓	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

NAME: MIKE MCLOUT DATE: 3-18-81

ADDRESS: 542 FT BAY 167 CLAWLY

PHONE: 443-4676

REPRESENTING WHOM? Mont. Historical Society

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Brown Ranch

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: J. D. Holmes DATE: 3/18/81

ADDRESS: Helena

PHONE: 442-3258

REPRESENTING WHOM? MT. Institute of the Arts Foundation

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HR 45

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 18..... 1981.....

MR. PRESIDENT.....

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under consideration HOUSE.....

Bill No. 174.....

Kessler (Brown, B.)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE.....

Bill No. 174.....

BE CONCURRED IN
DOCS

HC

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 18..... 19 81.

MR.PRESIDENT.....

We, your committee onEDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under considerationHOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION..... Bill No. 45.....
Bardanouve (B. Brown)

Respectfully report as follows: That.....HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION..... Bill No. 45.....

BE CONCURRED IN
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