

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

February 8, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Menahan in room 436 of the capitol building, Helena, Montana at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All members were present as were Representative Kemmis, Representative Marks and Paul FitzGerald, Assistant Chief Clerk.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN explained the resolution, stating that in 1979, the employees in the legislature were paid time-and-a-half for holidays. He informed the committee that state employees will get two days off in February, but that legislative employees will not; and that in this resolution, it will allow employees an additional day with pay during the legislative break after transmittal deadline. He testified that this would cost about \$4,000.00 for the day, and that Senator Kolstad had finally agreed to that. He said further that the only difference would be the researcher for the Republicans - that would be an 11 and the assistant chief clerk would move from a 12 to a 13. He further stated that some of the secretaries in the Senate wanted to go back to the 1979 way and they were not happy about it.

REPRESENTATIVE MARKS questioned what were the conditions under which they were hired and REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN answered that he did not think it had been stated.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALDSON said that it probably is cheaper than the time-and-a-half. REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN answered that this will cost \$4,000.00 and the other would cost \$20,000.00, so it would save \$15,000.00.

REPRESENTATIVE MARKS wondered if those two holidays are specified as holidays. REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL answered that he looked at the law and they are both recognized as state holidays.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALDSON commented that council members will be getting time-and-a-half. REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN stated that some will be getting time-and-a-half and some will be getting comp time.

REPRESENTATIVE MARKS said that last year was straight time - holidays were considered as any other day.

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REPRESENTATIVE ZABROCKY made the motion that the committee accept the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE KEMMIS advised the committee that the Select Committee on Economic Development decided to hire an economist to help them deal with legislation in development, credits, etc. He stated that they interviewed three people, he thought, and settled on hiring one person. He had previously told the committee that under certain circumstances, he would go ahead and approve the hiring of an economist, but he would rather come to the committee and ask their advice. He further commented that the committee had asked him to negotiate a personal contract with Ken Peres; that professional economists generally charged in the neighborhood of \$25.00 to \$30.00 an hour; and that Mr. Peres testified that he charged in that neighborhood also. He advised the committee that although there was approximately \$12,000.00 in the budget for personal service contracts, that he would not approve more than \$3,000.00. He felt that this would not set a precedent for providing any committee with the option of doing this themselves; and, in this case, he could see that the committee made the right choice in order for the state to get into this area of development.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALDSON questioned if they were anticipating any further contractual service of this nature. REPRESENTATIVE KEMMIS stated that he did not know what it would be, but there was a lawsuit last year that they used some funds for and stated that you never know what will come up.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALDSON moved that the committee approve the Speaker's request. JAN BROWN seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN informed the committee that the minutes did show that they had approved that the Assistant Chief Clerk be raised from a 12 to a 13.

REPRESENTATIVE KEMMIS stated that they had decided that they were not going to put researchers or assistants at 13.

REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN explained that they kept pages at \$3.50 an hour; they had to take them out of the pay plan, because under the pay plan, they would have to pay them \$4.50 an hour.

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REPRESENTATIVE BROWN questioned if the Senate pages are paid more and REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN answered no, that the same positions are all paid the same.

REPRESENTATIVE BROWN wondered how it was was working out concerning the secretary for the minority party and REPRESENTATIVE KEMMIS answered that it was working pretty well - that Sherryl English has been made available for the minority.

REPRESENTATIVE MARKS stated that he had heard some complaints concerning the way the steno pool is operating; that some members say that they are not able to get their work out very fast; and many times, when they are working late, there is nobody there. REPRESENTATIVE KEMMIS assured him that he had talked to the pool and have asked Paul to scout out whatever difficulties there may be. REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN felt that they could have some of the people come in early in the morning and some come in later and work staggered hours. PAUL FITZGERALD commented that it should all be set up now and they should have a schedule - one or two people will be there until the end of the session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN,
CHAIRMAN

Alice Omang
Alice Omang, Acting Secretary