

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 27, 1985

The Chairman called the meeting of the State Administration Committee to order at 8:00 a.m. on the above date in Room 317 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Seventeen members present with Rep. Hayne excused for another hearing, however, Rep. Hayne later appeared at the hearing.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 427: Sen. Richard Manning, Sen. District #18, sponsor, read the title of the bill which provides a supplemental allowance to certain members of the Montana Firefighters' Unified Retirement System hired on or after July 1, 1981 and providing funding for this allowance. He said there are two accounts for this system; the large trust fund in PERD and a fund in the State Auditor's Office. The fund in the State Auditor's office was used to fund the pension prior to 1973 and at the present time the fund is not doing the job it is supposed to do. In 1965 there were 208 retirees, in 1984 there was 342. The cost percentage of salary in 1965 was 21.2% and in 1984 it was 38.3%. The actuaries felt the fund was going to be adequate but there is a shortfall but it doesn't pose a problem. The large fund pays the pensions. It presently has approximately \$15 million in the large fund. There will be a shortfall of \$5,000 or so and the following year it will be a little more. This bill says if there is no money, no pay for these people hired on or after 1981. These people would not start retiring until 2001. He said that due to the shortfall in the one fund, someone will have to try to increase that 1.5% to probably 4% of the direct premium to bring that up at the next session. Until then it is in very good shape.

Sen. Manning passed out a proposed amendment, Exhibit #1. The amendment provides for 2% per year of service so if he retired after 1981 if he worked 20 years he would receive 40%, if he worked 25 years, he would receive 50%.

PROPOSERS: Ray Blehm, Montana State Firemen's Association, said that they had requested that this legislation be introduced. These people have part of this pension adjustment at the present time. He said if these people work full term - work to 50 years of age with 20 years of service, they don't have the pension adjustment clause. This would help correct that situation. He submitted Exhibit #2 to the Committee members. He said that there has been 3 years of decreased insurance premiums in the state and this has caused a shortfall in the fund. They have talked to PERD and they are receptive to the idea that if this shortfall continues the

firemen will come back and try and get the tax changed at the next session. This system will hopefully allow them to pay these pre-1973 people without changing the tax. The amendment reduces the amount of adjustment they would receive. He also explained Exhibit #3 which he passed out to the Committee.

When new employees come on board today we want to be able to provide some balance of benefits. He said he thought this legislation would help to do that.

Larry Natschein, Administrator, Public Employees Retirement Board, said that the fund this biennium would go into a negative situation. The PERD agreed to support the bill because they need it. They are required to pay the pensions for the next two years but there isn't enough money in the fund. The Board felt this would be a reasonable solution to the administrative problem and referred to page 4, line 23. He also said the people who are being paid are a fixed number and they are not adding anyone. Over a period of time, the number of these people will fall, so what they have here would work. This would allow them to handle these payments rather than go to the attorney general to see what to do.

Mike Walker, Montana State Council for Professional Firefighters, said it was a common sense approach to the problem of a shortfall in the adjustment portion of the pre-1973 retirees retirement. He said they would borrow from the large fund within the system. In referring to the persons over 80 years of age on Exhibit 2, he said if these people expire the fund will build a reserve. There is no mechanism that provides how to take care of this shortfall problem; who pays, what do you do. This would take it off the backs of PERD and the Auditor's office.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 427: Rep. O'Connell asked if this tax reverts any money to the general fund. Mr. Blehm said it does not revert any money to the general fund. There would be no general fund impact in this piece of legislation and the 176 pre-1973 retirees are the only ones benefiting from this tax on insurance premiums. He said that this would guarantee that the trust fund would be reimbursed.

Rep. Harbin asked why they started out originally with a .4% on all premiums. Mr. Blehm said they were going to change the tax around and change the whole system but he said it seemed to make more sense to do it the way it is being done in the bill.

Rep. Phillips said that the people hired after 1981 are treated a little different, they have a different benefit structure. Mr. Blehm said that these people don't have the adjustment clause.

Rep. Moore asked which retirees have the best benefits. Mr. Blehm said that the pre-1981 people have a better system and they are trying to get some equalization for those hired after 1981.

Rep. Cody asked what would happen if the bill didn't pass. Mr. Blehm said those hired prior to 1973 would be paid and then they would request reimbursement from the auditor's office. The PERD might say we have to reduce the pensions. This would address the potential problem between the PERD and the auditor's office.

Rep. Harbin asked if they can go beyond 50%. Mr. Blehm said the adjustment clause doesn't allow them to go beyond 50%. The amendment says "up to a maximum of 25 years".

Rep. Jenkins asked if this fund was actuarially sound. Mr. Natschein said it was not an actuary consideration. They just say they are going to spend so much money and go to the premium tax fund for that money. The large fund covers all firefighters. Then there is the fund of 1.5% of the fire insurance premiums that is set aside for the pre-1973 retirees. That is the fund that is running short. He said that that fund had a \$300,000 surplus two years ago and the fund is approximately at zero. The fund won't meet the benefit payments that they are going to have to make.

The supplemental fund is what comes out of the tax premium fund. When they reach the point where they are getting less than one-half of a newly confirmed firefighters' salary that is when they get the supplemental. The bill has a clause that says if there is no money, they don't get any benefit.

Chairman Sales said that 42% of the firefighters salary is necessary to fund the system. Mr. Natschein said the 42% has nothing to do with the supplemental. The 1.5% was put on in 1973 in order to bring them all up to a certain benefit that included the cost of living factor. It was a one time benefit. Chairman Sales asked when the 1.5% would sunset if this bill isn't passed. Mr. Natschein said when all pre-1973 retirees had died. Chairman Sales said the only thing we are concerned about is this short fall - borrow from the big fund to take care of the short fall in the supplemental. Mr. Natschein said "borrow" is not quite right. There just isn't enough money to reimburse us at the present time and they need this bill. They should be able to tell more what their needs are in two years.

Chairman Sales quoted the percentage of salary for the different retirement systems: Firemen, 40%; PERS, 12.5%; Police, 34.08%; Game Wardens, 27.29%; Sheriffs, 14.62% and the Highway Patrolmen, 23.07%.

Rep. Harbin said that this is going to have to be addressed all the way around.

In closing, Sen. Manning said that the trust fund earns \$1.5 million every two years in interest. In this bill it says no money, no pay for those people after 1981. They are concerned about those from 1973. He told the Chairman that Jerry Driscoll would carry the bill.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 385: Sen. Bruce Crippen, Senate District #45, sponsor, said the bill clarifies some of the things the 1983 Legislature consented to. They consented that the Board of Regents renovate Dornblaser Field or alternatively, to construct a new stadium with private, not public funds. They are in the middle of a campaign drive and private funding is available. Some of the private funding is in the form of in-kind donations, such as dirt work by one contractor. Under Montana law this creates a problem and there must be some changes in the law. This bill would allow the University to contract for the state to lease land for the purpose of constructing a new stadium. No public money would be used in the construction and Mr. Hauck said this would be the best way to get around this situation.

PROPOSERS: Neil Bucklew, President of the University of Montana, said they are in the midst of a major campaign to raise private funds for professorships, support of special archives and art collection, centers of excellence, theatre, etc. The estimated cost of the stadium is \$2.9. He passed out Exhibit #4, a brochure depicting the proposed stadium which would be an earth berm stadium, that is, half of the seats and playing field would be below grade. Mr. Hauck is on the planning committee and they visited the Washington Stadium to view the renovation there. In-kind contributions can be handled. Mr. Hauck believes the leasing of the land is the best way and the only way to handle in-kind contributions. Some of the contractors could make major contributions and they are interested. The Board of Regents would lease the land to the Foundation who would build the facility and then return it to the State.

OPPOSERS: There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 385: Rep. Harbin asked when the stadium would be returned to the University - how long following construction. Mr. Bucklew said this had not been specified but as soon as possible after construction.

He said that the University, and the Foundation, would be pleased if the agreement said upon completion of the facility. He also wished it on the record that it would be delineated in the agreement that there would be liability insurance carried by the Foundation on the facility.

There being no further questions, Sen. Crippen closed, saying that it is a good bill and a very important project to the University of Montana.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 308: Sen. Chet Blaylock, Sen. District #43, sponsor, said this bill was the result of students on the Montana campuses involved in government studies, that have seen the apathy on the campuses as far as voting is concerned. He said they have worked very hard registering voters on the campuses and these campuses do have a lot of people. These particular students would like to get them actively participating in the process.

PROPOSERS: Teri England, Montana Public Interest Research Group, explained the background for the bill and said that with the proposed changes it has been made workable for the office of Secretary of State and the clerks and recorders throughout Montana. She also said that voter registration laws can inhibit or encourage citizen participation. She explained the four reforms in the bill, which are outlined on Exhibit #5 and urged support of SB 308.

Sue Bartlett, Clerk and Records' Association, said they had worked with Miss England and the office of Secretary of State on the amendments that are in the bill. She said they were very good about working out compromises and the Association endorsed and supported the bill in its present form.

Margaret Davis, League of Women Voters, said they supported the bill in its present form.

Robert Anderson, Montana Common Cause, said they had been following this bill very closely and said the bill would open up the voter registration process. He said the bill passed through the Senate on a unanimous vote and encouraged the support of the Committee.

OPPOSERS: There were no opposers.

DISCUSSION OF SENATE BILL NO. 308: Rep. Moore remarked to Miss England that it is hard to get the young people to vote after they are registered. Miss England replied that it is not only the young people but a large part of the population. She said that a person can only do so much towards getting them out to vote.

Rep. Cody asked Miss England if she were in one county, a young person from another county wished to register, would she be able to register that person. Miss England said that only if Rep. Cody was a deputy registrar.

Rep. Nelson asked about the cancellation process in the bill and asked Mrs. Bartlett if this could cause problems for her office. Mrs. Bartlett said that the law presently says it must be completed within 60 days. Her office would run the notice shortly after the election and unless they heard otherwise that the person was unable to vote their registration would be cancelled.

In closing, Sen. Blaylock said if we could help these young people and get greater citizen participation, it would be well worth it and asked support of the Committee for SB 308.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 308: Rep. Pistoria moved that SB 308 BE CONCURRED IN, seconded by Rep. Moore. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 385: Chairman Sales moved that SB 385 BE CONCURRED IN, seconded by Rep. Moore. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 427: Rep. O'Connell moved ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, second being received, the motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rep. O'Connell then moved that SB 427 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED, seconded by Rep. Pistoria.

Chairman Sales said that part of the bill has to be passed but it would be real trouble trying to give the firemen more than they are getting now and more than anyone else.

Rep. Harbin said he would like to see it passed in its present form and perhaps this would hasten review of the whole pension system but Rep. Phillips said that is how we get into these problems with these systems. Rep. Harbin stated again that all of these systems have to be looked into.

Rep. Campbell asked if some of the big fund money reverts to the general fund, why did they put the 1.5% on the fire insurance premiums.

Rep. Fritz stated that the cut-off dates on these systems force the legislature to consider these items every two years.

Rep. Phillips said that the after 1981 people should have the same as the others but we can't keep paying 50% of a firemen's salary

He said there would be no immediate impact if they didn't pass the second part of the bill and they must look at the whole picture.

Chairman Sales asked if they wanted the cost of living factor in retirements for people from 1981 or just address the problem of taking care of the shortfall in the older retirees' fund.

Rep. Harbin again said that in the next 2-3 years there will be some review of these pensions and thought the bill should go out of Committee as is. Chairman Sales said that they had to solve the problem that exists.

Mr. Blehm said the second part of the bill is not obligating the State to anything. On page 5 he pointed out that it says if there is no money, no pay. With this written in this way, if there is no money there is no obligation to pay anything.

Chairman Sales said if it is left in its present form, those after 1981 would be put under the cost of living factor in their retirement and the cost of living factor is what has gotten all of the pension funds in trouble.

Rep. Phillips said you can't break faith with an employee - you can't take something away from him after you hire him. Rep. Cody asked the firemen which they would prefer - to have part of the bill passed and have a chance of passage on the floor of the House or for the Committee to pass the bill in its present form and possibly lose it on the floor.

Vern Erickson, Montana State Firemen's Association, said they had done a poor job of presenting the bill to the Committee and consequently everyone was confused. He said the escalator is not a cost of living as it is tied to a confirmed firemen's salary. He said that Anaconda is cutting salaries so pensions will be cut. If salaries are not negotiated there would be no cost of living increase.

Rep. Phillips asked how he could say it is not a cost of living adjustment - the pensions are going down in Anaconda and cost of living adjustments can go down or up. Mr. Erickson said the cost of living is figured on the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

He said that prior to the unified pension system the cities were obligated to fund the system and they were underfunding it. This 42% of salary is a makeup for a tremendous underfunding of the system. The cities were putting in 2% of the taxable valuation of the city which had no relationship to the pension system at all. The cities are paying their fair share now at the present time. Chairman Sales remarked that the cities are hoping to get their cost back down from

18 to 13% of salary.

Mr. Erickson said they are only borrowing within the system - no more money is involved.

Rep. Peterson said the Committee should take the part that needs to be addressed and spend the next two years deciding how this is going to be handled and get something arranged.

Rep. Cody moved to AMEND THE BILL to retain that portion of the bill beginning on page 4, line 23 through line 7 on page 5 concerning payments to the retirement administrator from the 1.5% tax on the fire portion of direct premiums. The motion was seconded by Rep. Peterson. The motion CARRIED 10-8 with Reps. Fritz, Harbin, Kennerly, O'Connell, Campbell, Pistoria, Holliday and Moore voting "no".

Rep. Cody moved to CONSIDER AT A LATER DATE. Rep. Phillips said he resisted the motion as there is no time to consider at a later date.

Rep. Smith moved that SB 427 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED, seconded by Rep. Cody.

Rep. Garcia said he felt the Committee was rushing through the bill, however, the question being called for the motion CARRIED 12-6 with Reps. Harbin, Fritz, Kennerly, O'Connell, Campbell, Pistoria voting "no". Chairman Sales will carry the bill on the floor.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m.



WALTER R. SALES, Chairman

ls

3-27-85

My vote on
SB - 427
is yes !

Rep. James Moore

(Type in committee members' names and have 50 printed to start).

DAILY ROLL CALL

State Administration COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 3/27/85

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Chairman Walter Sales	/		
V-Chairman Helen O'Connell	/		
Campbell, Bud	/		
Compton, Duane	/		
Cody, Dorothy	/		
Fritz, Harry	/		
Garcia, Rodney	/		
Hayne, Harriet	/		/
Harbin, Raymond	/		
HolliDay, Gay	/		
Jenkins, Loren	/		
Kennerly, Roland	/		
Moore, Janet	/		
Nelson, Richard	/		
Peterson, Mary Lou	/		
Phillips, John	/		
Pistoria, Paul	/		
Smith, Clyde	/		

Ex. #1
SB-427
3/27/85

Sponsor amendments to SB 427:

1. Page 5, line 6.

Following: "STATE"

Insert: "special revenue fund"

2. Page 5, line 14.

Strike: "one-half"

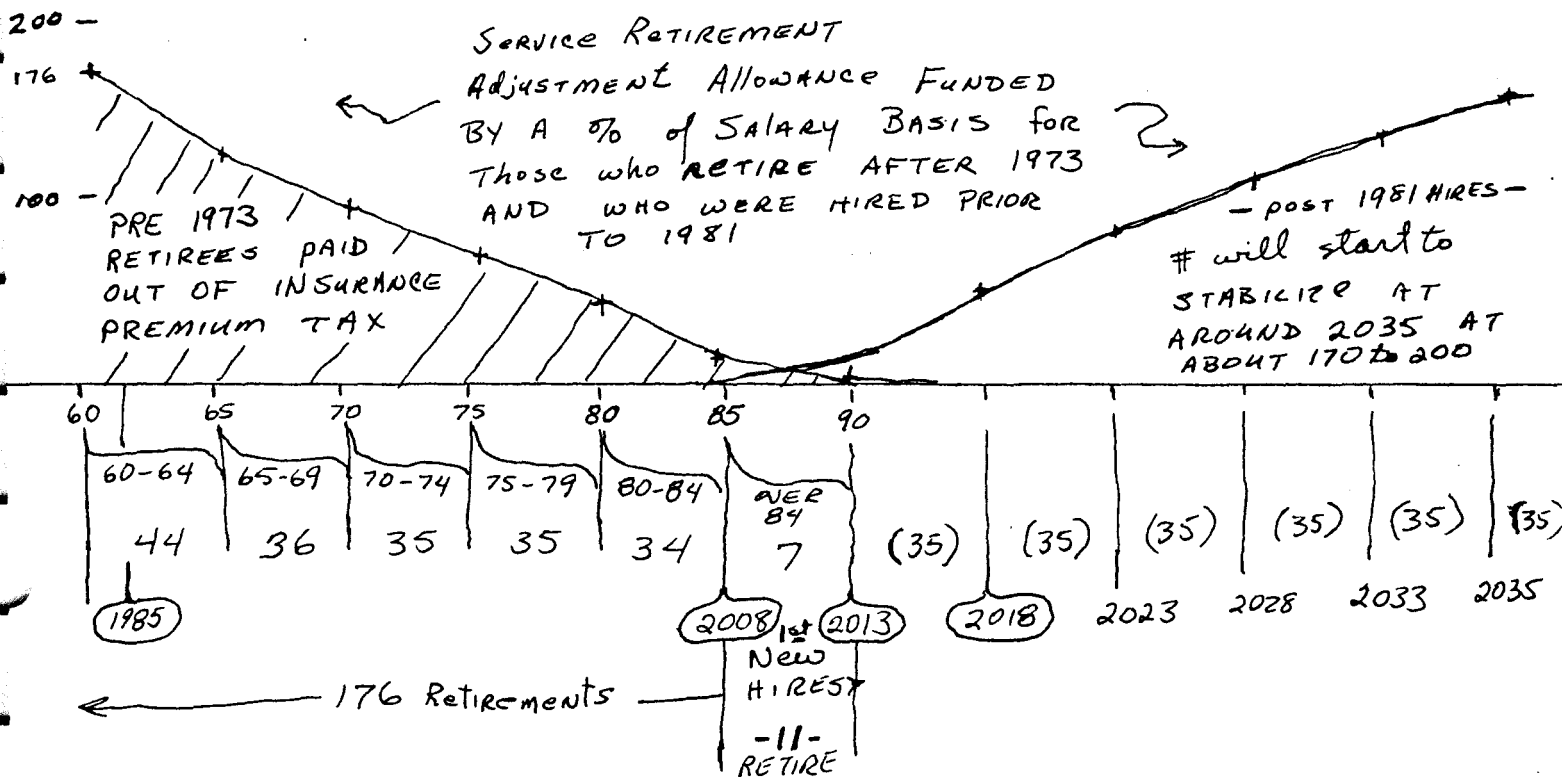
Insert: "2% for each year of service up to a maximum
of 25 years of service times"

EX #2
SB-427
3/27/85

FIREFIGHTERS' UNIFIED



RETIREMENT SYSTEM



1965 - 208 RETIREES 336 FULL PAID
1984 - 342 RETIREES 395 FULL PAID

1965 - RETIREMENT COSTS WERE 21.2% of SALARY
1984 - RETIREMENT COSTS WERE 38.3% of SALARY

SERVICE RETIREES WHO RETIRE PRIOR TO 1973
would be AT least AGE 62 today

Ray Blehm

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 2

March 27 19 35

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 427

Third reading copy (Blue)
color

**SUPP. ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS COVERED BY
STATE PLAN**

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate Bill No. 427

BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1) Title, line 5.

Following: "PROVIDING A"

Insert: "METHOD FOR FUNDING THE"

2) Title, line 6.

Following: "ALLOWANCE"

Insert: "GRANTED"

3) Title, lines 7 and 8.

Strike: "REIRED" on line 7 through "1981," on line 8

Continued on page 2

DO PASS

State Administration
SB 427

March 27

19 35

4) Title, lines 8 and 9.

Strike: "PROVIDING" on line 8 through "ALLOWANCE" on line 9

Insert: "IF INSUFFICIENT MONEY IS AVAILABLE"

5) Title, line 9.

Strike: "SECTIONS" through "AND"

Insert: "SECTION"

6) Page 1, line 13 through line 17, page 3.

Strike: section 1 in its entirety

ReNUMBER: subsequent sections

7) Page 3, line 21.

Strike: "(a)"

8) Page 4, line 12.

Strike: "(1)(b)"

Insert: "(2)"

9) Page 4, line 13.

Strike: "(b) (I)"

Insert: "(2)(a)"

10) Page 4, line 15.

Strike: "(1)(B)(II)"

Insert: "(2)(b)"

11) Page 4, line 23.

Strike: "(II)"

Insert: "(b)"

12) Page 4, line 25.

Strike: "(1)(B)(I)"

Insert: "(2)(a)"

13) Page 5, line 4.

Strike: "(1)(B)(I)"

Insert: "(2)(a)"

14) Page 5, line 6.

Following: "STATE"

Insert: "special revenue fund"

15) Page 5, line 8 through line 5, page 6.

Strike: "(2)" on line 8 through "." on line 5, page 6

AND AS AMENDED
BE CONCURRED IN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 27

19 85

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 308

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color

REVISING VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate Bill No. 308

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 27

85

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MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration Senate

Bill No. 305

Third reading copy (Blue)
color

**AUTHORIZES LEASE OF LAND AT THE UM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A
FOOTBALL STADIUM**

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate

Bill No. 305

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

Ex #3
SB 427
3/27/85

SENATE BILL 427 --

Currently, there is a tax on the fire portion of the insurance premiums sold which funds the supplemental allowance for those firefighters who retired prior to 1973.

This is a tax which does not revert any money to the general fund currently. The only point in time when any money would revert is when all those who are to receive the supplemental allowance die sometime after the year 2000.

This legislation will change this feature to start setting aside money when the obligations for the pre-1973 people are met so that a partial adjustment allowance can be given to those who will get a service retirement after attaining age 50 with 20 years service. These people are ones who were not given this provision in 1981. The first who will receive this provision will start to retire after the year 2001.

An important feature of this provision is one which will only provide a portion of the adjustment if insufficient funds are available to give the full value of 1/2 a confirmed firefighters rate.

Finally, this will check the problem of giving widely different benefits to those who work closely with each other doing the same job.

Remember, these people do not receive social security coverage.

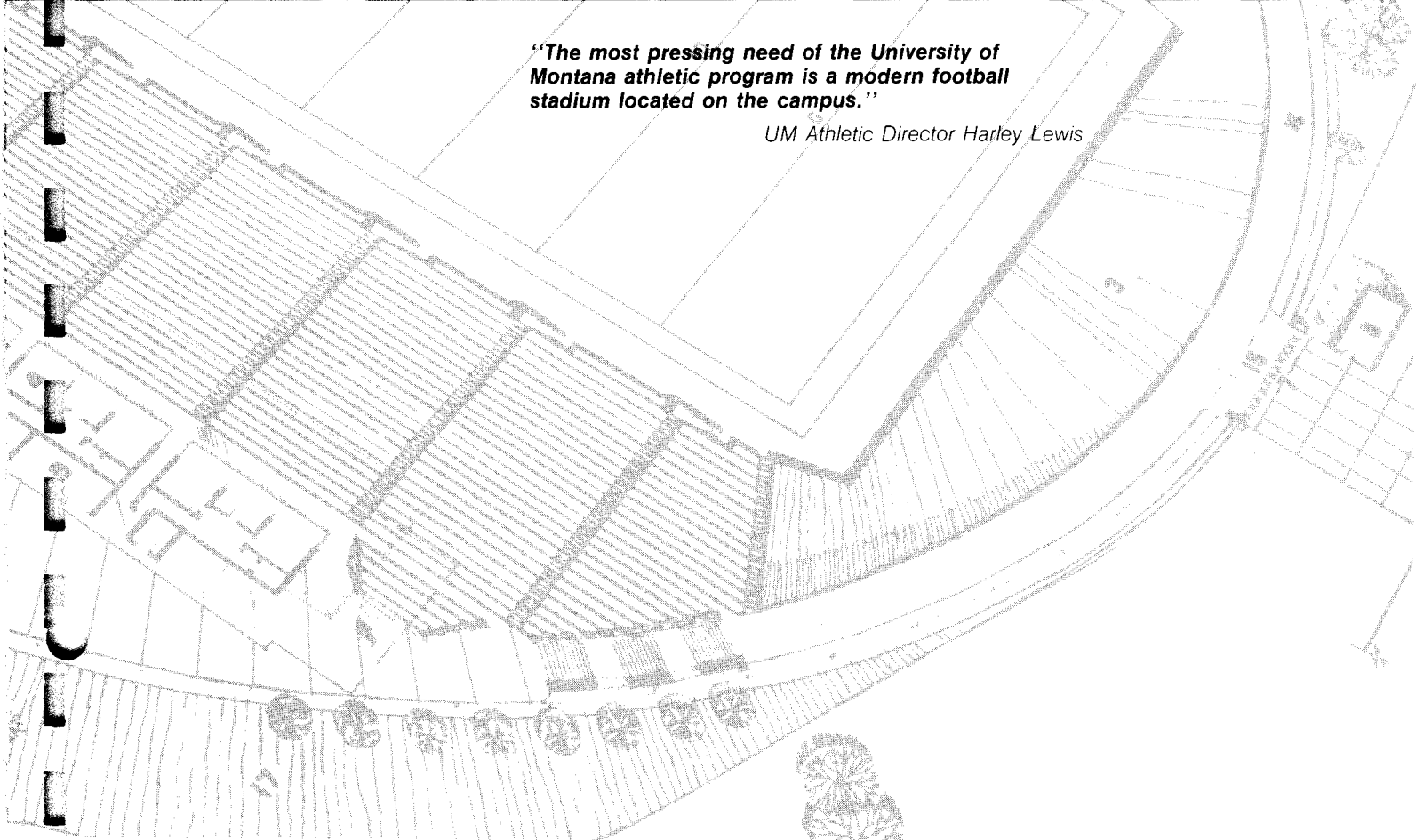
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA CAMPAIGN

THE STADIUM

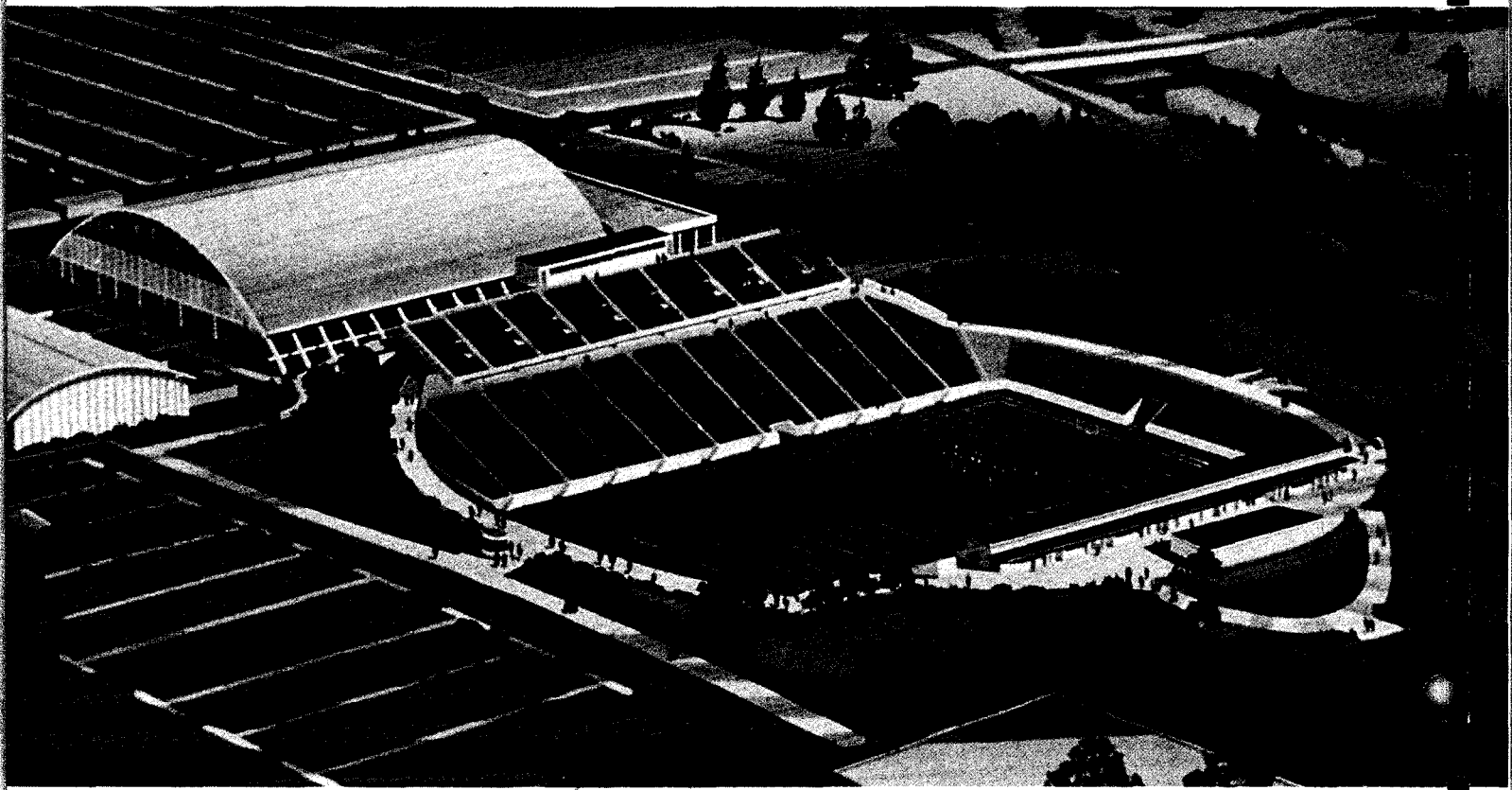


"The most pressing need of the University of Montana athletic program is a modern football stadium located on the campus."

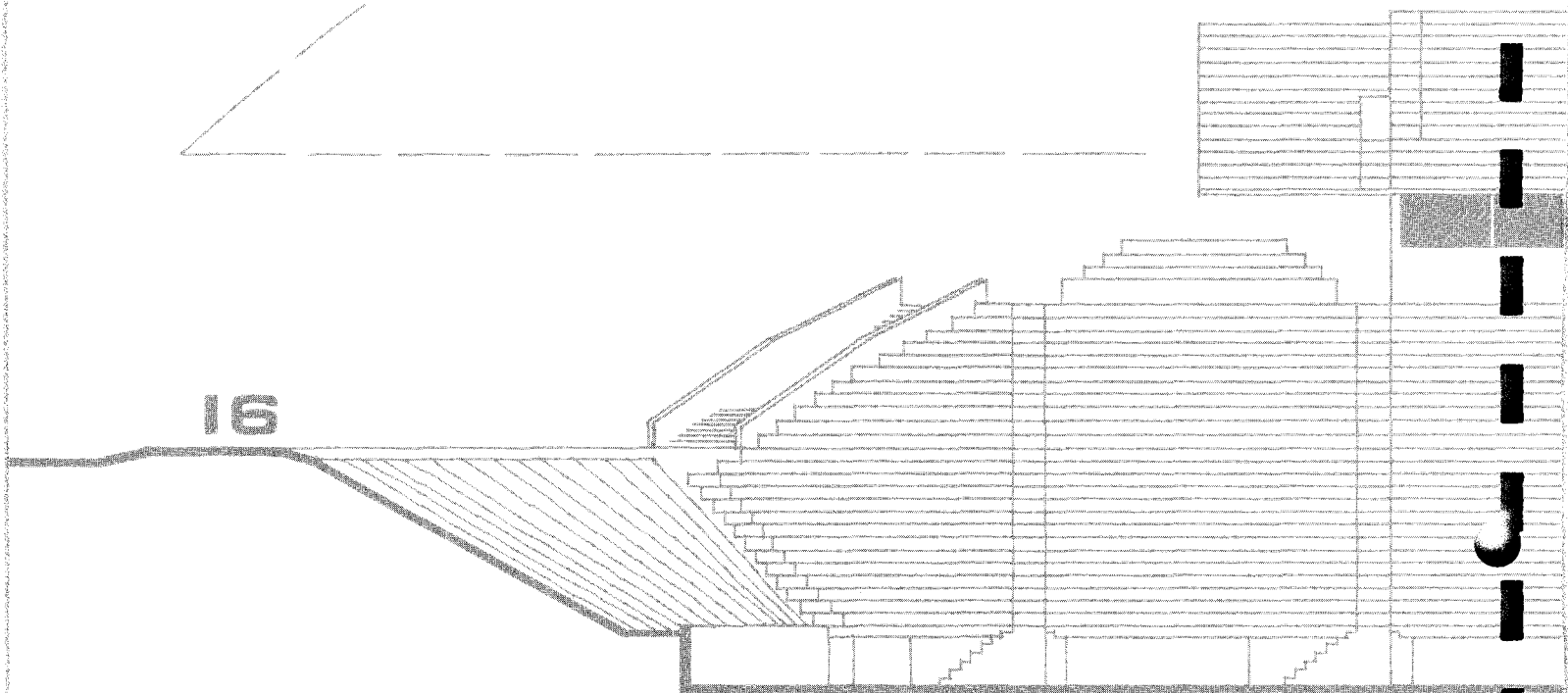
UM Athletic Director Harley Lewis



STADIUM



*The planned stadium as it will appear from
Mount Sentinel.*



THE STADIUM CAMPAIGN

The campaign to raise \$2.9 million for the new stadium is part of the UM Foundation's three-year University of Montana Campaign.

During the Campaign, alumni and friends of the University will be asked to make a significant contribution to the future of the University in addition to what they would normally give on an annual basis. Those with a particular interest in athletics may wish to designate their contribution for the new stadium.

You have received this booklet because we believe you are among the many friends of UM athletics who will wish to help build a stadium equal to the Grizzly tradition. All contributions to the stadium project are tax deductible.

The stadium project is unique within the University of Montana Campaign in providing an opportunity for in-kind contributions of materials or construction services.

Donor Recognition

The stadium project also offers two outstanding opportunities for commemorative gifts. A gift of \$1 million will enable the donor to name the stadium. A gift of \$500,000 will name the press box.

Thirty-nine of the stadium's forty-two boxes have been reserved for recognition of those making cash or in-kind gifts to the stadium project exceeding \$30,000 and for those making contributions of \$100,000 or more to the University of Montana Campaign who designate at least \$50,000 to the stadium.

Boxes will be allocated based

on the date and size of donations.

The University prefers that the total gift be paid when the pledge is made, but to be eligible for this recognition program pledges must be paid by January 1, 1987. Gifts should be made to the University of Montana Foundation.

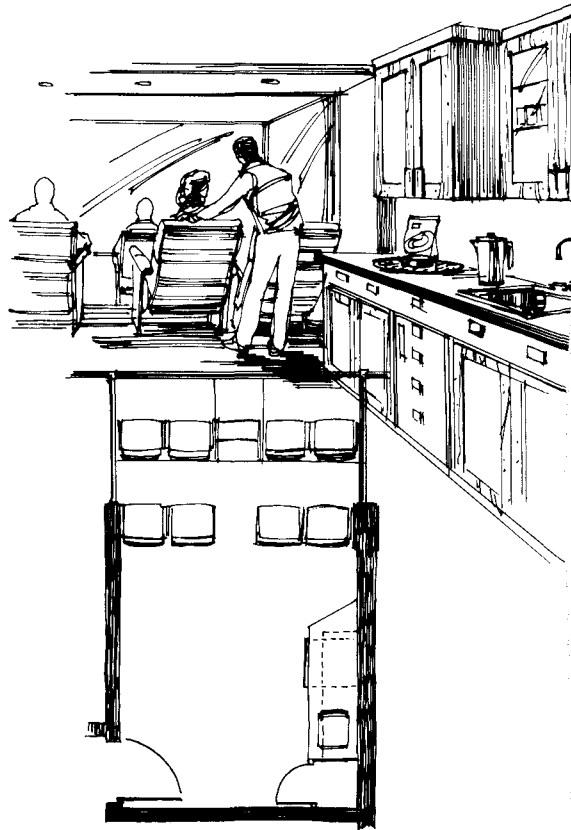
A representative of the University will be calling on you to discuss how you can best contribute to the new University of Montana stadium. In the meantime if you have any questions, feel free to call any of the University officials listed below.

W. Michael Easton, vice president
for university relations
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2311

Harley Lewis, athletic director
Harry Adams Field House
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-5331

Bill Zader, executive director,
UM Foundation
UM Foundation
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2593

Al Kempfert, executive director,
Grizzly Athletic Association
UM Foundation
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2593



Boxes, in groups of three, line the top of the berm on both the east and west sides of the stadium. Each box contains theater seating for eight, built-in cabinetry, a sink, and a refrigerator. Boxes are fully enclosed and heated, and each group of three boxes shares a restroom. Boxholders will have choice of paint colors or, if they wish, may decorate their box themselves. Normal maintenance by the University is included.

Recognized donors will receive exclusive use of a box for 20 years, passes for the boxes for the first five years, parking adjacent to the stadium, game programs and press guides, hosts, light refreshments, and game-day social functions.

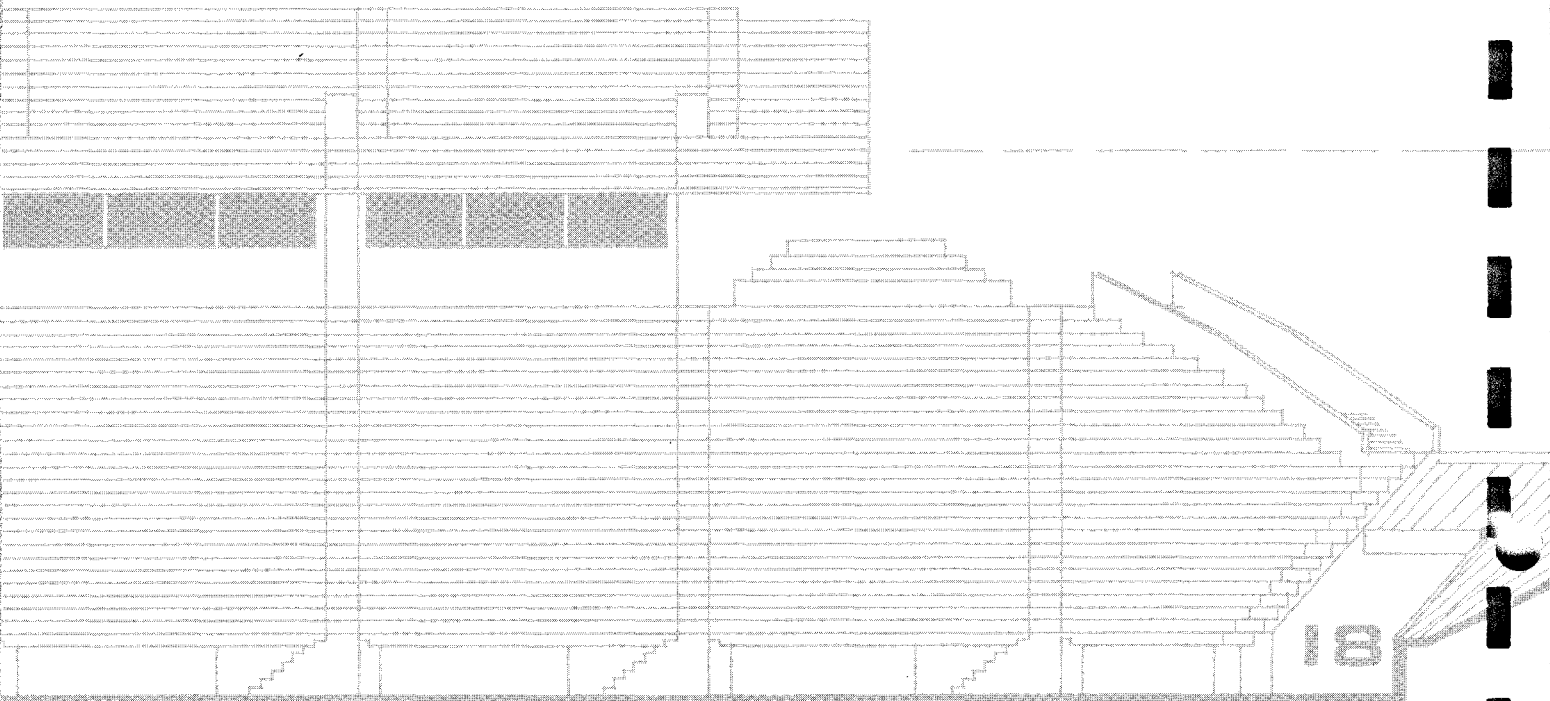
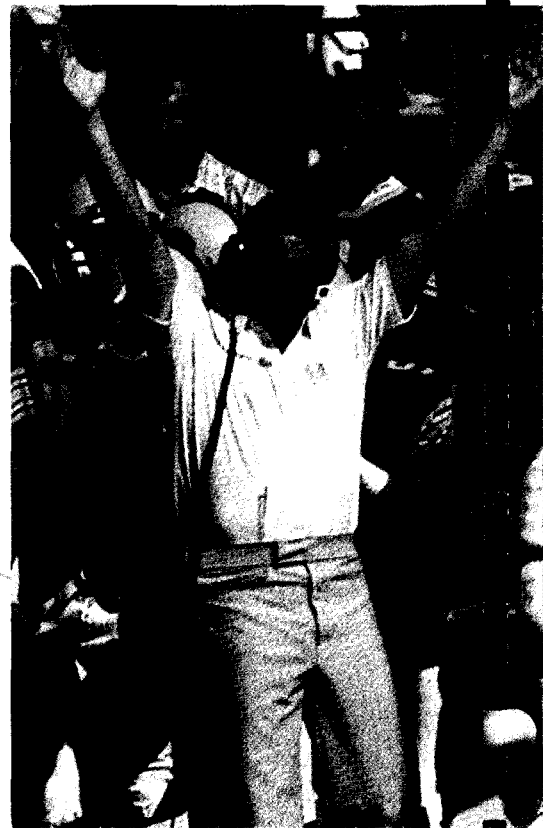
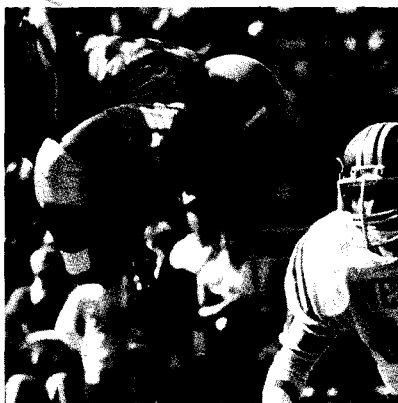
EXTENDING THE TRADITION

A NEW STADIUM

Plans are now complete for a new 14,000-seat stadium to be built on campus in the natural bowl between the Field House, Mount Sentinel and the river.

The new stadium will have an earth-berm design with half the seats and the playing field below grade. Rows of enclosed boxes will line the top of the bleachers on both sides. All seats will have excellent views of the playing field. The design allows for eventual expansion to 20,000 seats, and the berm will be constructed so a dome could be added later without structural modification.

The projected cost of the new stadium is \$2.9 million. The state of Montana historically has not funded construction of athletic facilities. Like its predecessor, the old, on-campus Dornblaser, the new stadium will be built with the financial support of UM alumni and friends of Grizzly athletics.





The University of Montana has a proud football tradition as old as the University. Today's UM Grizzlies play Division I-AA football in the Big Sky, one of the most balanced and competitive conferences in the nation. Yet in seven of the Big Sky's 21 years, the Grizzlies have finished first or second and were again conference champions in 1982.

But UM's football tradition goes beyond winning:

- It is a tradition built on regional athletes, 80 percent of them from Montana and nearby states.
- It is a tradition built on athletes who are also students. In the last five years 20 football players earned All-District All-Academic honors. In six years, seven were named Academic All-Americans.
- It is a tradition built on the success past UM athletes have enjoyed in their careers and communities.

It is also a tradition of on-campus football. In 1897, the year the campus opened with only two buildings, there was a football field near the river. In the '20s UM alumni organized the Alumni Challenge Athletic Field Corporation. They raised \$25,000 and built the original Dornblaser Field between Main Hall and Mount Sentinel. There Saturday afternoon football games were a fall tradition until 1968 when the stadium was torn down to make room for the new library.

Dornblaser's reincarnation appeared the next year as a temporary facility a mile and a half from campus. Fifteen years later it is still in use, looking more temporary than ever. Dornblaser compares badly with other Big Sky stadiums and is a serious liability for recruiting. Seating and parking are limited. In cold weather it is windy, cold and uncomfortable, and it has begun to develop structural problems. Today's Dornblaser does not reflect the tradition it upholds.



UM Foundation
600 University Ave.
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812



Ex. 5
SB308
3/27/85

Montana Public Interest Research Group

729 Keith Avenue • Missoula, MT. 59801 • (406) 721-6040
532 N. WARREN HELENA, MT. 59601 (406)443-5155

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB308

MR CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS TERI ENGLAND. I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP. MONTPIRG IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-PARTISAN RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION DIRECTED BY UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA STUDENTS. I AM HERE TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF SB308. DURING THE SENATE HEARING ON SB308, THE SECRETARY OF STATES OFFICE, THE CLERK AND RECORDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WORKED TOGETHER TO REACH AN ADMINISTRATIVELY ACCEPTABLE REFORM, AS WELL AS REFORMS THAT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS PROBLEMS FACED BY VOTERS AND GROUPS WORKING ON REGISTRATION DRIVE EFFORTS.

BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL CAN VOTE IN THE STATE OF MONTANA, THEY MUST FIRST REGISTER TO VOTE. ANY VOTER IN MONTANA MUST COMPLETE A TWO STEP PROCESS. PRIOR TO 1924, 80 PERCENT OF THE VOTING AGE POPULATION VOTED. SINCE THEN, LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATE. I MENTION THESE FIGURES BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS CAN INHIBIT OR CONTRIBUTE TO VOTER PARTICIPATION.

MONTPIRG STRIVES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN OUR DEMOCRACY. OUR VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER EDUCATION EFFORTS ARE PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO ENSURE A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY WITH CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT. IN 1984, MONTPIRG PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT WE HELPED REGISTER OVER 8400 VOTERS IN MONTANA. WE ALSO ENCOURAGED THESE VOTERS TO GET OUT TO VOTE.

FOLLOWING OUR REGISTRATION EFFORTS, WE CONDUCTED A RANDOM POLL OF UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA STUDENTS, ASKING THE STUDENTS ABOUT DIFFICULTIES THEY FACED WHILE REGISTERING TO VOTE. SB308 ADDRESSES PROBLEMS WE FACED AND OTHER GROUPS FACED DURING 1984 VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES AND THE PROBLEMS VOTERS IN THE MONTPIRG SURVEY FACED.

*THE FIRST REFORM GIVES DEPUTY REGISTRARS THE AUTHORITY TO REGISTER ANY ELIGIBLE VOTER IN THE STATE OF MONTANA. CURRENTLY, DEPUTY REGISTRARS MAY REGISTER ONLY ELIGIBLE VOTERS WITHIN THE COUNTY THEY WERE DEPUTIZED IN. MONTPIRG REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNABLE TO REGISTER POTENTIAL VOTERS FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTY WHERE THE VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORT WAS TAKING PLACE. EXPANDING DEPUTY REGISTRARS JURISDICTION ANSWERS OUR CONCERNS.

*THE SECOND REFORM REQUIRES AN EXPLANATION OF VOTER QUALIFICATIONS, DEADLINES AND PURGE INFORMATION TO BE ATTACHED OR PRINTED ON VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS. INCREASED AWARENESS OF VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS WILL LEAD TO MORE RESPONSIBLE VOTERS AND A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.

*THE NEXT REFORM EXTENDS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE TO ALLOW CORRECTIONS ON VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS, IF VOTERS RETURNED THEIR MAIL-IN REGISTRATION CARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 30 DAY PRE-ELECTION DEADLINE. INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING BY MAIL-IN CARDS SOMETIMES FORGET TO FILL IN A BLANK OR THEY FILL THE CARD OUT INCORRECTLY. UNLESS THESE CARDS ARE CORRECTED PRIOR TO THE 30 DAY PRE-ELECTION DEADLINE, A POTENTIAL VOTER IS NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION DESPITE SHOWING EVERY INTENT TO PARTICIPATE. ALLOWING CORRECTION OF MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORMS UNTIL 5PM 10 DAYS FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION, INCLUDES POTENTIAL VOTERS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UPCOMING ELECTION.

*THE LAST REFORM WARNS VOTERS THAT THEY WILL BE PURGED FROM VOTER REGISTERS PRIOR TO CANCELLATION. CURRENTLY, CITIZENS ARE PURGED FROM VOTER REGISTERS, THEN THE PUBLIC IS NOTIFIED THROUGH THE MEDIA THAT VOTERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ARE NO LONGER REGISTERED TO VOTE.

*REFORMS IN THIS BILL SERVE ONE PURPOSE, TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION WHILE MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT OUR DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS BASED ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. VOTING IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE. VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS SHOULD RESTRICT NO INDIVIDUAL FROM VOTING. NOT VOTING CAN BE A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL STATEMENT JUST AS VOTING IS. HOWEVER, NOT VOTING BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIVE AND UNNECESSARY VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS DEMONSTRATES INADEQUACIES IN MONTANA'S VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM. WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF SB308.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

VISITORS' REGISTER

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 385

DATE MARCH 27, 85

SPONSOR _____

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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FOR

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE

DATE _____

DATE 3/27/85

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