

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 13, 1985

The meeting of the Senate Legislative Administration Committee was called to order at 5:15 p.m. on March 13, 1985, by Chairman Chet Blaylock in room 402 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Those present were Senators, Blaylock Manning and Mazurek. Absent were Senators Kolstad and Mc Callum.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 910: This bill was introduced to the committee by its sponsor, Representative William Menahan. He said that he introduced this bill in order to expedite the renovation the House adopted. This allocates space on a porportional basis. He said that because of the Secretary of State's office they would not be able to divide its completely in half. He said that the Department of Administration shall allocate space on a portional basis, determined by the number of House of Representatives members and the number of Senate members. Thsi bill indicates that should the Senate choose to move, the Department of Administration shall keep and maintain the physical structure and location of the present Senate Chambers as a single room which shall be used for legislative purposes; it will not be divided nor will the artwork or the height of the ceiling be changed. It will also be preserved and maintained. Also, the Supreme Court Chamber will be kept in tact, maintained and kept as a single structure.

Senator Blaylock asked if the porportional basis were discussed on the floor. Representative Menahan said that it was in committee and taken from the capital construction committee. It was brought out that there should be a "Senate end" and a "House end," and that would be fine if they didn't have the Secretary of State, etc. so it could be divided at this time.

Senator Mazurek suggested that they need to get an equal amount of space as far as committee and leadership goes; and asked, why the House would need 2/3 more space.

Representative Menahan stated that they would need some large rooms and Senator Blaylock said that they would also need large committee rooms as they have as many committees as the House.

Senator Blaylock suggested how the rooms would be divided. He suggested that room 331 and the Sergeant-at-Arms office would go the House and the fourth floor to the middle of the rotunda. Senator Blaylock asked Representative Menahan if they needed more space than that, and if all other offices are to leave, would they want committee rooms out of those and what would it take for adequate committee rooms.

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Senator Menahan stated that is part of the problem...the space they have is better than they have ever had so if they cannot better themselves they will stay the way they are. It is the opinion of the House that the space should be divided on a porportional basis.

Senator Manning asked about the rooms above the House chambers and if they were being used. Representative Menahan said they use one for sure and EQC uses one in back of the gallary.

It was the opinion of all that the capitol should be a legislative building and not be used for offices.

Representative Menahan said that the amendment in the bill was what was negotiated for and they cannot take it out.

The open discussion on the renovation was interrupted by Senator Story who stated that he stood as a opponent and would like to present what he felt would be a solution to the problem. It will not solve the problem by moving the Senate, he said. He said that there would be wasted space beyond the columns and also in the cloak room. Senator Story said, "you will not be accomplishing anything by moving the Senate because what you need is committee rooms, and that will not do it." Senator Story presented a plan for five underground committee rooms which he said would take care of the problem and it would only cost \$2000 more than moving the chambers. This plan would also save the cost of putting in stairs and the cost of a voting machine. The cost of the underground hearing rooms, which would be on the house side, would cost \$700,000. He presented architectual drawings.

Senator Eck rose as a opponent, and said that the Senate Planning and Building met and asked the architect to come up with 17 meeting rooms as a long term plan. That will be available before the session is over. The consensus there was not to have the underground but to move the Chambers and use the building as a legislative building. She addressed the resolution at the bottom of page 1.

Senator Story presented the committee with footage comparisons which is entered as Exhibit 1.

Senator Goodover stated his opposition to the moving of the Senate and said that they would be moving into 1685 square feet compared to the 2300 square feet that they now have. They would also have the Senate gallary directly overhead as the ceiling in the Law Library is 4 feet lower; and, the space from the pillars to the windows cannot be used.

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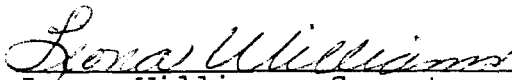
Tom O'Connell, State Architect, presented the committee with his professional opinion. He told the committee that the area beyond the columns that was mentioned by Senator Story totals 1611 square feet. He said that every other column is a false column. He said that in the final plan, no columns are to come out and he considered the space mentioned all wasted and unusable. He said that the ceiling in the proposed chambers is not arched and would be 4 feet lower and that the gallery would set three feet lower. Raising the roof would cost around one-half million dollars.

There was no further discussion and no action was taken on House Bill 910.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman



Leona Williams, Secretary

SENATOR PETE STORY

COMPARATIVE STUDY

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|------------|
| SQUARE FOOTAGE - (Chambers) | New Chamber | - | 1685 sq ft |
| | Present Chamber | - | 2300 sq ft |
| | Supreme Court | - | 1694 sq ft |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--|-----------|
| | Present Cloak Rm | | 416 sq ft |
| | Proposed " " | | 454 sq ft |

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Headroom | Present (fl to Gal) | 13.6 feet |
| Floor to Gallery | Proposed (" " ") | 8 feet |

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|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Height - | | |
| Floor to ceiling | Present chambers | 21'3" (8'11" headspace) |
| | Proposed chambers | 18'3" side gallery-(could be) |
| | | 24'6" back, N. end 20' |

\$126,000 between schematics plans
\$462,933 plus 40,000 for voting machine - new senate chambers

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Present gallery | distance east/west between columns- | 27'8" |
| | north/south | - 50'3" |

present gallery = 45' x 50'

proposed gallery= 27'8" x 50'3"

Each day attach to minutes.