

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 3, 1985

The fifty-third meeting of the State Administration Committee was called to order by Chairman Jack Haffey in Room 331, Capitol, at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 1985.

ROLL CALL: All the members were present with the exception of Senator Lynch who was absent.

Senator Haffey reminded the members that this meeting had been called to consider recommendation of the three members (two to the Highway Commission, and one to the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation) that the Committee had not decided on March 28, 1985. He then asked Senator Tveit, to whom these boards had been assigned, to address the matter.

Senator Tveit told the Committee that they had had two meetings with the Governor. The first meeting was with Senator Farrell, Senator Manning, the Governor and myself, and we discussed the two people with the Highway Commission (Paul M. Foster and Ilert Hellebust) that showed a lack of interest in their appointments. Senator Tveit then deferred to Senator Manning. Senator Manning said that the letters that he received from Great Falls seemed to indicate that something was wrong, but they refused to give specifics. Senator Manning said that he checked on his own after the meeting and people seemed very satisfied with the man's work (Mr. Foster). Consequently, Senator Manning said that he was not going to pursue the matter any further. Senator Manning said he was convinced that the Governor does intend to talk to those individuals and Senator Manning hopes that it will alter their attitudes.

Senator Farrell's problem with Mr. Foster and Mr. Hellebust was their not wanting to do their job and having to resign if the duties were increased. Senator Farrell was assured that the Governor will look into this matter. He said the Governor was upset with their testimony and Senator Farrell believes that the matter will be taken care of. He will not try to block recommendation of confirmation of these two men.

Senator Tveit said that maybe contributions made a difference, but for whatever reason, he was not going to block the recommendation that these two men be confirmed by the Senate as a whole. Therefore, he moved that Paul M. Foster and Ilert Hellebust, as members of the Highway Commission be recommended for confirmation by the Senate as a whole. Question was called, and the Committee voted unanimously that the motion be adopted.

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Senator Tveit said that at the second meeting with the Governor, there were five directors of Northeast Mineral Association, Senator Ed Smith, Senator Anderson, Senator Harding, and Senator Tveit. He told the Committee that he had a problem with Governor Schwinden replacing Bernt Ward with Arnold Hansen. He said that Bernt Ward was very knowledgeable about problems pertaining to oil and gas and that Mr. Hansen knew nothing. Senator Tveit expounded further regarding Mr. Ward's knowledge. Senator Tveit said that the Governor told them that he would appoint or reappoint whomever he wants to. Senator Tveit said one of Governor Schwinden's aides told him that Bernt Ward was an assessor and asked the Department of Revenue too many questions, and they had to get rid of him. Senator Tveit felt it was poor judgment on the part of the Governor. Senator Tveit said the Governor made it clear that he was going to stick with him. Senator Tveit made a motion that Arnold Hansen not be recommended to the Senate of the whole for confirmation as a member of the Oil and Gas Conservation. Senator Tveit felt that the Governor should look at these appointments more carefully.

Senator Haffey said that he had had calls from the Mon-Dak Chapter supporting this member. Senator Tveit said he would withdraw his motion. Senator Mohar said that he would make a motion that Arnold Hansen be recommended for confirmation by the Senate as a whole as a member of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. Senator Harding said that she thought it was remarkable that out of all those appointments, the Committee only had a problem with three of them. Senator Anderson said that this is the Governor's decision, and that he recommended someone to the Board of Livestock that received appointment, and he appreciated the Governor putting new people on these boards. Question was called, and with Senator Tveit voting no, the Committee voted that Arnold G. Hansen be recommended for confirmation by the Senate as a whole.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



SENATOR JACK HAFHEY CHAIRMAN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 4, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on STATE ADMINISTRATION having had under consideration the Governor's appointments of the following members of the Highway Commission:

Paul M. Foster, Billings, Montana, appointed for a term ending January 2, 1989.

Ilert Hellebust, Havre, Montana, appointed for a term ending January 2, 1989.

Respectfully report as follows:

That said appointments be concurred in and confirmed by the Senate, and that the attached resolution be adopted by the Senate.

BE CONCURRED IN AND CONFIRMED

MEMBERS' QUALIFICATIONS
ATTACHED FOR THE FILE.

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on STATE ADMINISTRATION having had under consideration the Governor's appointments of the following members of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation:

Arnold G. Hansen, Sidney, Montana, appointed for a term ending January 2, 1939.

Respectfully report as follows:

That said appointments be concurred in and confirmed by the Senate, and that the attached resolution be adopted by the Senate.

BE CONCURRED IN AND CONFIRMED

MEMBERS' QUALIFICATIONS
ATTACHED FOR THE FILE.

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Chairman.