

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 23, 1985

The 26th meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 108 of the State Capitol. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Senator Regan, Chairman.

ROLL CALL: All members present except Senators Bengtson and Story.

RECONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 513: Senator Regan said she had called the committee together for a possible reconsideration of the committee action on House Bill 513. The bill that would establish a cemetery at Fort Harrison. In looking at the bill, Senator Regan said, we looked at the history and discussed the one at Columbia Falls. I am wondering if there is any problem in giving the veterans the money to try to determine how much it would cost to establish a state veterans' cemetery. Wyoming, with 120 acres at \$90,500 per year; Arizona with 225 acres and \$166,300 per year. They are going to get a back hoe, etc and the maintenance. It seems to me if we give them this and say go to it--I am not sure it is the proper way to act.

Senator Christiaens: This is the area I was getting at yesterday in trying to make a motion to study the cemetery. I talked to Rich Brown and asked if they knew how much the costs might be and what was being considered and he said, no, not yet. I think if we give them an amount of money they can put the wheels in motion to study exactly what they really need for maintenance and equipment. Several members can work with the veterans organization and we will know what we really have to deal with.

MOTION by Senator Christiaens to reconsider House Bill 513.

Senator Himsl: The Veterans' organization has not enough money to make this without us putting in 5 or \$10,000.

Senator Regan: There is money in it. I do think there will be some traveling in it. They should find out what we will be embarking on. That is the reason for the motion. I talked to Carroll South and Curt Chisholm and they said they did not have the information. The Institutions does not want to get into it.

QUESTION was called on the motion for reconsideration, voted, passed. Senators Keating, Himsl, Boylan and Hammond voting no.

Senator Aklestad: In the original bill we passed, it had \$25,000 in it?

Senator Regan: Yes. That was for the land -- 65 acres of land.

Senator Hammond: Why are we back on this? We took action on it once.

Senator Regan: Senator Christiaens came to me and said that they did not know and we should look into it further. They said they would go along to study it if the money was there to study it.

Senator Lane: It passed with \$25,000?

Senator Regan: If they got the 65 acres they could use it in kind. \$50,000--and would qualify for another \$50,000. I will do whatever the committee says.

Senator Smith: What do you want to do?

Senator Regan: Do you want to amend the bill to grant them a thousand dollars or whatever and they will do a report and come back with a package that tells us what it will cost to maintain, etc?

Senator Haffey: I appreciate -- you're amendment is saying they can do this. At the same time Rich Brown is saying to you if x thousand dollars for the group and they would use the Department of Administration and would prefer to reflect on it and look at it a little better and make sure and then to consider the federal legislation--the federal legislation might be gone by then.

Senator Christiaens: You have said a lot in one sentence, and I am not sure I know what you said. I asked if they knew what the entire project was going to be. He said no, they had not yet completed a study and did not know. I asked, if you do a study, how much and they said they were looking at 5 or \$10,000. I asked him if he thought the study would be important and he said, yes.

DISPOSITION OR HOUSE BILL 513: MOTION by Senator Manning to grant them \$5,000 for a study.

Senator Keating: Point of order. The voice vote is uncertain as to outcome and I would ask for a roll call vote on this.

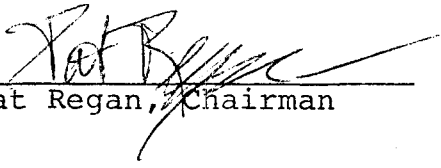
Roll call vote was taken, Senators Keating, Manning, Smith, Boylan, Stimatz, Hims1, Lane and Hammond voting no; Senators Bengtson, Haffey, Regan, Jacobson, Gage, Christiaens and Aklestad voting yes. Senator Story was absent.

Motion failed, 8 no, 7 yes. The bill to go out on the

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recommendation of the day before that the bill be concurred in.

Senator Regan adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m. and asked the secretary to take the bill upstairs and the committee to return to Senate floor session.



Senator Pat Regan, Chairman