

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

June 9, 1986

The first meeting of the Finance and Claims Committee of the Montana State Senate, Special Session #3, met on the above date in room 325 of the State Capitol. The meeting was a joint meeting of Finance and Claims and House Appropriations, and followed the overview briefing by the Legislative Fiscal Analysts (LFA) office on budget recommendations.


ROLL CALL: Roll call was not taken since it had been taken by the LFA secretary prior to the briefing.

Representative Bardanouve, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, said the Speaker of the House had asked to meet with the subcommittee chairmen to consider a time frame for meetings. He said this would be a difficult session, serious decisions had to be made, and that if members failed to make them in all areas there would be much more controversy. He said either all budgets had to be cut to some degree or revenue would have to be significantly raised to meet the budget.

Senator Regan, Chairman, Senate Finance and Claims, said she and Representative Bardanouve had met and agreed to leave the inflation factor out for the present, and in the final action they would go back and do this. She said in listening to the LFA reports she had been struck by the magnitude of the problem, and worried about the alternative of "shifting" funds. She said this is a short-term method and does not address the problem, that long-term cuts must be made or we will have massive problems in January. She said with the meetings beginning at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning she would encourage the chairmen to cut off repetitious testimony. She also mentioned that two issues must be resolved before July 1 since the Pay Plan and the School Foundation Program budgets went into effect at that time.

Representative Bardanouve asked that the subcommittee chairmen meet with the leadership following this meeting, Senator Regan urged the vice-chairmen to attend also. The meeting is to be held in the old law library.

The meeting was adjourned.



Senator Regan, Chairman