

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 6, 1987

The first meeting of the Free Conference Committee on SJR 6 was called to order at 1:05 P.M. on February 6, 1987 by Chairman George McCallum in Room 331 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present, Senators McCallum, Van Valkenburg and Farrell and Representatives Hannah, Iverson and Vincent.

CONSIDERATION OF SJR 6: Senator McCallum said the Senate was not comfortable with the 57th day transmittal and felt that an adjustment could be made.

Representative Hannah asked if that was the only problem with the amendments adopted in the House.

Senator McCallum said our main concern was the revenue and appropriations time limit.

Senator Van Valkenburg said he talked with the rules committee and it seems to make more sense to have the deadlines in the House structured so that the appropriation transmittal deadline comes before the revenue transmittal deadline. He realizes it is more difficult for the House to deal with the whole revenue picture if the Senate revenue transmittal deadline is not at least a week before the House revenue transmittal deadline. The problem for us is that when you compress it down so much as you have with the 57th day and given the nature of this session and the way the bills are coming out of the Legislative Council, our Taxation Committee people in the Senate do not have adequate time to deal with the revenue issues in the Senate. We need to increase that transmittal day to the 62nd day. If the House will change the order of transmittal around so that appropriations came first and revenue followed, he does not think going to the 62nd day would cause them any problems and he feels it would work much better for both bodies.

Senator McCallum is in agreement with Senator Van Valkenburg on the 62nd day. The Taxation Committee has not received the sales tax proposals yet and the Governor's big bill just came up and is expected to take four days to hear. The hearing is scheduled for

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February 16th. We have scheduled two heavy bills for the 20th of this month and we would like to give the bills that are coming up from legislative council adequate hearing.

Representative Iverson said what is concerning him is by doing this that we do not put too much pressure on House Taxation, which by bill count that is where most of the weight is. House Taxation has 100 bills assigned and there are about 60 bills currently being drafted downstairs in Legislative Council which will go to House Taxation, in addition the number of bills on hold. We can easily say House Taxation will deal with 130 to 150 bills. We are nervous about doing anything to compress that time even by an hour. He appreciates the problems the Taxation Committees have on both sides. He would like to see the bills come up and get to work on them. He is afraid by extending those days out we will have them on hold longer.

Representative Hannah said another concern expressed is that if the Governor's bill, which is 151 pages, is transmitted on the same day of transmittal, there is no way we will have a chance to look at the implications of that bill and fully address it. The transmittal deadlines, as proposed now, are set up best for the House and what we felt we could really live with. There is a five day differential now but if we moved it up to the 62nd day, the will of the Senate, we compress that time and come back to one of the problems we are having of not having time to do anything.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked if he had given any consideration to his suggestion of changing the appropriation and revenue deadlines around.

Representative Hannah said our caucus was not happy with the idea. The caucus said they will not handle appropriations before revenue.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked why.

Representative Hannah said they feel we need to have all the cards on the revenue picture prior to putting the budget together. It is the responsibility of the House to do the budgeting, put that together first, and send a balanced budget to the Senate. We can't even attempt to address that until we know what the revenue is.

Representative Vincent said balancing the budget with revenue or spending really does not make that much difference, what comes first and what comes second; it's what you finally do. He does not think 57 days is enough time. The bottom line is how we will work together to work the whole thing out in the end.

Senator McCallum said the Senate would like the transmittal raised to 62 days for revenue bills.

Representative Hannah said he does not think the House would be willing to do that. He said the tailoring of the days appears to be one that seems very well for what we need to do in the House.

Senator McCallum said even if we went to the 62nd day we would have to have the Taxation Committee cleaned out by the 57th day.

Representative Hannah said that compresses our time to try to have any time to work on the revenue bills. The time frames do not stand alone, there are logical directions for these particular dates.

Senator Van Valkenburg said he is very frustrated. In essence what you are saying is do it our way or don't do it and that is so destructive to the process of trying to work together, not just on rules but everything we are facing this session. When parties take an all or nothing approach, the real victims in the process are the people. What I am saying to you, let's find a way to work together on this to a mutual benefit.

Representative Hannah said I am not able to say the House is in agreement with the 62nd day transmittal date. The House feels very strongly about the way these dates fit together.

Senator McCallum asked Representative Hannah if he would go back and talk to the rules committee.

Representative Hannah said he would. We have talked about this and were extremely hopeful that the Senate could be persuaded that the 57, 65, 72, and 83 were not that difficult of a proposal and was something that would work.

Senator Van Valkenburg said the vote was 48-2 in the Senate against this. We did not say we wanted it exactly the way it went over to the House. We put out some middle ground to work this thing out and are looking for some middle ground from you.

Representative Hannah said he would relay that information and see if the time frame might fit.

Senator Van Valkenburg said another alternative is to simply recess the session and stop the clock. Shut-down and run the Taxation Committees for a week. We are going to do a very poor job here if we try and run this stuff through without some deadlines that will work.

Representative Vincent said we could simply not adopt rules in regard to transmittal deadlines. It is not uncommon for legislatures to do this in this country. You would negotiate the transmittal on each bill. He is convinced the House could compress the time frame for consideration of the appropriation bill to allow for 3 days on the floor.

Representative Hannah asked if the rest of the amendments were acceptable except for the transmittal for revenue bills and your request would be for 62 days.

Senator Van Valkenburg said the rest of the amendments are acceptable.

Representative Hannah said he would take that information back to the caucus.

Senator Van Valkenburg said your people asked to use the 83 rules because they dealt with the situation where the House was not evenly divided and that was their reason for using those rules. It would not be good if you are now coming along and taking advantage of that.

Representative Hannah said he agreed with that.

Representative Hannah furnished the committee with a memorandum from Bobby Spilker, Chief Clerk of the House, and asked the committee to consider the recommendations outlined in the memorandum, attached as Exhibit 1.

Senator Van Valkenburg said he would discuss the matter with the Secretary of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:41 P.M.


SENATOR GEORGE McCALLUM, Chairman

PRINT. TXT

TO: House Rules Committee
FROM: Bobby Spilker, Chief Clerk
RE: Printing of Second House Amendments

Present Practice

Standing Committee Amendments (550 copies): printed on green (House) or pink (Senate) paper. These sheets, along with the blue third reading copy of the bill, are the only accurate records of the content of the bill for second reading in the second house. I would recommend continuing this practice.

Committee of the Whole Amendments (550 copies): printed in the same manner. By the time these are ready for distribution, the salmon reference copy of the bill (with the identical amendments) is usually also ready for distribution. I would strongly recommend abolishing these copies.

Salmon Reference Bills (250 copies): these incorporate all second house amendments in the body of the bill, but the identical amendments are also reprinted and stapled to the front of the reference bill. I would recommend abolishing this reprinting, since the reference bill is complete and follows normal legislative practice.

Fiscal Impact

Barb Buda, coordinator of legislative printing, estimates that last session she printed about 330,000 copies in the second house amendment category, which also included conference committee reports. The bulk of the printing, however, was for second house amendments.

If we adopt the recommendations in this memo, we should be able to cut this printing in half, saving perhaps 170,000 impressions; each impression costs us about \$.0172.

Joint Rules Change

6-20 Strike: "The amendments will also be reproduced and attached to the reference bill. If the bill passes on third reading, copies of the reference bill and second house amendments will be distributed in the original house."

RULES COMMITTEE
Exhibit 1
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