

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairperson Eleanor Vaughn, on April 2, 1991,  
at 10 A.M. in room 331.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Eleanor Vaughn, Chairman (D)  
Bob Pipinich, Vice Chairman (D)  
John Jr. Anderson (R)  
Chet Blaylock (D)  
James Burnett (R)  
Bill Farrell (R)  
Harry Fritz (D)  
Bob Hockett (D)  
Jack Rea (D)  
Bernie Swift (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Staff Present:** David Niss (Legislative Council).

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Announcements/Discussion:** None

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE RESOLUTION 8**

**Motion:**

Senator Burnett moved that we DO CONFIRM SENATE RESOLUTION 8.  
George Roskie had substantial reputable people recommend that his  
nomination to the Board of Natural Resources be approved.  
Those in opposition were environmental groups.

**Discussion:**

Senator Pipinich said he is still getting phone calls  
against this man.

Senator Vaughn said several have gotten calls and letters from  
others besides environmentalist groups. There is no question  
about his qualifications. The idea that was expressed was his way  
of handling a hearing. This is similar to a judge position and

people questioned whether he would look fairly at the issues if they didn't portray his views.

Senator Farrell recalled all those who testified against Mr. Roskie.

Senator Pipinich said he has received calls complimenting the State Administration Committee for investigating the nominations and not being a rubber stamp to the Governor's appointments.

Senator Swift said he had numerous letters of support of Mr. Roskie. He has an excellent background, he has recognition in the conservation community. He is well recognized for what he's done in the legislature in that particular capacity. He's served on the power council. He was given a Conservation Award back in the sixties or seventies.

Senator Vaughn said Leslie Reed read a letter in opposition to George Roskie. Quoting from the letter "As a concerned citizen that lived in the county that was slated for massive energy development...they felt that his position was zero tolerance for any opinion other than his own. It is imperative for that person to have the ability to listen to different view points and make a decision based on facts not personal bias. In my opinion of all the people I have dealt with concerning energy issues, George Roskie is the worst choice that could be made." That letter was from Charles Yarger from Circle, Montana. He was not affiliated with any environmental group.

Senator Vaughn said there is a letter from Pat Smith of Arlee, MT, and he was upset about the bill that completely exempted the Colstrip 3 & 4 power plants from the Siting Acts of the state Judicial System. George Roskie's rudeness to listen to the citizens and let them read their letters was known.

Senator Vaughn called attention to a letter from Helen Waller.

Senator Burnett had served on the House Natural Resources Committee at the same time George Roskie was in the Senate and they dealt jointly with those issues. He expressed admiration for the man's ability.

Senator Vaughn said Wallace McRae had written to express dissatisfaction with the Roskie nomination.

Senator Hockett called attention to a rancher, Mr. McKay, who belongs to Northern Plains Resource Council and his testimony. What does Northern Plains Resource Council believe?

Senator Blaylock said Northern Plains Resource Council is an organization of ranchers, farmers in Eastern Montana, that began particularly when the Colstrip Power Plants began to be built. They were extremely worried about the disturbance of the water aquifers and the changing of their community and area to an

SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

April 2, 1991

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industrial area. The Circle people joined because they were talking about opening the huge lignite beds in their area. The Northern Plains people are not warm to disturbing and seeing the ranching way of life destroyed.

Senator Burnett said the Stillwater Mining Company is doing a good job of reclamation.

Senator Blaylock said Montana has the Major Facility Citing Act, the Montana Environmental Policy Act, and we have been in the forefront in many ways of establishing a good environmental set of laws, which have protected our environment. They have also protected the ranching industry. He recalls in the Dillon area someone dumped pesticide in a ditch and it killed a bunch of cattle. Many gold miners have been extremely careless about dumping cyanide so that it gets into our creeks and rivers, killing again our livestock and endangering human lives. We need to protect these laws. Butte, Montana, mining destroyed that beautiful fishing river, and it is finally now beginning to come back. The poisons in that river are so deep at Bonner, that if the dam ever breaks, there will be contamination. Northern Plains Resource Council is a group of responsible young people who are willing to speak for our environment.

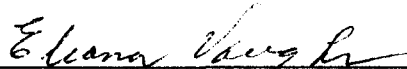
Senator Hockett talked to George Roskie after the hearing. The thing that bothered him the most was the statements by several individuals of his unwillingness to listen to other people's ideas. We deserve the courtesy of having our opinions heard. George Roskie did not do that. His qualifications were not questioned.

Recommendation and Vote:

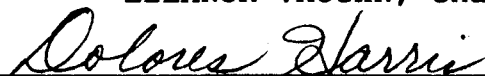
The ROLL CALL VOTE was 4 yes and 6 no to CONFIRM GEORGE ROSKIE. The motion failed. Senator Farrell asked for time to get a minority report. Senator Vaughn granted his request. Two reports will go to the Senate floor, the Minority Report to confirm George Roskie and the Majority Report to not confirm George Roskie.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 10:20 A.M.



ELEANOR VAUGHN, Chairman



DOLORES HARRIS, Secretary

EV/dh

SA040291.SM1

ROLL CALL

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DATE April 2, 1991

52 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR ELEANOR VAUGHN	X		
SENATOR BOB PIPINICH	X		
SENATOR JOHN ANDERSON	X		
SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK			
SENATOR JAMES BURNETT	X		
SENATOR "BILL" FARRELL	X		
SENATOR HARRY FRITZ	X		
SENATOR BOB HOCKETT	X		
SENATOR JACK "DOC" REA	X		
SENATOR BERNIE SWIFT	X		

Each day attach to minutes.

# MAJORITY REPORT

## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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April 2, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the majority of the committee on State Administration having had under consideration Senate Resolution No. 8 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Resolution No. 8 not be adopted.

Signed: Eleanor Vaughn  
Eleanor Vaughn

Signed: Bob Pipinich  
Bob Pipinich

Signed: Chet Blaylock  
Chet Blaylock

Signed: Harry Fritz  
Harry Fritz

Signed: Bob Hockett  
Bob Hockett

Signed: Jack "Doc" Rea  
Jack "Doc" Rea

LB 4/2/91  
Amd. Coord.

OP 4/3  
Sec. of Senate

# MINORITY REPORT

## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1  
April 2, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the minority of the committee on State Administration having had under consideration Senate Resolution No. 8 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Resolution No. 8 be adopted.

Signed: *John Anderson*  
John Anderson

Signed: *James H. Burnett*  
James Burnett

Signed: *Bill Farrell*  
"Bill" Farrell

Signed: *Bernie Swift*  
Bernie Swift

LB 4/2/91  
Amd. Coord.  
SB 4/3  
Sec. of Senate

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE STATE ADMINISTRATION

52st LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Date April 2, 1991 Bill No. SR 8 Time 10:20

NAME	YES	NO
Chairman Eleanor Vaughn		X
Vice Chairman Bob Pipinich		X
Senator John Anderson	X	
Senator Chet Blaylock		X
Senator James Burnett	X	
Senator "Bill" Farrell	X	
Senator Harry Fritz		X
Senator Bob Hockett		X
Senator Jack "Doc" Rea		X
Senator Bernie Swift	X	

Dolores Harris  
Secretary Dolores Harris

Chairman Eleanor Vaughn

Motion: Do Confirm. Motion failed.  
Senator Farrell asked for an opportunity  
to do a minority report.