

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By Senator Blaylock, on January 9, 1993, at 9:42 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Chet Blaylock, Chair (D)  
Sen. Mignon Waterman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Bruce Crippen (R)  
Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)  
Sen. Ethel Harding (R)  
Sen. Judy Jacobson (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** None.

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: Discussion  
Executive Action: None

Senator Van Valkenburg, President of the Senate, said there are two things he would like to bring to the committee for discussion and input. The first question is what the Senate policy should be in respect to the distribution of materials on members desks and in the chamber of the Senate. He said this is a housekeeping matter that occupies the President of the Senate at great length, and while some of these items must be decided by himself, he felt it wise to have a policy where certain materials could be handled directly by the Sergeant's office. Senator Van Valkenburg suggested the possibility of a bin placed in the Senate cloak room where a lot of the marginal materials in terms of distribution could be placed by the Sergeant at Arms staff or the pages. He said over the years there has become less of a need for lockers in the Senate cloak room and felt some lockers could be removed and a bin put up. This could be a place where materials not necessarily related to legislative business could be placed and mentioned a check identification card one of the banks wanted distributed on members desks. Sen. Van Valkenburg said he felt if some banks sent out check identification cards

through the mail, they should all do so. He mentioned a lobbying group for the Gifted and Talented that wanted to put lobbying bags on the desk but the problem also involves commercial types of things. He has put in place a temporary distribution policy which Margaret Regan, Sergeant at Arms handed out. (exhibit 1)

Senator Blaylock said they used to have a placement for all the bills and asked if that was still around. Ms. Regan said she believed it had been transferred to another agency. She would check to see if it is being used, and if not she could ask if we could get it back.

Senator Waterman said the nonprofit and governmental entities having to individually address the invitations may create more work for the pages to get them on the right desk. The other thing she would like to ask about was that there are a number of Legislators who are here for the winter and would appreciate knowing what activities are around. She mentioned Grand Street Theater, The Symphony, etc. which members might wish to know about, have a charge and generally have a postcard or notice that could be put on a members desk. The alternative would be to take time on the floor to announce these activities. Senator Jacobson said she could see the point, but it did contribute to a lot of the clutter on the desks.

Sergeant Regan said she was concerned when she looked at the desks that members would miss important information they really need to find. She was attempting to allocate different types of information to different parts of the desk and felt it would be useful to have some way to get some of the non-legislative things to the members without having them just stack up on desks. She said she was also concerned about the people who want access to the members when they can not get something on the desk, it would be too expensive to pursue via the mail, or there is not enough time to get it to the post office and back into the mail boxes. She felt a bin in the cloak room might be a graceful compromise.

Senator Van Valkenburg said Ms. Regan had asked about the time packets should be distributed. His general answer is to distribute packets as soon as they are available and there is staff to distribute them.

Senator Waterman suggested if the packets are put out ahead they should be clearly marked for the effective day.

Ms. Regan suggested a method that may help in identifying the bill packets. Presently the agenda is printed in white and suggested a different color that was not used otherwise to flag the agenda packet.

Chair Blaylock said the most difficult time is when we get down the line, getting a big packet and several bills are passed for the day, or it gets toward the end of the session and you are forced to cut off the session with some bills that have not been

gone through. Those bills have to be saved so we have them later.

Senator Van Valkenburg said some discussion was needed on the enforcement of the no smoking policy. Ms. Regan was alienating people by asking them to put out cigarettes and he did not feel this should be something she should have to do.

Discussion was held on dividing the Senate cloak room so the phones were relatively clear of smoke, getting an exhaust fan, etc.

Senator Blaylock suggested bringing this for discussion on the Senate floor and having an advisory vote in regard to smoking in the cloak room. He felt it necessitated an amendment to the Senate rules which are to be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, and will be out on the floor. If you want to ban smoking in the cloak room, offer an amendment on the floor and vote on it. It could be an amendment that said there is a designated smoking area somewhere.

Senator Jacobson said she felt if the cloak room were divided leaving the section near the phones free from smoking it could work but if smoking were banned all together, those people who were very addicted to cigarettes might leave the area to smoke and miss Senate action including votes.


SENATE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE


January 9, 1993

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:15 a.m.

  
CHET BLAYLOCK, Chair

  
SYLVIA KINSEY, Secretary

CB/sk



# MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 5. 1993

*Leg. Adm. Com*  
SENATE ~~EDUCATION~~  
EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE 1/9/93  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Margaret Regan  
FROM: Fred Van Valkenburg  
RE: Temporary Distribution Policy

The Sergeant at Arms office is authorized to distribute the following:

1. Official governmental reports;
2. Personal notes addressed to individual senators;
3. Invitations from government entities or non-profit organizations addressed to individual senators;
4. Written materials which have been signed by a member of the Senate and approved for distribution by the President;
5. Any other item only as approved by the President.