

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ROYAL C. JOHNSON, on February 13, 1997, at 9:02 AM, in room 312-1 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Royal C. Johnson, Chairman (R)
Sen. Daryl Toews, Vice-Chairman (R)
Rep. Don Holland (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Ken Miller (R)
Rep. Ray Peck (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sandy Whitney, Legislative Fiscal Division
Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Division
Connie Jacobs, Committee Secretary

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Vocational Agriculture
Educational Position, 2/12/97.
Executive Action: Montana School for the Deaf
and Blind.

HEARING ON THE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION POSITION

REP. DON HOLLAND requested representatives from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and Montana State University (MSU), Bozeman be present to discuss the merits of funding the Vocational Agriculture Education (Vo Ag Ed) position at MSU rather than at OPI, as well as the continued funding levels required.

Mr. Bill Jimerson, Agricultural Teacher - Conrad, and **Mr. Wayne Gephard** spoke in favor of increased funding and the placement of the position at MSU. **Mr. Taylor Brown, Northern Broadcasting**

Systems, spoke of past funding levels and the current work load of the position.

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 2 (Mr. Brown)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-12; Comments: .}

Mr. Leonard Lombardi, Retired Vocational Agriculture Educator, spoke of his former duties and the need to maintain the position. Questions from **REP. HOLLAND** and the committee followed. **Ms. Gayle Gray, OPI**, stated the current inability to fund this position through OPI. She also stated that community response and/or complaints went to OPI even though the position is currently contracted through MSU. Questions from the committee followed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 13-32; Comments: .}

Ms. Jane Karas, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, discussed the fact that Perkins Grant money cannot be used to fund the Vocational Agricultural Education position. **Dr. Van Shelhamer, Montana Leadership Team for Agriculture**, presented the role of MSU versus OPI, and the salary/benefits of the Vocational Educational staff at MSU. **Dr. Shelhamer** also presented the mission statement of MSU's agricultural education program.

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5a (Dr. Shelhamer)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 33-43; Comments: .}

Ms. Gray and **Ms. Kathy Fabiano, OPI**, responded to questions and comments from the committee. **Mr. Bob Stevens, Montana Green Growers Association**, addressed the committee as well.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-8; Comments: .}

Continued questions from the committee. **Mr. Wayne Gilman, Agricultural Teacher**, and **Ms. Laurie Stelter, Teacher of Family and Consumer Sciences**, stated the need for access to specialists and professionals in the field of agriculture.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 9-40; Comments: .}

Mr. George Paul, Montana Farmers Union, described the lack of communication between MSU and others in the field of agriculture (the farmers). **Mr. Paul** stated reasons for supporting the placement of the Vocational Agriculture Education position at OPI. **Ms. Meta Loftsgarden** supported increased and continued funding of the Vo Ag position, and **Ms. Lorna Frank-Karn of the Montana Farm Bureau** presented the written testimony of **Ms. Hertha L. Lund, of the American Farm Bureau Federation**.

EXHIBIT 6 (Ms. Frank-Karn)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-9; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

Mr. Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, stated the need to line item language for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) which will be contained in HB2.

EXHIBIT 7 (Mr. Tallerico)

Motion: SEN. DARYL TOEWS MOVED THAT "ITEM [\$ 73,846 GENERAL FUND] IS A BIENNIAL APPROPRIATION AND MUST BE USED TO MAKE PROGRESS IN PROVIDING SALARY INCREASES FOR MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND TEACHERS AND SPECIALISTS BASED UPON A MARKET RATIO CONCEPT SIMILAR TO THE ONE ADOPTED FOR CLASSIFIED STATE EMPLOYEES".

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion: SEN. TOEWS MOVED THAT "ITEM [\$ 53,000 GENERAL FUND] IS A BIENNIAL APPROPRIATION AND MUST BE USED TO FUND A 0.5 FTE, GRADE 14, PROGRAM SPECIALIST POSITION AND RELATED OPERATIONAL EXPENSES IN SUPPORT OF BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY".

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9-19; Comments: .}

Resume Discussion regarding the Vo Ag Ed position

The remainder of the meeting addressed the minimum funding requirements of the Vo Ag Ed position, and curriculum/grades for agricultural education in the public schools.

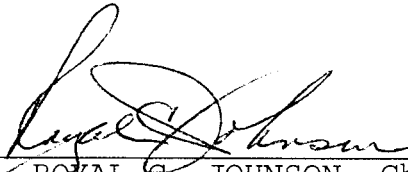
Ms. Cheryl Schlepp, Teacher of Family and Consumer Sciences, presented written testimony.

EXHIBIT 8 (Ms. Schlepp)

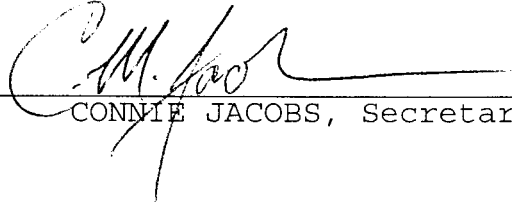
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 20-41; Comments: .}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: This meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.



REP. ROYAL E. JOHNSON, Chairman



CONNIE JACOBS, Secretary

RCJ/cj

Note: This meeting was recorded on two (2) 90 minute tapes.