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MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • TELEPHONE 406/449-3750

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Convention Hall

Date Meeting Held: 1/29/72
Hour Meeting Held: 10:26 A.M.

Committee Chairman: Richard Champoux

MINUTES OF THE TWELVETH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION
AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Public Aid to Non-Public Schools

Roll Call:

Richard Champoux	<u>Present</u>
Robert Noble	<u>Present</u>
Lloyd Barnard	<u>Present</u>
William Burkhardt	<u>Present</u>
Marjorie Cain	<u>Present</u>
Max Conover	<u>Present</u>
Carl Davis	<u>Present</u>
Gene Harbaugh	<u>Present</u>
Dan Harrington	<u>Present</u>
Robert Woodmansey	<u>Present</u>
John Toole	<u>Present</u>

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

Dr. William Furdell - College of Great Falls
John C. Sheehy - Montana Catholic Conference
Lyle Conner - Masons of Montana
Dr. E. L. Lynn - Helena
John Eldredge - Helena
Jack Holt - Helena
John S. Piatt - Americans United
William Cainan - Masons of Montana
Ernest A. Neath - Masons of Montana
Leo Kottas - Masons of Montana
George B. Schotte - Board of Trustees - Carroll College
Vern Klingman - Great Falls
C. R. Anderson - Dillon
Rev. John Moes - Christian Reform Church

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Leo Kottas, Helena attorney, representing himself and the Masons of Montana was first to testify. He was opposed to any constitutional changes of separation of church and state.

Mr. Ernest A. Neath from Helena representing the Masons testified next. A copy of his testimony is attached.

Lyle Conner also from Helena representing the Masonic Lodge spoke next. His statement is attached.

Dr. Everett L. Lynn from Helena spoke next. His statement is attached. Discussion followed his testimony, with members of the committee asking questions.

John E. Eldredge an accountant from Helena testified next. He stated he was a member of the Mormon church he could not speak officially for them. He said he was opposed to any change regarding state-church relations. His statement is attached.

George B. Schotte, a member of the Board of Trustees at Carroll College spoke next. He stated that we hear alot about block grants and revenue sharing. He felt this should be available to college students at schools of their choice. Article denies this. He felt federal aid should be available to all students.

Next to speak was Mr. Jack G. Holt, from Helena, speaking for himself and as a member of the Mormon church. A copy of his testimony is attached.

The meeting was then recessed until 1:00 p.m.

Dr. William Furdell from the College of Great Falls spoke next. Does not want any further separation of church and state. They reject any hostility from state toward church. He said be sure and make this constitution a modern one.

Mr. William Cainan from Helena, lobbying for the Masons of Montana, and as President of Helena Friends of Public Schools spoke next. A copy of his testimony is attached.

Senator John Sheehey, attorney from Billings spoke next. He was representing the Montana Catholic Conference. We propose that you accept the provisions of the first amendment which has protected us for 200 years. Under the 1st amendment it prohibits is financial support, sponsorship of any parchoial school and involvement in religious activities are prohibited. He was in favor of student loans no matter where they attend school. This would cost the state nothing. He will supply a written copy of his statement to be included in the record.

Next to testify was John S. Piatt representing Americans United. A copy of his text is attached.

Mr. Piatt said federal aid would violate every citizens right to the free exercise of a religion.

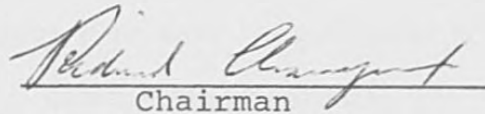
Mr. C. R. Anderson from Dillon was next to testify. He said the U.S. Constitution and 1889 constitution both say no aid to secular schools. He said that the new constitution should be written so that no court can challenge it.

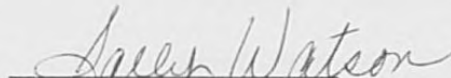
Dr. Vern L. Klingman, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Billings testified next. His testimony is attached.

Rev. John Moes from Conrad was next to testify. He said he felt religion must be kept separate from the state, but that there was a need for the minority of church schools. Everyone should have the choice to send their children where they want.

A copy of testimony from Norman D. Ostrander representing the Seventh Day Adventist Church is also attached to the minutes.

The hearing was then adjourned.


Chairman


Secretary