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

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 436
Convention Hall

Date Meeting Held: 2/3/72
Hour Meeting Held: 10:10 P.M.

Committee Chairman: Richard Champoux

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

SUBJECT OF MEETING: 10:00 - Vo-Tech 1:00 - County Superintendents
3:00 - Indian Education

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>

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

Don Scanlin - Instructor - Pre-Vo-Tech, Billings
Erv Gysler - Fort Benton
Maurice Driscoll - Butte Vo-Tech Center
William Korizek - Helena Vo-Tech Center
Jim Carey - Great Falls Vo-Tech Center
Gene Downey - Missoula Vo-Tech Center
Ray Heley - Billings Vo-Tech Center
Gordon Simmons - Missoula County High School
John Giese - Missoula County High School
Einar Brosten - Montana Vocational Educators Association
James J. Kenny - Montana School Board Association

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING: 1:00 County Superintendents

Grace Hanson - County Superintendent - Flathead County
Opal Eggert - lobbyist for Co. Superintendents
Robert Watt- Missoula, Montana
Lloyd Markell - Montana Education Association
Dolores Colburg - State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dorothy Simons - L & C County Superintendent
Carolyn Frojen - Missoula County Superintendent

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING: 3:00 Indian Education

Earl Barlow - representing Office of Public Instruction
Bert Corcoran - Rocky Boy Superintendent
Frances Satterthwaite - Inter-Tribal Policy Board
Frank Shone - Helena, Montana
Dwight Billedeaux - Eastern Montana College

Mr. Don Scanlin was first to speak. A copy of his statement is attached.

Mr. Ervin Gysler from Fort Benton testified next. He said you cannot overlook Vo-Tech Education in our school systems. In 1980 only 20% of all jobs will require college education.

Maurice Driscoll, representing Butte Vo-Tech Center was introduced. He then introduced the other four gentlemen from Vo-Tech Centers listed on page 1. Bill Korizek was the speaker representing the five centers. He stated the main function is to provide post-secondary education to the people in the State of Montana. The centers are not part of higher education and do not want to be. He said the five centers were selected to give free education to people that could benefit from Vo-Tech Education. These centers have active programs in adult education. The total number of students in '69 and '70 was 22,925. Vocational education as a post-secondary school has been accepted. He said they wanted no mention of specific units in the constitution nor do they want restrictive things in it. They favor one single board of education with three sub-divisions. They wanted the new constitution to be broad enough to take in the future. They said they would be in favor of letting the legislature create the number of boards. These centers are responsible to local school boards and have been working well with them.

Col. Gordon Simmons, Trustee of the School Board from Missoula spoke next. He said you did not want to do anything to disturb the local control of these centers. They are working well as they are right now. The host counties of these centers have a financial stake in these centers, since a mill levy is given to the schools.

John Giese, also from Missoula County High School spoke briefly. He felt the statement "the right to learn" should be expanded to read "the right to learn and earn". He asked the committee to be sure and consider some of the implications of the future when writing the provision.

Mr. Einar Brosten representing the Montana Vocational Association testified next. He stated that this organization has grown rapidly in the past year and now has approximately 320 members, comprised mainly of vocational educators through secondary and post-secondary. The association conducted a survey of the members on the problems of education in the state. A copy of this survey is attached.

Mr. James Kenny representing the Montana School Boards Association spoke briefly. A copy of his statement is attached.

The meeting was then recessed until 1:00 in the Convention Hall to deal with the specific subject of County Superintendents

1:10 Convention Hall

Subject: County Superintendents

Mrs. Grace Hanson, Flathead County Superintendent was the first speaker. She felt that the office of County Superintendent should remain as an elective office. She said that the County Superintendents were the liaison between the county and state, they serve each district and are the administrators at the local level. The office is a necessity for budgeting, funding and levying taxes.

Next to speak was Opal Eggert a lobbyist for the County Superintendents. She said speaking for them that they wanted the election of their office to remain in the Constitution.

Robert D. Watt from Missoula testified next. He also felt it should be kept as an elected office. He said this office settles disputes, goes over budgets, appoints board members, etc. When an office is elected they are always more responsive to the public.

Lloyd Markell representing the Montana Education Association stated their position. They feel this office should be continued as an elective office. He said the budget is usually just proposed, they have to figure it all out.

Next to testify was Dolores Colburg, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A copy of her testimony is attached. She agreed that it would be a good idea to have one officer for two or more counties. See that the constitution doesn't restrict or prohibit the office.

Dorothy Simons, Lewis and Clark County Superintendent spoke next. She raised the question that if this were an appointed office, who would appoint her? They take their jobs seriously and are proud of their individual districts. She firmly believes in an elected County Superintendent and that this provision remain in the Constitution.

Carolyn Frojen, County Superintendent of Schools in Missoula testified next. A copy of her statement is attached to the minutes.

Copies of other testimony that were sent to the committee were also distributed. These are included in the minutes.

Mr. Earl Barlow, Indian Education Supervisor, Office of Public Instruction spoke first. There are seven reservations in the state, six of which were created before the present constitution was written, with one being created in 1910. He said there are approximately 27,000 on the reservation. He felt it should be put in the constitution about equal educational opportunity for the Indian people of this state. He said federal aid for these schools depends on local initiative to apply for it. He felt the cultural of the American Indian should be preserved. He also felt they should have more representatives on the State Board. A copy of his statement is attached.

Bert Corcoran, Superintendent of Schools at Rocky Boy Reservation at Box Elder testified next. He said this committee had the destiny of the Indians in the state in their hands. He said an Indian school with an Indian board does not have anything to say about the school. He felt they did not have enough voice in the way the schools are run. Another problem they have is with accreditation. He felt that there should be some type of wording in the constitution to the effect that there will be representative of a minority group on the State Board. He said he wasn't thinking in terms of next year but in terms of the year 2000, therefore there must be flexibility in the constitution.

Mrs. Frances Satterthwaite, representing the Inter-Tribal Policy Board spoke next. She stated she was also serving a four year term on the National Indian Health Advisory Board. She said the lack of cultural identity has been very detrimental to Indian children. She felt that there should be something in the Constitution that would preserve the cultural integrity of our Indian people. She said Indians are always taught how not to be Indians.


Frances Mitchell, a private citizen, urged the committee to move toward a voucher system.

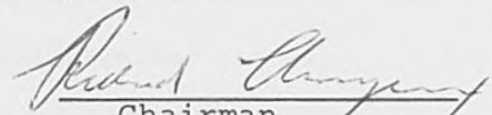
Frank Shone, from Helena School District #1 next spoke. The urban Indians have been left out of federal grants and state grants and he felt it was about time they got some representation.

Dwight Billedeaux, from Eastern Montana College in Billings spoke next. He said Indian Education is a myth, it does not exist. He said he would like to see an Office of Indian Education that does actually exist.

This completed the hearing on Indian Education.

The chairman appointed Mr. Harrington as a one man subcommittee to meet with the Local Government Committee. Meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman