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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

Date Meeting Held: 2/4/72
Hour Meeting Held: 8:30 A.M.

Committee Chairman: Richard Champoux

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

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Presentation by Mrs. Cain and Mike Meloy

Roll Call:

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

DISCUSSION:

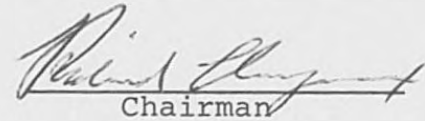
The chairman called the meeting to order. The subject of the meeting was a presentation by Mrs. Cain and Mike Meloy from the Office of Public Instruction about the meeting they attended in Denver on the Financing of Education. Following are some statements made by the men heading the National Educational Finance Project:

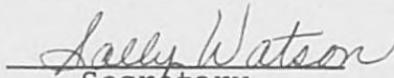
Dr. Jordan contended that the use of census figures tend to encourage the districts to be run inefficiently. Dr. Morphet from Denver University made two thought provoking statements. "Nothing less than full market value of the total properties of the State can be truly equalizing. Therefore only the state can do the assessing." If you accept these and distribute on an equalizing model then property tax can be as equalizing as any other form of tax. Dr. Alexander suggested that we reorganize the districts to include 1500 pupils, although this might not work in Montana. He said reorganize your plan to include more state dollars then distribute those dollars according to a model that considers varying pupil needs and costs.

Dr. Johns of the University of Florida restated one of the most popular quotes in Educational circles since the Serrano case: "In order to insure equal educational opportunity for all students of a state, financing must be a function of the total wealth of that state." He also said "School districts that are too small to be efficient in economy create inequality, so reorganize the districts. There can be no excuse for districts to exist if they exist at extraordinary expense to the taxpayer."

Mrs. Cain and Mr. Meloy both thought the meeting was very beneficial to them and that many of the things they learned could apply in Montana.

Meeting adjourned.


Chairman


Secretary