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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: 2/5/72

Hour Meeting Held: 11:42 P.M.

Committee Chairman: Richard Champoux

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

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Equal Educational Opportunity

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

Ulyssis Doss - University of Montana professors
Harold Gray - University of Montana
Dolores Colburg - Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jim Graham - Miles City - citizen
John Mansfield - Great Falls
James Shea - Great Falls
Barnie Old Coyote - M.S.U.
D. D. Cooper - Montana Education Association

DISCUSSION:

First to testify was Ulyssis Doss from the University of Montana. His recommendations are attached.

Mr. Harold Gray from the University of Montana testified next speaking on behalf of the Indian people on campus. Right now there is no equal opportunity for Indian people. He felt there should be specific mention in the constitution to Indian Education. He said there land is non-taxable therefore they have to depend on Federal Government for funds.

Barney Old Coyote , Professor of American Indian Studies at Montana State University testified next. His statement is attached.

Dolores Colburg, State Superintendent of Public Instruction testified next. Her testimony is attached.

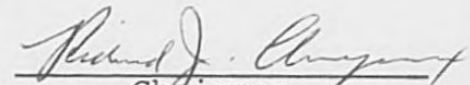
Mr. Jim Graham from Miles City testified next. He spoke highly of private schools. He said the people who wrote the original constitution did a marvelous job. He recommended that the committee put no restrictive parts in the new constitution.

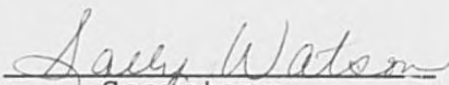
John Mansfield from Great Falls testified next. He is a member of the Catholic school boards. He felt the federal aid should be given to private schools.

Dr. James Shea from Great Falls spoke next. He said he hoped that this committee would accept the wording of the first amendment in the U.S. Constitution, which is broader than what we now have. He felt we should let the parents have a free choice of where they want their children to attend school.

Mr. D. D. Cooper representing the Montana Education Association testified next. He felt there should be a consitutional provision guaranteeing equal educational opportunities for all young people regardless of race, creed or color. Special methods of implementing this provision is a legislative matter. The necessary flexibility to meet changing needs and changing conditions cannot be achieved through constitutional provisions or restrictions. This can best be done through legislative action.

This concluded the hearing.


Chairman


Secretary