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1-25-1972

### Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee

Montana. Constitutional Convention (1971-1972). Executive Committee

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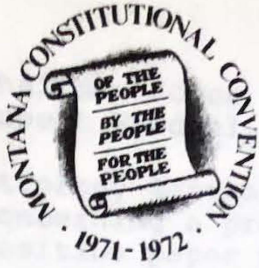
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**MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**  
STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • TELEPHONE 406/449-3750

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 430-31

Date Meeting Held: 1/25/72  
Hour Meeting Held: 2:00 p.m.

Committee Chairman: Thomas F. Joyce

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Presentation by Attorney General Woodahl  
and Secretary of State Murray

Roll Call:

Thomas F. Joyce, Chairman	<u>Present</u>
J. C. Garlington, Vice Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Harold Arbanas	<u>Excused</u>
Betty Babcock	<u>Present</u>
James R. Felt	<u>Present</u>
Fred J. Martin	<u>Present</u>
Richard B. Roeder	<u>Present</u>
Margaret S. Warden	<u>Present</u>
Archie O. Wilson	<u>Present</u>

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation or Title</u>
Robert L. Woodahl	Attorney General
Frank Murray	Secretary of State
Gail M. Dewalt	Deputy - Secretary of State office

Chairman Joyce opened the meeting by introducing Attorney General Robert Woodahl, thanking him for appearing before the committee.

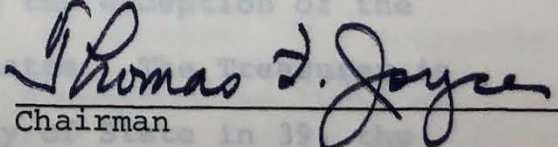
Attorney General Woodahl made a few brief preliminary remarks concerning a prepared statement he would read. He stated his position paper was based on two premises. First he felt that any article the committee may come out with couldn't affect his office for an ensuing term and secondly, he felt all people running for elective offices would not only be out to get elected but would have to campaign against this document if elected officials were deleted from the constitution. He did feel a need for a new constitution in the state. He stated several months ago he went on record as being for an appointive attorney general, but that he has now changed his mind. He then proceeded to read his prepared statement which is attached as Exhibit A and forms a part of these minutes.

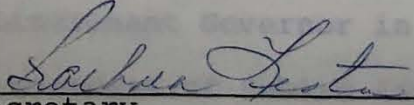
The floor was then open to questions by committee members. Topics discussed concerned legal council for the governor, lengthy comment on the boards on which the attorney general serves and the duties performed, number of persons employed in his office and if staffing was adequate, retainer system of hiring state attorneys, merit system pros and cons, and what has been the result of reorganization in his office.

Next to appear before the committee was Secretary of State Frank Murray. He then introduced Mrs. Gail DeWalt, Chief Deputy and Mrs. Joanne Woodgerd, Election Clerk who accompanied him. Mr. Murray's comments in essence were that he believed the office of Secretary of State should remain elective. Mrs. DeWalt then commented at some length concerning the duties of the office. Her prepared statement and other material distributed to committee members is attached as Exhibits B through F.

Discussion then commenced pertaining to number of employees and if adequate, pros and cons pertaining to the office being appointive or elective, how reorganization has affected the office, and the boards on which the secretary of state serves.

Time of Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary