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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 430-31 &
Governor's Reception Room

Date Meeting Held: 2/8/72
Hour Meeting Held: 9:45 a.m.

Committee Chairman: Thomas F. Joyce

THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Meeting with the Board of Education

Roll Call:

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

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation or Title</u>
Representative Robert Watt	Montana Student Presidents' Association
Miles Romney	Convention Delegate
Members of the State Board of Education	

Chairman Joyce announced that rather than meet with the Board of Education at 2:00 p.m. in the committee room as planned, we will meet with them at 11:00 a.m. in the Governor's Reception Room. Also Miles Romney, Convention Delegate has introduced a proposal which is in the Legislative Committee concerning the time the legislature should convene, and had asked if he might appear before the committee. Representative Robert Watt from Missoula would also like some time to appear regarding the educational issue.

Rep. Watt then arrived. He was representing the Montana Student Presidents' Association. He passed out a booklet to each committee member regarding recommendations for constitutional revision and implementation, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A. In essence his recommendations were the two board concept with the superintendent of public instruction being appointed. Their reasoning being that the superintendent should be responsible to the boards, but if elected would be responsible to the people and pretty much independent from the boards. It was felt the superintendent could be more or less an executive secretary with a non-voting status. This concept is based on the state of Michigan which he said has had a great deal of success. Montana is only one of two states that have the one board concept, the other being Florida.

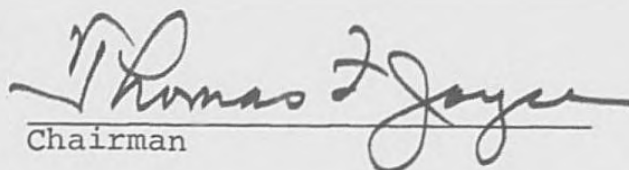
Following testimony by Rep. Watt, the committee discussed the Romney Hearing that is to be held tomorrow night. Chairman Joyce mentioned that the committee had to draft a proposal for publication before the hearing pertaining to where the committee stands in regard to the Executive Article. A poll was then taken of the committee members on how each felt about the elected officials and various boards and commissions. The Chairman stated that if agreeable with the committee he and Vice Chairman Garlington would draft a statement which would be typed for committee approval.

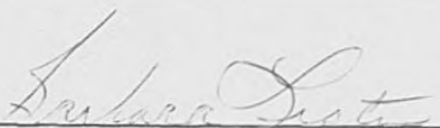
Delegate Miles Romney then appeared to testify on his Proposal 19 which would change the date the legislature would convene from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in February. He had two reasons for this change. The first one being he felt if a new administration had been elected, it would give the governor more time for appointments, hiring an office staff and going over the budget. Secondly, he felt, especially the Appropriations Committee, of the Legislature should have more time for studying appropriations of the various institutions and departments of state government.

The committee then recessed briefly to reconvene in the Governor's Reception Room with the Board of Education at 11:00 a.m.

A lengthy discussion commenced regarding the one board versus the two board concept. It was the consensus of those in attendance that Montana should retain the one board system, with the possibility of adding three or four more members. Most of the duties of this board pertain only to the University System and primary and secondary levels are handled by the superintendent and the legislature. This board did not feel that they should in any way become involved in running the local schools. Some felt the superintendent should be appointed by the board, thereby making her more responsive to them.

Time of Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary