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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

Room 410, Capitol Building

January 17, 1972
11:10 a.m.

Committee Chairman: Mark Etchart

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

General discussion of committee meetings and portions of the
Constitution assigned to this committee.

Roll Call:

Mark Etchart, Chairman
Paul K. Harlow, V. Chairman
Don E. Belcher
Bruce M. Brown
Lyman W. Choate
Otto T. Habedank
Peter "Pete" Lorello
Robert Vermillion

Interested persons attending:

Ross H. Gudgel
Administrative Assistant
Mont. State Pharmaceutical Assoc.
1720 9th Avenue
Helena, Montana

Meeting adjourned: 12:00 noon.

Chairman Etchart called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and introduced Jim Grady, Research Analyst, Bob Skaggs, Intern and Louise Sullivan, Temporary Secretary.

The Chairman explained the manual that was prepared for the committee chairmen concerning the format and procedures for conducting a meeting.

Before a public hearing, the form for interested persons testifying will be passed around for signatures, occupation, address and the person or persons whom they represent.

A discussion was held concerning no debates between persons testifying before the committee. Mr. Habedank felt that this should not necessarily apply to all hearings but should depend on the number of persons present to testify and also should be left up to the chairman.

Mr. Belcher felt that most of the persons could be encouraged to speak more freely by the members of the committee asking questions of them.

Chairman Etchart stated that the committee must make a real effort to be very congenial and that interested persons should be treated with respect.

Meetings will be announced from the floor of the Convention as the last order of business. It was felt that at least a minimum of three days notice must be given before a public hearing.

Chairman Etchart informed the committee members of the specific areas of the Constitution which has been assigned to them:

Article I.	Boundaries
Article IV.	Distribution of Powers
Article IX.	Suffrage
Article XIX	
Section 1	Oath of Office
Section 2	Lotteries
Section 8	Calling a Constitutional Convention
Section 9	Amendments
Ordinances 5 and 6	

Possibly part of the Legislative Article will be assigned to this committee so maybe the two committees will work together. The Chairman feels that this committee will be assigned quite a bit of work that is not assigned to other committees.

There will be three types of proposals introduced:

1. Delegate proposal
2. Committee proposal
3. Citizen proposal

The proposals will be submitted to the President, who in turn will assign them to a Committee.

There will have to be quite a bit of flexibility in the beginning at the public hearings to accommodate persons testifying but the subjects of the hearings will have to be narrowed down later on.

Mr. Vermillion who is also a member of the Public Information Committee made the suggestion that perhaps at a later date, when the section concerning lotteries comes up, that perhaps a meeting could be held with the radio station present and invite telephone calls from throughout the state concerning this subject and that perhaps these calls could be considered official testimony. He suggested the lottery subject because this might generate substantial public interest. This type of testimony would probably make most people feel that they have actually participated in the Convention without making the trip to Helena. Chairman Etchart suggested that Mr. Vermillion attend the Rules Committee meeting and see about sanction for this sort of meeting.


Mr. Belcher brought up that he felt there should be some type of proposal presented before a program of this type is initiated to give these persons some ideas rather than for them to call in any type of idea.

Mr. Brown asked how a proposal should be submitted. Chairman Etchart stated that all proposals should go through the Chairman.

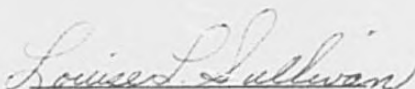
Jim Grady, Research Analyst, stated that there are persons available to help with the drafting of proposals.

Mr. Etchart scheduled a meeting for 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 18, 1972.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.



Mark Etchart, Chairman



SECRETARY

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