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MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
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GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

Room 410, Capitol Building

January 21, 1972
1:20 P.M.

Committee Chairman: Mark Etchart

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

Discussion of Article IX, Suffrage and Elections
Discussion of Article V, Section 1, Initiative,
referendum and recall.

Roll Call:

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Etchart called the FIFTH meeting of the General Government and Constitutional Amendment Committee to order at 1:30 p.m. on January 21, 1972 in Room 410. The secretary read the minutes, corrections were made and seconded. The roll call was taken.

Frank Adams of the Great Falls Tribune was introduced as a guest and Delegate George James was also a visitor.

Mr. Etchart asked if everyone had studied the Suffrage and Election material. It was stated that this committee would be the first committee to report to the convention and that the suffrage and election section had to be completed by February 12 as we would be leading off the floor debate. Mr. Etchart stated that this was to be the completed document in the form that this committee wanted it to appear in the constitution. The section on constitutional amendments would then follow. We are also the last committee to report on our section of general government. Mr. Etchart commented that when our section is presented there will be no other business on the convention floor until it is completely debated. It was mentioned that it would come out as a committee report with the provisions for minority reports. It will then go to Style and Drafting. Mr. Harlow said everything will have to be referred to the present constitution so they will know what sections we are talking about. If 25% of the committee disagrees on any section, they can write a minority report. Mr. Etchart said each committee chairman would move for adoption of the committee report and whoever took over the leadership of the minority report would move adoption of that report. It would then be decided on the floor whether to adopt the majority report or the minority report.

Mr. Lorello asked what happens to the delegate proposals and it was stated that they are sent to a committee assigned that topic. Citizen proposals will be taken until the time for the final draft and the delegate proposals have to be in by February 3. The Legislative Council can be presented with some of the citizen proposals on things that we want the legislature to act on. Mr. Etchart said they would be under pressure to get the suffrage and election section done by their deadline.

Article IX on suffrage and elections was read, then each article was discussed. These were the suggestions that could be made for each section:

Section 1 had three choices: (1) add the word "secret" before the word "ballot"; (2) delete the whole section; (3) leave it as it is.

The general opinion was that it should be left as it was adequate; subject to further consideration by the committee.

Section 2. The 1970 legislature has proposed an amendment for it on the November ballot. It was the feeling that we should adopt the Puerto Rican section.

Section 3. Delete the whole section but reference should be made that the residence section would be decided by the legislature. The North Dakotan and Puerto Rican wording would be considered.

Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7. Delete

Section 8. The Michigan wording should be considered as long as it doesn't affect the rights of the illeriate.

Section 9. The North Dakotan section takes care of this section.

Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13. Delete.

Mr. Grady will talk to the legal people in regards to what will happen to this amendment regarding the November election.

It was discussed when the new constitution would take affect if it was adopted by the people.

It was decided that lotteries would be our topic for our radio program. Monday night, February 14 was mentioned as a possible date and it would be checked with Mr. Graybill.

Article V, Section 1 on initiative, referendum and recall was read. Mr. Grady's section on initiative and referendum of his Suffrage and Election Report was also read. Mr. Lorello commented that the Legislative Committee is also looking at this section and they are thinking of leaving the two parts out.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Mark Etchart
CHAIRMAN

Bobbie Murphy
SECRETARY