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## Minutes of the thirteenth meeting of the Local Government Committee

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 437

Date Meeting Held: 2/4/72  
Hour Meeting Held: 1:40 p.m.

Committee Chairman: Oscar L. Anderson

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Powers of local government

Roll Call:

Anderson, Oscar L., Chairman	<u>Absent</u>
Blend, Virginia H., Vice-Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Arness, Franklin	<u>Present</u>
Ask, Thomas M.	<u>Present</u>
Erdmann, Marian S.	<u>Present</u>
Jacobsen, Arnold W.	<u>Present</u>
Payne, Katie	<u>Present</u>
Rollins, George W.	<u>Present</u>
Simon, Clark E.	<u>Present</u>
Sparks, M. Lynn	<u>Present</u>
Speer, Lucile	<u>Present</u>

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation or Title</u>
William Wheeler	County Surveyor, Flathead
Dorothy Eck	Vice-Chairman, Convention
H. J. Pierce	Citizen, Great Falls
James Felt	Delegate
Rod Hanson	Delegate

Dorothy Eck, principal sponsor of Delegate Proposal 108 (Exhibit A) appeared before the Committee and explained the proposal. She also answered questions from the Committee. Mrs. Eck said she was in favor of Mr. Ask's proposal but would like to see a date added for utilization of the powers granted, if the voters wanted to use them.

Rod Hanson, principal sponsor of Delegate Proposal 60 (Exhibit B) appeared before the Committee and explained the proposal. He said that his concern is to have provided in the Constitution that the boundaries of counties cannot be changed without a vote of the people concerned. There was a question about saying majority vote of the duly qualified electors, and he agreed that it would be better to say majority of those voting.

James Felt, principal sponsor of Delegate Proposal 40 (Exhibit C) appeared before the Committee and explained the proposal. He said his proposal is a copy of the recommendations of the Convention Commission and is in Report No. 7.

Mr. Herb Pierce testified that he is in favor of Mr. Arness' proposal. He thinks this Committee should come out with an entirely new concept of local government and give the people a chance to have it.

Mr. William Wheeler submitted his prepared statement (Exhibit D) and answered questions from the Committee.

The minutes from the twelvth meeting were considered and accepted.

Mrs. Blend discussed the style of our rough draft proposal, the due dates and the formal hearing to be held February 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Senate chamber. It was decided not to invite panelists to the formal hearing.

The Convention recess was discussed along with when to place the new Constitution on the ballot. This will be decided tomorrow on the Convention floor.

Mr. Arness moved that we limit all future witnesses to 20 minutes. After some discussion he amended his motion to 10 minutes. Motion carried.

There was a discussion on Miss Speer's proposal and Mr. Ask's proposal regarding powers to be given to local government.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.  
Time of adjournment: 5:05 p.m.

Virginia H. Blend  
VIRGINIA H. BLEND, Vice-Chairman

Pat Romine  
PAT ROMINE, SECRETARY