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

**PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, LABOR
AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**

Place of Meeting: 428A

Date Meeting Held: 2/16/72
Hour Meeting Held: 3:07 p.m.

Committee Chairman: George B. Heliker

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
WELFARE, LABOR AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Questions to Public Service Commissioners and final approval of comments on proposals for Committee Report.
Roll Call:

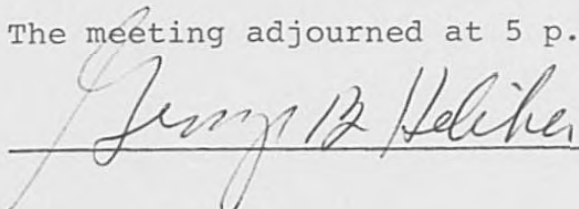
George B. Heliker, Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Jack K. Ward, Vice Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Charles H. Mahoney	<u>Present</u>
Joseph H. McCarvel	<u>Present</u>
Don Scanlin	<u>Present</u>
R. J. Studer, Sr.	<u>Present</u>
William H. Swanberg	<u>Present</u>
Edith Van Buskirk	<u>Present</u>

DISCUSSION

A special meeting was held to ask questions of Mr. Johnson, Director of the Public Service Commission and Mr. Langley, public Service Commissioner. Answers given to questions asked by the Committee included the following: the average hearing costs about \$50 a day for people to come in as experts, that the present Montana Power case will cost about \$10,000 for outside help, and the present commissioners attend seminars to learn how to conduct the business of the Railroad and Public Service Commission. They also stated that about \$900,000 passes through the Railroad and Public Service Commission a year, going into the general fund, and that this money comes mainly from truckers. They said when a private utility asks for a rate increase they contribute no funds to the cost of the hearings, and stated as personal opinions they felt commissioners should be elected and not appointed.

Copies of the proposed language for the committee report to the convention on the comments for both the majority and the minority reports were discussed and finalized. They will be included in the minutes as the official report of the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.



Chairman