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MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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REVENUE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 215
Mitchell Building

Date Meeting Held: 1/17/72
Hour Meeting Held: 11:10 a.m.

Committee Chairman: Sterling Rygg

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REVENUE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Rules and General Organization

Roll Call:

Sterling Rygg, Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Maurice Driscoll, Vice Chairman	<u>Present</u>
William Artz	<u>Present</u>
E. M. Berthelson	<u>Present</u>
Dave Drum	<u>Present</u>
Noel Furlong	<u>Present</u>
Russell McDonough	<u>Present</u>
Mike McKeon	<u>Present</u>
Roger Wagner	<u>Present</u>

Time of Adjournment: 12:25 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Sterling Rygg opened the meeting, and presented a prepared agenda to the committee members. He then discussed the proposed rules for the committee's consideration. Discussion followed. Mr. Driscoll emphasized that these rules were suggested to prevent the cross-examination of witnesses during hearings and also to preserve some decorum in conducting committee hearings. Mr. Rygg said he thought the committee needed some format to follow in conducting hearings, and that the rules could be amended if the members so desired. Mr. Artz moved that after Rule No. 8, another rule be inserted to read "We reserve the right to modify these rules if we so desire." The motion was carried.

The committee then entered into a discussion on how much time should be allowed for testimony. Chairman Rygg stated that at the beginning of each hearing, he would indicate how much time the committee had at that particular sitting, and ask witnesses to govern themselves accordingly. He explained that it would be difficult to cut off testimony if there were witnesses still waiting to be heard, and that the committee might have to hold additional meetings so that all testimony could be taken.

Mr. Driscoll told the committee that he believed anyone who really had something to say to the committee would have a written statement prepared well in advance of any hearing. Mr. Furlong suggested that if witnesses were given an idea of how much time could be allowed for testimony, they could cooperate among themselves to ensure that everyone could be heard.

Mr. Drum asked if the committee could find more adequate space so that they wouldn't be crowded during hearings. He moved that

the chairman try to find larger space, and Mr. Rygg agreed to do so, although he explained to Mr. Drum that the Convention was already short of space.

Mr. Drum asked if the committee would have a specific meeting time each day. Mr. Rygg replied that the committee would have to "play it by ear" for the first few days until definite hearings were arranged, and until they knew when the Convention as a whole would be meeting.

Mr. Furlong moved that the proposed rules, as amended by Mr. Artz, be adopted. The motion carried.

Chairman Rygg presented a summary of proposed rules to govern the committee in regular committee hearings, or when testimony was not being heard. Mr. Berthelson moved that these rules be adopted. The motion carried.

Mr. Driscoll moved that the proposed seating arrangement be adopted. The motion carried.

Chairman Rygg told the committee that under the rules being considered by the Convention as a whole, the committee would make one report to the Convention body, in the form of a proposed article with an explanation of the committee's suggestions. He asked the members to be thinking about how many articles they thought should come out of the Revenue and Finance Committee, since the committee has been assigned a total of three articles to study.

Mr. Driscoll asked Mr. Rygg to explain the minority report. Mr. Rygg told the committee that 25% of its members could present a minority report on the floor of the Convention, and that there might be more than one minority report on a particular article.

Mr. Drum stated that he thought the committee had to be careful not to get "too far afield" of the subject and into areas better left to the legislature.

Chairman Rygg presented to the members an "over-view" he had been asked to write, outlining those issues he thought might come before the Committee. The group then discussed the proposed timetable contained in the over-view. Mr. Driscoll suggested that weeks 3,4 and 5 might be devoted to joint hearings with other committees on related subjects.

Mr. Wagner moved that the chairman be authorized to appoint subcommittees on articles XIII and XXI. The motion was carried. Mr. Rygg appointed Mr. Drum chairman of the subcommittee on article XXI and Mr. Driscoll chairman of the subcommittee on article XIII. Mr. Furlong suggested that the subcommittees should not take any action until the entire committee has a chance to discuss the articles in question.

Under other business, Mr. Driscoll said that he believed the 5-day notice on committee hearings was too long. Discussion followed. Mr. Driscoll suggested that Mr. Rygg attend the meeting of the Rules Committee to be held later today and inform them that it was the consensus of the committee that 3-day notices should be the minimum and that every effort should be made to give notices of public hearings 5 days in advance.

Chairman Rygg told the committee that he wanted to immediately give notice of the Revenue and Finance Committee's intention to hold general public hearings beginning Monday, January 24, at 10:00 a.m. The hearings will cover articles XII, XIII and XXI. The committee agreed.

The next meeting was tentatively set for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 18. The meeting was adjourned.

Time of Adjournment: 12:25 p.m.

M. Lynn

Chairman

Karen Holliday

Secretary