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### Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Revenue and Finance Committee

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

REVENUE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: 3rd Floor  
Meeting Room  
Historical Society

Date Meeting Held: 1/26/72  
Time Meeting Held: 10:30 a.m.  
1:30 p.m.

Committee Chairman: Sterling Rygg

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE REVENUE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: General Hearing on Taxation Articles

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>
Pussell McDonough	<u>Present</u>
Mike McKeon	<u>Present</u>
Roger Wagner	<u>Present</u>

Time of Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Sterling Rygg called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 26, in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Historical Society Building.

The committee heard testimony from S. Keith Anderson, Executive Vice President of the Montana Taxpayers' Association, and Delegate Margaret Warden.

The committee recessed at 12:15 p.m. and went back into session at 1:30 to hear testimony from Mike Billings, from the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dolores Colburg, who discussed school finance. The committee also listened to a statement by Dean Zinnecker, Executive Secretary of the Association of County Commissioners, and Cascade County Commissioners Ed Shubat and Milo Dean.

The chairmen of the two subcommittees reported that they would have a report on their particular articles when all testimony had been heard. Mr. Rygg told them that he hoped the committee could come up with one article on taxation rather than the three separate articles now in our constitution.

Chairman Rygg told the members that he would try to arrange definite dates for joint meetings with the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee and with the Local Government Committee. He emphasized that the committee soon had to begin working on the rough draft of a proposed article since the February 10 public hearing date was fast approaching.

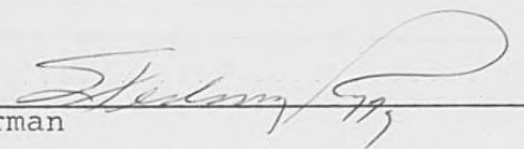
Mr. Rygg asked the members of the committee how they felt about taking a recess, since the leadership of the Convention is trying to determine the need for such a recess. Mr. Artz, Mr. McKeon and Mr. Wagner voted against any recess. Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Berthelson

thought that a recess should be taken when the final article had been drafted and submitted to the Convention as a whole. Mr. Furlong, Mr. McDonough and Chairman Rygg voted for a recess at mid-Convention. Mr. Drum was uncommitted. The committee was unanimous in its decision that when the final constitution goes to the polls, voters should be given a choice of alternatives between the controversial articles.

Mr. Furlong told the committee that he thought a recess at mid-point was essential to allow the delegates to go home and educate their constituents on the proposed new constitution.

The meeting adjourned after the committee members discussed some Citizen Suggestions assigned to the committee.

Time of Adjournment: 4:10 p.m.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

TESTIMONY:

Delegate Margaret Warden appeared to briefly testify on a proposal to change somewhat the method of financing the long-range building program. She advocated levying a state-wide 2 mill levy to build up a reserve fund for buildings rather than financing this program through the cigarette tax.

Mr. Artz asked Mrs. Warden if perhaps a reserve fund might tempt the state to build when it was not necessary. Mrs. Warden replied that this reserve fund would only operate for the number of years needed to complete the state buildings now needed. She told the committee that priorities needed to be established with regard to buildings, so that this money would be used wisely and only where there was real need. She did not believe that the legislature is qualified to make these evaluations, since there are often special interests involved in particular communities.

She emphasized that this reserve fund would not be used to build county facilities, but rather state facilities for the use of all the citizens of the state. She cited the new Vo-Tech center in Great Falls which is open to any citizen of the state for vocational-technical training.

Chairman Rygg told Mrs. Warden that he thought this proposal was probably statutory, but perhaps recommendations could be made to the legislature to study the feasibility of this plan.