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### Minutes of the eighteenth 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: Room 215  
Mitchell Building

Date Meeting Held: 2/9/72  
Time Meeting Held: 10:12 a.m.

Committee Chairman: Sterling Rygg

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE REVENUE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Testimony on Livestock Mill Levy and  
General Discussion of Rough Draft

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;

DISCUSSION:

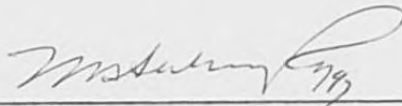
Vice Chairman Maurice Driscoll called the meeting to order in the temporary absence of Chairman Sterling Rygg, who was attending a short meeting of the Administrative Committee.

The members heard testimony from four persons in support of retaining the 4-mill levy on livestock in the constitution. Appearing were Mons Teigen, Executive Secretary of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, William Cheney, Executive Officer of the Livestock Commission, and Delegates Torrey Johnson, Archie Wilson and Douglas Delaney.

The committee spent the remainder of the meeting deciding upon a rough draft. It was approved by a majority of the committee, although a decision was postponed as to whether or not the report would include sections on the livestock mill levy and the taxation of mines. Mr. Drum suggested language for a proposed section on the livestock mill levy, but it was decided to wait until morning to make the decision.

Chairman Rygg reminded the members of the committee's Romney hearing scheduled for the next day, and told the committee that they would meet on adjournment in the morning to complete the rough draft. The meeting was adjourned.

Time of Adjournment: 12:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

TESTIMONY:

The present method of taxing automobiles is not working very well. We are asking that you leave it up to the Legislature as to how motor vehicles should be taxed.

We have checked with other states who use a fee system and they are all very pleased with how it is working.

With the present system of taxation, people will try to avoid taxation by having their motor vehicles licensed in another county where taxes are less, and our system is not very effective in checking this problem.

Taxes are higher on a city resident. It is therefore easy for a person to avoid paying the higher tax by registering his motor vehicle out of the city limits. If two people own Cadillacs and one lives in the city and one lives outside the city limits, why should the one in the city pay more and the one who lives outside pay less.

Motor vehicles are the easiest thing to tax but are not taxed fairly. Indiana puts cars into six classes and sets fees for each class. The fee thus diminishes each year as the car diminishes in value.

We would prefer that this be done through legislation, but the constitutional restrictions to this type of registration system must first be removed.