



MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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

BILL OF RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 331

Date of Meeting: 1/17/72
Hour of Meeting: 11:00 AM

Committee Chairman: Wade J. Dahood

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING: Upcoming committee business

Roll Call:

Wade J. Dahood, Chairman	<u>present</u>
Chet Blaylock, V. Chairman	<u>present</u>
Bob Campbell	<u>present</u>
Dorothy Eck	<u>present</u>
Donald R. Foster	<u>present</u>
R. S. (Bob) Hanson	<u>present</u>
George H. James	<u>present</u>
Rachell K. Mansfield	<u>present</u>
Lyle R. Monroe	<u>present</u>
Marshall Murray	<u>excused</u>
Veronica Sullivan	<u>present</u>

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

NAME

OCCUPATION OR TITLE

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was brought to order at 11:00 A. M. by Mr. Dahood. He proceeded to introduce Rick Applegate, George Paul and Darlene Corbin. These people will serve as research analysts and secretary.

Rick passed out the book he had written on the Bill of Rights, and he also asked the Committee to please read the book and become familiar with it.

I attest that this is a true copy of an original document held by the Montana Historical Society Archives.

Jodi L. L...
State Archivist

R522: 2-37

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Mr. Dahood stated that we will meet again to discuss those matters which will require change and deliberation and those which will be of no concern to us. At this point, Michael Larum was introduced by Rachell Mansfield. He is her intern and will be attending all meetings and will assist the research analysts.

Mr. Campbell quickly touched on subjects which were covered at the Missoula Delegation meeting. Among several subjects discussed were the environment, public trust, women's rights, and discrimination. The people wanted to have more open knowledge of committee meetings and their votes. There were 50-60 persons at this meeting. It was suggested that in order to have more persons present at meetings, it would be beneficial to have your local delegates present.

It was also decided to have the Education Committee work with us on the Religious provisions. The feelings on this issue in the Missoula public meeting was about half and half as far as holding with the Federal rulings.

Mr. Dahood raised the subject of gun registration by reading a letter he had written to Mr. Massey. Mr. Massey had misinterpreted the letter insofar as the intent of Mr. Dahood's letter. He did not intend to imply that it was the feeling of the entire Bill of Rights Committee that all guns should be registered. It was only his feeling. The committee discussed the possibility of writing Mr. Massey a letter explaining this. Mr. Dahood will write a letter to Mr. Massey. The Committee agreed that it is definitely a matter for the Legislature to decide and if we do anything about it at this time, it will tie the hands of the Legislature at a later date. Mr. Blaylock asked that if any person who misused his freedom to bear arms, could this freedom be taken away. Mr. Dahood stated that only if it were taken up with the District Court could they remove this freedom.

Mr. Campbell feels the whole issue should be left alone by the Committee. We should leave the same provision in that is now there. It was also presented that there is an element of people who believe the "concealed weapon" clause should be dropped.

Mr. Dahood wants us to have a seminar meeting of the Committee to study the 30 provisions of the Bill of Rights which do not require any change. Then we should look into the ones that need changes and public hearings. We should have hearings each day for each provision. Mrs. Eck feels we should have broad, general meetings to hear what people are interested in, then have hearings on specific sections. Mr. Campbell doesn't think that the Committee should decide what to have hearings on, that it should be left open to the public. We must respond to the people.

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It was decided that the general hearings will be scheduled for next week. The hearings will be broken down in to general topics or at least not limited to specific subjects. We will draft rules as to the time limits for people who are testifying. A Committee made up of the following delegates will coordinate the hearings: Campbell, Hanson, Sullivan, and Blaylock. If we know the time for our meetings in advance, a room will be provided for us. We also discussed the different rooms which could be used. Some meetings may also have to be held in Great Falls. The Senate chambers would be very handy.

Mr. Campbell will supply the Committee with the results of the meeting in Missoula.

Mrs. Eck and Mrs. Mansfield will handle inquiries into getting the Highway Auditorium for our hearings.

[Mr. Dahood urged the entire committee to keep an open mind on all issues. There is merit in all opinions. As an example - "Do we have the right to die?" Many people have written members of the committee on this subject already.

It was decided that the only time open for meetings this week would be Thursday and Friday. Since 3-5 days notice is needed for a hearing, Mr. Dahood authorized the committee of four to set up topics and times for hearings. It was decided that we should have hearings Tuesday through Friday and discuss the results on the next Monday.

Mr. Campbell wants us to think about what should go into the new preamble.

Mrs. Sullivan moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.


Chairman, Wade J. Dahood


Secretary, Darlene Corbin