

TAX COMMITTEE

The thirty-second meeting of the House Tax Committee was called to order by Chairman Gordon O. Voss at 9:10 a.m. on November 16, 1987 in Room E124 of the Alexandria Technical Institute. The clerk recorded the attendance. The following members were present:

Voss, Chair	Ogren
Begich	Onnen
Blatz	Pauly
Brown	Peterson
Dauner	Rest
Frerichs	Scheid
Kelly	Schreiber
Long	Skoglund
Marsh	Sviggum
McKasy	Valento
McLaughlin	Vanasek
Minne	Welle
Nelson	Wynia
Neuenschwander	

The following members were excused:

Bennett	Jaros
Dempsey	Osthoff
Himie	Redalen
Jacobs	

Chairman Voss announced the purpose of the meeting was to hear public testimony on all aspects of the Omnibus Tax Bill of 1987. The members of the committee introduced themselves to the audience and indicated their legislative districts. Voss announced the schedule of future meetings of the committee and described the handout prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee staff relating to the recent stock market downturn and its implications for the state revenue forecast.

Voss asked for comments from the audience. Mr. George Wynn of Wadena, Minnesota, testified in opposition to the tax on IRA contributions.

An unidentified person asked questions on the withdrawal of group health coverage from members residing in rural Minnesota. Representative Wynia responded to the questions.

Larry Gasparling, retired railroad employee, urged the legislators to consider several changes in budget priorities, organization, and efficiencies in state government. He expressed opposition to a state lottery, increased state spending, raises in legislative salaries and urged consolidation of schools and creative ways to streamline governmental services.

Hilda Betterman, an educator from Brandon, Minnesota, urged reinstatement of MVET funding and indicated the effects of the cuts on rural highway maintenance.

Dauphine Bakke, Alexandria, asked questions about bonding bills; i.e. what they contained and who was responsible for them. Her questions were answered by various members of the committee.

Lill Ortondahl, a nurse from Osakis, Minnesota, suggested several items to be included in the next bonding bill, including inter-active programs for the Alexandria area schools, computer technology courses, and staff and school sharing programs.

Bob Close, Real Estate Broker from Alexandria, discussed concerns with non-homestead rental property taxation issues.

Tony Schneider, retired banker from the Alexandria area, expressed opposition to recent bonding bills and state subsidized economic development.

Rayleen Kroneke, a teacher at the Alexandria ATI, indicated concerns with the bonding bills and retirement taxing issues.

Bob Filson, Administrator for the City of Mora, discussed a number of issues and provided the members with copies of three documents relating local government operating expenses

