

Mini-Session Report

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'Brainerd lakes area' mini-session plans set



The "Brainerd lakes area" mini-session will be held Sept. 4-6. The area is the eighth region of the state to host the periodic gatherings of the Minnesota House since it took its legislative show on the road in 1987.

It was in that year that House Speaker Robert Vanasek said people in outstate Minnesota should be given equal access to the legislative process.

The result was the first outstate mini-session, which was held Sept. 9-11, 1987, in Mankato. The success of that event led to similar mini-sessions: Oct. 14-16, 1987, at the Capitol; Nov. 16-18, 1987, in Alexandria; Jan. 13-15, 1988, in Eveleth; Sept. 13-16, 1989, in Winona-Rochester; Oct. 18-20, 1989, in Worthington; and Nov. 14-17, 1989, in Moorhead.

Although the outstate meetings were initially greeted with some skepticism — particularly by some from the Twin Cities metro area — they have been very popular in the outstate host communities.

"There are legislators who have lived most of their lives in Minnesota who had never been to Mankato and certainly not to Good Thunder," said Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), referring to the first outstate mini-session. "I've always felt if you have a little bit more immediate sense of what's being discussed, you relate to it better."

And while their impact is sometimes hard to measure in terms of a bill passed or a project funded, Dorn's colleague, Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), said there was no question that the Mankato mini-session led to state funding for a new library building on the Mankato State University campus.

Likewise, Pelowski said the 1989 mini-session in Winona "helped us immeasurably" in obtaining funding for a new aviation mechanics center at Winona Technical College.

"You got to see the old center, which was a wreck," he said.

The "mini-session" concept was first introduced in the early 1970s by former House Speaker Martin Sabo to focus House business within a given time period between regular legislative sessions. The result was better attendance at committee meetings and decreased travel costs.

Prior to that time, committee meetings were scheduled throughout the summer months, making it more difficult for outstate representatives to attend. And that led some members to charge that metropolitan legislators had an unfair advantage in shaping state policy.

Committee meetings

Although several committees will meet in the Brainerd lakes area Sept. 4-6, the committees can't take any formal action on proposals.

That's because the Legislature is technically in recess between the first and second years of its annual sessions. So don't be surprised when no votes are taken at the committee meetings.

But that doesn't mean the mini-session meetings are less substantive than ones held in St. Paul. Typically, early in a regular legislative session, legislators spend lots of time analyzing issues and proposals without taking a vote.

Although not all House members attend (the Senate does not have mini-sessions), about 100 of the 134 representatives, on average, attended previous mini-sessions.

Mini-sessions — although not easy to orchestrate — are an attempt to bring government closer to the people throughout Minnesota.

"I hope they do well because it [a mini-session] does have a very positive effect on the area," said Pelowski.

October mini-session coming up

The second mini-session this year will be based out of St. Paul and will be held Oct. 21-23.

Unlike recent mini-sessions, the October session will focus on the Twin Cities suburbs — an area of the state that suburban lawmakers often charge gets overlooked.

The details of that mini-session will be worked out following the September mini-session in the Brainerd lakes area.

Originally, the suburban mini-session was planned for Oct. 23-25, but the possibility that the Minnesota Twins may be in the World Series swayed lawmakers to move it up to avoid a potential conflict.

INSIDE

Mini-Session Schedule	2
Interim Update	4
1992 Legislative District maps	6

Mini-Session Schedule

Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country . . . September 4-6, 1991

This schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 4

9:30 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

Poultry Building, VoTech School
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Dairy pricing issues: Dairy check-off, amounts raised and how they are spent; Unfair Dairy Trade Practices Act (the pricing of milk in stores as compared to what farmers are getting for it. Under current Minnesota law milk cannot be sold at a loss). Federal dairy legislation in Washington D.C. Vocational agriculture. Poultry issues in central Minnesota.

Higher Education Division/ EDUCATION

Technical College, Room 222
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Cost of and access to higher education with focus on the non-traditional student.

Subcommittee on Curriculum/ EDUCATION

Technical College
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: School districts explain their (PER) (Planning, Evaluation and Reporting) process. The way school districts determine what their school curriculum is going to be.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

St. Joseph's Hospital
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Open mike. Public is invited to share with the committee any concerns they may have regarding any financial services issue. Questions or comments regarding access to health care, the rising cost of insurance, insurance company solvency, the banking industry or any

other issues are welcome. Medical costs are skyrocketing and need to be controlled, but should an insurer be able to overrule your doctor?

JUDICIARY

Holiday Inn
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga
Agenda: Violent crime: factors and responses.

(Tentative: prosecutorial problems; report from Legislative Audit Commission on Corrections and Sentencing.) No public testimony.

2 p.m.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Community College, Room 104
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Effects of streamlining technical college administration.

Update of higher education in the Brainerd area; construction; tour.

COMMERCE

Nisswa Community Center, Nisswa (Paul Bunyan Trail)
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: Update on the Paul Bunyan Trail. Open testimony on local tourism.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Pine River School
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Rural education issues.

Subcommittee on Game & Fish/ ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Emily Elementary School
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Fishing and lakes and the management of both.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby
Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: Welcome, introductions, and announcements.

How state and federal antitrust laws affect access to health care. Testimony.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Arvig Telephone Company, Pequot Lakes
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: Meeting with all area telephone companies and discussing rural telephone issues.

THURSDAY, Sept. 5

9:30 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Community College, Room 115
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Arts funding, humanities, and historical grants.

Banking Division/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Holiday Inn
Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

Agenda: Federal regulations, local concerns. Open mike. Financing rural development.

Subcommittee on Pensions/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Technical College

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

Agenda: Introduction of members. Minnesota State Board of Investment Post Retirement Fund. Is the asset mix or investment formula correct for today's investment markets? Presentation by Laurie Hacking, executive director, Public Employees Retirement Association.

Discussion on early retirement incentives. Health insurance needs for early retirees. Update on Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Plan (PEIP). Presentation by John Kline, program manager. Teacher retirement issues.

**Subcommittee on Family Law/
JUDICIARY**

Technical College
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Child support enforcement.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Holiday Inn
Chr. Rep. Joseph Begich
Agenda: Dislocated Worker Program.

2 p.m.

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/APPROPRIATIONS**

Croft Mine Information Center
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Public hearing concerning
proposed state park.

JOINT MEETING

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Deerwood: MacMillan-Bloedel
Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal
Agenda: Tour of MacMillan-Bloedel.
Public testimony on small business
development.

ENERGY

Crow Wing County Co-op
Vice Chr. Rep. Kris Hasskamp
Agenda: Discussion of the omnibus
energy bill and energy policy.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING**

Mille Lacs Reservation School Gymna-
sium
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Indian gaming issues.

7 p.m.

TOWN MEETING

Crosby-Ironton High School
Auditorium

FRIDAY, Sept. 6

9:30 a.m.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Brainerd Regional Treatment Center
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Tour.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Holiday Inn
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Open forum for input on the
many environment and natural resources
concerns of the area. People interested in
giving testimony should contact the
Environment and Natural Resources
Committee at (612) 296-4282.

**Elections Division/
GENERAL LEGISLATION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING**

Technical College Room 205 & 206
Chr. Rep. Linda Scheid
Agenda: Discussion on the 1992 presi-
dential primary election.

HOUSING

Holiday Inn
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Housing issues in greater
Minnesota.
Update on federal government housing
appropriations.
Open forum for public testimony.

**Subcommittee on Data Privacy/
JUDICIARY**

Technical College
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers
Agenda: HF180 (Solberg) Medical
privilege and domestic violence.

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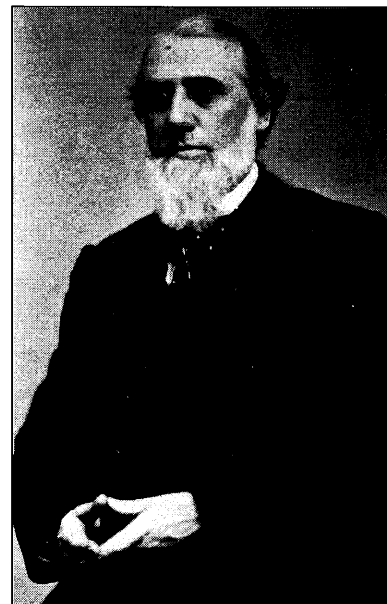
Photographers:

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Committee Schedule:

Terrie Gimpel

It's a fact!



John Gregory Smith

The city of Brainerd could easily
have had a different name if it
weren't for the sentimentality of
one of its founders.

John Gregory Smith, the former
governor of Vermont and the
president of the Northern Pacific
Railroad Company, objected to
the name Smithville or Smithton.

Instead, he proposed
"Brainerd," the maiden name of
his wife, Anna Eliza. "Gov. Smith
was not only a railroad official —
he was a romanticist, and when
his wife gave up her ancestral
name of Brainerd for the common
name Smith, he compensated for
the sacrifice by naming the town
after her," states the 1971 centen-
nial edition of the *Brainerd Daily
Dispatch*.

Early settlers had also suggested
the Ojibwe name of "Ocamacua"
and/or "Ogamagua." One account
says the name Ocamacua referred
to "a swift movement across a
river — the crossing."

Another says the name
Ogamagua was the Indian name
for Emma Beaulieu, the wife of
one of the founders of the nearby
town of Crow Wing. The name is
said to mean "chief or queen
woman."

(Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society)

Interim Update

May 25-August 29, 1991

District court decision validates contested bills

Ramsey County District Court Judge Joan Smith's decision upholding the validity of 14 bills the governor claimed to have vetoed is unequivocal.

"... It is clear from the evidence that the governor failed to designate an individual who was responsible for supervising this process," she wrote. "The constitutional mandates simply were not followed."

After weeks of acrimonious debate, Gov. Arne Carlson decided to let Judge Smith's decision stand, allowing the 14 contested bills to become law.

Carlson acknowledged that his office missed the deadline. The Constitution makes it clear that a vetoed bill must be delivered to the house of origin within three days of the time the governor received it for the veto to be effective.

So what's the practical effect?

First, a so-called strikebreaker law, which prohibits companies from hiring permanent replacement workers during a strike, is now on the books. One union has stated it intends to test the law, which critics have contended is unconstitutional.

Second, contributions to gubernatorial candidates will be limited to \$20,000 (down from \$60,000) in an election year and to \$3,000 (down from \$12,000) in other years.

Third, the DFL-controlled Legislature's redistricting plan, which would redraw lawmaker boundaries for the next 10 years, is now law — although Independent-Republicans claim it's unfair and have challenged the plan in federal court.

Here's a complete list of the 14 bills that were challenged in court, and an additional bill that imposes a provisional ban on the use of a growth hormone on cows. That bill was treated like the others because the bill was delivered to the wrong house, thereby missing the three-day deadline.

Charitable organizations — Will change the standard for combined charitable organizations to qualify for the state employee payroll deductions. (Chapter 145)

State land conveyances — Will authorize several land transactions in the state. (Chapter 185)

BST ban extension — Would extend for one year Minnesota's ban on the use of an artificial growth hormone used to increase milk production in cows — provided Wisconsin, and/or other milk-producing regions, adopt a similar ban. (Chapter 213)

Permanent replacements prohibited — Will make hiring permanent replacement workers during a strike an unfair labor practice. (Chapter 239)

Redistricting — Redraws the legislative district lines in the state following 1990 census data. (Chapter 246) (See pgs. 6-7)

Psychologist licensing — Will require that a person have a doctoral degree in order to be a licensed psychologist. (Chapter 255)

Department of Trade and Economic Development restructuring — Changes the organization of the department. (Chapter 261)

Executive orders notification — Requires that the chairs of the House and Senate Governmental Operation committees be notified at least 30 days before executive reorganization orders are filed with the Secretary of State. (Chapter 262)

Limousine regulation — Will create a new system to regulate limousines within the Department of Transportation. (Chapter 284)

State Board of Electricity — Will expand the powers of the State Board of Electricity. (Chapter 289)

Solid waste — Will strengthen policy planning on problem materials and household hazardous waste. (Chapter 303)

Exchange of public lands — Allows the sale of tax-forfeited land in Washington County and the exchange of land in Clearwater County. (Chapter 307)

Candidate withdrawal — A candidate for statewide office won't be allowed to withdraw within 16 days of a general election and be replaced by another candidate. (Chapter 320)

International trade centers — Will establish a pilot project for a "regional international trade service center." (Chapter 348)

Campaign contributions and local redistricting — Limits contributions to gubernatorial candidates and sets out parameters for local redistricting initiatives. (Chapter 349)

Researching the NWA deal

No fewer than 10 consultants are reviewing the publicly backed financial deal to entice Northwest Airlines (NWA) to build repair facilities in Duluth and Hibbing that are expected to create up to 1,500 jobs.

Three of the consultants are hired by the state and seven are working for the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), it was reported at the Aug. 8 meeting of the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy.

Although the 1991 Legislature authorized the NWA deal, final approval rests with the commission, a joint House-Senate panel composed of top DFL and IR lawmakers.

Sen. Bill Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), chair of the commission's subcommittee that is studying the NWA deal, says the consultants are "assessing the [airline's] ability to repay" while also considering the future condition of the airline given current industry trends.

The deal calls for \$231.6 million in state and locally-backed bonds to finance construction of an airbus maintenance facility in Duluth, and up to \$100 million for a jet engine repair base in Hibbing.

Of the \$331 million in state bonding money, taxpayers statewide stand to shoulder up to \$175 million of that burden should Northwest fall on hard times. An additional \$27.6 million would land on St. Louis County taxpayers.

Another \$47.6 million in state-issued bonds will be paid back by the city of Duluth alone through Northwest's property tax payments and any excess revenue garnered from the city-owned water and gas department. Northwest is not liable for repayment of these bonds.

The law also granted the MAC to let an additional \$390 million in bond money to purchase and then lease back facilities in the Twin Cities that are now owned by Northwest. Should the airline default, property taxpayers in the seven-county metro area would then be responsible for the MAC bonds.

The "independent, objective analysis" is expected to be completed by early September, says Luther.

Violence against women

More attention should be focused on preventing violence against women through education instead of calls for longer prison terms.

That was the message of several of the nearly 20 people who testified before an Aug. 13 meeting of the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women (LCESW).

The meeting was called partly in response to the recent murders of two Minnesota women, Melissa Johnson and Carin Streufert, says Commission Director Aviva Breen. Testimony pointed to these incidents as horrors "symptomatic of a disturbing societal trend of violence against women," she says.

A recent report by the state Department of Education* shows that 19 percent of female high school seniors have been sexually abused. For females in residential treatment centers, the figure was 63 percent.

In addition, 15 percent of the seniors said they had been struck in anger by a date; 40 percent of those in treatment centers said they had been struck.

Breen and Shannon Bailey, an advocate of mandatory non-violent education for all elementary school children, says educational programs would help reduce these statistics.

"We need to challenge the social messages children are currently learning about violence," says Bailey, adding that the earlier education starts the better.

"These non-violent responses need to become second nature to the kids," added Katia Peterson of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

The coalition developed a violence-free curriculum in 1987 that has been used in Minneapolis, Anoka, and several St. Paul schools. Its curriculum is also being used in Wisconsin, where the legislature has mandated domestic violence education — an

Do you know?



Cuyler Adams

The Minnesota landscape is dotted with unusual names for its cities, counties, and regions.

But it would be hard to come up with a stranger derivation than the one that led to the naming of what is now known as the Cuyuna Iron Range of central Minnesota.

The first half of the name stems from Cuyler Adams, a prospector, discoverer, and owner of a mine in the region, according to Warren Upham's *Minnesota Geographic Names*.

But Adams also wanted to honor his dog, Una, who accompanied him on many of his lone expeditions. So he spliced part of his first name with Una's to form "Cuyuna."

(Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society)

idea that some commission members believe Minnesota should adopt.

"We've mandated drug awareness programs and AIDS education," says Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch), vice chair of the commission. "I'd like to see the words 'violence-free' added to that statute."

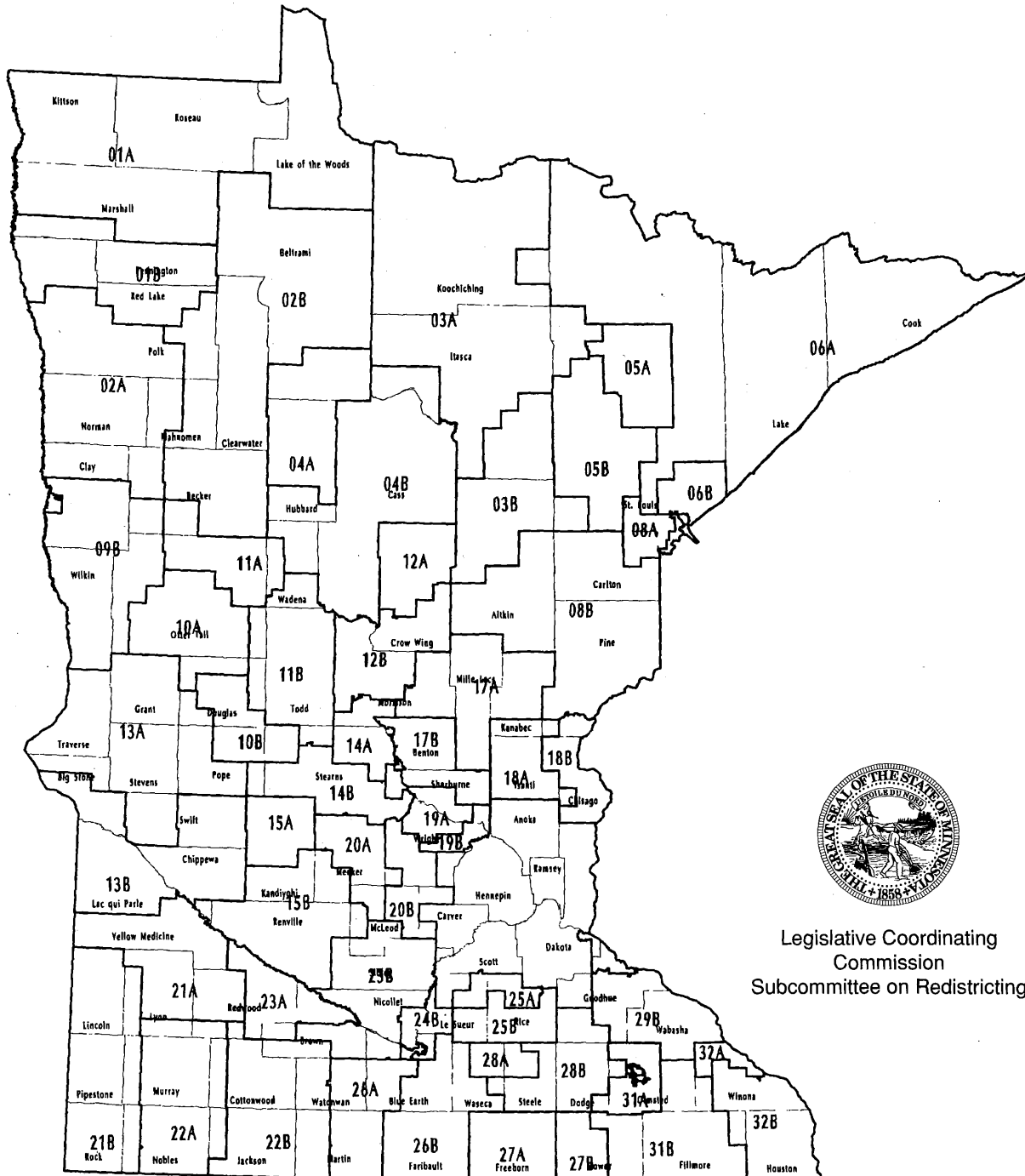
* 1991 Minnesota Student Survey of alternative schools, area learning centers, detention centers, corrections agencies, and residential treatment centers.

1992 Minnesota Legislative Districts

Statewide

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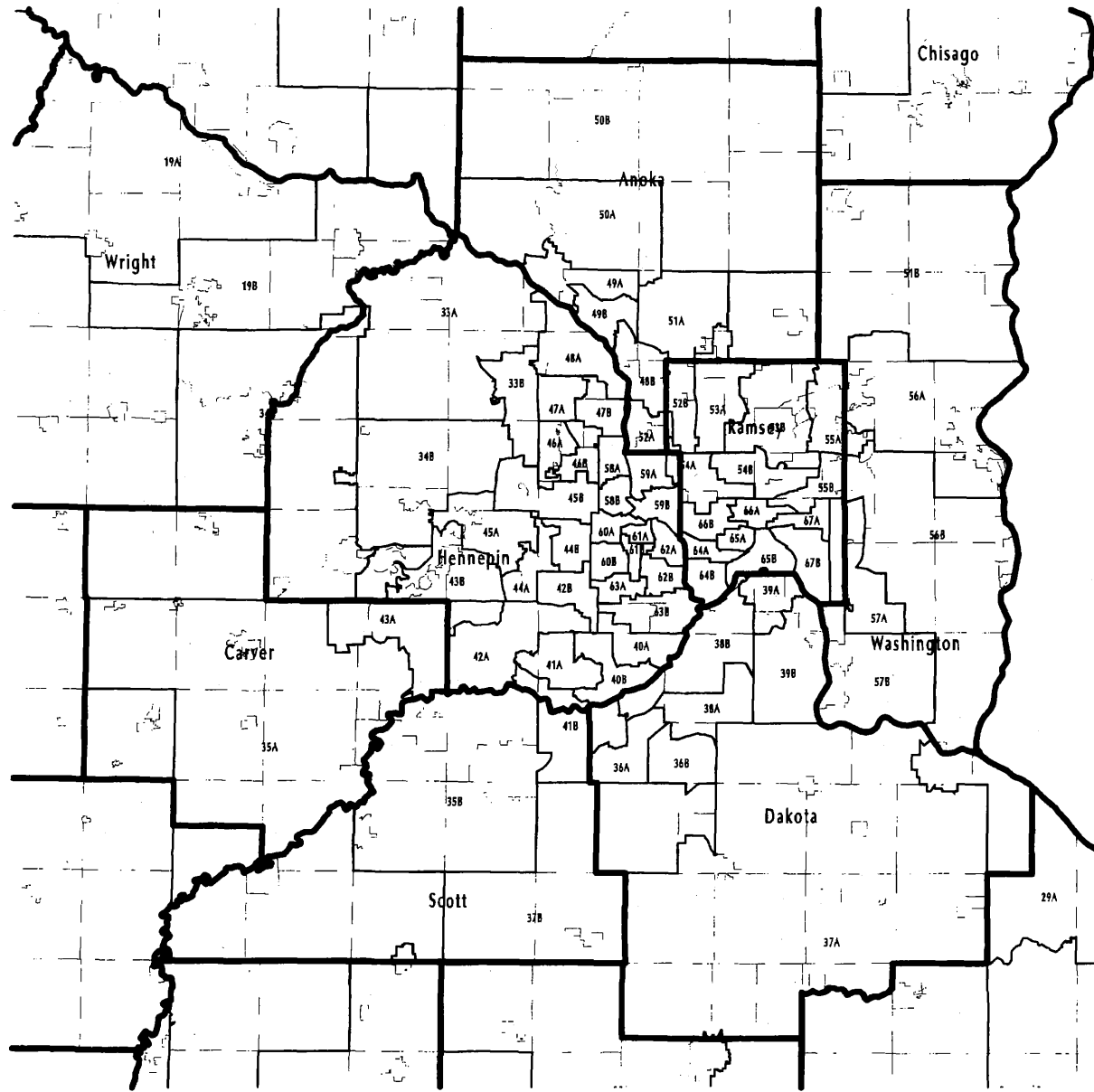
Legislative Coordinating
Commission
Subcommittee on Redistricting

1992 Minnesota Legislative Districts Metro and Suburban Area

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Brainerd area

Number of employees at In-Fisherman Inc.	50
Number of employees in School District 181	795
Population of Brainerd in 1990	12,353
Population of Brainerd in 1960	12,898
Number of resorts and campgrounds in Brainerd area	129
Height of Paul Bunyan's pet, Babe, in axehandles	7
Number of storks required to deliver Paul Bunyan	5
Number of grandstand seats at Brainerd International Raceway	22,000
Number of Protestant places of worship in Brainerd	35
Number of Catholic places of worship	2
Per capita income in Crow Wing County, 1988	\$12,548
Average per capita income in Minnesota, 1988	\$16,787
Year Scandinavians became majority immigrant group in Brainerd	1900
Rank of Crow Wing County in net welfare costs per capita	19
Rank of Cass County in net welfare costs per capita	1
Number of bowls of porridge required to whet Paul Bunyan's appetite	40

Sources: Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce; Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development's "Community Profile," Minnesota Tax Foundation's *The Green Book 1991*; *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* 1971 centennial edition.

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