

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Bill Morris at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./p.m. on January 23, 1985 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sen. Doyen and Sen. Vidricksen were excused.

Committee staff present:

Fred Carman, Revisor  
Hank Avila, Research  
Louise Cunningham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

The Chairman introduced the members of the staff to the Committee. He also stressed the importance of getting to the meeting on time.

The purpose of the meeting today was to acquaint the members with the work of the interim committee this summer.

Mr. Avila gave the background of Proposal No. 43 which resulted in H.B. 2019 and H.B. 2020. This was in response to a situation that arose in Johnson County concerning the Union Gas System and their certificate from the State Corporation Commission to be the sole supplier of natural gas in the Johnson County area.

Another part of the proposal dealt with setting up natural gas supply areas. More competition could be created but some customers might be dropped in the less desirable areas.

Proposal No. 44 dealt with the transportation of radioactive and hazardous material. This transportation was regulated by the federal government with the state role being defined by the federal government. The local units of government would have the responsibility for emergency response to a situation. Three bills resulted from Proposal No. 44. They are S.B. 21 dealing with the motor carriers. S.B. 22 deals with the railroads and S.B. 20 deals with the transportation of nuclear materials.

The Chairman said the Committee should consider the introduction of a mandatory seat belt law. Most states are introducing this type of legislation this year. It is not necessary to pass the law this year but hearings could be held and all sides heard.

A motion was made by Sen. Hayden and seconded by Sen. Thiessen to introduce a mandatory seat belt bill as a Committee Bill. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned.