

**SENATE JOURNAL
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Helena, Montana
March 2, 1999

Senate Chambers
State Capitol

Senate convened at 1:00 p.m. President Crippen presiding. Invocation by Reverend Keith Johnson. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. All members present except Senators Harp and Mesaros, excused. Quorum present.

Mr. President: We, your committee on Bills and Journal, having examined the daily journal for the forty-sixth legislative day, find the same to be correct.

Miller, Chairman

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

BILLS AND JOURNAL (Miller, Chairman): 3/2/1999
Correctly printed: SB 56, SB 89, SB 198, SB 319, HB 237, HJR 9
Correctly enrolled: SB 171, SB 260.
Examined by the sponsor and found to be correct: SB 260.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (Hertel, Chairman): 3/2/1999
HB 73, be concurred in. Report adopted.

JUDICIARY (Grosfield, Chairman): 3/2/1999
HB 38, be concurred in. Report adopted.
HB 41, be amended as follows:

1. Title, line 7 through line 8.
Following: "1995;" on line 7
Strike: remainder of line 7 through "PROVISION;" on line 8

2. Title, line 8.
Following: "AN"
Insert: "IMMEDIATE"

3. Page 1, line 18 through line 25.
Strike: section 2 through section 3 in their entirety
Renumber: subsequent section

4. Page 1, line 27.
Strike: "Subject to [section 3], [this "
Insert: "[This "

5. Page 1, line 27 through line 28.
Following: "effective" on line 27
Strike: remainder of line 27 through "1999" on line 28
Insert: "on passage and approval"

And, as amended, be concurred in. Report adopted.

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TAXATION (Devlin, Chairman):
SB 449, do pass. Report adopted.
HB 405, be amended as follows:

3/2/1999

1. Title, line 4.

Strike: "ELIMINATING"

Insert: "CHANGING"

2. Title, lines 5 and line 6.

Strike: "DISTINGUISHING" on line 5 through "PURPOSES;" on line 6

3. Page 1, lines 28 and 29.

Strike: ". FOR" on line 28 through "COURSES." on line 29

Insert: "and not less than 700 lineal yards; and"

And, as amended, be concurred in. Report adopted.

MOTIONS

SB 79 - Senator Swysgood moved that consideration of SB 79 be taken from the third reading board and placed on second reading the forty-eighth legislative day, March 3, 1999, for purpose of amendment. Motion carried.

HB 118 - Senator Bartlett moved that consideration of HB 118 be passed until the fiftieth legislative day, March 5, 1999. Motion carried.

SB 10 - Senator Thomas moved that the President be authorized to appoint a Conference Committee, and request the House to appoint a like committee, to confer on House Amendments to SB 10. Motion carried. The president appointed the following members:

Senator Mohl, Chairman

Senator Cole

Senator Jergeson

SJR 8 - Senator Jergeson moved that T. Facey and G. Gutsche be deleted as joint sponsors from SJR 8. Motion carried.

FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

The following bills were **rereferred** to committees:

SB 200, House Amendments - rereferred from second reading to the committee on Finance and Claims.

HB 559 - rereferred from the committee on State Administration to the committee on Judiciary.

THIRD READING OF BILLS

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The following bills having been read three several times, title and history agreed to, were disposed of in the following manner:

HB 56 concurred in as follows:

Yeas: Bartlett, Beck, Berry, Bishop, Bohlinger, Christiaens, Cocchiarella, Cole, Crismore, DePratu, Devlin, Doherty, Eck, Ekegren, Ellingson, Ellis, Franklin, Glaser, Grimes, Grosfield, Halligan, Hargrove, Hertel, Holden, Jabs, Jergeson, Keating, Keenan, Mahlum, McCarthy, McNutt, Miller, Mohl, Nelson, Roush, Shea, Sprague, Stang, Swysgood, Taylor, Tester, Thomas, Toews, Waterman, Wells, Wilson, Mr. President.
Total 47

Nays: Lynch.
Total 1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Excused: Harp, Mesaros.
Total 2

HB 89 concurred in as follows:

Yeas: Bartlett, Beck, Berry, Bishop, Bohlinger, Christiaens, Cocchiarella, Cole, Crismore, DePratu, Devlin, Doherty, Eck, Ekegren, Ellingson, Ellis, Franklin, Glaser, Grimes, Grosfield, Halligan, Hargrove, Hertel, Holden, Jabs, Jergeson, Keating, Keenan, Lynch, Mahlum, McCarthy, McNutt, Miller, Mohl, Nelson, Roush, Shea, Sprague, Stang, Swysgood, Taylor, Tester, Thomas, Toews, Waterman, Wells, Wilson, Mr. President.
Total 48

Nays: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Excused: Harp, Mesaros.
Total 2

HB 198 concurred in as follows:

Yeas: Beck, Berry, Bishop, Bohlinger, Cocchiarella, Cole, Crismore, DePratu, Devlin, Eck, Ekegren, Ellis, Franklin, Glaser, Grimes, Grosfield, Hargrove, Hertel, Holden, Jabs, Keating, Keenan, Lynch, Mahlum, McCarthy, McNutt, Mohl, Nelson, Roush, Sprague, Stang, Swysgood, Taylor, Thomas, Toews, Wells, Wilson, Mr. President.
Total 38

Nays: Bartlett, Christiaens, Doherty, Ellingson, Halligan, Jergeson, Miller, Shea, Tester, Waterman.
Total 10

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

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Excused: Harp, Mesaros.
Total 2

HB 319 concurred in as follows:

Yeas: Bartlett, Beck, Berry, Bishop, Bohlinger, Christiaens, Cocchiarella, Cole, Crismore, DePratu, Devlin, Doherty, Eck, Ekegren, Ellingson, Ellis, Franklin, Glaser, Grimes, Grosfield, Halligan, Hargrove, Hertel, Holden, Jabs, Jergeson, Keating, Keenan, Lynch, Mahlum, McCarthy, McNutt, Miller, Mohl, Nelson, Roush, Shea, Sprague, Stang, Swysgood, Taylor, Tester, Thomas, Toews, Waterman, Wells, Wilson, Mr. President.
Total 48

Nays: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Excused: Harp, Mesaros.
Total 2

**SECOND READING OF BILLS
(COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)**

Senator Thomas moved the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading. Motion carried. Senator Berry in the chair.

Mr. President: We, your Committee of the Whole, having had under consideration business on second reading, recommend as follows:

HB 170 - Senator F. Thomas moved HB 170 be concurred in. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 179 - Senator B. Keenan moved HB 179 be concurred in. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 119 - Senator S. Bartlett moved HB 119 be concurred in. Motion carried unanimously.

HB 237 - Senator J. Tester moved HB 237 be concurred in. Motion carried unanimously.

HJR 9 - Senator J. Tester moved HJR 9 be adopted. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Bartlett, Beck, Berry, Bohlinger, Christiaens, Cocchiarella, DePratu, Doherty, Eck, Ellingson, Ellis, Franklin, Glaser, Grosfield, Halligan, Hargrove, Hertel, Holden, Jabs, Jergeson, Mahlum, McCarthy, McNutt, Nelson, Roush, Shea, Stang, Taylor, Tester, Thomas, Toews, Waterman, Wilson, Mr. President.
Total 34

Nays: Bishop, Cole, Crismore, Devlin, Ekegren, Grimes, Keating, Keenan, Lynch, Miller, Mohl, Sprague, Swysgood, Wells.
Total 14

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Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Excused: Harp, Mesaros.
Total 2

Senator Thomas moved the committee rise and report. Motion carried. Committee arose. Senate resumed. President Crippen in the chair. Chairman Berry moved the Committee of the Whole report be adopted. Report adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee meetings were announced by committee chairmen.

Senator Thomas moved that the Senate proceed to the House of Representatives for the purpose of receiving the State of the Law Address, and further, that upon completion of that address the Senate be adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 3, 1999. Motion carried.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Sergeant-at-arms Nancy Meuli escorted the Senate into the House Chamber.

Speaker Mercer introduced President Crippen and yielded the chair to him.

Senate Majority Whip Thomas moved that the body resolve itself into a joint session for the purpose of receiving the State of the Law Address from the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Montana. Motion carried.

The Flag was presented by the Montana State Prison Honor Guard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the Honor Guard were Jim Dauenhauer, Commander, Michele Lehner, Robert Lehner and Tom Malcomb. Invocation was given by Reverend Keith Johnson.

Senate Majority Whip Thomas moved that the president be authorized to appoint a committee to notify the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Montana that we are in joint session and ready to receive the State of the Law Address. Motion carried.

President Crippen appointed Senator Grosfield, Senator Bishop, Senator Bartlett, Senator Halligan, Representative R. Clark and Representative Wyatt and discharged them to escort the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices to the House Chamber.

The committee escorted the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court into the chambers.

President Crippen introduced The Honorable Jean A. Turnage, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Montana and also introduced The Honorable Justices, Karla M. Gray, James M. Regnier, W. William Leaphart, James C. Nelson, William E. Hunt, SR., and Terry Trieweiler.

The Honorable Jean A. Turnage, Chief Justice gave the following State of the Law Address:

Speaker Mercer, President Crippen, leaders of the Democrat and Republican parties of the House and Senate,

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members and staff of the 56th Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you very much for the privilege to address this joint session of the 56th Legislative Assembly. I appreciate having this opportunity to share with you some highlights of Montana's judiciary--its workload, accomplishments and concerns. We take pride in our accomplishments this past biennium and look forward to continued achievements in the years ahead--in many of which you will have a part in setting the course and direction in your deliberations this session.

I know you can hardly wait to hear about the judicial statistics; however, unless you have some information about where we have been, you will not appreciate where we should be going.

My report on statistics will probably remind you of the two parishioners in the small country church in Missouri. They had just listened to the preacher deliver a lengthy sermon. One parishioner asked the other what he thought of the sermon. His friend replied, "It was the truth poorly told."

As you know, Montana's court system is comprised of three constitutionally-required levels. Today, I would like to take a few minutes to speak about the courts comprising each level.

The Justice of the Peace Courts, City Courts and Municipal Courts, known as courts of limited jurisdiction, are most likely the courts with which Montana's citizens will have contact. These "people's courts" have jurisdiction over traffic offenses, small claims, and misdemeanor criminal offenses.

Currently, sixty-two men and forty-seven women serve as justices and judges of the courts of limited jurisdiction. Much like yours, their backgrounds are diverse--a few are attorneys, but others have many varied occupations. Some serve full time and some part time. All, however, share a commitment and dedication to performing their duties diligently, fairly and without preconceptions and prejudice. In 1998, 302,221 cases were filed in the courts of limited jurisdiction across the state. Obviously, we are fortunate to have hardworking and devoted justices and judges at this level to keep abreast with such busy and ever-increasing work loads.

The second level of courts are Montana's District Courts. There are twenty-one judicial districts in the state, and the total number of judges sitting in these districts is thirty-seven. District Courts are courts of general jurisdiction--they handle criminal cases, dissolutions of marriage, property and contract disputes, probates and estates, and other filings as well as appeals from the courts of limited jurisdiction.

Montana is fortunate to have a long-serving, dedicated, highly-professional district court bench. The men and women serving as district judges are regularly confronted with complicated issues and difficult decisions in our ever-changing society. Their experience and knowledge acquired over the years, as well as their integrity and devotion to their duties, serve all Montanans well.

In 1998, there were approximately 34,669 filings in the State's district courts. The number of cases filed continue to rise year after year, and there has not been an increase in the number of district judges serving the state since 1991. You have an opportunity to help us out in this regard--but more about that later.

The legislature has also created two other courts--the Workers' Compensation Court and the Water Court. Although not courts created by the Constitution, these courts perform very important functions for the people of Montana.

Finally, the next level of court in our judicial system is the Supreme Court. By law, the Montana Supreme Court must accept jurisdiction over all appeals taken from judgments entered in the district courts. It has no discretion in

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deciding which appeals to accept and consider. The Supreme Court also must review applications and petitions to the Court seeking its original jurisdiction--supervisory control, habeas corpus and declaratory judgment, to name a few. In 1998, 731 new cases were filed with the Supreme Court. In addition, the Court must address thousands of motions each year--some of which are relatively minor, such as a motion for an extension of time to file a brief, but some of which are extremely important, such as staying the execution of a death sentence. All, however, require the time and careful attention of the Court.

In addition to its duties in addressing the cases before it, the Supreme Court is also given, under Article VII, Section 2(3) of the Montana Constitution, the duty to "make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members." In this regard, the Court has various boards, commissions and other entities whose work is vital, not only to the smooth operation of the judiciary, but to all Montana citizens.

The disciplinary responsibilities of the Supreme Court are initially handled by the Commission on Practice and the Judicial Standards Commission. These commissions are the avenues for our citizens to file ethical grievances against attorneys and judges. In the last two years, the Supreme Court and Commission on Practice have disciplined fifty-seven attorneys, four of whom were disbarred from the practice of law.

The Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction planned and conducted two mandatory training conferences for Justices of the Peace, City Court Judges and Municipal Court Judges in the past year which totaled over 42 hours of education. Each of the newly-elected and re-elected judges of courts of limited jurisdiction was required to attend the fall certification conference which includes a proficiency test on detailed law-related questions which each judge must pass for certification.

The Court's advisory commissions on rules of appellate and civil procedure, rules of evidence, and criminal and civil jury instruction guidelines are also permanent commissions which periodically recommend to the Court for its consideration proposed changes to the rules of procedure under which our entire court system operates.

In addition to permanent committees, since I last addressed you the Supreme Court has appointed and received recommendations from three specially-created committees.

An advisory commission on rules for admission to the bar of Montana was appointed to study bar admission requirements in the state. Following the commission's recommendations to the Court and a public comment period, the Supreme Court adopted significant changes in its procedures and rules for admission to the Montana Bar--the most noteworthy of which is the elimination of any waiver provisions within the rules, thereby making the passing of the Montana bar examination mandatory for anyone wishing to practice law in the state.

A second study committee appointed by the Court was charged with the task of developing and recommending to the Supreme Court standards regarding the competency of counsel appointed to represent indigent persons in capital cases, both at the trial and appellate levels. This committee, comprised of one district judge, two prosecuting attorneys and two defense attorneys, submitted its Proposed Competency Standards to the Court in November, and a public comment period on the proposals is now being allowed. The Court anticipates that these standards, if adopted, will result in more effective representation for the accused in death penalty cases, in long-term savings in the costs of prosecution and defense of capital cases, and in more efficient and economic uses of the scarce and overburdened resources of the courts and the criminal justice system.

Since the last biennial report, the Supreme Court created a commission to make recommendations concerning an intermediate appellate court. The commission recognized the need for some form of intermediate appellate procedures. The Supreme Court has recommended the introduction of Senate Bill 443 which I will mention further

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in this report.

The Office of the Supreme Court Administrator has under its direction other programs designed to promote the efficient administration of certain areas of the judiciary.

Automation of the Montana court system has taken a much needed step forward. All fifty-six district courts have been provided hardware and software to automate case management. In 1998, 98 of the 109 judges of the courts of limited jurisdiction were trained and equipped to operate their courts using case management software. The judiciary has joined a collaborative effort with executive branch agencies to integrate judicial information for increased public safety. This integration allows for faster and more accurate exchange of court case information with the Departments of Justice and Corrections. District court automation also has provided an expedient method of relaying child support orders in divorce actions to the Child Support Enforcement Division as mandated by statute.

The Local Citizen Review Boards, a program statutorily assigned to the Judiciary, is currently active in three judicial districts within the state. The review boards are composed of volunteer citizens who review foster care placements made by the Department of Public Health and Human Services and make recommendations they believe will move these children to permanent placement as quickly as possible. Since the inception of this program, Missoula has recognized a 27 percent decrease in the number of youths in foster care. These boards have made and are continuing to make a difference in the lives of Montana's children with the involvement of their local communities. It is a most important program and critical to the lives of children in foster care.

Another major program which is the responsibility of the Court is the Court Assessment Program, relating to children who are victims of abuse and neglect with a focus on safety, permanency and stability in those children's lives. This program proposed legislation to incorporate the federal requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act into state law. Another proposal was to include district court expenses in abuse and neglect cases as eligible for reimbursement from the present District Court Criminal Reimbursement Program. This is a very beneficial program for the safety and well-being of children.

A very important program to all of the counties of Montana and the county taxpayers is the District Court Criminal Reimbursement Program. This program was enacted in the 1985 legislature, and in calendar year 1998 this program reimbursed the counties of Montana and the taxpayers therein in the total amount of \$5,383,536 for criminal expenses incurred in the counties.

The Supreme Court is also responsible for the administration of the legislatively-created Sentence Review Division, composed of three sitting district judges. The Sentence Review Division hears petitions of prisoners sentenced to the state prisons who ask for review of their sentences. The Division heard 127 cases in 1998 and it has authority to increase, decrease or, in certain circumstances, modify a prison commitment.

In addition this year, the Montana Judges' Association, whose membership comprises the District Court Judges and Supreme Court Justices, has been actively working to increase the efficiency of the court system. The District Court Judges' Benchbook, used as a guidebook for procedures in the District Court, was updated and reprinted. This project, led by District Judge Thomas A. Olson of Bozeman, offers an inexpensive but effective way to encourage uniformity and consistency in district courts throughout the state.

The full 1998 Annual Report of the Montana Judiciary will be furnished to you soon.

I would like to thank those men and women who contribute their time, talent and professionalism to make the Supreme Court boards and commissions the vital, working, entities that are so necessary--not only to the bench and

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bar, but, most importantly, to the people of this state. Many of the members of these essential commissions are attorneys who are unpaid and unrecognized for their generous contributions to the citizens of the state. Others are lay members who generously give of their time and talents. Montana's judiciary is extremely fortunate to have such giving, unselfish citizens to work for its betterment. They all deserve our gratitude and thanks.

The continued effective administration of the many duties of Montana's judiciary, courts at all levels, would not be possible without the professional and dedicated service of all of the courts' personnel in all levels. The Supreme Court would not possibly be able to process the 731 cases filed in 1998 without the dedication and hard work of its limited number of staff personnel.

I turn now to pending matters before you which can have a profound effect upon Montana's judiciary.

It can be said that almost all of the bills that you consider and pass during the legislative sessions affect the judiciary. Why? Because it is the duty of the courts to enforce the statutes you enact. There are, however, certain legislative bills and resolutions that directly affect the well-being of Montana's judiciary, and I would like to take this opportunity to briefly address a few of them.

There are two important bills in this legislature relating to the continued funding of our statewide court automation and case management system. I trust that you will agree that in 1999 and future years the judiciary could not function without an adequate and functioning computerized data base system for the courts. The present funding for the installation and continued maintenance and support of the system is based upon a five dollar charge on most court filings. House Bill 41 and House Bill 104 provide a continuation of this source of funding. Such funding is critical to the automation program and provides for the installation and maintenance of such services in all of the counties in the state without cost to the local taxpayers. The judicial automation system has solved in house the Y2K problem.

Senate Bill 273 provides for a new judicial district and the addition of one judge, which district would be composed of the Counties of Big Horn, Carbon and Stillwater to be taken from the present Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County. The bill also provides for an additional district judge in the Eleventh Judicial District in Flathead County, and an additional district judge in the Twentieth Judicial District composed of Sanders and Lake County. There is no question but that the case load statistics support these additional judicial resources if timely and efficient administration of justice is to be continued in these areas.

Senate Bill 60 provides for the district court judges to appoint standing masters with the approval of the county commissioners. The ever-increasing load of family law cases that require an inordinate amount of time of district judges require such improvement in our judicial system. Your support of this bill is important.

Another very important bill to the judiciary is Senate Bill 443 that provides for the creation of an intermediate appellate court. The model of this bill is taken from the State of Nebraska. The ever-increasing appellate case load creates an excessive demand upon the time of the Court to process effectively large, complex and controversial cases of great consequence to the people of Montana. All cases require careful and deliberative processing by the Court. Most of our states provide for some form of intermediate appellate court panel. Montana needs such legislation. I urge that you carefully consider and support this proposal.

A startling development throughout our court system is the huge increase in the number of pro se litigants. With the cuts in funding for legal services at the federal level, more and more citizens will be using our courts without the assistance of a lawyer. Legal service agencies have been nearly wiped out by budget cuts and restrictions adopted in Washington, D.C. For all practical purposes, legal services is now the responsibility of the states.

Montana should give a helping hand to the many low income people who are standing alone in the dark at the bottom of the courthouse stairs. They must have access to justice. I urge you not to exclude them. Justice will come when

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those of us who have never been injured, deprived or silenced become as committed and concerned as those who have.

In considering the costs that may be involved in some of this legislation, I would like to comment that of the state's budget of an approximate 4.5 billion dollars for the biennium, the percentage of this amount for the judicial budget is .35 percent for the biennium--certainly not an excessive amount for a branch of Montana's government that is co-equal with the Legislative and Executive branches.

Our civil courts underpin our economy and way of life. They mirror and help develop positive changes in the economic, technological, ideological and moral conditions of society. They yield benefits far greater than those accruing to the litigants alone. For example, landmark cases represent turning points in law and social attitudes. Nonlitigants order their affairs by the results of these cases.

To those injured on the job or by a defective product, to victims of negligence, to those evicted unfairly, to defenders of our waterways against chemical dumping, to small businesses fending off monopolistic practices, to people with a grievance against their government, to abandoned children who need adoption or protective care, to farmers, ranchers and shop owners fighting to keep their properties and their doors open in difficult times, to those discriminated against on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, disability or other unlawful reasons, our civil courts represent the fulfillment of the basic need for fairness and justice.

When a young mother goes into a busy court to obtain an order that will protect her and her children from an abusive mate, she doesn't distinguish between the law enacted by the legislature and the judge who administers it. In her view, it is one system. Either the law works and she is protected, or the law doesn't work and she and her children remain in danger.

Montana's judiciary strives to deliver an independent justice system that carefully considers the rights and obligations of our citizens, and promptly renders impartial decisions free of outside influences or pressures. The system cannot survive without the trust and confidence of those it serves.

Fourteen years have passed since I first spoke to this honorable assembly as the Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court. In those fourteen years, we all have seen much change. The public no longer must rely on the media for information--with a simple click of a mouse, Supreme Court opinions are available to any one connected to the Internet, as are all the bill drafts, amendments and enactments you must consider. The judiciary has done its best to keep pace in our ever-changing times. It needs your support to continue to do so. Your deliberations and actions in the next few weeks will set the course and direction for the future progress of the court system.

On behalf of the Bar of Montana, it must be noted that without the members of the Bar, who deliver professional and competent services to the people of Montana, our Constitution, statutory law, and bills that you are presently passing, would not be implemented and enforced. The Constitution and statutory law of this State are not self-executing. The safeguards to the safety, liberties and property of our citizens would derive no benefit from our laws without competent, dedicated courts and members of the Bar that see to their fair and impartial implementation.

This has been true since the Magna Carta of June 15, 1215--and notwithstanding some jests about lawyers. One I recall as a cartoon, which I believe would have been created about the year 1750, depicting the "lawsuit milk cow." In the cartoon there was a picture of a milk cow, the ownership of which was the subject of litigation between two farmers. One of the farmers had a rope around the cow's horns and was tugging on the rope in that direction, and the other farmer had the cow by the tail and was pulling her in that direction. Each farmer had an attorney, each of whom was sitting on a pile of law books on either side of the cow--vigorously milking her.

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I know that for many of you, this will be your last session and, perhaps, the most difficult. Your years of service to the State of Montana and its citizens, and in particular your continued willingness to listen to and respond to our concerns during your terms, is appreciated.

On a personal note, this will be the last time that I am privileged to deliver to a joint session of the House and Senate on behalf of Montana's judiciary a State of the Judiciary Address.

I will not seek reelection in 2000 as Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

I am deeply appreciative and humbled by having been honored by the people of Montana for electing me to important public offices in all three branches of the government--Executive, Legislative, and Judicial-- since the June primary of 1952, forty-seven years ago.

My public service commenced in 1944 when I enlisted in the Army Air Force. I was elected Lake County Attorney for five terms starting in 1952. In 1962 I was elected as State Representative and in 1964 as State Senator from Lake County, where I served for twenty years. In 1984 I was elected for an eight-year term as Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court and re-elected for an eight-year term in November 1992, which term ends in December 2000. It is time to bring to closure the forty-eight years of public service I have been permitted to serve. It has been a great privilege and personal satisfaction to have served in public office all of these years.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity of addressing you today.

President Crippen thanked the Chief Justice for his speech and his many years of service to the people of Montana.

The escort committee escorted The Honorable Jean A. Turnage and the Justices from the House Chambers.

Sergeants-at-arms Cramer and Meuli escorted Governor Racicot and other dignitaries from the House Chambers.

Senate Majority Whip Thomas moved that the joint session of the 56th Legislature, convened to receive the State of the Law Address, be adjourned. Motion carried.

Joint session adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

ROSANA SKELTON
Secretary of Senate

BRUCE CRIPPEN
President of the Senate