MEMORANDUM

June 11, 1965

Verne and Arne

To: Paul

From: ECT

Preliminary list of possible research and action projects

Education and Finance

Assign a committee to undertake a detailed survey of budgets of certain public
institutions in the Twin Cities area.

Review whether a new source of revenue is needed for the city of Minneapolis and
for localities in the Twin Cities area and if so, what might be the best source.
The committee would explore the possibility of sharing in taxes collected statewide, for
example, by levying a certain tax only in the metropolitan area. We might be able
to restrict this to a city of Minneapolis issue, but that would pose problems.

Review the adequacy of salaries paid to elected officials of governmental units
in the Twin Cities area, city councils, mayors, special districts, school districts,
and county boards.

Continue the idea of property tax assessment reform. Include the question of
whether there should be fewer taxing districts in the metropolitan area.

Compare the level of state and local taxes in Minnesota with other states.

These ideas were suggested by Jim Pratt.

Review the use of budgeting procedures of the Minneapolis City Council, specifically
the use of reserves (surplus funds).

Examine the practice which governmental agencies have of borrowing money at low
interest rates (tax exempt) and the practice of investing the borrowed money and earning
additional interest.

Review the structure of local government, with an emphasis on the
influence of state government.

Review whether a metropolitan government is needed and if so, what type should
be created. This question should be approached from the viewpoint that several
metropolitan services are demanding attention on a coordinated metropolitan basis but we
have no single agency to which we can assign this responsibility.

Review the authority, function, and composition of the Metropolitan Airports
Commission. This would be an evaluation of a public agency which operates somewhat
outside the public eye. We would evaluate its performance, makeup of its governing
body and its objectives.

Review the authority, function, and composition of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control
District in a similar manner.
Review whether a new state agency is needed to replace the Water Pollution Control Commission. The basis for this review would be the bill which almost passed the legislature.

Review whether the Minneapolis Fair Employment Practice Commission and the city's Commission on Human Relations should be merged. Do they again overlap in function? Can they be combined into one agency?

Review the possibility of Minneapolis city charter reform.

EDUCATION

Compare school calendar procedures in metropolitan area school districts and prune the advantages and disadvantages of a uniform school year in the area. Wouldn't recommend it, but I suppose the committee also could look into that. (Jensen proposal for 12-month school year.) Utilize also field council.

Review the direction of higher education in the Twin Cities area, specifically looking at whether further coordination or consolidation of the various boards is desirable for higher education is desirable.

Review the report by the Bureau of Field Studies of the University of Minnesota personnel practices in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Determine which recommendations should be implemented and review the extent to which the recommendations are being implemented.

Review whether the Minneapolis public schools should have an open enrollment policy to combat segregation. This was recommended by Michigan State School Board in its blue book entitled "Better Schools" commented that an open enrollments policy would have to be tightly regulated so that it would not upset the opposite of the desired effect. A single school -- to the

Review a forthcoming report for the Minneapolis School Board on top administrative structure. This report apparently will deal with the relationship of the principals to assistant superintendents in addition to the central office structure.

Compare salaries throughout the area, including fringe benefits. Review whether any type of merit pay is possible. It is the same in the

Explore the need for a new formula for distributing state aid to school districts.

Review whether the post of county superintendent of schools should be abolished.

Compare the percentage of the Minneapolis school budget which is spent on instruction against maintenance with other schools.
ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION

Review the utilization of manpower by the Minneapolis Police Department and for the feasibility of changing procedures, such as one-man patrol cars, might be desirable for more coverage.

Review whether the proper methods to control prostitution. (The F-P Committee).

Review ways to help the increasing crime rate in Minneapolis.

Findings and recommendations leading to strengthening of administrative procedures in the library system. Complete the review of the consultant's recommendations for changes in administrative procedures.

Review the new city-suburban Library Board's procedures, to see that matters which are concerned with the work of the Minneapolis Library Board. (This, of course, is contingent on the present Library Board approving the act creating the new city-suburban Board.)

Review whether additional mileage or other funds are needed to support the Minneapolis Library Board, and if so, how this additional financing should be obtained.

Review whether complete consolidation of the city and county library systems is desirable. Is the Minneapolis library system needed?

Review whether the Thorsen and Thorshov report on the need for a new General Hospital, stating the question of whether the various private hospitals can handle the load instead of building a new General Hospital.

Review the functioning of the newly-created hospital planning agencies in Minneapolis and St. Paul to see if they are adequate to guarantee the proper number of hospitals will be built in the Twin Cities area in the proper time.

Review whether the township system of relief should be abolished in Hennepin County. We are on record favoring this, but only in connection with our General Hospital report. A complete study may be in order.

Review whether the Minneapolis Health Department and other municipal health departments should be transferred to one county health department.
The two previous topics, especially the relief topic, raise questions as to whether the Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare should be continued. A committee should be assigned to review the long-range future of the Board of Public Welfare.

Review the functioning of Hennepin County General Hospital to determine whether procedures are being followed to provide adequate and equitable service throughout the county.

Review the categorical aid policies of the Hennepin County Welfare Department.

Review whether local public agencies are properly implementing the federal poverty program.

Traffic and Transportation

Review whether the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission is the proper body to regulate transit in the Twin Cities area. This would be an outgrowth of the metropolitan transit study which didn't get into this question.

Review the potential of Twin City Lines, Inc., to remain as a private force in the long run. This would be another outgrowth of our metropolitan study.

Review whether the Minneapolis City Council is adopting proper policies to encourage maximum traffic movement, particularly for transit vehicles.

Review the alternatives in the joint program for land use, transportation planning, and suggest which ones should be adopted.

Review procedures used in developing state and federal aid roads, including ways, within Hennepin County and compare procedures with St. Paul and others.

Employment

Review the day labor system in local government. This would include a review of studies as the one conducted by Stanto Associates for the School Board on the rational and functioning of building trades services.

Review the recommendations of the consulting firm which studied the classification of public employees for working for various city governmental agencies and the steps to be taken to implement these recommendations.

Review whether the Minneapolis Civil Service System should be modified to conform to the new merit personnel plan adopted for County Government.

Write a preliminary citizens' league report on PERS coordination and review whether it should be coordinated with the other state-wide pension plans.

Review the state applicable pension organizations for Minneapolis public employees as if they are properly funded and are operating properly.
Review how the priority schedule for urban renewal projects in Minneapolis is developed and whether a different method might be desirable.

Review the adequacy of the performance of the Minneapolis Housing and Development Authority.

Review the need for a federally-supported urban renewal project in the Riverside area.

Review the various plans being considered for the future of District 9 Island.

Review the impact of the new state planning law on the metropolitan area.

Review the authority, function and composition of the Minneapolis City Planning Commission.

Review the progress of the Community Improvement Program.

Review the functioning of new Minneapolis zoning ordinances.

Parks and Open Space

Review whether the Hennepin County Park Reserve District should be expanded to include other counties. Also, review the policies of the present District on acquisition, development and other matters.

Review the program of the Minneapolis Park Board on its priority schedule for recreation. In this connection, a review of the forthcoming Brightbill report on future time in the city will be in order.

Voting and Voter Service

Review the method of placing candidates' names and other questions on voting lines to maximize voter choice. Also review the various types of new voting lines and their advantages and disadvantages.

Review whether a county-wide voter registration plan is needed.

City Government

Review whether independently elected officials in the county should be elected instead.

Review whether the probation offices of the county and district courts should be merged.

Review whether the county and district courts should be merged.

Review the entire structure of city-county corrections and court services and locate where in county government the Workhouse would fit best, whether the Department
Court Service: should come under the County Board, whether a County Home School for Girls is needed, and whether the city and county jails should be combined.

Review the present practice of the County Board paying for highway construction on a current basis.

Review the adequacy of the county highway department's construction program.

Review whether the city and county should have their own asphalt plants or if private industry should handle such plants.

Review possibilities of consolidation of data processing equipment among various city and county agencies.

City Government

Review whether the Minneapolis City Council should adopt a program of ring residential streets.

Review liquor licensing practices in Minneapolis.

Review whether the city should be served by the state ambulance system or if a local or regional system is better.

Review alternative plans to elevate the level of Lake Minnetonka.

Review whether there are some specific obstacles to realization of the Nicollet plan.

Review whether janitorial work on contract is desirable and feasible for governmental units.

Social Services

Review whether existing public agencies with their present authority are adequate to guarantee public water supply in the Twin Cities area in the future.

Review whether existing public agencies with their present authority are adequate to combat problems of air pollution.

Review whether refuse collection is adequate and whether further governmental folivment is desirable. (Metropolitan Garbage Committee)

Review the adequacy of the area's civil defense program.

Review the adequacy of billboard controls in the newly-passed state law.

Moral

Review the organization of the Hennepin County legislative delegations to see if there are ways to improve the processing of local bills in the legislature.

Review whether the Citizens League should broaden the base of its membership.