

June 11, 1965

MEMORANDUM

Verne and Arne

Paul ✓

ECT: Preliminary list of possible research and action projects

tion and Finance

~~Assign a committee to undertake a selected review of budgets of certain public agencies in the Twin Cities area.~~

Review whether a new source of revenue is needed for the city of Minneapolis and its localities in the Twin Cities area and if so, what might be the best source. The committee would explore possibility of sharing in taxes collected statewide, for example, or 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, county boards. *(under public employ)*

~~Continue the review of Property Tax Assessment rates.~~ Include the question of whether there should be fewer taxing districts in the metropolitan area to lessen the competition which exists between localities for taxable property.

Compare the level of state and local taxes in Minnesota with other states. Nothing along this line was suggested by Jim Pratt.

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

Borrowing authority
Examine the practice which governmental agencies have of borrowing money at low interest rates (tax exempt) and then investing the borrowed money and earning a profit interest.

Structure of Government *Review whether a metropolitan government is needed and if so, what type should be formed. This question should be approached from the viewpoint that several public services are demanding attention on a co-ordinated metropolitan basis but we have no public 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 behind 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. *John Cook*

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 Mayor's Commission on Human Relations should be merged. *As they again still report to be a job... - 7th City Council have set up their agencies for*
Review the ~~possibility~~ possibility of Minneapolis city charter reform. *at what they should be accepted*

Education

Compare school calendar procedures in metropolitan area school districts and examine the advantages and disadvantages of a uniform school year in the area. (I wouldn't recommend it, but I suppose the committee also could look into that large Jensen proposal for a 12-month school year.) *utilize also plans & personnel*

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

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

Review whether the Minneapolis public schools should have an open enrollments policy to combat ~~segregation~~ 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 have the opposite of the desired effect. *main school as - the force*

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. *border out*

~~Compare the school calendar throughout the area and be prepared to make recommendations to improve same as available.~~

Compare teachers salaries throughout the area, including fringe benefits. Review whether any type of merit pay is possible. *is the way to have level all schools*
~~Be prepared to report on the calendar and related regulations by the School Board to be covered by fringe~~

Explore the need for a new formula for distributing state aids 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 determine whether changed procedures, such as one-man patrol cars, might be desirable for more coverage.

Review whether some consolidation of law enforcement agencies and fire departments is desirable in the Twin Cities area.

Review the adequacy of salaries, fringes and working conditions of personnel in the Minneapolis Police and Fire Departments.

Review whether the city of Minneapolis is employing the proper methods to combat prostitution. (the P-R Committee).

~~Review ways to halt the increasing crime rate in Minneapolis.~~

LIBRARY

Develop findings and recommendations leading to strengthening of administrative procedures in the public 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 affect the entire county are being discussed and acted on by this Board and not 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 millage or other funds are needed by 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.

~~Review whether Ho. kins should be brought into the county library system.~~

Health, Hospitals and Welfare

Review the Thorsen and Thorshov report on the need for a new General Hospital. Include in this review the question of whether the various private hospitals and the University Hospitals can handle the load instead of building a new General.

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

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. - BRW

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~~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 county.

Review: the categorical aid policies of the Hennepin County Welfare Department. *shirley stas - how check with them -*

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

Public and Transportation

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

~~Review the potential of Twin City Lines, Inc., to remain as a private enterprise in the long run. This would be another outgrowth of our metropolitan transit 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 one should be adopted.~~

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

Public 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 organization and functioning of building trades services.

~~Review the recommendations of the consulting firm which studied the classification of municipal employees for working for various city governmental agencies and the steps so far 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.

~~Update the Citizens League report on PERA co-ordination, and review whether it should be consulted with the other statewide pension plans.~~

Review the ~~status of~~ pension organizations for Minneapolis public employees and see if they are properly funded and are operating properly.

Handwritten scribbles and signatures at the top of the page, including the name "M. Zilje" and several illegible initials.

Planning, Zoning and Urban Renewal

- 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 proposals suggested for the future of Nicollet 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 whether changes are needed in the relationship between the Minneapolis City Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Council on school building projects. The relationship is a study in cooperation. It appears...~~

Review the progress of the Community Improvement Program.

Review the functioning of new Minneapolis zoning ordinance.

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 plans in the city will be in order.

Elections 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.~~

County Government

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

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

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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 Services should come under the County Board, whether a County Home School Girls is needed, ~~xxx~~ 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. - *on basis of operation revenue not only - ... gas tax...*

Review the adequacy of the county highway department's construction program. *review coming highway needs +*

~~Review whether the city and county should have their own asphalt plants or private industry handle ~~their~~ 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~~ ^{city-wide} adopt a program of paving residential streets.

~~Review the effectiveness of the Minneapolis Police Department's Patrolmen's Association.~~

~~Review liquor licensing practices in Minneapolis.~~

~~Review what should be done by the Minneapolis City Council to curtail the sale of over-the-counter labor.~~

Review alternative plans to elevate the level of lakes in Minneapolis.

~~Review whether there are some serious obstacles to realization of the Piccolletti plan.~~

~~Review whether janitorial work by contract is desirable and feasible for various governmental units.~~

Metropolitan Services

Review whether existing public agencies with their present authority are adequate to guarantee ~~adequate~~ 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 involvement is desirable. (Metropolitan Garbage Committee)

~~Review the adequacy of the area's civil defense programs.~~

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

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.