

September 8, 1981 Meeting
Disability Benefit Subcommittee
Normandy Inn
Duluth, Minnesota

MINUTES

The chairman, Rep. Frank Rodriguez, opened the meeting.

PRESENT: Senators Frederickson, Renneke
Representatives Rodriguez, Sarna, Reding

Staff Memo: Less Hazardous Duty Employment Positions for Marginally Disabled Police Officers and Firefighters. Larry Martin went over the memo. The memo stated that the staff was requested to provide statutory definitions of employment duties of the occupations of police officer and of firefighter; that one solution to the problem of high disability benefit utilization would be to provide less hazardous duty employment positions in the police or fire departments for the disabled police officers and firefighters who are marginally disabled and able to perform a number of less physically demanding duties.

Testimony re less hazardous duty employment:

Ernie Grams, Duluth Police, stated that the Duluth Police have already phased out the kind of positions that would lend themselves to light duty and have hired civilians. The city would be opposed to reestablishing those positions.

Jim Heim, Duluth Fire, stated that there are 38 employees on disability pension. There is a tax break for those on disability--can take \$100 a week exemption. Mr. Heim raised questions as to whether less hazardous or light duty jobs would take away all the fringe benefits which had previously been earned by a disabilitant and advised that the firemen want to retain all their service credit and fringe benefits earned.

Hubert Warren, Moorhead Police, referred to the difference in pay scale between a police officer's pay and a light duty job. There are 38 police officers in the association.

Dave Niebur, Minneapolis Police Relief, is opposed to a less hazardous job that would result in a lower paying position.

Ron Kastner, Minneapolis Police, discussed returning of men to the line of duty they had been trained for.

Tom Dickinson, Minneapolis Fire, discussed job definitions and also questioned whether placing a disabilitant in a light duty job would take a job away from someone else.

Leo Reding
Secretary

E. Diebel
Staff Secretary