

[Chairman: Dr. Elliott]

[3:02 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's a few minutes after three — I always seem to get caught with my interesting phone calls at one minute to these meetings — so we'll call the meeting to order. I was provided with a list of follow-up items, which I'd like to use as the agenda. Does everybody have a copy of the follow-up items? Good. Can we use that as the agenda for the day? We'll go through it, and people can add to the list as we go along.

Item 1 is left over from the December 19, 1985, meeting. The discussion was to do with the administration people calculating retroactive payment for MLAs with respect to the pension plan. I understand that that has been done. Does anybody feel that there's anything left unfinished there? I understood we were all treated individually on that. So we'll declare that piece of business finished.

Item 2, from the same meeting of December 19, is to set up a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education. From my point of view, that was left in the office of the minister. From there I got into other activities in my constituency and did not follow through. I left it with the committee. Does anybody have anything they want to report on that at this particular time? David? Or is that business outside the meeting?

DR. CARTER: It would be correct to say that it was pending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So it remains pending?

MR. HIEBERT: Didn't we have a discussion?

DR. CARTER: Some of us.

MR. HIEBERT: Unofficially.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For purposes of this meeting, I understand that there is nothing to report today on that thing. That's fine. I'll let the minutes show that we'll leave that topic pending. If it comes back to us again in an official request to pursue it in detail, we will bring it up for discussion at that time.

DR. CARTER: A very wise decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 3, again from the December 19 meeting. We had some discussion that the chairman arrange a farewell dinner for the Auditor General, and we were going to try to schedule it before the spring sittings. In that particular form in which it was envisioned on December 19, we were not able to set something up. The only thing that happened to me in that area was that I accepted the invitation to be present and take part in a farewell dinner arranged by the Auditor General's staff. They had 200-and-some people, invited guests, and as chairman of this committee I was asked to make comments. All of you will be very pleased to know that I kept my comments very brief and everybody there was happy that they were short, and then went on to other things. The bar opened up again right afterwards. Any questions about that?

DR. CARTER: With respect to that, Mr. Chairman, as you said, originally back in December we planned to do it slightly differently, but as circumstances turned out — the department having their own farewell dinner, having extended invitations to yourself and myself, and your going, certainly covered off one aspect. The other aspect is what was covered last week when we had the farewell for the Auditor General in the Speaker's suite. That was a very pleasant noon hour, and then a presentation was made on behalf of the whole committee. So I think that really brings the whole agenda item to a very positive conclusion, except for two motions which flow from it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're referring to item 8, David?

DR. CARTER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions on item 3, the Auditor General's departure?

Item 4. We have the approval of the minutes of the committee meeting on January 29. John Thompson's hand went up. Any question on the motion? Those in favour? Those minutes have been approved. That motion is carried.

Item 5. Dr. Carter, from the January 29 meeting, to investigate with the Chief Electoral Officer the feasibility of preparing voter lists in both alphabetical and numerical order. Would

you care to comment on that, please, David?

DR. CARTER: I'm learning some wisdom in my old age, and I delegated the matter to the person who is going to give us the report. Louise, please.

MRS. EMPSON: I called Mr. Ledgerwood, and he told us the rural areas could not be done in numerical order, only in alphabetical order, because of the way the townships are divided. If someone comes up with a system so that it can be done, they would be pleased to do so. The urban areas are done numerically, and if someone wanted to have it done alphabetically, it would have to be done manually, which would be very costly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you say "numerically," you're referring to street numbers and addresses?

MRS. EMPSON: Street numbers.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, that was changed seven or eight years ago, when I was chairman of the Election Act. At one time it was alphabetically, and they found in the city areas that it just didn't work, because you had 79th Street as a border and it was very difficult for campaigning and for a number of other reasons. If people want to stick those names in a computer program, it will spit them out for you alphabetically too.

MR. HIEBERT: I think the intention was that if it were put into an automated system, the system could actually kick them out differently. Are you suggesting that it's not done that way?

MRS. EMPSON: No.

MR. HIEBERT: It's still the manual way.

MR. PURDY: The enumerator goes down the street, writes the name down, gives the address, and that's the way it comes in. Nobody has done it over in his office or anyplace else or set it up so it would be kicked out alphabetically. It's still a manual process.

DR. CARTER: For purposes of the issue being raised in the minutes, I think that deals with it,

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

DR. CARTER: Thank you, Louise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Louise. Good report.

DR. CARTER: Much shorter than we would have got from me.

MR. THOMPSON: On that point, Mr. Chairman. If it's not difficult, with the technology we have today — surely just to say that you'd have to do it by hand isn't a real . . . I'm not knocking you, Louise. I just don't think that's a good answer. If it could be — I don't know; both Bill and Al say that it can be done that way. Once the master list is made for each constituency, I can't see why it would take an awful lot of money to do it.

MRS. EMPSON: Possibly it's because the people who go around doing enumerating don't have the equipment at home. It would have to be kicked back to the CEO's office, which is where you'd have to hire extra staff to work the equipment. I'm assuming that could be why.

DR. CARTER: I think the other part of it too, Mr. Chairman, is that it's a matter of present circumstances. I think the new CEO, having now had this telephone conversation about it, may well have it on his agenda of things to look at in the course of this upcoming year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Could be.

MR. HIEBERT: I think there's another factor. When you get your electoral lists and they're typed out, they've been typed out at the constituency level, and therefore the full accountability for what is there rests with your local organization as opposed to the central office. They have to be held responsible for what is there. If you start taking those lists at the central office and reworking them, you could eventually have a page left out or an error made, and then whose responsibility is it? So I think there is a factor along this line as well.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate that, Al. From

my point of view, as a member of this committee, I would just say this: any constituency that feels that it is to their advantage to have it done alphabetically can get it done themselves.

MR. HIEBERT: That's correct.

MR. THOMPSON: We'll leave it at that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any further comment on that topic? You know the topic we were on . . .

MR. ANDERSON: I have a rough idea.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the topic comes up again, fine. In the meantime, we'll consider it . . .

Number 6 on my follow-up items, approval of minutes for March 5, 1986. Do we have a comment or motion?

MR. HIEBERT: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any question on the motion? Those in favour of the motion? That motion is carried. The minutes from March 5 are approved.

Item 7 is a carryover from the March 10 meeting of the committee. I need a motion for the approval of the minutes, please. Dr. Carter. Any question on the motion? Those in favour of the motion? That motion is carried.

Item 8 is from today's meeting. We have to have motions to approve expenses that have been created during recent activities. Dr. Carter, you had a couple of function dates in addition to number 9. Do you have them identified, please?

DR. CARTER: First off, Mr. Chairman, I would move that the chairman be reimbursed in the normal manner for having attended that farewell function on March 12 for the Auditor General.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have a motion. Any question on the motion? Those in favour? That motion is carried.

DR. CARTER: Secondly, I would move that the committee be appropriately reimbursed for the attendance of members on March 26 for the farewell reception that was held for Mr.

Rogers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Any question on the motion? Those in favour of the motion? That motion is carried.

MR. HIEBERT: Are there any other functions?

DR. CARTER: There was one other day, March 17, that I was involved, with respect to your trying to get things straightened away for the Order Paper with regard to the new Auditor General's appointment and some other matters.

MR. HIEBERT: Mr. Chairman, I move that the expenses incurred by Dr. Carter on March 17 be paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Any question on the motion? Those in favour of the motion? The motion is carried. Thank you. Does anybody else have any outstanding accounts with respect to the winter's activities in this committee?

DR. CARTER: I would like to raise one other issue with regard to this. A letter has come to perhaps all members of the committee. The one I have is directed to myself as vice-chairman. It perhaps had something to do with the fact of being chairman of the search committee for the new Auditor General; I don't know. Nevertheless, the letter has come from Reid & Cameron Chartered Accountants. They're the group we had approved as being the new auditors of the Auditor General. They've made a request to have a meeting with at least three members of the committee. Because of timing and so forth, I've arranged to have a meeting with them tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock — I'm open to whatever suggestions from the committee, but I would suggest that it be at least Mr. Hiebert, Mr. Miller, and myself — at which we'd discuss with them generally what's involved. The reason for suggesting the names, again, is because of the search committee. But if the committee wants to augment, fine; let's do it. That will be tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock in my office. If that's to be the case, we could have a general motion to reimburse whoever is in attendance at the meeting.

MR. ANDERSON: I move that the three people

mentioned — Dr. Carter, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Hiebert — be reimbursed for expenses incurred for attendance at tomorrow's meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Is there any comment on the motion? Those in favour of the motion? That motion is carried. Before we drop the topic . . . Go ahead, Bill.

MR. PURDY: I was going to make some comment on it before it was voted on just in case other members want to attend that meeting. We all had a part, with the Auditor, in hiring the auditors. I have some difficulty with the motion as it now stands if Mr. Thompson, Mr. Anderson, myself, or yourself, sir, decide to go to the meeting.

MR. ANDERSON: I'd be willing to amend the motion to read: those three people and other members of the committee who might be available at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any problem with that?

MR. PURDY: No. Sorry for not raising it quicker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we have a vote on that amended motion? Those in favour? Thank you. That amendment is carried.

Item 9, Dr. Carter, is another expenditure item to be approved with respect to the plaque that was presented to the retiring Auditor General. Would somebody care to make a motion?

MRS. EMPSON: The amount is \$36.75.

MR. PURDY: I would move that the expenditure be paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Those in favour of the motion? I did that backwards. Does anybody have any question about the motion? I should have asked for that first. Anyway, I declare the motion carried.

I have one piece of unfinished business in my file. That is with respect to the 1986 calendar of conferences and activities from each of the officers: our Ombudsman, the Auditor General, and the Chief Electoral Officer. I'd like to draw your attention to that list for just a minute. Let's give it our consideration and

come up with a plan. Would somebody like to open the discussion? Dr. Carter, do you have some thoughts on this topic?

DR. CARTER: In terms of past years, I think we've found attendance at these conferences to be valuable, not only for committee members but also for the three officers. We've had nothing but positive feedback. I think it's incumbent upon us at this time to make our plans for the rest of this calendar year and to have those things occur in the minutes so that we are all able to do our long-range planning. I don't know how committee members want to go at this, but I would hope that we're going to send a minimum of two committee members to each one of these conferences. Perhaps we could just work down the list. Failing that, I'm open to any other way we might deal with it.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I agree with Dr. Carter. I think we have found them helpful and interesting. Unless there's some reason in terms of continuity, I'd like to suggest — availability, of course, would be a main question — that members who attended one conference last year might attend a different one this year to gain the overall perspective on the operations. As much as I wasn't sure how much I would gain, I found the Comprehensive Auditing Foundation most helpful in figuring out what was going on in that particular area. I think it would be helpful this year to find out what is happening in another area of our responsibility. That's just a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good comment. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I've gone on record before, so I'll go on record again. I really believe that not only is it of benefit to committee members to get a feel for what the officers are doing, but especially with the Ombudsman it's almost essential that we have committee members attend that conference as observers. From my point of view, it's of great advantage to the members and is also of great advantage to our legislative officers. It shows that we feel the importance of their function and also that we support the offices in body as well as in words. I really think it's something that the Legislative Offices Committee should take as one of its responsibilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments on the topic to this point? Then I think we should engage ourselves in the exercise of suggesting names for each of these conferences that are identified.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, the only other caution, and it's probably just an academic exercise, is that technically there'll be a committee struck once the Legislature goes into session again on Thursday. Our mandate would end technically and technically another committee would be formed. But we have to make these suggestions on the assumption that the membership will remain similar in the coming session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's been done annually, with each session, has it?

MR. PURDY: The only one that doesn't change is Members' Services. The composition of that committee stays the same; other ones could change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I see.

MR. HIEBERT: But technically it has to be done by a committee.

MR. PURDY: There'll be a motion passed on Thursday that a special select committee of the Legislature be struck to set up the seven select committees of the Legislature.

MR. ANDERSON: To recommend names for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it our privilege today to assume that we could go through these next few months without a change and that we should proceed to work on this? If there are changes, then we'll . . .

DR. CARTER: We can even go on the assumption that there might not be any changes for the next year. All we as a committee are doing is suggesting it at this stage, and hopefully the committee will be reconstituted with the same membership.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's work on that assumption and assign some names to these various functions.

MR. THOMPSON: One reservation I hold on this is the fact that we don't have any opposition members here today, but so be it.

MR. HIEBERT: They were all duly informed of the meeting.

MR. THOMPSON: I realize that. Anyway, let's carry on.

DR. CARTER: In following along with what Mr. Anderson said earlier, to rotate, and with regard to the July 7 to 9 meeting of legislative auditors, I know that you, Mr. Chairman, have been going to a number of those. This time why don't we send Mr. Gurnett and perhaps myself, as vice-chairman, to the Regina one? That would give us a balance of opposition as well as government side — unless anyone else is dying to go to Regina.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's a suggestion on number 1. Shall we leave that there and go on to number 2? Does anybody have any strong feelings for . . .

DR. CARTER: For number 2, could I suggest that that be a place where we might consider sending four members of the committee? We've given larger representation before and found it very useful.

MR. HIEBERT: It's the most sensitive of all the committees, and it also gives you a perspective on what's happening across the country. All the people who were at the last one indicated that it's so important that I think we should increase our membership at it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd like to volunteer my services as one of the four. Would anybody else like to make a comment?

MR. HIEBERT: I'll make myself available for either of the next two: Ottawa or Toronto.

DR. CARTER: Have you been to the auditing one yet?

MR. HIEBERT: No.

DR. CARTER: You should probably go to the second one. Dennis?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm available.

DR. CARTER: You like Ottawa. Bill, how are you with your job?

MR. PURDY: If I went to Ottawa, I'm due to go to Victoria the next day. I just can't take that amount of time off.

DR. CARTER: Okay.

MR. THOMPSON: I was to the last Ombudsman's convention, but I'm certainly interested in that conference. I'll put my name forward as one who would go if we need to build a roster of four.

MR. ANDERSON: If I might, Mr. Chairman, if we are going to follow the theory of having an opposition person, perhaps I could suggest Dr. Buck for that one.

DR. CARTER: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I have Dr. Buck, Mr. Hiebert, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Thompson, and myself. Those are the names I see.

Let's talk about the Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation, Toronto. Do we have anybody who feels strongly about wanting to be present at that one?

MR. PURDY: I can go to that one.

DR. CARTER: How about Hiebert and Purdy on that?

MR. HIEBERT: I'm available for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Council on Government Ethics Law, Hartford, Connecticut, December 3 to 6.

DR. CARTER: Miller is the only name missing.

MR. ANDERSON: I'd be happy to have my name down for that one if we don't have enough other members.

DR. CARTER: That could be considered as compensation for Regina.

MR. HIEBERT: Put Carter down too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First prize is one trip to Connecticut in December. Second prize is two trips.

MR. HIEBERT: One and a quarter trips.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have Mr. Miller and Mr. Hiebert. Is that who it is?

DR. CARTER: Mr. Anderson and myself. We can narrow that down closer to the date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does anybody wish to make any further comment about the exercise we've just gone through, suggesting possible names for each of those functions?

MR. ANDERSON: As long as we know, Mr. Chairman, that they're suggestions for the committee to be struck by the Legislature in the coming session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

DR. CARTER: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's the motion. Can we have acceptance of the motion? Those in favour? The motion is carried.

I have no other item of business on my agenda here at the Chair. Does anybody else have anything they wish to bring up?

DR. CARTER: Just a brief comment, Mr. Chairman, if we are to be disintegrated or restructured or whatever. I think all of us understand that as a committee we worked well together. It's had a very high level of trust. It's certainly had a lot of hard work, but it's also had a lot of fun. It's been a very important part of this last while.

MR. HIEBERT: Hear, hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good comments.

DR. CARTER: I appreciate your chairmanship very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. HIEBERT: It's been a good committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I've had some very kind

comments come back to me from other members of the Legislature, from ministers, and from each of the three officers for whom we are responsible. I've always found some comfort in their comments. They've left me with the feeling that our committee is functioning and is doing its job. They also leave me with the impression that we have been plowing new ground. That's an agricultural term, and Mr. Thompson will explain it. Generally speaking, people think we've been doing it the right way, so it's been rewarding.

I thank all of you for your work and input and guidance. With that we'll adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 3:33 p.m.]

