

[Chairman: Mr. Amerongen] [9:05 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're easily a quorum. Okay. First is the minutes of the meeting of August 22. Is there any comment or a motion?

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, I'll move that the minutes be adopted as circulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carried. Next we have business arising out of the minutes. As far as I know, all that needs to be followed up has been gleaned out of the minutes, and it's all listed here. Perhaps we could start dealing with (a) to (h) under item 3, in order.

The first deals with ACCESS coverage of the House proceedings. You may recall that at a previous meeting I recorded an apparent lack of interest on the part of ACCESS, and it was then suggested that at some future meeting we might invite Mr. Senchuk from ACCESS for a discussion of this matter. This does not seem to be a good meeting for that, since we have our estimates to deal with. Do you want to select a date now? In other words, would it be your wish that we invite him to the next meeting, or should we wait to fix a time until we've finished dealing with the estimates?

DR. REID: I think the urgency is first of all to get the estimates out of the way, isn't it? I think we should do that and then address the ACCESS issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I just didn't want to lose the item.

DR. REID: We're certainly not going to be doing it for the fall sitting, 1984.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. Okay. So we'll wait till the estimates are out of the way, and then we'll ask Mr. Senchuk to the next meeting after that. Is that agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, item 3(b). You have some support material there dealing with the master insurance policy, a report from Mr. Clegg dated October 12. I have not had a chance to digest that report. I don't know if any of you have. If you wish, we can go over it now. If you prefer, we might deal with it at the next meeting and give ourselves a chance to soak it up.

MR. HYLAND: I read it over last night, and the one thing I wonder is: has Michael got a different view from what I do of what happens in Ontario? That was one of the questions I especially asked, and I think I addressed it somewhere in my report. The director, Bob Fleming, said — it was either him or the person in charge of personnel, Mrs. Schoenberger; I don't know if that's the right pronunciation. I asked them specifically if they had handled the question of coverage for constituency office staff to and from the capital and, as I remember, their answer was no,

we haven't handled that one either; we don't know what we're doing with that — unless they had made a decision between then and when Mr. Clegg talked to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other preliminary observations with regard to Michael's report?

MRS. CRIPPS: Do you have an extra copy? There isn't one in my . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I don't know how that happened.

MR. STEFANIUK: They were circulated under a special memo yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It might be in your office.

MRS. CRIPPS: Oh. I haven't been through my mail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What's your wish? Do you want to try to deal with it now, or do you agree that we should give ourselves an opportunity to become familiar with Mr. Clegg's memo of October 12?

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that Mrs. Cripps doesn't have it, I think we should review it and come back, as you suggested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nice go. Blame Mrs. Cripps. [laughter]

MRS. CRIPPS: I was going to say it was because of some members not being here this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Then we have item 3(c); there's very considerable support material there. I must confess to not having examined fully the excellent report we have here from Mr. Hyland. I wondered whether I was being a little excessively thorough when I made up the outline memo, but I can see that Alan has been at least as thorough as I was. I'm sure there will be some useful suggestions and ideas coming out of this.

What I'd like to propose to the members is that we put this on the agenda for the next meeting, assuming we don't use it all for the estimates. That's our number one priority for this morning, even though that makes it look as if we're trying to stall on some items. But the fact is that we do have to deal with those estimates, as Dr. Reid mentioned. Then at the next meeting, when it does come up, I would propose to have a list of items gleaned from this report which might be perceived to be of particular interest in regard to possible improvements in our Assembly. Is that agreed?

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, are there any items in this that might be significant to the development of this year's estimates? I couldn't really see any that would have a marked effect on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not aware of any. Do you know, Alan?

MR. HYLAND: Computers or word processing.

DR. REID: Discussions have already started about that.

MR. HYLAND: A lot of the rest isn't going to cost a lot of money if you change it — ideas and a change of emphasis in some cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed, then, that we put item 3(c) over to the next meeting?

MR. HYLAND: The only part, I suppose, is where it was asked in the questions between you and — that was sent to me. I forget. Did Bohdan and Charlene send some? You know; questions that may be pertinent. The part out of that was the evaluation, which partly relates to our contract — the one item we have that is related to contract employees. I suppose your performance evaluation is part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Item 3(d). You may recall that we had a considerable discussion of this item, and then there was a resolution to table it for the time being. Since then, I think a number of members have indicated some interest in seeing just what the ramifications of standardization might be, and as a result we're expecting a report from a consultant which has been promised to us for this Friday. We'll circulate that as soon as we get it, of course, and then at the next meeting I would propose to ask the committee how they propose to deal with it.

Going on to item 3(e), the theft of presentation items. You may remember that this arose from the theft of some pins and other things Tom Lysons had. There seemed to be a sort of admixture of personal items and government items, so we turned the matter over to Mr. Clegg for an opinion. We have that opinion now under tab E. Do you want to give a summary of that, Gary? You've gone over it.

DR. GARRISON: Basically all it says is that there were two categories of items in the vehicle; I think they were stolen from a vehicle. One was personal property, which of course was not covered by government insurance. The other was pins that had been purchased out of the member's presentation allowance and had not yet been distributed to constituents. Mr. Clegg is of the opinion that those pins were still government property at that time and are therefore still covered by government insurance, but of course the personal property is not.

DR. REID: For once the law goes along with common sense.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's a fairly frequent coincidence.

MR. HYLAND: Did you say "frequent" or "infrequent"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't reported this to Tom Lysons yet. I think all we need to do, unless the committee thinks otherwise, is report it to Tom and then Tom can proceed from there, because he's the one who raised the problem with us in the first place.

Could we go on to item 3(f)? Again, you have supporting material in your books. As you know, there has been a contract placed, without our foreknowledge, by Public Affairs. So I guess the

matter is settled for the duration of that contract. But we might want to have some say before that contract is renewed, and if that's the wish of the committee I'd be glad to indicate that to Public Affairs. I think the gist of the thing is that there was an indication that the cost of colour photographs might be less. If you look at Mr. Stefaniuk's memo to file dated August 16, which is your support material — it's the last item of the support material under tab F — you'll see that paragraph 4 concludes by saying it would be less than \$1.05 each. It doesn't say how much less; I suppose that would depend on quantities and so on.

DR. GARRISON: I was told approximately 10 percent less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we could save about 10 cents per picture.

MRS. CRIPPS: In coloured over . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the other hand, as you know, the thing is that practically all the traffic in pictures now is in colour, and I suppose that when you have exceptions to a process those cost more. I was going to call on the Clerk, but the one point I was going to recall to you was that some rural members have indicated that black and white would be more suitable for reproducing in the rural weeklies, and that of course is a significant factor because it's one of the uses that is made. We could perhaps go into a system of doing both, but that gets a little complicated.

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to recall the exact discussion from the last meeting of this committee relative to this item. I wonder if the members did not undertake to consult their caucuses as to the preferences of the members within those caucuses of the types of photographs to be supplied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I think there was a caveat on that, depending on the cost, because at the time we didn't have comparative costs.

MR. HYLAND: I think I was supposed to see Bill Payne and report on this and the other. If you remember, at the last meeting I showed you just a small card made in Ontario that they used to put their pictures in. I left that with Bill. He hasn't got back to me on that, but I have a short memo here. At the same meeting I discussed the black and white versus colour issue, and of course he says that if we want we can contract our own pictures. That's up to us, but as far as they're concerned . . . The memo reads in part: "Further to our discussion earlier today, Public Affairs has confirmed your information that switching from black and white photographs to colour photographs would not necessarily result in a significant budget increase". He goes on to wonder — even though it doesn't cost any more to switch to colour, switching from black and white to colour at this time might give the perception to the public that we're spending more money when really we're not. So I suppose I got the idea from his discussion that if we wanted to push for colour it may not be that difficult

to accomplish.

MRS. CRIPPS: According to the memo I have here, the contract expires July 31. Has there been another one negotiated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as I know, right now we're in a new contract period. We didn't know about it. We just found out that it was done, because in the past, you see, it's always been done by Public Affairs. It is really something that the members should have under their own control.

MR. HYLAND: That was my discussion with Mr. Payne. He has no problem giving it up, but it then becomes a budget item for us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quite. That doesn't cost the taxpayer anything more.

MRS. CRIPPS: I move that if it is less to have colour photos than black and white photos, we make a request to Mr. Payne to amend the agreement they now have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He couldn't do it on his own. It would require the consent of the photographer. If the photographer has laid in a large supply of black and white paper, developer, and so on, on the basis of this contract, there might be some difficulty.

MRS. CRIPPS: But the supplier may not have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can inquire.

MRS. CRIPPS: What I'm suggesting is that we request that he negotiate an amendment with the supplier if it's possible and if it's more cost effective. I certainly can't see paying more for black and white pictures than for colour pictures when I think they would be so much better for the students to have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know whether you use them in the local paper or not.

MRS. CRIPPS: It doesn't make that much difference.

MR. HYLAND: They don't like it, but I think they can take coloured.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They probably have to develop a negative from it, if they get a coloured one.

MRS. CRIPPS: They have to develop a negative from whatever they get. I'm sure they do.

DR. REID: The way most newspapers are assembled now and the way they're done by the equivalent of a photographic process, they can take almost anything, providing it isn't too dark.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to go ahead with that or do you want to consult your colleagues, especially the ones from rural constituencies?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we'll ask Mr. Payne to see

whether he can amend to colour, and then perhaps we should also ask him to be notified before any renegotiation take place. In other words, once the present contract period ends, I think this committee ought to know what's going on. Right?

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, there was also the point I raised last time about inquiring to see if we could obtain some type of little cardboard folder — Alan alluded to this too — and what that added cost would be for the pictures. I know that is something the members like, rather than just getting the stark picture. If they could just be in a little cardboard . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The same size picture but in a little cardboard holder. Is that what you're saying?

MRS. EMBURY: Yes, just a cardboard frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The students are getting them just plain now, are they not?

MRS. EMBURY: Yes.

MR. HYLAND: You mean like that thing I had last time. It was simple enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll come back to the next meeting with a figure on it.

MR. HYLAND: Bill has that fold-over I had last time with the picture of the Ontario Legislature in it.

MR. STEFANIUK: May I, Mr. Chairman? What members of this committee should recognize is that at the present time the program is being operated and financed by the Public Affairs Bureau of government. In other words, government is looking after the administration of the program and the cash outlay for the photographs themselves. If the Public Affairs Bureau will not agree to the request that is being placed before this committee for, one, colour photographs and, two, a presentation folder, then the committee should recognize that not only will we have to make a budgetary provision for the actual expenditure of the funds for the materials but as well we will have to provide the administrative support for the program. I think manpower needs to be considered in this instance.

MR. HYLAND: The Clerk covered part of my comments; that if they say they'll go for the photographs, I don't think the cost of printing that folder is going to be that great. I don't know how many students go through here in a year, but printing it in the numbers it would be printed in, I'll bet you're looking at less than a nickel apiece. So if we can get them to go for the photographs, I don't think our administration on the fold-over would be that great. The cost would really be the pictures and not the thing to send them out in.

MRS. CRIPPS: Can you give me one logical reason why they would not support a request in this manner if it is just as cost effective or more cost effective and, in the long run, produces a better product?

MR. STEFANIUK: You're asking me why I don't think

they, the Public Affairs Bureau . . .

MRS. CRIPPS: I can't see any logical reason for them to . . .

MR. STEFANIUK: I don't either, but it appears from the information we have that the colour photograph is more cost effective than the black and white.

MRS. CRIPPS: Yes.

MR. STEFANIUK: But it appears from the memorandum Mr. Hyland has that the bureau is not viewing that proposal favourably, because it feels for the moment that the public will perceive the coloured photograph to be a luxury . . .

MRS. CRIPPS: Oh, bull.

MR. STEFANIUK: . . . in comparison to the black and white one. I see your point, Shirley. Our figure, from what Gary has, is 10 percent. From the information we have directly, they say less than \$1.05, which is the current price.

MRS. CRIPPS: It's illogical.

MR. STEFANIUK: It seems to me that the logical thing is to buy what is lower priced, and in the estimation of the members of this committee it appears that the coloured photograph is much preferred. So there's no question in my mind, but the bureau does not appear to perceive the problem in the same way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's go ahead with the committee's decision, and if we run into difficulties we'll face them when they arise.

Can we go on with item 3(g), the employment contract forms. You have some support material in your books under that as well. We've got to the point where I have received from Michael Clegg a form which I think may be suitable, but I'd like to review it and report back to the committee on it at the next meeting. He has provided a previous draft, which I examined and referred back with some comments. Now I have a further draft, which may very well be the final one, but I'd like to give it a little more scrutiny and then report to the committee.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With regard to item 3(h), I think that's very succinctly summed up in a memo of Mr. Gogo's which is under that tab.

DR. GARRISON: And a memo I circulated not very long ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. In addition to John's memo of July 23, we have a memo dated August 21, which has just been circulated, by Dr. Garrison to his file. One of the features I think you might want to consider is that Mr. Gogo is suggesting that it shouldn't be just a once-in-a-lifetime option, that it should be open later on for a member to change his mind.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Gogo is making

two suggestions, one that it should be totally paid by the Legislative Assembly, and if that's the case, then it presumably would not be a voluntary matter at all; everybody would be automatically covered. I don't think the insurance companies would have any objection to that. The very nature of dental insurance is that all families are going to have some dental bills and they are never catastrophic. Some people with children who have gone to orthodontists — and I won't get into my professional opinion of orthodontics — may feel that \$5,000 is a pretty stiff fee, but it is not necessary to the maintenance of health. It's an option. People can decide to do it or not to do it for their children. If it can be picked up and dropped by members at their volition, I think the insurance companies would find that people would carry the optional coverage only for those years when these very large orthodontic bills were liable to appear. They don't appear when your children are under eight, and they disappear when your children reach the age of about 18, as a general rule. If that's the case, one can see where it's so open to abuse that it's not much wonder that the insurance companies insist on it being a one-time entry only. So I don't think that item will be negotiable with any insurance company. I don't think we should consider it. I think it would be turned down flat by any company that's carrying dental insurance.

On the matter of members being covered by the Legislative Assembly, that is of course a different policy from the one that applies to the management group. He is talking about a different policy. He's talking about a policy for total coverage by the "employer", because at the moment the optional coverage is not paid by the employer; it's paid by the employee. If we wish to make a switch, then we'd better be aware of the switch we are making compared to the general policy throughout government. In other words, if we are to say that because of the transient nature of the occupation and the fact that people may have had to drop equivalent coverage from their employers prior to being elected, that may well be a valid point that applies to members of the Assembly and does not apply to the management group within the government service. I think that would have to be the philosophy on which it would be based.

MRS. CRIPPS: I really don't think it's a good move for the Assembly to automatically cover. I think that's an option and if a member chooses it, then he should be prepared to pay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?

DR. REID: I might add, Mr. Chairman, that being somewhat long in the tooth and my children being past the age of orthodontists, there's no way that I would join a group system that covers orthodontics for the younger members' children.

MR. HYLAND: Don't feel bad. When I took it out I didn't have any children, so I didn't take the option.

DR. REID: It was done in anticipation, Alan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other expressions of opinion, or does someone have a motion that might indicate the consensus of the meeting?

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, based on my time as Whip, I didn't have this issue raised as a major concern of members at any time. Since I've ceased to be Whip, I haven't heard much concern about it. There are some members who seem to be concerned, but if they were to look at what I just said about the situation about dental insurance, I think they might well feel it is not going to be a worthwhile item to create a lot of noise about. So I'll move that we table the issue, or however you get rid of it, in the meantime.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. HYLAND: You don't want to table it, do you?

MRS. CRIPPS: We have an option right now of joining, do we not? It's a one-time option.

DR. REID: Yes, and it's gone by for everybody who is currently . . .

MR. HYLAND: Three months after the election or something?

MRS. EMBURY: Yes. It's all or nothing.

MR. STEFANIUK: When the plan was offered to members, they had that one opportunity to apply for optional coverage. So the present members have had their opportunity. It has expired, and they are not eligible to apply. In the event there were another general election, new members coming in at that time would have the option to apply.

AN HON. MEMBER: Or a by-election.

MR. STEFANIUK: Or a by-election, yes.

MR. HYLAND: Couldn't you argue that once the election is called, you're really not a member? No, that's not right. You're not a member after election day per se. You're in a kind of in-between period if you're re-elected. But there's a [inaudible] there by parliamentary law, isn't there? I know that insurance companies don't look at it that way.

MR. STEFANIUK: We took that up in connection with another issue previously, and I think we identified that because our members were paid in 12 equal installments and in the event they were re-elected the pay was not interrupted at all, they continued for purposes like this.

DR. REID: I think that was to ensure that other coverage continued, so I don't see how you can say that it is a new coverage for some specific purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'd have to negotiate that, possibly in the event of a general election, and see whether members who are re-elected might be able to enter the plan. We should put it on our checklist for general elections.

We have a motion to table. Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll report to Mr. Gogo that the committee preferred not to go into the matter further at the present time.

MRS. EMBURY: I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, when you said that we agreed not to go into the issue . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's what a tabling motion means.

MRS. EMBURY: Really. I guess to my mind it's a little stronger, in that obviously we're not accepting his recommendations at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but it's a motion to table. We haven't rejected them. Okay?

MRS. EMBURY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have "concerns of visitors", and there are no visitors. But that brings up a glaring omission on my part. I'm very happy that we have with us here, and I'm sure he is going to be taking a greater part in the proceedings shortly, Mr. Charles — otherwise known as Chuck — Eliuk, who has succeeded Charlene Blaney and who is now chief of administration in the department. I'm sure a number of you have already met Mr. Eliuk. I'd like to assure him that he's very welcome here, and I'm sure I'm expressing the perceptions of the committee when I say that we wish him well in his endeavours in his new line of service. That's not entirely unselfish, because what he does affects all of us in our work.

If you agree, I suggest that the minutes record a motion of welcome to Mr. Eliuk.

MR. ELIUK: Thank you.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, may we go into the 1985-86 estimates? Is there anyone who has no estimates book here? The first section is the one that usually serves as an introduction to the book, namely a dictionary of the terminology.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, most of us just got in last night, and I have a number of questions which are probably picky or just because I don't know and would like some information on them. I would recommend that we have this as a preliminary discussion and that it be in camera, because I think a lot of these things are details which I don't think should appear as part of the Members' Services committee meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know what Mrs. Cripps has in mind, but am I to take that as a motion?

MRS. CRIPPS: Yes.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, there is always a bit of concern about the public business being done in public. On the other hand, if you think back to some of the discussions we've had in the past about individual positions and items like that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one discussion of an individual position which will come up quite soon.

DR. REID: That's right. I'm thinking back to discussions about librarians and Hansard editors and things like that. Normally in a department, that type

of discussion would certainly not be held during a discussion of the estimates. If need be it can be, but it isn't normally. It is an administrative function. With the changes that have occurred in the function of this committee, to some extent I think it is becoming an administrative committee as they function in some other parliaments.

Perhaps we should have a preliminary discussion in camera of any items such as the one that Mrs. Cripps is mentioning or indeed that individual one that's going to come up in future discussions, rather than have all of that on the public record. I think that may be fair to the individuals concerned. It doesn't give me any difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion on Mrs. Cripps' motion? As I see it, the effect of the motion is to ask that the recorder be shut off and that the meeting continue only with members of the committee.

MRS. CRIPPS: I'm not concerned about who is here. It's going through all these picky little things.

DR. REID: We don't in actual fact have any members of the media here today.

MRS. CRIPPS: If they want to attend, I have no problem with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, then it's not . . .

MRS. CRIPPS: Oh, it's not in camera.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. In that event, do I construe your motion as asking that we go off the record as far as the verbatim report is concerned?

MRS. CRIPPS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we continue as we are here in the room now?

MRS. CRIPPS: I'm easy on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm just trying to construe your motion before I put the question.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I think that would be more useful because some of the discussions will obviously involve getting information from resource people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should think so.

DR. REID: We might as well have them here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. With those explanations of the motion, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

[The committee moved in camera at 9:45 a.m.]

MR. PENGELLY: In Room 312?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I assume. You know what they do with this room. They re-juggle it for press interviews. Do you want us to prevent that?

MR. HYLAND: You'll find a room somewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's see what's available. If we can't find anything else, we'll have to pre-empt the press.

MRS. CRIPPS: They're not usually around at 5:30 anyway.

DR. REID: Sometimes they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, sure. They make their little cubbyholes here and buttonhole ministers on the way by.

Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned, and we'll reconvene at 5:30 on Tuesday, October 23.