

[Chairman: Dr. Carter]

[9:33 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, members of the committee. The first item of business is to congratulate the Member for Rocky Mountain House on having gotten married in the last week.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It was a lot more fun than coming to this Members' Services Committee meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Two main items of business today: number one is to deal with item 8, the Representative opposition budget funding; the other will be to give approval to the total budget as we have worked our way through it. The Member for Little Bow is here and has a letter to be passed out. Perhaps Parliamentary Counsel could give him a hand at pushing it around the table.

Does the Member for Little Bow wish to make any comments?

MR. R. SPEAKER: What I understand, Mr. Chairman, mainly through the media, is that the concern of the committee is with regards to the use of Dr. Buck's and my leader's allowance for the next fiscal year, and that's what you're faced with at the present time. I had a discussion with Dr. Buck this morning and right after the issue was raised, and we've decided that under the circumstances, both Dr. Buck not running and my changing my political status somewhat, the only right thing to do would be to forgo that leader's allowance for the next fiscal year. I certainly recommend that the committee subtract it as such.

Now, I noticed in the paper that the number \$150,000 was there. I don't know how that was arrived at. From our figures it's something like \$117,000 or \$118,000 in the new budget. So I certainly recommend to the committee that they just take that amount out.

Then as far as my budget to the end of this fiscal year, I believe that's a separate matter of discussion, and I'm prepared to have discussions on that. Just as a bit of information on that, my intention would be to give notice to the staff that I have relative to the next fiscal year that their contracts will terminate as of March 31, 1989. So that's all in the works, and whatever we want to do, we want to take our responsibility in this matter. We're certainly not going to create any tensions or difficulties for your office or the Clerk's office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Chairman, there is a motion that we've already approved dealing with the member's allowance, moving that to \$36,000 per member on the operation of the offices here in Edmonton. The motion that was tabled was the motion dealing with the 3 percent increase to the leader's allowance of \$117,696. I had made that motion. If there is unanimous

consent, I'll be pleased to withdraw it at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

MR. BOGLE: So really there's no need for any other motion. Well, maybe we should formally move . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's better to formally do it.

MR. WRIGHT: The leader's allowance.

MR. BOGLE: Yeah, that's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who wishes to delete the leader's allowance? Taber-Warner? Thank you. Discussion? All those in favour of the motion, please signify. Opposed? Carried unanimously. Thank you.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. BOGLE: And it's clear that that's April 1 of 1989. It does not affect the budget from now until that point in time. The fiscal year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fiscal. That's correct. Okay. Thank you.

Well, that really has done it with respect to number 8, Representative opposition. We've approved that one. That section is complete.

All right. The Chair would entertain a motion now to approve the total budget package format. Cypress-Redcliff. All those in favour of the approval of the budget? Opposed, if any? Carried unanimously. Thank you very much.

Additional business of the committee. The next meeting at the call of the Chair, probably sometime during session. Okay?

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hopefully we won't dream up too many things.

Motion to adjourn.

MS BARRETT: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Edmonton-Highlands. Opposed? Carried. Away we go. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 9:39 a.m.]

