

[Chairman: Dr. Elliott]

[1:07 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as the Chair is concerned, we have only one item of business; we'll turn the meeting over to David Carter for a report.

DR. CARTER: For the purposes of the minutes, in my role as chairman of the search committee for the Chief Electoral Officer, we have duly sent a letter to you, Mr. Chairman, stating that the committee has reviewed over 200 applicants and has reached a decision, as of yesterday, that Patrick Ledgerwood be appointed Chief Electoral Officer for the province. The decision reached yesterday was unanimous. We now make a request to the Leg. Offices Committee to formally ratify the appointment.

If that is done, we will then proceed to notify all members of the Assembly. Hopefully there will be a letter from you to the Premier, as chairman of the Executive Council and they in turn will ratify the appointment.

On the basis of the decision of the committee yesterday, I contacted Mr. Ledgerwood and he was pleased to accept the appointment. We were caught in the business of which goes first, because if we weren't going to have an acceptance from him, then we were back to another alternative.

In that regard, Louise was able to obtain the other piece of paper from Treasury which — is this copied to everyone or is this just for me?

MRS. EMPSON: I've got them here.

DR. CARTER: This gives the breakdown on the salary. What it boils down to is that we have offered to Mr. Ledgerwood, and he has accepted, that the salary and benefit package be exactly the same as what is being paid to the current Chief Electoral Officer.

That's the basis of the report, Mr. Chairman. In due course I will make a motion that this committee ratify Mr. Ledgerwood as Chief Electoral Officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I recommend that we have your motion now. Then we can ask questions and discuss the motion. Is that acceptable to you?

Very well. We'll consider that as the motion. We're now open for questions or

comments on the topic.

MR. HIEBERT: It's like speaking to the converted.

MR. MILLER: We were there. It's you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did we disclose how many applications you had?

DR. CARTER: Two hundred and six.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hearing no questions or further comments, are you ready for the question?

HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those in favour of the motion? That motion is carried.

DR. CARTER: Can it please go into the record as unanimous, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will go into the record as unanimous.

Are there any further questions on that topic, or is there any further discussion with respect to your committee?

DR. CARTER: Perhaps in the minutes we could include the salary figures that are there.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, to David. In your report did you mention that the choice of the committee was unanimous?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I heard him say that. I was wondering if he had said how many people had applied. I hadn't heard that.

DR. CARTER: As a follow-up, we have the substance of a press release when that is deemed appropriate. The report which will go to all members of the Assembly is really going to be a one-page letter saying what we did and who we appointed. It will include a brief biography; actually this press release will probably be good enough. We thought, because we have enough position profiles left over, that we would chuck one of those into the package too.

Yesterday we reviewed the report that had been done in 1977, when Ken Wark was appointed. When you look at the four pages, it really boils down to -- you can do it in a letter. That's the way we intend to go.

Other than that, if anybody wants to hear the proposed press release, that might be the only other thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's back up for just a minute. How do you want to handle this for the purpose of this meeting? Do you want a separate motion for this, or did you include that in your motion?

DR. CARTER: That's right. We should have a second motion which says that he be received.

MRS. EMPSON: It could all be done in the same motion, I'm sure; the appointment of Pat Ledgerwood as Chief Electoral Officer at the same salary as Mr. Wark, including benefit package.

DR. CARTER: Same salary and benefit package?

MRS. EMPSON: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So it all goes in the same motion. Is that agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Are you going to outline the salary and the breakdown of the benefits in that to the MLAs?

DR. CARTER: No, not to the MLAs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. This is for the motion, for the record.

The next topic that he brought up was the discussion of the letter to the MLAs. David, are you preparing that letter, and would you then mail that letter to the MLAs with the attachments? Very good.

MRS. EMPSON: It's being prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good. Then that can go any time as far as our committee is concerned

DR. CARTER: I also spoke to Bill Payne this morning, since he's the minister responsible for Chief Electoral Officer, reporting to cabinet, so he knows who the search committee has unanimously recommended and that we're meeting today. We'll give him a copy of the letter today or tomorrow which, hopefully, you will write to the Premier. Louise has a copy of the letter in draft form.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Am I sending a letter to the Premier and to the MLAs?

DR. CARTER: I believe you would send the letter to the Premier, with a copy to Payne.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

DR. CARTER: And then by the wording of the original motion, I guess I, as chairman of the search committee, would have to sign the letter that's going to all the MLAs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fair enough. Any comment on that?

MR. MILLER: David, would you address your letter to the Premier with copies to the MLAs? A lot of the letters we get are addressed that way.

MRS. EMPSON: The letter is going to be individually addressed. Mr. Wark, Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Rogers will also have a copy of it. The Clerk of the Assembly also has to have a copy of it.

DR. CARTER: The report is supposed to be filed with the Clerk. He would get one individually addressed to him, and we would show at the bottom "copy to all members of the Assembly". We would do the other officers out of courtesy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What does this do with respect to the formal dismissal of your committee, David? It's not the concern of our committee, but it's your committee. It's still active on one other project, is it not?

DR. CARTER: That's a different committee. It has most of the same players, thank goodness.

Since we've given this motion to this committee and this committee has approved it, I believe our other committee now ceases to

exist.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will that, or anything else, be recorded anywhere in your letter to the Premier?

[The committee adjourned at 1:19 p.m.]

MRS. EMPSON: I don't think that's necessary, because once the committee's report is tabled, especially special committees, the committee ceases to exist.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's automatic.

MRS. EMPSON: It's automatic, unless the committee wants to discuss further. Then you have to go before the Assembly and ask for permission. There's no need for it here.

DR. CARTER: All the necessary cost and expense forms for that committee got in, didn't they?

MRS. EMPSON: I've got them all. But if they still come after, there would be no problem, because it was carried out during the life of the committee.

DR. CARTER: Are you going to grant an extra day's salary to the chairman and the vice-chairman to do the tidy-up work?

MR. THOMPSON: I think that's appropriate. I'll make that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those in favour? The motion is carried.

Does that terminate your report?

DR. CARTER: That's pretty well where it is. Do you want to look at this after the meeting?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can see it after the meeting. The meeting isn't going to be ratifying anyway; it's for information only.

As I understand it, the agenda for this particular meeting had only one item. Whether we now open the meeting up for other items is a place where the chairman would need guidance. Assuming there is no other item, we're prepared to adjourn. Can I have your guidance on that, please?

MR. MILLER: I so move.

