

Special Select Standing Committee on Members' Services

Thursday, April 7, 1983

Chairman: Mr. Amerongen

6:17 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could we come to order. Have you had a chance to look at the minutes of the last meeting? Before dealing with the follow-up items, perhaps we could see if there will be a motion for adoption.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: All agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. PURDY: There's one piece of business arising out of the minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are quite a few.

MR. PURDY: At the outset then, Mr. Chairman, you have stated the members absent. In our last Members' Services Committee, we did not show members absent. I was away because of sickness, but I don't think it should be shown.

DR. BUCK: Does it matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know.

MR. HYLAND: You don't get paid for it when session is on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't meet without a quorum anyway.

MR. HYLAND: As long as you have a quorum, I don't think it needs to be shown.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What's your wish?

MR. PURDY: That's what I'm getting at. If we have a quorum, I don't think it's necessary to show the members absent. It shows up anyway. I don't think it has to be written.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It only shows up if they don't speak.

MR. PURDY: Well, that's true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there a consensus in favor of anonymous absences?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Blain has very kindly prepared a list of follow-up items. They arise out of the March 28 and March 30 minutes. The first one is the job description. That was looked after, and I think we can forget about it. The second was a study of the cities most frequently travelled to by members.

MISS BLANEY: Not yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not yet. Over to the next meeting? Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next ones have all been looked after, until we come to the bottom. We're anticipating some information from the Clerk's office with regard to gasoline credit cards.

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, on that subject, we have information which says that:

Imperial Oil will assign a number to the universal gasoline credit card. However, [the Clerk's] Office must arrange with a security company for the design and printing of these cards. It will be necessary for the Legislative Assembly to contact the various oil companies and make arrangements for their outlets to honour this card. A listing of the participating companies would be provided on the reverse side of the card. The Legislative Assembly would be responsible for the total administration of the card, i.e. loss, theft, replacement. Each oil company would bill us directly for any purchases.

I think members of the committee might be interested in a statement which was made in connection with the universal credit card by Alberta risk management, which is a branch of the provincial Treasury. That statement is as follows:

The Government has decided against establishment of the universal gasoline credit card as the user must be totally responsible for the administration of the card. If the card was stolen or lost, the Government is financially responsible for any expenditure against the card until such time as it expires. The user must accept full responsibility for any card which is stolen or misused, and there is no right of recourse.

The committee felt that it is not in the best interest of the province to employ this system. Liability would have to be assumed and although there are firms in the private sector which provide this insurance, they were found to be too costly as investigated by risk management branch of Alberta Treasury.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I move we just maintain the status quo.

MR. MARTIN: I'll second that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Going to the next page of the follow-up items. The Clerk's office was requested to compile purchase and leasing costs for microcomputers, printers, and photocopying equipment.

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, on the subject of microcomputers, we have found that the model which has been most frequently purchased in recent times by members has been the Apple 2E. The price ranges from \$4,800 to \$5,300 per unit. The more expensive models include a letter-quality printer. The leasing ranges from \$48 to \$1,000 a month, again depending on the system and

the components. Most leases are lease-to-purchase plans and are spread over a 24- to 30-month period. The service rates are currently \$20 per hour, and the turnaround time on service is entirely dependent upon the size of the installation.

On the subject of photocopiers, we have looked at a photocopier which can take 8 1/2 by 11 and 8 1/2 by 14 paper; can use 16- to 24-pound bond paper and colored, self-adhesive labels; and uses a standard 110-volt circuit. We have looked at the question of service availability to remote locations in the province, reliability, and compactness. When we looked at purchase of 60-plus units of a Xerox 2600, which is probably the model which can be best suited to a constituency office, we're looking at a unit price of \$1,445 or a leasing price of \$110 per month. That will include shipping to each constituency and includes service in the first year. In future years, the service agreement is \$145 per year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your wish? Do you want to deal with this now? Or would you prefer to have copies of the information circulated so that it can be given further consideration for the next meeting?

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I think we should circulate the information, then we can think about it. I don't think it's the kind of decision we should make just straight off the dot here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. STEFANIUK: May I add one further consideration, particularly in connection with microcomputers. It occurs to us that it's rather doubtful that secretaries located in constituency offices will be knowledgeable in the operation of microcomputers. What would have to be taken into consideration in that event is provision of adequate training to staff employed in constituency offices. That training is usually available in the larger centres and is provided, in many cases, at no charge when the unit is purchased. However, in smaller centres, the likelihood is that the training is not available, and provision would have to be made for sending constituency personnel to some of the major centres where training is available -- obviously, those closest to them -- so that they might participate in such programs. Otherwise the machines will be standing unused. Then what must be considered for budgetary purposes is the cost to the user of providing such training, i.e. sending personnel to centres where training is available, their accommodation, meals, travelling expenses, and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll circulate the information and put the item back on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next item: members of the committee were going to discuss with colleagues in a somewhat similar circumstance to Mr. Weiss in regard to travel allowances for members in areas with fewer roadways, et cetera. Are there any members who have done that and who are ready to report?

DR. REID: I discussed it with other members -- not with Mr. Weiss because he was busy with the NADC meeting last week -- who have large constituencies, and the use of a plane is of varying significance. The difficulty is getting from here to the constituency and back, as well as the use within the constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Reid, I'm not sure just how sensitive this recording system is. Perhaps we shouldn't presume on it.

DR. REID: I am a little leery of the costs we're looking at, unless it's so severely restricted it may not be of much use. And the other thing is that we presumably have a redistribution coming up within the next four years, which will affect the situation after the next election. It may make some radical changes to some of those bigger constituencies. Some of them may be larger, and some may be smaller.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it really won't make the individual parts any more accessible or interaccessible. Aren't we in a situation where costs are being incurred, and it's a question of who bears those costs: the members personally or the public purse?

DR. BUCK: I don't think the committee should just overlook the representations that have been made. Look at the question involved. Part of the problem has been solved. Grant now has means; being Leader of the Official Opposition, funding is available for him. But that's not the point. The point is that that constituency may be represented by a private member some day. And there is a mechanism for some of the cabinet ministers who have these large constituencies to cover their area. It can be government business. But the thing is that we have to look at helping the members in years down the road, regardless of whether they're cabinet ministers, leader of the opposition, or what. I think the system that we're operating under now is grossly unfair to those members who have to service isolated areas.

Mr. Chairman, my representation is that we look at this question and resolve it. I think that members who have to dig into their own pockets are being unfairly treated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't want to invent work for the administration. They don't seem to be short of it at any time. But I wonder whether a practical way of going about it might be to see whether somebody in the administration could be spared to interview members who are in that situation, get ideas from them with regard to their costs and what they think would be equitable, and try to develop some proposal. I don't think we're going to be able to go into much detail on proposals around the table here.

MRS. CRIPPS: I know a number of members have been discussing it. We're talking about what possible solutions could be developed. I'd just like to table the matter for the present and come back to it when we've had a little more chance. If you remember, we just discussed this the day before Easter break. We've been gone until Wednesday. I don't know about the rest of you, but I think we've all been run off our feet since that point in time. I don't think we've had a chance to discuss it with our other members and come to some sort of consensus on what would be fair and equitable and, certainly, what would be most useful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long a period do you think it would be likely to take until you might have that opportunity?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I suggest we set the deadline for that information to be available at the next meeting or the one after that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because we are dealing with estimates, and we have to get them through. Have we the makings of a motion by Mrs. Cripps, seconded by Dr. Buck, that we table this until the meeting held nearest to two weeks from now? Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the next one. Mrs. Cripps was going to work out a proposal to take into consideration excessive wear on members' vehicles and so on.

MRS. CRIPPS: That's part of what I just tabled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So that item is to be given the same treatment as the preceeding one. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think those are all the . . .

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, there were a couple more matters. I have reports on them here. Another matter dealt with telephones and the use of long-distance credit cards. As I understood the directives of the meeting, we were asked to investigate the cost of installing private business lines in each member's residence with a view to the member initiating long-distance calls on a direct-dial basis from those private business lines. Our study shows that the cost of installation and payment for a one-year period for private business lines in each member's home would amount to, in round figures, \$25,000.

We have heard from media broadcasts earlier this week that it's AGT's intention to increase operator-handled calls, which includes calls handled through credit cards, by 40 per cent. So the moneys which we have shown in the budget -- I believe it's about \$176,000 -- should probably have 40 per cent added to it, if we're going to continue to use credit cards extensively.

In these circumstances, Mr. Chairman, the administration is respectfully recommending that we proceed with the installation in each member's home of a private line business telephone and that a policy be instituted whereby members are directed to use their long-distance credit cards only in the event that they do not have access to a phone where they can conveniently dial direct. That would include then, direct dialling from the member's home, the constituency office, and their office in the Legislature Building.

MR. PURDY: I move the recommendation of the Clerk.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That we proceed on that basis?

DR. BUCK: May I ask a question? Do you need a seconder?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't need seconders in the House. I don't see why a committee should.

MR. HYLAND: I just had my hand up and Bill spoke up. I was going to do the same thing, except that I think we may have to add to it. I don't know about the rest, but the number I've got now is the number I'd like to have on that phone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's something that can be worked out with Clerk's office, when the thing is done.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I have a small question. Would the different caucuses be able to give us some indication -- I already have a second phone and some of the members have, so the \$25,000 may be high.

MR. STEFANIUK: For budgeting purposes, I think we have to go on the basis of 79 phones.

DR. REID: It's the easiest way to do it, I think.

MR. PURDY: A question on my motion, to the Clerk. Does this include installation into rural farm areas such as the \$100 . . .

MR. STEFANIUK: Do you mean the installation of a private line, where private-line service isn't available? We've already had those installed.

MR. PURDY: However, there's a second phone going in, according to the motion. Does the \$25,000 include that cost?

MR. STEFANIUK: My interpretation of this is that the private-line service is already available. As long as the line has been installed, and we've already paid for that, we can tack another phone onto that cable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Apparently the lines will accommodate another phone.

MR. HYLAND: In that case, they've kept the other phone from the party line, but they're still billing to the credit card because of the system we have.

MRS. CRIPPS: Same with mine.

MR. STEFANIUK: If Shirley already has a private phone and her party-line phone, then if it's convenient to her, we will simply take over the monthly costs, plus the calls on the private-line phone. What we would propose to do is an internal audit from time to time, a spot check type of arrangement whereby we would send a copy of the long-distance totals to the member for home installation, constituency office, even the offices here. I'd ask the member to verify that those in fact were legitimate business calls.

MR. HYLAND: You're doing that on the credit card now anyway.

MR. STEFANIUK: Charlene just advises me that the numbers would be listed in the telephone directory with the letters "MLA" after the name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that included in the cost?

MR. STEFANIUK: Yes.

DR. BUCK: Whoever doesn't have that already is not a very good politician.

MRS. CRIPPS: I have it, but they charged me to do it.

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I seem to be lost on this item. It seemed to me this was a benefit for the rural MLAs. I can't see how it would work in the cities. I didn't think we could direct dial.

MR. STEFANIUK: We're saying that you would be able to direct dial if we provided you with a separate phone for that purpose. So you can do your MLA business from that phone.

DR. BUCK: It's just that it's cheaper.

MRS. EMBURY: I know it's cheaper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You could phone your office in Edmonton, for example.

MR. STEFANIUK: You can do that on RITE.

MR. HYLAND: Yes, but that's usually jammed so damn tight, you can never get on it.

MRS. EMBURY: You mean to say that in Calgary now, you can direct dial to Edmonton?

DR. BUCK: To just about anyplace in the province.

MRS. EMBURY: Oh, I see, dial 1. Sorry. Well it sounds so ridiculous to have another phone. I have one at the house and one at my office. It seems to be duplicating.

MR. STEFANIUK: The difference is this, Sheila -- to try to provide an example. If a direct-dialled call is going to cost \$1, then by using your credit card, the charge is automatically doubled. That same call costs \$2. With the latest proposal from AGT, that call is now going to cost \$2.80. So rather than pay \$2.80, you can make that call for \$1 by using direct distance dialling. We have the overhead cost of \$25,000 for all members built in. We feel we can recover that in a very short period of time.

MR. HYLAND: And if we want an extension, we pay for that out of our pocket.

MR. STEFANIUK: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the committee see any advisability in preparing any sort of guidelines? I suppose it would be elementary that if the phone were used for personal business, calling up or down one's mother-in-law, or something like that, we would expect the member to 'fess up to that and pay the costs.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, it's not a problem because we already have the credit cards on the honor system. This is no different. We all have our second phones that we use for personal business, so there's no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion on the motion? I take it we can pass the motion. If we run into some difficulties in implementing it, we'll come back to the committee. Everybody agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carried.

MR. STEFANIUK: In that regard, Mr. Chairman, because we lack experience, I'm suggesting that we might leave the budget figure where it is for this year and understand that from that budget, we will have to pay out for this capital investment of \$25,000. We fully anticipate that experience will show that we will not use the entire budget as provided, if that is agreeable to the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't recall. Did we approve that appropriation, or was it put in abeyance? If any of the appropriations with regard to which we have additional information now were not approved, we ought to do that.

MR. STEFANIUK: No, it's not; it's pending. My notes don't show that it has been approved.

MR. PENGELLY: Mr. Chairman, my notes show that we held that over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. In view of that motion having been passed, do you now want to approve that appropriation?

MR. STEFANIUK: That's 400, on page 9, Mr. Chairman, for a total of \$210,107.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready to go back to where we left off?

MR. STEFANIUK: I have one more item under Code 430. Questions were raised -- and I'm not sure whether they were raised at the meeting or privately afterwards. But in any event, I have been asked by some members of the committee to look into the items under Code 430 on page 10 of the working papers, dealing with letterhead. Particular reference was made to the two items for letterhead and envelopes budgeted at \$48,000 apiece.

We show a need for 258,000 sheets of letterhead, of which 158,000 would be overprinted to show the MLA name and whichever addresses he or she would prefer. I was asked, relative to the letterhead, to determine the additional cost for using full color on the coat of arms, and the additional cost for overprinting or personalizing the letterhead. My calculations show that if we were to employ an embossed letterhead, not personalized, we would realize a saving of about 14 per cent. If we were not to emboss, not personalize, and only print in one color, we could realize a saving of between 30 and 35 per cent.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, that's only on the letterhead. The envelopes would be the same price and so would the small -- I always call them hasty notes.

MR. STEFANIUK: The envelopes are personalized to some extent as well.

MR. HYLAND: But they're not colored.

MR. STEFANIUK: No. The colored letterhead is being produced pursuant to an earlier directive of the Members' Services Committee. If the committee wishes to effect some savings in this area, perhaps it could provide us with other direction in respect of the style of the letterhead.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, a question to the Clerk. What kind of stock do we have left of the colored ones?

MR. STEFANIUK: Offhand, we estimate about 100,000 in stock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the printers -- I guess they come in as needed.

MR. STEFANIUK: We have the printer hold it, and we bring it in as we require it.

MR. PURDY: I personally think we should stay with the decision we made in Members' Services a couple of years ago, with the colored letterhead. It looks a lot better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you think it makes our replies that plead frugality less convincing?

MR. PURDY: No, I wouldn't say that. A lot of people have commented on it.

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, I guess where there's a problem, or will be -- it's one thing when you take your average correspondence, written by an MLA specifically to a constituent. But I guess the problem really arises with the use of the word processor. I don't know if this occurs as much in the rural areas -- it could, I guess -- but I know that in the city, it's nothing now to turn out 250 to 500 letters responding to a mailing list. They're not necessarily responding to direct correspondence from the constituent.

So if you look at everybody doing that, it is obviously going to be quite a change in the budget. It seems so many of our items have to be all or nothing because of the differences. I don't know if people feel strongly about using the colored when they are writing directly to a constituent. If people are going to do that on the word processor, I guess I would see that it was in black and white.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's another possibility too, that for some printers attached to word processors you may want continuous feed.

What's your wish?

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, this might help the committee in its decision. When I look at the figures for letterhead alone -- because included in this overall figure of \$48,000 are things like second sheets, which is blank paper, memorandum paper, the letterhead for the officers of the Assembly, the things that are used in the offices here -- the actual cost of letterhead as such is \$33,000. Then with the 30 per cent saving, we are talking about something just around \$10,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carry on as previously? Is there a motion?

DR. BUCK: Can you just review for me, Mr. Chairman, what is "as previously"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What we're doing now.

DR. BUCK: What are we doing now?

MR. STEFANIUK: We're under Code 430, professional, technical, and labor services, Mr. Chairman, the section dealing with printing and with the question raised in connection with the letterhead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What we're doing now is producing them in quantity with the colored coat of arms, and then we're overprinting them. As I understand it, if we stay with the status quo that's what we'll continue to do.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. STEFANIUK: Is that to be construed as approval of Code 430, because those were the items outstanding, for a total of \$1,519,159?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 430 is approved.

MR. HYLAND: That doesn't include overprinting on these quick notes, or whatever you call them.

MR. STEFANIUK: No. The only thing we foresee being overprinted or personalized is letterhead.

MR. PENGELLY: Mr. Chairman, as a matter of interest, I wonder how many MLAs make use of the overprinting now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know.

MR. STEFANIUK: Not very many, Mr. Chairman. However, this budget is very high in comparison to the figure that was actually used last year. If the service is available again, as with all other services available to members, we feel we're compelled to budget on the basis of every member using the service. If they don't, fine; there's a saving that goes back to the General Revenue Fund.

MR. PENGELLY: I was only going to suggest that there are probably a lot of members who don't realize that they could have it overprinted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do it.

DR. REID: I didn't even know it was available.

MRS. CRIPPS: I didn't know it was available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean you type the return address on each letter?

MRS. CRIPPS: Each address.

MR. HYLAND: I had mine done out of my communications budget.

DR. BUCK: So did I.

MR. PURDY: It's been there for about three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We've never done advertising of opportunities to spend money. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we go back to Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, there was one other point I thought the Clerk was going to bring up this evening. I don't want to delay the meeting, but to go back to telephones. I'm still of the opinion that someone in my office up there should be plugging that system in so I can dial 1 and direct dial out of my office, and all the other members should be able to do it. We've had this in front of Members' Services and have never been able to get a directive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Clerk and I discussed this with Frank Appleby today. Apparently it's an in intracaucus matter.

MR. PURDY: Oh, is it?

DR. REID: The motion you introduced will cover it, and we'll now take that to caucus and do it.

MR. PURDY: Okay. I just didn't understand that clearly. There will be another saving there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the next one we're at, under Speaker . . .

MR. STEFANIUK: We left off having approved 290, on page 5, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker's budget, and we are now looking at code 350, on page 6.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody together on page 6, Code 350? As I understand it, those rental items are based on what we're being charged right now. Is there a motion or discussion?

MR. PURDY: So moved, 350.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 400?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 410? This indicates an increase of 172 per cent, but it's one of those transfers. Right now these items are on a service agreement, but they weren't previously. That was one thing we didn't know. We didn't know we could get our dictating machines serviced in-house. Code 410 is agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 430, page 7.

MR. PURDY: A question, Mr. Chairman. Temporary staff: are they going to be utilized for the holiday season or what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That sort of thing, illness. Any comments or discussion?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 500, page 8. This is new. It involves the word processor that has just been installed in the Speaker's office, the last member in the House to get access to word processing.

MR. HYLAND: But you've got one all by yourself. I've got 20 to 1.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 510, hospitality.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 600, page 9. These are miscellaneous items that aren't standard stock items kept on hand in the administration of the Assembly.

MR. STEFANIUK: It's stationery, basically, and office supplies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Desk trays, dividers, tabs for notebooks: stuff like that.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 002, supplies: that's a total. There's nothing under 790; nothing under control for that. Page 11, Code 850: nothing there. Page 12, No. 900: as far as I know, that's all statutory. We can't really disagree

with it unless you want to do it in the Assembly. Should we go to the next, government members?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I believe the agreement we made at the last meeting was to go to Library, Hansard, Interns, and Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Suppose we start with Committees. Is there anything of a general nature before we go into the individual items?

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, without knowing what the intentions of the Assembly are relative to committees, this is pretty well a standard figure that we've budgeted every year. In those years when there has been an abundance of special committees, such as the ones we had on Surface Rights and on the Constitution, the expenditures obviously exceeded the budget, and we had to seek special warrants for that purpose. But assuming that only the standing committees will meet, \$100,000 should suffice. But perhaps Mr. Blain, as Clerk of Committees, would care to comment.

MR. BLAIN: No, I have nothing to add to that. The \$100,000 is what I described to you some years ago as a "realistic token". We used to put in \$25,000 and consistently went over it, even for standard committee operations. So we put in \$100,000. If we go over, then a special warrant will be required. Experience has shown that the Assembly wants the committees, the committees must be paid for, and there'll be no problem about the special warrant.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question of the secretary of caucus, Dr. Reid, and of members. Is the Ombudsman committee going to be activated this year?

DR. REID: The Committee on Legislative Offices.

DR. BUCK: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think they're meeting next week sometime.

MR. PURDY: We're meeting on Monday.

DR. BUCK: I'm just wondering how active those legislative committees will be this year. But if Mr. Blain says \$100,000 is adequate then I guess . . .

MR. BLAIN: No, I didn't say it was adequate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an intelligent guess.

MR. BLAIN: I said it's a realistic figure. In many instances, we've no way of knowing what will happen until a motion appears on the Order Paper, either referring to a standing committee or striking a special select committee.

DR. BUCK: Maybe the hon. member from Hinton can give us some inside information.

DR. REID: My understanding is that most of this budget is for committees meeting not during the time the Legislature is sitting. The costs of running Public Accounts, Private Bills, and those committees is very slight. This is to cover the likes of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund in the fall, the ongoing meetings of this committee, and the Committee on Legislative Offices. There

would be inspired guesswork on any other additional special committees the Legislature might choose to form for any particular purpose.

MR. BLAIN: For example, it's public knowledge that in the Speech from the Throne it is mentioned there will be a committee on workers' compensation. As it was in the Speech from the Throne, it's reasonable to assume it will take place this year.

MR. HYLAND: That's a statutory thing, too. It meets every so many years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll go to the interns next. There's nothing under codes 100, 110, or 120. Code 130. Mr. Blain has another commitment he can't avoid. If we have anything for him, we'll get it out of the way.

MR. PENGELLY: Mr. Chairman, I have one question on Code 130. I don't understand why there would be a 2 per cent increase for merit, when they are employed over such a short time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would not necessarily be paid. They do, however, improve over that period. The first two weeks are spent in orientation. Their services certainly pick up after they've been there three or four months.

Any other questions?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shouldn't do any horn tooting, but it has been said that we have the best intern program in North America. Bill Purdy is very familiar with it, having done a lot of work on it. As a result of that program, there have been 55 outstanding students from Alberta universities who have become very directly familiar with the working of our parliamentary system of self-government. I'm sure a lot of those are future leaders.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add that the compliments of this committee should be paid to whoever is on the selection group. Since this program was instituted, we haven't had a bummer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We've been very fortunate.

MR. HYLAND: It would make us look bad if we said we did after you'd turned them over to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: While I'm on the topic, the Clerk represented us last year at the -- we get these invitations every year, and I haven't been able to go to them. I guess they're going to stop inviting me. The Americans are trying to establish some contact with us in a parliamentary sense. The Clerk and Clerk Assistant have been to a Clerk's meeting in connection with it in Denver. Last year I asked the Clerk if he would represent us in the meeting in Chicago. I might not have asked him if it had been in Miami, but I thought Chicago was all right. Anyway, he went and picked up a fair amount of useful information. One of the things was a contact with Benson & Hedges. I don't know if they have a guilty conscience about selling tobacco or not, but they indicated -- see what brand he's smoking.

MR. PENGELLY: The 17 cases he brought back with him.

MR. STEFANIUK: No, no. It's Philip Morris in the States, and I can't stand them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Philip Morris is their parent company in the United States. They have a personality lady who works for them in both Canada and the United States. As a result of that contact, she came here two or three weeks ago. She has offered to contribute, through Philip Morris, from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to enrich our intern program.

MR. STEFANIUK: Would it be fair to mention, Mr. Chairman, that my trip to Chicago paid for itself, and then some.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't got the money yet. Anyway, the likelihood is that we'll work out some specific proposal for Philip Morris' approval and get the money.

Incidentally, this is a digression, but Benson & Hedges are also interested in the possibility of funding or helping to fund interlegislature exchanges between members of our Legislature and members of American state legislatures. I don't know what's going to come of that, but something may.

MR. STEFANIUK: I've established a contact with Louisiana, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the members, he's discussing it with Louisiana.

Code 140 is one of those inevitable ones that arises out of the other figures. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 150.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 200. In connection with their experience, the interns go to the conventions of the Alberta political parties. They usually get free admission. We keep pointing out each year that it's not an integral part of the program, but in the last two or three years we have arranged for them to go to Ottawa to get some familiarity with the Parliament of Canada. In that regard, we also get some private funding. Alberta Power, quite unbidden, has been contributing \$1,500 toward that Ottawa trip, which I think pays most of it -- a good part of it, anyway. In addition to that, travel within the province: what happens is that the interns come from Alberta's three attendance universities -- Lethbridge, Calgary, and the University of Alberta. They have six seminars per year at the universities: one at the University of Lethbridge, two at Calgary, three at Edmonton. That's included. We're always very, very frugal with the funding. They never get a thing like that approved without submitting a budget beforehand. They usually come in under budget, and they share accommodation and things like that.

Agreed for Code 200?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have nothing on page 5. On page 6, we go to Code 410.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 7, Code 430. You're wondering about the one typewriter? Sometimes they do some of their own typing. The secretaries don't like to have them use their typewriters.

MR. HYLAND: I was going to say that one was getting away pretty damn cheap.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For many years, we didn't even have that.
Vote 430 is agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's nothing on page 8. Page 9, code 600.

MRS. CRIPPS: There is something on page 8.

DR. BUCK: Hospitality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, sorry. I missed that one. Is 510 agreed? That's usually the intern/MLA dinner each year.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, I think we should look at increasing this one. With the new catering service downstairs, if the interns decide to use that route, it's going to cost them more than \$375 to look after, say, 40 members of the Legislature and themselves at \$7 a plate, and a little bit of wine they always lay on. I think we'd better look at having the Clerk get his calculator out and increasing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: \$800?

DR. REID: It would need to be somewhere near the \$500 bracket.

MR. HYLAND: Let's not be cheap. Let's make it \$1,000.

MRS. CRIPPS: Oh, Alan. Sixty members times \$7 is only \$420.

MR. PURDY: Then you use a little wine, too.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I amend that to read \$500.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed, \$500?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 600. This is part of their research work. We didn't used to give them these subscriptions, but sometimes they had trouble getting to the papers while they were still fresh. Is Code 600 agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 790. We made an error in calculation last year. That's why that has increased 50 per cent.

MR. STEFANIUK: That is the advisory committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: These are the three representatives of the three universities: one from each of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Edmonton. They come to these meetings and, believe me, the one when we interviewed, for example . . .

MR. HYLAND: This is just travel?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is an honorarium, a *per diem*. For example, when we had the last meeting of the selection committee, because the air lines had cut out some of the flights, the representatives from Lethbridge and Calgary -- one spent two days here and the other, three, if I'm not mistaken. Of course, they just get the honorarium for the meeting. We didn't get any more money for that, although we picked up their hotel bills.

MR. HYLAND: Then they still get their wage anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, the honorarium is per meeting, not per day. Incidentally, that last meeting started at eight in the morning and finished a little after six in the evening, with half an hour for lunch. They earned it. So did I, but I didn't get it.

MR. HYLAND: How do we pick up their travel? Out of something else?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. HYLAND: Okay. That worries me more than their honorarium does, if they should have to travel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. There's nothing under 850 on page 11 and nothing under 900 on page 12. That brings us to Hansard. Are there any general comments or questions before we get into the details? Page 1, salaries. We're pretty well locked into that. Code 100 is agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 120 on page 2. This can fluctuate, of course, because of the length of time the House sits. Otherwise, we have little control.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 140 on page 3. We're locked into that. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 150.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 200, page 4.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next one is 290, on page 5.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just in passing, perhaps at a future meeting -- the Members' Services Committee has jurisdiction with regard to *Hansard* subscriptions. They've been \$15 a year, and we haven't increased them since we started in 1972. You might want to take a look at that. It's a bargain if you're using it out of your communications allowance.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just for interest, how many *Hansards* do we send out in subscriptions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not an awful lot. I can get you the figures.

DR. BUCK: No, it was just for interest's sake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's 470.

DR. BUCK: That's not too many people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's not a best seller.

MRS. CRIPPS: I don't think many people know it's available.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, people with subscriptions, like the university libraries, do they get them on a daily basis or bundle five together and ship them out on Friday.

MISS BLANEY: Daily.

DR. REID: With the present postal service, I don't think there's much advantage to mailing them out daily, because it takes two weeks to get there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like us to ask Hansard to consider sending them once a week? Miss Blaney has another angle to that, that I hadn't thought of.

MISS BLANEY: The printer does the distribution for us, so it would mean he would have to store and do the collation.

MR. STEFANIUK: And the wrappers are designed in such a way that they fit around a single issue, and they go out that day. If we were to ask the printer to manually put together five *Hansards* for a week, for example, then put them in a wrapper of a certain kind, and pay him for the handling and storage, we may be into more money.

DR. BUCK: For the 400 people who are suffering, let them suffer any way they want to.

MISS BLANEY: I know the editor of Hansard is doing some research into the most economical way they can be distributed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's a well-run operation. We've been very fortunate. I'd stack it up against any *Hansard* in Canada.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DR. REID: Just the mailing, that's all I was wondering about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I could just make another comment with regard to Hansard expenses. We've gone out to tender for the printing each year. Unfortunately, because of the kind of tape we produce for our phototypesetter, we're limited to one bidder. That is about to be changed. Hansard is about to get in-house word processing, and we'll now be able to produce a tape which will be compatible with the equipment of perhaps two, three, or more bidders. The chances are that that may save us money.

Code 350, on page 6. Here is what I just mentioned. We've been paying the government processing centre for looking after Hansard so far, and on occasion we've had trouble when they've had breakdowns there. I think we'll be able to give a little more reliable service by having in-house equipment. There seems to be a tendency in that direction anyway.

MRS. CRIPPS: With that kind of price for rental of data processing, isn't it almost more reasonable to buy?

MR. STEFANIUK: This is on a lease/purchase, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can buy at the end of three years or 30 months.

MR. STEFANIUK: What I would draw members' attention to is that I'm looking at some figures that were submitted earlier, before this equipment was finalized or we concluded that this equipment was desirable. Our payment to the Data Centre for data processing services would have been \$103,000. Under code 500, we are now showing \$47,000, and we've moved those other figures into 350. So we're taking away from one and putting them into our own equipment, which is an investment in the longer term. We're looking at a 36-month lease, with the option to buy it for 10 per cent at the end of that period.

MRS. CRIPPS: So the \$47,690 is really on a rental purchase.

MR. STEFANIUK: That's right.

MRS. CRIPPS: And it'll be about \$15,000 to buy it out.

MR. STEFANIUK: I don't have the figures with me.

MRS. CRIPPS: I'm just tripling this price and taking 10 per cent of it, approximately ~~\$15,000~~ to buy out.

MR. HYLAND: Then these things change. In three years, there could be a better system.

MR. STEFANIUK: We're very reluctant to commit ourselves to purchase on day one, because part of this agreement -- and I've been personally involved in the negotiations -- provides that we go on straight rental for one complete session. That will give us actual on-site experience with this equipment. At the end of that time, we can return it with no penalty other than the rental cost. We feel we want that kind of protection built in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I must say that the Hansard editor, the Clerk, possibly Miss Blaney, and some others, have really studied this thing. They've spent months at it. I'd say Bob Bubba has practically become a specialist or an expert in word processing equipment.

Okay, that's code 350.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 400.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 410.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next page, Code 430.

MR. HYLAND: There's not much choice about that, is there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We go to tender and try to meet the demand too. Code 430 is agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 500, page 8.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I presume that the drop by about half in this one is related to switching to the other system. This is just the other side of the coin.

MR. STEFANIUK: I hasten to mention as well to the committee that the new system is designed in such a way that there is a main-frame processor, with 12 terminals attached to it, to produce *Hansard*. Six of the terminals rely on the main-frame processor, but the other six can be self-propelled. So if the main-frame goes down, we've got a built-in auxiliary system, if you like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 500, agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 510.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Code 600.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Skipping over to code 850 on page 11.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. STEFANIUK: Code 900? That's the statutory thing, Mr. Chairman, the pension.

MISS BLANEY: Everyone gets it whether or not they use it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I have no figures.

MISS BLANEY: It would be \$741,922.

MR. HYLAND: Why is that tucked in the end of *Hansard*?

MR. STEFANIUK: If you look at the individual items, it's pension . . .

MISS BLANEY: It's working papers. Everyone gets this same set whether or not they use them.

MR. STEFANIUK: These are standard papers -- dental plan, health care coverage.

MRS. EMBURY: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I'm racing to keep up with you, because I'm not familiar with it. I've gone back to the main sheet that comes after Hansard. I'm reading the percentage change from forecast, and I find those percentages interesting. I just wonder if I'm reading them right. Is that a 31 per cent increase in salaries?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any explanation?

MISS BLANEY: The figures we've used are effective for April 1, 1983, and they reflect the settlement between the union and the government. They're current figures.

MR. STEFANIUK: Normally this budget would be gone through in the fall, and at that stage we would not know what settlements are to take place with the union. Because this budget was going through so late, we know what the settlements have been and, as a result, we have reflected those in these salaries.

MISS BLANEY: It's two years. It includes two years' catch-up: April 1, 1982, and April 1, 1983.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So really the percentage is somewhat fictitious, I guess, although realistic on the basis the figures.

MISS BLANEY: In all of our elements, you'll see that manpower is substantial. I think the lowest was somewhere between 22 and 28 per cent.

MR. STEFANIUK: What we normally do, Mr. Chairman, when these estimates are prepared-- and some of these were prepared last summer because that's when we get into budgeting -- we will make the provision for the settlement that has taken place in that year, and rely on the salary contingency fund to pick up what may be granted the following year. This time we know what has happened, and consequently we will not be drawing on the salary contingency fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready to go to the Library?

MRS. CRIPPS: I see you have two new permanent positions in Hansard. I'm sorry I missed it when we went through it.

MR. STEFANIUK: We've moved them from one area to another. We have no bodies, but we may have moved them out of contract.

MR. HYLAND: You mean they're becoming full-time instead of part-time.

MR. STEFANIUK: We had 10-month contracts. We've moved them into full-time because the other just isn't realistic. So we're switching bodies from one area to another. In effect, there is no net increase in the number of bodies in Hansard.

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, before we move on from Hansard, I would like to raise one further question. In light of the fact that the committee has now agreed to the items dealing with the in-house computer installation, at the

earliest possible time we must effect the contracts. I have withheld execution of the contracts with NBI, the supplier, until such time as the committee could review this particular budget. We are looking for some initial training and a final installation date of August 1. I wonder if I may have the approval of the committee to now proceed with the execution of the contracts?

MR. HYLAND: I would make that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? All agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYLAND: May I ask one more question? It's related to a lot of this. In a lot of these I notice there's printing in them in smaller amounts. Do we bid all that stuff out? I'm just thinking there are a lot of printers in other parts of Alberta besides Edmonton and Calgary, smaller printers that can pick up -- maybe not 210,000 letterhead but maybe 50,000 -- these kinds of things. Are these guys getting a kick at the cat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The programs for the opening, for example, were printed in Calgary.

MR. STEFANIUK: Mr. Chairman, in that regard, what we buy for mass distribution is obviously the very large volumes. We're compelled then to deal with the printer, as we do with the letterhead, who has the facilities to print 100,000 or 200,000 letterhead, hold them in stock for us, and overprint. Where members are contracting printing for smaller items, especially that which is coming out of their communications allowance, we're encouraging them to give that business to local people.

MR. HYLAND: That's what I do.

MR. STEFANIUK: That way they get, if you like, their kick at the cat.

MR. HYLAND: I wondered if some of the other stuff could go out to some of these areas too.

MR. STEFANIUK: We'll certainly continue take a good hard look at it to see where it's practical.

MR. HYLAND: I say that because the printer at Bow Island had a contract with the Bay in Edmonton. He did all their printing. He isn't a big printer, but he could handle something like that. He got it because he had the best price.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion on that. Okay, we'll go to the Library. Any general inquiries or discussion before we go into the individual items. I should say that the Library is really well administered. Blake McDougall, the present librarian, had considerable library experience before he came to us; we stole him from the city of Edmonton Centennial Library. He's an excellent administrator, very businesslike. I get an excellent report from him each month, which you're welcome to see any time you want. It shows how many titles are acquired, how many inquiries are looked after, and so on. He seems to have the respect of all his staff.

Library, page one, Code 100, salaries, permanent positions.

MR. STEFANIUK: Attached to this sheaf of working paper at the back, on Legislature Library letterhead, there is a breakdown of the various permanent staff positions in the library.

MR. HYLAND: A couple of questions. I notice one research officer vacant; our letter notes July 31, 1982. Has that been filled yet.

MISS BLANEY: Yes it has.

MR. HYLAND: There's another one proposed somewhere. MISS BLANEY: For this fiscal year.

MR. HYLAND: Has that been filled?

MISS BLANEY: No, it wouldn't be until after the estimates are approved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is following a program that was approved by a previous Members' Services Committee.

MR. PURDY: That was approved in 1980, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's been going along gradually.

MR. HYLAND: As you know, when we went to the Territories there was a research paper done. It was maybe good for somebody who had a lot of university education, but somebody like me, who doesn't -- I had trouble understanding it. It seemed to me that the research done was academic research, not the type of research that probably Walt gets or we get from our research people -- something that we can use. I wonder who actually uses this facility, how busy are they, and who is this done for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members use it; I use it. We use it for delegations going to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings, for example. I know what you mean, Alan. Some people who do too much living in the halls academe forget how to use simple English.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't at the parliamentary conference but I heard about it afterward. After they'd listened to political science professors all day, one person said: you know the analogy of a doctor being taught by a doctor; the engineer being taught by the engineer, but we've listened to political scientists with no practical experience.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was me.

MR. HYLAND: I know. That's what I think may be happening in that research component, and I question the value of it.

MR. PENGELLY: Well, Alan, we'll just see that you don't go to the Territories again.

MR. HYLAND: It happens no matter where you go.

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, you mentioned this was part of an ongoing program passed, I believe, in 1980. I wonder where we're at in that program. We're increasing the staff. They had a vacancy for awhile for some reason, and now we're adding another one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My recollection is that the limit was six. The service is based somewhat on -- When this librarian started, he and I discussed a research service for members, more or less under neutral auspices but with highly qualified specialists, somewhat analogous to the research service available to the members of the House of Commons and Senate in Ottawa, where at one time they had about 50 highly qualified people. They're now considerably over that. Apparently that is a very valued service. So we gradually formulated plans to start a similar service here, the Members' Services Committee approved it, and we started to put in the service. Instead of starting right off with six staff people and a supervisor, we did it gradually. We stole the head of it, John McDonagh, from the parliamentary research service in Ottawa. He now has three specialists with him. For the members who avail themselves of it, they have a very high quality service.

I realize that there could be instances -- and I wish I'd known about this one sooner -- when the papers may be in somewhat, shall we say, highfalutin language. I think people should communicate in ordinary basic Anglo-Saxon English. But they do excellent service. I've used them a number of times in connection with my work and in connection with the parliamentary matters. We always use them when members go to parliamentary conferences of various kinds; we turn the agenda over. It has been my observation that in most cases, with the occasional exception of the province of Quebec, our delegations, our members who have attended these things, have been the best prepared.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, in answer to Alan's query I'd just like to say that we as members don't avail ourselves of the service as much as we should. My researchers use these people. The service is there, Alan, and they will do the job for you. Anything you want done, they will do.

MR. HYLAND: I guess what I'm questioning is -- okay, we have the one vacant and the one proposed. Out of their report, they got 71 inquiries in a year, and there are four and one more proposed. Seventy-one requests in one year doesn't seem like enough to need another person to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It depends on the nature of the requests. Some of them take weeks to meet.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Where our staff normally use that function is in the longer term projects; that is, those that require the most extensive work. We quite often pass them over to the researchers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think occasionally the researchers who do the work for you go there for background.

DR. REID: I look at the photocopy of their report, and I look at the cost of the service -- it may be a program that was started in 1980 with a view to going on to 1985, but that doesn't automatically put it in as a fixture written in stone. In view of what we're asking a lot of Albertans to do in 1983, to lower their expectations, and having inquired of our own caucus as to the amount of use that is obtained from the service, I don't feel that 1983-84 is the budget year to be increasing the personnel, in addition to the increases in costs that go with their increases in salary. I don't really feel that even the commitment made in 1980 should necessarily be an ongoing one with the economy and the outlook for a lot of Albertans the way it is. I think this is one place where we can afford to say, no, and defer the decision for one year, halt the growth of the program for one year, and review it next year.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, I guess Dr. Reid said just about what I was going to say. I was the person who made the motion in 1980, but we were in different circumstances in 1980. As Mr. Hyland has indicated, they had 71 projects that they worked on last year and 800-and-some the year before. We're not going to finish this tonight anyway; it's just about adjournment time. I would like to see this brought back to this committee, either the librarian to come in front of us or for them to do some research within their own research staff and just see how valuable they are: how much research they do for individual members of the Assembly, including the NDP and the Independents, and how much research they do for the interns. I think they have to start justifying their existence.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, according to that annual report, if you break that down, 36 are oral consultations. How long can that take? The remaining 35 are written communications, either inquiries or projects: 10 inquiries and 25 projects. If you divide the wages out, it works out to something in excess of almost \$2,000 a project. Even Walt doesn't get that kind of money looking at your teeth for 10 minutes.

DR. BUCK: You obviously haven't been to my office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have two minutes left.

MR. PURDY: Then I move that we hold it over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll either get the librarian, the head of the research service, or both to come to the next meeting.

What do you have in mind for the next meeting? We've made some pretty good headway today. Of course, we have the caucus budget to go through.

DR. BUCK: The only request that Mr. Martin made to me is to try to lay off Monday and Tuesday if possible.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Actually he indicated to me that Thursday evening is the only night he has free next week.

MR. PURDY: Next Thursday evening a lot of our members have committed themselves to a function with the chiropractors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Tuesday at 6:15.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Mr. Martin won't be able to make it next Tuesday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With a nine-person committee, we're going to have to try to please the majority.

MR. PENGELLY: He will have to be hear.

DR. BUCK: I will be away, but I've made arrangements with Mr. Speaker that one of us has to be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't got that much time. We can't pick and choose dates because we have to report back to the House and get our estimates through.

MR. MANDELBAUM: What Mr. Martin indicated to me is that the week after that the only evening he isn't available is Wednesday. Otherwise all the next week will be free.

t=0 What I'm thinking is that we would only be having the library budget to go through next week, then we would be getting right into caucus budgets.

DR. BUCK: No, we have to get moving more than that.

MR. MANDELBAUM: That's what I'm saying. That's why thought it might be best if the member were here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be. I'm sure everybody would welcome that. But I just don't think we have the luxury of postponing for a long time to fit schedules.

DR. REID: Is the priority for committee work not usually legislative committees, caucus committees, other caucus functions?

DR. BUCK: The only thing is that sometimes you have commitments, and you don't have any choice.

Mr. Chairman, my suggestion is: let's put it down for Tuesday night and see if Ray or Grant can make it. Or we can leave the Official Opposition that night and do the others. Let's put it down and if Mr. Martin or Mr. Notley can't make it, leave their budget that night and do the others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They may want to be here when the others are done in case comparisons need to be made.

MRS. CRIPPS: You ca be assured we're going to do that.

DR. BUCK: As long as you have your philosophy right, Shirley.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tuesday night, 6:15 to 7:45.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DR. BUCK: Can you give us an idea of how you want to run the agenda that night so our support staff can come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm at your disposal. I assume that we'll finish up the library, and then I guess we have to go to caucuses.

DR. BUCK: Let's make a decision on that, if it's agreeable to the committee, so we know for our support people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unless there was some indication otherwise, maybe we could just take them in alphabetical order: government members and, under opposition, NDP and Independents.

DR. BUCK: If need be, if there's a request from the NDP that they can't have anybody, we could hold that and go onto ours. So we'll go as they are unless there's some problem.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.