

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

June 15, 2004

MINUTE NO. 10

3:00 p.m. - Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. Lautermilch in the Chair and Members Chisholm, Hamilton, Higgins, Huyghebaert, Junor*, Stewart, and Yates.

Substituting Member

Ms. Junor for Ms. Higgins (for consideration of the Bill No. 50 – The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004, Bill No. 70 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004 and the Estimates for the Department of Labour)

Other Members

Mr. Krawetz, Ms. Eagles, Mr. Hart

Committee Official Present: Gregory Putz, Deputy Clerk

2. The committee considered Bill No. 65 - The Agri-Food Act, 2004.

The following Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Mark Wartman, Minister

Louise Greenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister

Roy White, Acting Manager, Agri-Food Council, Food Safety and Regulatory Branch

Joy Smith, Acting Secretary, Agri-Food Council, Food Safety and Regulatory Branch

3. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 47, they were agreed to.
4. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 65 - The Agri-Food Act, 2004 - without amendment.

5. The committee considered Bill No. 66 - The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Mark Wartman, Minister

Louise Greenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister

Mary Jane Laville, Manager, Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch

6. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 15, they were agreed to.

7. On motion of Ms. Higgins:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 66 - The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

8. The committee considered Bill No. 47 - The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Justice Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Frank Quennell, Minister
Karen Pflanzner, Crown Counsel, Legislative Services
Dave Wild, Chair, Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission

9. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 14, they were agreed to.

10. On motion of Ms. Hamilton:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 47 - The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

11. The following document was tabled:

ECO 8/25 Department of Labour: Supplementary Information in response to questions raised at the May 26, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 9, 2004, re: disposition of caseload files in the Office of the Workers' Advocate (OWA) 2003-2004.

12. The committee considered Bill No. 50 - The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Labour Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister
Bill Craik, Deputy Minister
Jim Nicol, Assistant Deputy Minister
Allan Walker, Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety
Glen McRorie, Assistant Director, Labour Standards
Marg Halifax, Director, Office of the Worker's Advocate
Kevin Kuntz, Manager, Budget and Operations
Melanie Baldwin, Registrar, Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board
Mary Ellen Wellsch, Manager, Legal Policy and Legislative Services

13. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 8, they were agreed to.

14. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 50 - The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

15. The committee considered the Estimates for the Department of Labour.

The following Department of Labour Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister

Bill Craik, Deputy Minister

Jim Nicol, Assistant Deputy Minister

Allan Walker, Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety

Glen McRorie, Assistant Director, Labour Standards

Marg Halifax, Director, Office of the Worker's Advocate

Kevin Kuntz, Manager, Budget and Operations

Melanie Baldwin, Registrar, Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board

16. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Labour \$14,187,000.00

17. The committee considered Bill No. 70 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister

Ron Styles, Deputy Minister

Arun Srinivas, Senior Analyst, Taxation and Intergovernmental Affairs

18. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 11, they were agreed to.

19. The question being put on Clause 12, it was agreed to on the following Recorded Division:

YEAS - 4

Lautermilch Hamilton Junor Yates

NAYS - 3

Chisholm Huyghebaert Stewart

20. The question being put on Clauses 13 to 17, they were agreed to.

21. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 70 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

22. The committee considered Bill No. 36 - The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister
Ron Styles, Deputy Minister
Len Rog, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue Division
Ron Dobson, Director, Provincial Sales Tax Branch

23. The question being put on Clauses 1 to 4, they were agreed to.

24. The question being put on Clause 5, it was agreed to on the following Recorded Division:

YEAS - 4

Lautermilch Hamilton Higgins Yates

NAYS - 3

Chisholm Huyghebaert Stewart

25. On motion of Ms. Higgins:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 36 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004 – without amendment.

26. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Department of Finance.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister
Len Rog, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue Division
Glen Veikle, Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Branch
Joanne Brockman, Executive Director, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch
Brian Smith, Executive Director, Public Employees Benefits Agency
Arun Srinivas, Senior Analyst, Taxation and Intergovernmental Affairs

27. On motion of Ms. Hamilton:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance	\$135,714,000.00
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For Finance – Servicing the Government Debt (Statutory)

Fiscal Stabilization Fund Transfer

Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Lending and Investing Activities

For Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)

For SaskEnergy Incorporation (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Finance – Debt Redemption (Statutory)

For Finance – Sinking Fund Payments – Government Share (Statutory)

28. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Centenary Fund.

The following Centenary Fund Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister

29. The committee concluded its consideration of the Estimates for the Centenary Fund.

30. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the draft First Report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be adopted and presented to the Assembly on June 16, 2004.

31. The committee adjourned at 5:33 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Iris Lang
Committee Clerk

Eldon Lautermilch
Committee Chair