

**General Revenue Fund
Legislation
Vote 21**

The Chair: — I'd like to bring your attention, committee, to the next item of business on our agenda . . . is the legislative estimates, that being item 1 of vote 21 on page 94 of the main *Estimates* book.

With that also, to note that the amounts for the Ombudsman, the Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioner, and Conflict of Interest Commissioner are done in the Legislative Assembly by the Justice minister.

With that I would welcome Mr. Speaker and his officials and allow Mr. Speaker the opportunity to have an overview of this area and then open up for questions from the members of the committee. Good morning.

The Speaker: — Good morning and thank you, Madam Chair. If I can begin by introducing the officials who are here to assist me to respond to your questions today. And I suspect most, if not all of them, will be familiar to you. But if they aren't familiar, then I would hope that they will be after I introduce them and from here on in.

Marilyn Borowski is our director of financial services in the Legislative Assembly, and next to Marilyn is Linda Kaminski, our director of personnel and administrative services. To my left is Gwenn Ronyk; everyone will know Gwenn as Clerk. Marian Powell, to my right, the Legislative Librarian. Starting wherever behind, Judy Brennan, the deputy legislative librarian, and Debbie Saum, my administrative assistant in my office.

Over on the wall is Bob . . . not on the wall, but also not off the wall . . . Let me make it clear on that, that he's neither on nor off the wall. But sitting near the wall is the Legislative Law Clerk, Bob Cosman. And beside Bob is Gary Ward, the director of broadcasting.

What I'd like to do first of all if I may, Madam Chair, is to put this scrutiny into context and then to just outline the big picture for the members, if I may.

As you said in your introduction, the estimates for the Legislative Assembly operations are here, referred by motion of the Legislative Assembly. And in doing that, it permits scrutiny by you of the area of operation for which the Speaker is administratively responsible without the Speaker having to come before the legislature, which would create some procedural complications. So it enables us to do that.

And what it does is it demands or provides the opportunity for the same level of scrutiny for expenditures and planning of budget related to the Legislative Assembly operations, much of which will be familiar to you and is designed in fact to serve you. But it undergoes exactly the same level of scrutiny as all of the budget proposal proposed by Executive Council.

In fact in having said that, we really are double scrutinized

because as you will know for the last I guess it's three years now, the Board of Internal Economy, which sets the budget that we're dealing with here, also met in this room on the record, and so there was scrutiny in fact in the setting of the budget. You bring scrutiny now in review of the budget before passing. And in fact, interestingly enough, we go even further. And Marian Powell will take great interest in this because the Legislative Library has triple scrutiny. Not only is it dealt with in the Board of Internal Economy and here but also in the Communications Committee which met in this room on the record earlier this week.

So what it really means is that in the expenditures related to the service to the members, it is not only the same level of scrutiny, public scrutiny, as all government expenditures but in fact literally double and in some cases triple.

What Linda has done is distributed to you the written responses to written questions that were given to me by Mr. Boyd and have previously been provided to Mr. Boyd and are now provided to you as well to provide additional detail to questions that you may have or may want to review later.

What I'd like to do is to, just by way of overview, is to just walk through the areas of service provided in these six votes. And a lot of this I think will be familiar to you, but in doing that also to explain to you why there are differences in the budgets in each of the category, what are the dynamics that are taking place that are happening there.

If we can just walk through, on the administration, you'll see then that this is the executive direction, the central administration, all our financial and human resource management, planning and policy development, central computer services. And this part of the budget represents an increase of \$152,000 this year over last. \$241,000 of that increase is there to provide members with the constituency office furniture and equipment.

So that explains, in fact, more than the total increase it comes . . . because of that. And you will be familiar with that. And if you aren't familiar with that, you certainly will be after the orientation with your caucuses next week. But I think probably you and maybe your constituency assistants may in fact be more familiar with that than you. That's quite possible.

That's offset by a \$90,000 decrease in information technology expenses for general administration. There had been some computer expenditures in the previous year that were not necessary to repeat that level of expense. So that explains the increase in 152,000 in administration.

Moving along to accommodation and central services, this is largely our commitment, financial commitment, to pay our rent to SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) but in the form of mail services, records management, and minor renovations. That represents an increase of \$3,000. And the explanation for that is an increase as a result of providing funds for freight charges for moving surplus MLA (Members of the Legislative Assembly) constituency office furniture and

equipment. As a result of the election and changes in MLAs, then there were freight charges that were higher that related to that, and it's part of the budget here.

The one that you will be most familiar with will be the third one, Legislative Assembly services. And this is a large number of the services provided to you to do your jobs are here: services for the operations of the House, for all of the committees, including procedural services protocol, the sessional including pages and so on; our security of the building, Sergeant-at-Arms and so on; our legal services, Mr. Cosman in his operation; public information, this is visitor services, broadcast services, *Hansard*, are included here; and the library services.

I point out to you as well and want to alert you that as we look in the years ahead that, in my view, it is the Legislative Library services that should be receiving increased attention. Those of you who are on the Communications Committee know exactly what I'm meaning when I say that, and those of who are on the Board of Internal Economy. But that is an area of responsibility, not only to serve yourselves but also to serve the people of Saskatchewan from our Legislative Library, that I think we're going to have to pay more attention to.

Literally about half of our service provided out of that library is outside this building. It's not just to members. Because of some changes, some procedural changes in 1989 to increase service to members, that portion of the operations has gone up substantially in the last six years. But also because of changes in technology and the pressures on libraries around the province, my prediction is that within a year our demands on our outside-the-legislature demands for the Legislative Library are also going to similarly sky-rocket, and we are really bulging at the seams there.

There will also . . . I'll come back to some . . . I'll finish off with some other challenges, one of which will relate to broadcast services as well. As we move . . . And oh, sorry, this represents in the budget, as you see, a \$77,000 increase; \$50,000 of that is in preparation for our hosting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Conference next year. So to meet preparation and operational costs . . . and there will also be an equivalent amount budgeted next year in this category for the remainder. We expect to do that conference for a total cost of \$100,000 is what we're using as our budget.

There's also \$27,000 there which represents staffing to provide for assistance during the session and for salary increases that were a part of changes in collective agreement . . . and using the adjustments on April 1 consistent with the Public Service Commission agreement so that's the explanation for the change there.

Committees of the Legislative Assembly, these are all the standing and select and special committees, including of course this one. So the payment for cost related to this committee meeting comes from this part of the budget. It will be fairly constant because most of our committees are the same year after year, but can be influenced when we appoint select

committees and the like.

The \$2,000 budgeted decrease here comes about as a result of the changes flowing out of the McDowell commission report which, as you may know and if you don't know you will know next week in the orientation, result in lower per diems paid to members when you're serving on committees outside of the time when the legislature is meeting. So the reduction here is totally related to the fact that MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) will be receiving less money for doing your jobs related to the committees.

Next one, payments and allowances to members, this is where you get paid. You will take some interest in that, and you will see that this section of the budget has a \$454,000 reduction from the previous year. And this is directly related to the fact that there are currently eight fewer MLAs sitting than there were in the previous budget year. So when you look at the financial consequences of that decision made some time ago before the last election, it results in a lower expenditure here.

And finally caucus operations, these are funds that are generated to your caucuses in order to do your caucus work, as in all the ways that you will be familiar with. And you see \$123,000 reduction here. This is again because the grants to the caucuses are on a formula based on the number of private members. So reduce the overall number of members by eight. You're going to be reducing the number of private members probably by eight, and therefore the formula for grants to caucuses will go down.

So that gives you maybe a summary of each of the categories plus the services that are provided through the items before us here today. You will note as you look at the budgetary outline that a significant part of item no. 4 and all of numbers 5 and 6 are statutory. They're authorized by law. And so I'm not sure; Madam Chair will have to advise whether those are changeable or not. I think likely not.

And finally if I can conclude by letting you know over the course of the budget year that we're in right now, some of the things that I anticipate coming up that may be of interest to you, because these relate to the plans that are started or are continued or completed as a result of the budgetary resources.

You may want to talk about the expansion of our television coverage of the Legislative Assembly sessions. It will be, as I think you will be aware . . . I predict to you that by the time we come back to the session in 1997 that every single MLA will be able to report to his or her constituents that the Legislative Assembly channel is available in at least one community in your riding. That has not been finalized, and as soon as the details exactly where and when this will be available is done, we will be in touch with all MLAs. And I encourage you to promote people tuning in to the legislative channel in your own constituency. But that'll be happening over the course of . . . and in fact will be in place during this fiscal year that we're a part of now.

I predict to you that quite possibly, maybe I could say probably, before the end of this fiscal year that *Hansard* and other related

legislative information will become substantially more available to Saskatchewan — well to anybody — but to people through the use of the Internet. And by using modern technology, which is what we're doing with broadcast services, advances in modern technology, we will be able to increase our access to the legislative channel from about a quarter to about a half the homes in Saskatchewan.

And what we'll be able to do by going on the Internet is two things simultaneously: one is to substantially increase the access and at the same time reduce our costs because we'll be able to move from paper to electronic distribution of information. So it's very rare, as we know, that access improves and costs go down, but in fact that's something that I anticipate happening for us here.

You will all know of course that we'll have the honour of hosting our parliamentary colleagues from across the country and a few others from beyond, when Saskatchewan hosts the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference next year.

And finally, I conclude by telling you that I'm working diligently now with a plan that the Speaker's parliamentary outreach education program will begin actively in September. I'm currently meeting with some Department of Education personnel so as to help to tailor Speaker's presentations to schools, which will be a priority of mine, to be able to make parliamentary, educational presentations that I can tailor or dovetail to their study of the province in whatever grades or group I'm happening to speak with. I'll be looking for opportunities to meet with all kinds of public groups, service clubs, organizations. We'll welcome suggestions from MLAs.

When we're in a position to begin scheduling that, I'll be in touch with all of you to let you know how we plan to schedule commitments of the Speaker to be actively engaged in a proactive parliamentary educational outreach and to let you know how to tap into that. So that will consume a fair amount of my time between now and September, preparing for that and then presumably time over the course of the fall and leading up to the next session to carry that out. So I'm happy to talk with you about any of the things you'd like to talk to there.

Finally, on items 1 to 6, if you put them all together . . . and it won't be clear to you from the summary you've got here because it includes the Ombudsman and the two commissioners that are not part of our vote here. But if you put all of the items that are before us on the table today, together they represent a reduction over last year of \$347,000 which is a reduction of 2.35 per cent.

So that's what I bring to you today and would welcome your questions related to this budget proposal which, I say, in total as compared to last year represents a reduction of 2.35 per cent. So, Madam Chair, I welcome the questions and comments of the members of the committee.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up on a comment that you made, in the areas of representation, the brackets say "authorized by law." Of course then those can only

be changed by law.

The Speaker: — Right.

The Chair: — But they are here because they are part of the expenditure area in particular, and certainly they're able to be questioned and have questions asked of that issue area but not to be changed by a vote of this committee.

With that I'll open up for questions from the committee members.

Mr. Goohsen: — Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to welcome Mr. Speaker and his officials and the people that have accompanied him from the library and other areas. And it is the library that I want to ask a quick question about because it dawned on me the other day when we talked about the libraries and how we provide so much service to outside people. How does that come about that we are offering so much service to outside people? Who are these outside people? Why are we paying for it? Is there a user-pay concept in the process, or could there be?

The Speaker: — The answer, Mr. Goohsen, is that, by virtue of legislation in 1981, the mandated responsibility of the Legislative Library is to serve three bodies, in this order: first of all, the Legislative Assembly; secondly, the public of Saskatchewan; and thirdly, the civil service.

We do not have charges for services. And we do have within our collections a number of items that would exist here and only here that are not duplications that exist anywhere else in the province.

At this point in time there hasn't been consideration for . . . there is not a proposal to institute charges. It would be highly inappropriate for the legislature of course and for the civil service. We can't bill government. What we do charge is for photocopies, so this is not a big-time moneymaker.

Mr. Goohsen: — The problem is that I think when this legislation was brought in, likely it happened a long time back, you see, and public demand wouldn't even consider that this service was available, probably. So it likely would grow with the fact that people become familiar with it. And of course with new technology we're using that's very expensive, obviously your costs are going to go up.

And it seems to me that in the public area you have very little control over the demand and the costs that you are going to incur. So then it makes it almost impossible to really truly budget for what it might end up costing you. So I'm wondering, you know, if there isn't maybe a need for the cabinet to be requested to examine the potential of this thing having outdated itself in some way so that there may be a revisitation of how you can have some control over your budgeting because of the open-door demand process that seems to be available there.

And my question then is also, when you're talking about the general public, are we talking about school kids? Are we talking about major corporations? Are we talking about other

arms of the federal government, or who?

The Speaker: — Let me just correct that. I think I may have mislead you with a earlier answer. It wasn't by legislation but a legislative committee. It is the Board of Internal Economy would be the body, Mr. Goohsen, that would determine the resources assigned to legislative services.

Corporate demands are not a high percentage of the demands on the library, and they do pay for photocopying that they receive. A large amount of it is the public at large who can come in and use the library here in the same way that they can come and use any other library.

And the area that I would anticipate that the demand will go up is likely in the category that you said which is students. And the reason I say that is because, as we get on the Internet and as schools get on the Internet, there are a whole host of schools and teachers and students who didn't realize before what's here, who are going to become aware of that. And so I think when we . . . we may very well anticipate when doing things like social studies kinds of projects related to the provincial government and so on, that out of that will grow demands on us.

Mr. Goohsen: — Well I guess, you know, it's always hard to decide who should pay for things. And obviously the service is a good one, and people are going to continue to use it more and more. The better it is, the more it'll be used. Maybe you'll have to hire somebody that flubs up once in a while, and then people won't demand it so much. It won't cost so much. But anyway . . .

The Speaker: — That would be an innovative approach.

Mr. Goohsen: — Bingo. But anyway, the thought crossed my mind that . . .

The Speaker: — We're just too good for our own good here.

Mr. Goohsen: — The thought did cross my mind that it seems to be an open-door kind of a policy that you really have no budgetary control over and that all of sudden your costs could one year just double if everybody became aware of the availability of it because a lot of my people in my constituency, quite honestly, don't know that they can come to this library and use it.

The Speaker: — Yes. Now, of course you may or may not choose to tell them but . . .

Mr. Goohsen: — I think that's a suggestion.

The Speaker: — But the resources will be limited of course. The resources will be what's in the budget, and the first mandated responsibility is to the Legislative Assembly. So the library is in a position where, if it has to make priority decisions, then that's how they're made. So members, in carrying out duties in your various responsibilities in this building, will always have that assurance.

But that is why I share some of the same anxieties about

meeting the obligations, and I think they're legitimate obligations. And one of the problems with using technology to become more accessible is that when you're more accessible people may want to increase their access. And that may cause us some serious problems in terms of being able to deliver on that part of our mandate.

Mr. Goohsen: — Well I want to wish you luck on your educational tour which obviously is going to end up costing us more money because it's going to bring awareness to the people in the school systems of this service. But good luck with it. I hope that it achieves the goals that are set out.

The Speaker: — Thank you. What I will attempt to do when making contact — say it's with schools or service clubs — is I will want to put as an early priority, if I can, in scheduling my itinerary for doing that, to be going to communities that are going to be newly acquiring the legislative channel, so as to assist the local MLA to bring some profile to that access to the public scrutiny that goes on in the legislature.

So I think those members who represent ridings that will have the legislative channel coming on new may expect me to be bugging them a little earlier a little more often about coming into your riding. But when I come to your ridings, you'll always know that, and you'll always be invited to be a part of that.

Mr. Goohsen: — I have no further questions, Madam Chair, because we do have the answers that our leader had asked for. And I guess we'll be going through those, and if there's any problem, we'll take it up with the appropriate authorities. Thank you.

The Chair: — Further questions?

Mr. Sonntag: — Mine . . . they're very, very brief actually. Well first of all, I think Mr. Goohsen should probably subsidize the library out of his Jack's benevolent fund that he referred to yesterday. I think that would be a good idea.

Mr. Goohsen: — No problem.

Mr. Sonntag: — Okay. I just want to be a little bit clear actually on the proposed increase in coverage of television. You're saying that would be on . . . obviously I'm referring to it because we don't have it in our area. That coverage will, you're anticipating, will come on in the next session or by the end of this year, did you say?

The Speaker: — Well it can't cover the legislature if it's not sitting. So it won't be . . . I don't anticipate it before we adjourn in this session. And so therefore I expect that substantially in advance of the beginning of next session the arrangements will have been made so that when we come here for the Speech from the Throne that that will be covered in every riding in the province.

Mr. Sonntag: — Okay. Good. That's all I really have interest in. I just wanted to be sure.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, a comment and then two questions. The comment is aimed more to the library, but legislative services that are provided under the auspices of this budget generally. And I just want to compliment everyone involved. I have so darn few problems as a member, in dealing with things that staff in and around the building are involved with. And it's a real . . . I'm trying to make a compliment to everyone involved. I'm very, very proud of the library. My only problem is there's not enough hours in the day; I'd like to utilize it even more. Certainly the services are there. And so kudos all the way around for those services.

The first question I have relates to the Internet and as people come on electronically, you see the printed matter dropping off because people will simply go for what is more accessible to them. And as you pointed out, Mr. Speaker, they can select what is of direct interest to them and print off the two or twenty sheets on their own printer, and it's done. I see you nodding yes, so that's . . .

The Speaker: — Yes, the answer is yes. What you probably won't see changing a lot is the paper around here because the copies of *Hansard* will continue to be provided to members as they are now. But probably what we'll find is the access to legislative . . . pieces of legislation.

And *Hansard*, from the outside, the demands will go way up and they'll be able to access just the one or two pages that they need instead of having to have a complete document sent to them. And probably the odd tree up north or two will breathe a great sigh of relief as well.

Mr. Trew: — Yes, good, thanks.

The second question relates to television, and there's an interesting application for service out of a firm based in Yorkton that, as I understand it, will allow for the legislative/zircon channel to be available even to the farm.

Is there anything that we should be doing to participate in this or can we tag in sort of as soon as the CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) approves? As I understand it, what that . . . if that application gets approved, is it just makes the legislative television channel literally available to everyone in, I'll describe it as the south half of Saskatchewan, basically Prince Albert or Meadow Lake, that line being the north part.

The Speaker: — And I think I'm going to ask Gary . . . if you wouldn't mind sliding up to the table here, Gary.

Just in general terms, Mr. Trew, you were putting your finger on precisely the technology that's enabling us to expand without increasing our cost, through the cooperation, and I think it's worthwhile acknowledging as well, the cooperation of SaskTel in agreeing to do this without changing our contract with them.

But Gary Ward has been actively working on this for some time and can speak much more knowledgeably than I. And perhaps, Gary, if you wouldn't mind commenting.

Mr. Ward: — Okay. With respect to that particular technology, it's a new technology. The applications for distribution are before the CRTC and they will be dealt with in July, according to the recent information that I have on it. There are two applicants. One is out of Brandon, Manitoba; another one is Image Cable out of Yorkton.

Image is already well established in the province. I think they're one of the largest cable companies serving the largest number of communities throughout the province, so they have an advantage in that. Image is quite anxious to carry the Legislative Assembly signal. They informed me about this some time ago, before it became public knowledge, that they were actively looking for our signal on that.

The technology still requires satellite but it doesn't affect us because our signal will still go up to the satellite and it will be received in Yorkton and then distributed through a number of mini-distribution towers throughout the province. And it's like a mini-microwave service that will cover an area within 40 kilometres around each station.

There's unfortunately about 20 per cent of the locations in the distribution area that won't receive it just because of line of sight. That technology may change too in the near future, but for the time being this could be up and running by a year, February. And the cost, it doesn't affect us because it will be the same as it is in the city. If you want cable you'll pay for a hook-up charge. And they're estimating about \$100 per subscriber and then a cost of approximately \$20 per month after that, and that should give each subscriber around 50 channels. So they'll get the equivalent service of any urban centre.

The Speaker: — This is the sort of thing that we'll be able . . . when our contract is up that we'll be able to consider in terms of our access to the Saskatchewan people from the legislature channels. So it can truly be said that technology is dramatically expanding the ability of access of the people to their legislature.

It can also be said then, as we said earlier, that can create some administrative problems for us in terms of demand, as we anticipate, in the library area.

Mr. Trew: — Okay, thank you. That deals with my questions.

The Speaker: — Just if I may also acknowledge your compliment to the Legislative Assembly staff, Mr. Trew. One of the real pleasures after having received the honour of being elected by the members in the Assembly, and beginning to understand more clearly than I ever had before, the operations here and how they're done, it has been a source of pride for me to have people of the high calibre and competency that we've got attached here. So from the inside out I share your same confidence as well.

Mr. Trew: — Even the off-the-wall people.

The Speaker: — I assure you there's no one off the wall in the Legislative Assembly office. It has been rumoured on occasion that that be true in the Speaker's office but never in the Legislative Assembly office.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Madam Chair.

Mr. Sonntag: — If we get some of this communication two ways, you might not even have to drive down there.

The Chair: — We'll allow the staff in the Speaker's office to deal with the last comment in their own good time.

Ms. Draude: — And I too would like to commend the staff. I can assure you as a new MLA, your services and your help for all of us was just so essential. I really felt like I was at sea drowning when I first came in here, and everything you did was definitely great and very much appreciated.

And also to the Speaker. The educational tour is something that I'm looking forward to and I'm very happy to hear that you're going to let us as MLAs know beforehand so that we can maybe even assist in an agenda or an itinerary or whatever so we can . . . I think that probably we would have a good idea of where you should be going to in our constituencies and I think that would be very helpful.

When I go downstairs into legislative services and I see everybody drowning in the paper down there, I'm wondering if the amount of paperwork you feel will be cut back when the McDowell commission is involved. Or are you . . . this looks like something I shouldn't have asked. I'm just wondering if it's going to help you at all because I'm always amazed with the technology we have nowadays, and there still seems to be stacks and stacks of papers. This has absolutely nothing to do with non-controversial Bills procedure. I signed my name 900 times.

The Speaker: — The answer to your question is unfortunately no. It will be the other way around. The McDowell commission report, adopted by the Board of Internal Economy that you'll have your orientations in your caucuses next week, will result in substantially more paper flow. There is no question about that

And that's one of the consequences of increasing accountability . . . usually means that there is much more detail needing to be provided, provided by the members of the legislature. And anything that's provided by the members, of course, has to be handled by the administration of the Assembly. The unfortunate reality is that accountability is not cheap, and the people should never confuse accountability with cost reduction. And that's one of the prices we're going to have to pay for some of the changes, is that our administrative work and paper flow, those demands will increase.

And let me add to that, that we will also potentially be looking for some reduction to that as technology marches along and members of the legislature and your constituency offices come on e-mail and on-line. That will . . . and we'll be preparing to facilitate that, that records and that sort of thing will be able to be sent to the Legislative Assembly Office electronically.

So we will look to reduce some of our paper flow costs, but there should be no illusions in anyone's mind that the McDowell commission makes things simpler. It makes things

substantially more complicated and increases work. That's the price of public accountability.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I really don't have any questions either.

The Chair: — Further questions? Seeing none, we have a series of votes that we'll be going through and motions to approve. Beginning on page 94 in the administration area, you will note that there is, as has been mentioned earlier, the amount authorized by law, so the vote to be voted is LG01, just below the line for administration. A motion to accept this. Is that agreed by the committee?

Items 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

Items 5 and 6 — authorized by law.

The Chair: — With that:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 1997, the following sums:

For Legislation \$4,853,000

Agreed by committee? We would record that Mr. Trew moved that.

The second motion. Mr. Aldridge, if you'd like to move:

Be it resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1997, the sum of \$3,640,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

This of course removes the amount that has already been granted by interim supply.

Mr. Aldridge: — I so move.

The Chair: — Agreement by the committee?

Next motion would be appropriate to be moved by the Vice-Chair of the committee:

That this committee recommend that upon concurrence in the committee's report, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Draude. All those in favour? Carried.

The final motion will be dealing with the report that would be presented to the Legislative Assembly from this committee's deliberations. And Mr. Putz is handing out a draft for your input and comment, and then we'll take a motion to adopt the report.

The committee report to be presented before the Legislative

Assembly is moved by Ms. Draude; open for comment or addition, deletion? If not, I would move a motion to accept the report to be presented. Okay. Agreed by all members of the committee.

Mr. Trew: — I move this committee stand adjourned until the call of the Chair.

The Chair: — All right, thank you, and with that . . .

The Speaker: — Madam Chair, if I may make a comment before you call a vote on the motion.

The Chair: — Yes. Well I would first like to say I thank you and your officials for their presentations today. I can only echo the comments made by committee members from all sides of the Assembly, that as new members with some trepidation on what the full extent of our duties would include, the presentations that were made by the office, coupled with the support from the library and from financial services, has been greatly appreciated.

The times that we've been in events that have been chaired by the Speaker, we've come to know your office and know that there's support, and the warmth and welcome that's given to each of us. So we thank you, and also for your presentations this morning.

The Speaker: — Thank you, Madam Chair. If I may first of all join with you in thanking the officials for their assistance in preparing for today, and as well as today, but even more importantly than that, for their ongoing support and assistance to you particularly, as members of a Legislative Assembly.

Everything we do here is designed to assist and achieve in the objectives of parliamentary democracy and the various ways that it operates in our province, and focused of course in this building, to assist you in doing your work properly.

And so we take great pride in that, and I want to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly for the work they do in that and in that regard, and particularly to thank you for your questions here today.

The Chair: — Thank you. With that, I ask the committee's approval on the motion to adjourn.

The committee adjourned at 11:47 a.m.