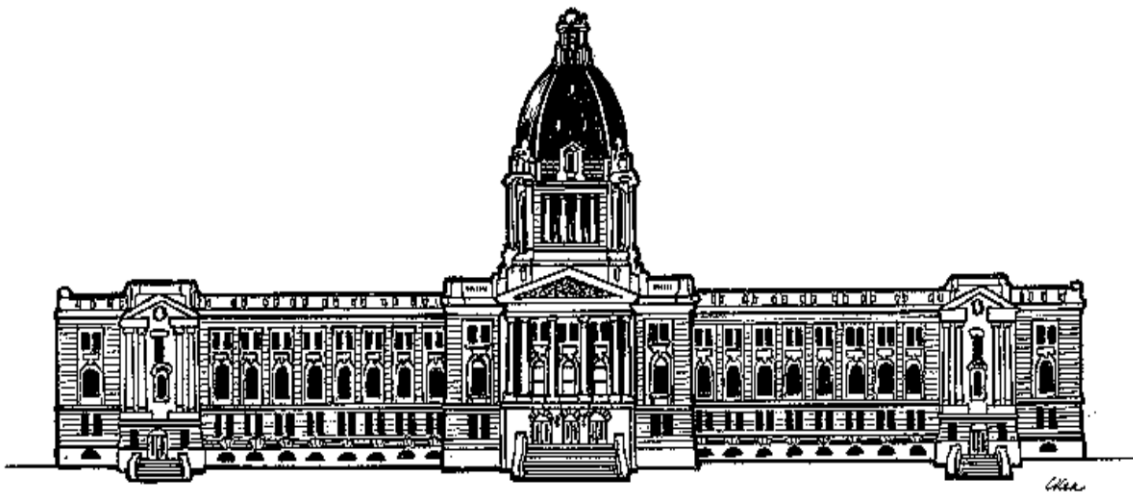




Standing Committee on Estimates

Hansard Verbatim Report

No. 2 – May 25, 2000



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fourth Legislature

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
2000**

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Saskatoon Sutherland

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Regina Northeast

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Canora-Pelly

Peter Prebble
Saskatoon Greystone

Milton Wakefield
Lloydminster

Daryl Wiberg
Saskatchewan Rivers

Kevin Yates
Regina Dewdney

The committee met at 9 a.m.

**General Revenue Fund
Legislative Assembly
Vote 21**

The Chair: — Good morning. We left off at item no. 9 on our previous agenda with the Legislative Assembly. So I welcome back Mr. Osika, our Speaker, to go over the Legislative Assembly which is found — it's vote 21 — which is found on page 125, and following that on the *Supplementary Estimates*.

So, Mr. Osika, if you want to introduce your officials.

The Speaker: — Yes, thank you very, very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce the very capable and competent Legislative Assembly Office staff who provide the services for members in our Assembly.

On my immediate left, you all know Ms. Gwenn Ronyk who is the Clerk of the Assembly; on her left is Marilyn Borowski who is the director of financial services; on my right, Marian Powell from Legislative Library. I don't want to miss anybody because they're all important and they're all as equally important.

Lorraine deMontigny who is the director of visitor services is here; Ken Ring, our Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk; Patrick Shaw, our Sergeant-at-Arms; Gary Ward, our director of broadcast services; Iris Lang who works in human resources; Linda Kaminski who is the director of human resources. I don't think I've missed anybody, Mr. Chairman.

What I'd also . . . I had given quite a lengthy dissertation at our last meeting, and there were some questions asked that perhaps we might be able to address by providing you with a little more detail under each of the subvotes that have been given to you, to perhaps underline under each of the subvotes some of the changes and reasons for them, to help you through this process.

And I very much appreciate having this opportunity to discuss this with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chair: — Were there any questions?

Mr. Wakefield: — Mr. Chairman, if I could, I would start off and welcome everyone here this morning. We'll get to each of the items, I'm sure, and I appreciate the opportunity for having the additional information. We'll go through it and I'd like to have maybe an explanation or maybe an expanded explanation.

We can, as I was saying, maybe get an expansion of some of the responses here, and if nothing else for the record, put them in *Hansard* so that everyone will have an opportunity then to see what has been done and what the questions and answers are.

So if I could, maybe just a general question about this vote 21. In the summary page on 125, we see a summation of the subvotes as we go through this. I guess my question is with the percentage increases. I did a quick calculation and I appreciated the even more detail, as I mentioned. The 4 per cent, 4.16 per cent increase, generally for vote 21 is a bit higher than I thought

it might be and obviously there's going to be explanations.

Do you have a general comment as to why the 4.16 per cent increase overall in vote 21, or would you prefer that we talk about it in more specifics?

The Speaker: — I believe in my dissertation earlier, I had indicated that some of the increases are as a direct result of our reclassification, the extension of benefits to constituency assistants, new committees; generally increases in those areas where there's little or no control with respect to requirements under the guidelines and rules that we need to follow with respect to staff increase in activities. That's basically, in sort of general terms, the reclassification, the benefits, new positions for the benefit of our committees.

And information technology, which is a major challenge I guess that we face, as I'd mentioned — looking into the future to ensure that we keep up with the times as far as our information technology is concerned; in moving towards updating our Assembly with the type of technology that we're going to need to have. That's in general terms.

Mr. Wakefield: — Okay, thank you. Mr. Chairman, if we could then look at the subvote (LG01) on the administration. One of the first things that people look at, in a cursory sense of course, is to say: administration, my goodness, administration has jumped 9 per cent; there must be something wrong because administration has such a major increase.

The explanation that you've just offered in a general way, and some more detail on the following sheet that you've passed out, I think is very helpful. And I think, for the record, I wondered if you would or someone would be able to expand on these points specifically so that we have them on record.

The Speaker: — To respond to that, and that may be noted further on as well, last year we were not . . . there was not an approval for an amount for information technology. That's been added into our budget for this year, and hence part of the reason for the increase and the jump for this budget year.

Again we're playing catch-up and when that happens it . . . When you miss one year, then the following year you try to make it up and it becomes more evident, I guess.

Mr. Wakefield: — If I could, one more question and then I'll pass it on. I think investments in information technology is certainly the right direction. And I know that we have talked about this in other forums and it's a race to keep up with information technology, let alone to be able to implement it and use it effectively. And I think where we're going, from what I understand, is that we're trying to utilize existing technology in a format that we can all use here in the legislature. So that, I think, is very commendable.

There is other things that we have to also keep up with and I noticed is one of the points there: the personal service costs have increased as a result of implementation of the new classification plan. When was this new classification plan initiated, and is that a normal ongoing review of classification? I know you referred to that earlier but could you expand on that

a bit.

The Speaker: — I would ask Ms. Ronyk to respond to that, Mr. Wakefield.

Ms. Ronyk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Wakefield, the classification plan that we're talking about here is the new in-scope classification plan that was put in place within the public service in government about two years ago.

Now there of course has been a classification plan for a long time in government but it had not been changed since the '60s. It was really an out-of-date plan. And after many, many years of work in the Public Service Commission with the SGEU (Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union), a new plan was approved and agreed upon and was put in place in government.

Now the legislative staff are not part of the public service of the province. We're not part of the executive government staff because we're staff of the legislature. But in order to keep our staff on the same sort of playing field, the same level playing ground as the government staff, our Board of Internal Economy has always linked legislative staff to sort of equivalent positions and classifications in government.

And after government implemented their new plan, we were still on the old plan and of course had no linkage any more. And we then, just over the last year and a half, did the work to review all of our positions and classify them into the new in-scope classification plan.

Now we just align our people with that plan. But our people are not unionized, they're not in scope. We just align them with the in scope where that is the equivalent type of position.

What we did then, over the last year and a half, was align our people into the plan. One of the key features of the new in-scope classification plan was pay equity. And it resulted in the female-dominated classes and often the lower level classes being . . . as a result of the classification review, being paid at a higher level.

And indeed, when we applied it in our staff, we also ended up with about 90 per cent of our staff being positively affected. The rest were red circled, meaning their new range . . . the top of their range in the new class plan was lower than their old range.

But for the bulk of our people, their old range was lower than the new range. And when you look at the kind of staff we have, that makes some sense because we certainly have a female-dominated staff and a lot of part-time, non-permanent people that work only sessionally in more support and clerically related roles. And those were all positively affected at the lower levels, and most of those people were at the lower level.

So that is why the implementation of the new plan has cost us some money.

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you. The salaries, that adjustment that you referred to, that will continue on? Is this an ongoing re-evaluation, a reassessment?

Ms. Ronyk: — The assessment has been completed and people have been allocated to their new classifications in the new plan. But part of the plan as I said is the pay equity, and instead of jumping people instantly from where they were to where the new plan with pay equity included said they should be, the government plan had four steps to bring people up over four years to the top of their new ranges.

So there will be . . . we'll be doing that as well. There will be ongoing changes resulting from the classification over the next three years, and it will be diminishing as people reach their appropriate level. There will be fewer affected, but we have . . . initially we had 62 employees that were receiving pay equity and by April 1 of 2000, there'll only be 41 that will yet have another step to go to reach where they ought to be.

And if you look at that, primarily we have 23 people in *Hansard* and 10 in the Sergeant-at-Arms office and those are our lowest-paid employees, and a bulk of those are the ones that are receiving pay equity.

Mr. Wakefield: — If I could, Mr. Chairman, just a quick follow-up question. One of them is the number . . . the salary increase itself is around 8 per cent and your explanation I think covers that.

Ms. Ronyk: — It only covers part of it because the pay equity is part of that increase, but also there are the normal . . . the cost of living increase that we also apply that was negotiated between government and their union — the 2 per cent.

Mr. Wakefield: — Okay.

Ms. Ronyk: — So that affected a good number of our people. And the normal increments as well, if people still had room in their range.

And if you notice at the very bottom of that page under personnel changes, part of the salary cost there is that we have now added the position of director of information services. It's actually the first time it appears here as a position under administration. The Board of Internal Economy approved a new position for us for that in the spring, but the money actually is a transfer from consulting dollars that we used to pay a consultant to do this job and now we're going to pay less really and have our own staff person do it.

Mr. Wakefield: — As mentioned in the note there under consulting costs, I guess, under increases?

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes.

Mr. Wakefield: — The reason I'm asking these questions about the administration of course is when the public or anyone looks at these numbers, we have to have an answer because they're exceptional increases, at least what the public might consider exceptional increase.

The decrease or a reduction of 42,000 under directive #24, can you expand on that a little bit?

The Speaker: — Again that's primarily as a result of the election last year, that people did not use all that funding.

Members did not use all that money as it were allotted under that particular directive.

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes, directive #24 is the program that provides members with equipment and computers and furniture for their constituency offices. It was just designed as a supplement to your regular office allowance. It isn't certainly sufficient to furnish and equip an office. It was designed to help rectify the problem that existed when all of those expenses had to come out of your constituency services allowance.

But why we've been able to reduce the estimate for this coming fiscal year — the fiscal year we're now in — is that we did have members take advantage in the old fiscal year because they were new and they had to set up their offices so many of the computer systems have been bought. So we're assuming that there will be less purchases then in this next fiscal year because some of the work has already been done and you really only need to replace your computer system every few years.

Mr. Wiberg: — To the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just . . . Mr. Wakefield has done I feel a very adequate job here of going through the administrative part of this budget. But there is one little part here, and it's very small and I assume it shouldn't take very long to cover off. But under the personnel changes, there's been a .3 time added for members' secretary. And it says, due to changes in private members following the election.

If we could just . . . if I could just get to more clarification as to the addition of this personnel change and what it would accommodate.

The Speaker: — I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I could ask Ms. Kaminski, our director of human resources, to address that.

Ms. Ronyk: — If I might explain, the members' secretaries is a provision that is sort of an historical one that has been based on a formula that there's one secretary provided for every 2.8 members in a caucus. And of course our numbers don't always come out even, and we had last year made a decision that any partial secretaries would be rounded up to a whole position.

And with the change in the caucus sizes and breakdown this last election, we ended up with a caucus that . . . the Liberal caucus was entitled to a whole person rather than two-thirds of a person that they would have been under the old formula. So that accounts for the change, the increase there.

But those numbers do vary every time the caucuses change in size, and that happens even when another member of the government caucus goes into cabinet, their caucus for this purpose is then reduced. And so there'll be a change sometimes in the numbers but because of the rounding, a one-person change doesn't always make a difference — sometimes it does.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Ms. Ronyk. I was looking at accommodation central services here and I see there's a decrease of \$4,000. And of course as we all try to be fiscally responsible and fiscally aware, we're certainly pleased to see that. And of course you're very clear here that the Internet and the transfer of information from the legislature through to whoever subscribers are out there for information is starting to make an impact.

Now I'm sure in the past there must have been some start-up costs, but I guess from our perspective, it was certainly good to see that there's some fiscal benefits being derived from this now. And I guess from a government perspective, we're certainly pleased then, those of us in the legislature, that there are benefits being reaped from investments in the past. And I just wanted to mention that to you.

The Speaker: — Thank you for that, Mr. Wiberg. And I do believe it's important and you've indicated the recognition and investment at some point ultimately pays dividends and very definitely in terms of information technology. That has been the case and this does underline it. So I thank you for noting that.

Mr. Wiberg: — Mr. Chair, to Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly services, subvote (LG03), again overall in the budget a four and a half percent increase, certainly nothing that's going to be raising any alarm bells.

But I see by far the massive part of the increase is in the salary area, and two new positions in the Clerk's office — Clerk Assistant for committees and clerical support. I wonder if we might be able to get a clear explanation as to the . . . for this need for a Clerk Assistant for the committees.

The Speaker: — Mr. Chairman, as the members will know that the increased activity as a result of the committees that have been formed, place the additional burden on staff from the Clerk's office to attend at the committee meetings and guide them through the processes. That's the main requirement. And there may very well be more activity in that respect, with committees performing perhaps expanded roles as has been discussed. So very definitely needed as support people to those committees.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my mind I'm trying to clearly, trying to understand that there is a budget line for committees of the Legislative Assembly, and yet the increases showing up here under Assembly services, and a significant increase again in salaries for committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Doing a little research this morning, I see that for 1998-99 there was a . . . the budget for committees of the Legislative Assembly came in 250 per cent over budget. And I see that this year there's a 176 per cent increase.

I'm wondering then, are these actually two new positions? Or were there, because of the significant wow, in lack of a better word, as to the expenditures for committee work that took place between '98-99 and the year 2000-2001 who are more . . . those two budget years are more in line with each other, and a significant decrease from '99-2000 budget.

Is there an indication here that there was very little committee work done then last year? And of course there was an election last year; we understand that — so that there's probably some reduction there.

So are these . . . were these two positions eliminated for a year, or why was there such a drastic change from . . . in the last three-year period, in three-budget terms, when it was so high, so low, and then so high again?

The Speaker: — I believe you've, Mr. Wiberg, and Mr. Chair, already identified the fact that it's an estimation of how much activity there may be by committees, and that could vary from year to year.

In this case where there are standing committees, that you do your best shot at estimating what all the costs of that committee work will be over whatever period of time. The support services for those committees, their travel, particularly if they actively travel throughout the province, as the Tobacco Committee, adds to the cost of that committee work.

Committees that function solely within the Legislative Building while the session is on are less expensive for administration in the overall. Support services are still definitely necessary — our *Hansard* reporting; and support staff, the Table officers that assist the committee Chairs and the committee preparing of the reports, is all part and parcel of the administration costs.

The Chair: — Any further questions?

Mr. Wakefield: — Just to follow on Mr. Wiberg's question, I'm not sure you got an answer regarding the two committees. The Legislative Assembly service with an increase of personnel, two positions, which you talked about. That's on Ms. Ronyk's handout, page 4. And on the next page, 5, where we're talking about committees of the Legislative Assembly, there is an increase in salaries again with the provision that this provides service to standing, select, and special committees. It seems to be redundant.

The Speaker: — That's a good question, Mr. Chair. I'll ask Ms. Ronyk to respond.

Ms. Ronyk: — The two positions that you identify under Legislative Assembly services are the Clerk Assistant committees, that the Speaker mentioned to you, and a support position in the Clerk's office. One of the primary duties of both of those will be committee work, but it's not all of the work. And indeed we were asking for these positions before we even knew we had these three special . . . extra three special committees that were identified last fall, or set up last fall.

The Clerk's office hasn't had an increase in Table staff in 20 years. Our last change was in 1980, and we just over the years have delegated more to other branches. We have been able to accomplish an awful lot more with the same number of people through technology, through the computer systems, but we've reached the point in the last five years or so where we just . . . we can't divest any more duties. We aren't able to properly keep up, especially at the record keeping end and the procedural side.

The three Clerks now have, where our primary duties historically have been to provide the procedural expertise on parliamentary process for the Assembly for members and Chairs and the Speaker, we have found that over the years less and less of our time is actually available to do that professional duty and keep up the expertise that we should have there, because we have been just doing more and more administrative work. I think I do almost totally administrative work now, and I find that a real shame because the Table officers ought to be the Assembly's resources for procedural expertise, for procedural

development.

We're now with the rules reform committee sitting and they do need the professional services of people who know what's going on with parliamentary process and procedure in the rest of the Commonwealth. And if we don't have time to keep up with that, we can't be the help to the committee that we should be.

And so that's why we're asking for a fourth Table officer position. As well they will also help with Table duties in the House and will help fully when the committees are not as active. They will be doing our basic procedural research in those downtimes, we hope, that we just don't seem to have any more because of the administrative load. And the support person in the office is there to support the new position and the two people that are already there in my office that are and have been overloaded for some time.

Now why these dollars are in the Legislative Assembly services is because they are under Legislative Assembly Office there. They're staff in the Clerk's office and that's where they fall within the subvote.

Now to go to the committee subvote (LG04), the salaries that you see there are not the staff; they're not the salaries of the Clerks or the committee support staff in the Clerk's office. These are the salaries of the *Hansard* people that provide the verbatims to all of the committees. And if there is more committee hours work being done, there's more *Hansard* verbatims being prepared. And that's simply what that change is.

And there's also some, in the committee support services, there's some . . . and the committee members' expenses there for the committees are also there. You'll note that they're statutory. But there's a significant increase there because now that we have these three special committees we do know that we can budget for them.

Last year we didn't budget for committees because there weren't any, other than our regular standing committees. And we do know . . . we expect a certain level of activity in our standing committees outside of the session every year — Public Accounts, Crown Corporations, Regulations — that we know we can sort of budget for and have a pretty good idea what the level of activity will be. But when we have special committees, we don't know when they're going to happen and we aren't able to budget for them until they exist.

This year we do have three, so we are budgeting what we think will be a rough idea of what their level of activity and expense will be. And that is why you see those great increases there. But the support services that you see are not the same salaries that are in that previous . . .

The Speaker: — Mr. Chair, if I may — and perhaps this may assist members — the highlights in these estimates, the committee support estimates provide for the following committees, just for your edification: the Regulations Committee, \$5,000 — these are just estimates — Crown Corporations Committee, 25,500; Public Accounts, \$27,300; other committees, \$6,500; Rules & Procedures Committee,

\$13,300; Abuse of Children Committee, \$95,400; and Tobacco Control, \$7,000.

Those are some of the estimated costs of support services for these committees based on their activities.

Ms. Ronyk: — We already know that those estimates are not going to be accurate. When they were done, the Tobacco Control Committee was planning to finish and report in this session. Now they're going to be doing some portion of their work in the fall. So there will be some more expenditures there that we hadn't anticipated.

The Chair: — That's very valuable work but . . .

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes indeed, very valuable work.

Mr. Wakefield: — Unbiased as we are.

The Chair: — Unbiased as we are. Totally.

Mr. Wiberg: — Mr. Chair, I'm not sure that I'm really getting a clear understanding under the committees of the Legislative Assembly. The salary line for '99 to 2000 was \$68,000, and for the year 2000-2001 is \$158,000. And of course that's a \$90,000 increase.

From the explanation — maybe I'm just not understanding this real clear — is that the \$90,000 increase will be primarily for the extra work that is going to have to take place in *Hansard* in order to keep track, verbatim the work of the committees?

Mr. Prebble: — Also the statutory expenses that are paid to members . . .

Mr. Wiberg: — That's a different budget line, Mr. Chair, and I see all of eight is up 100 per cent. Well certainly, but three very active committees, that's probably understandable. And committee support services is certainly up significant — 240 per cent — because again there's three very active committees going. But on top of that there, there is still a salaries' increase here of \$90,000 on top of everything else.

Mr. Yates: — Didn't it also include the people hired on those committees — like on the Sexual Exploitation Committee we have a staff hired that's a secondment. We'd have to pay that person's secondment salary from Social Services when he's with the committee. On the Tobacco Control Committee, they have a staff — there's also that salary.

So you're looking at, you know, a salary for six months of the year or whatnot. That's where the majority of that money will go because you're, you're looking at thousands of dollars worth of salaries.

Ms. Ronyk: — If I can also add that the child prostitution committee will be holding most of its hearings in the fall. So we have several weeks of hearings across the province. So those figures will include the salary of the staff to travel with the committee to support the hearings, to provide the verbatims at the hearings, and the travel expenses as well as the salary costs there.

It doesn't cost us much to print and distribute the verbatim record any more because we do most of it electronically. But it still costs us staff time to tape, to transcribe, to edit, and to produce the verbatim records.

The Chair: — Mr. Yates, do you have a question or did you have a comment to make?

Mr. Yates: — Yes, my question has to do with committee expenses. Committee expenses would also include those staff that were hired specifically to those committees. As well, the Tobacco Control Committee hired a staff, the Sexual Exploitation Committee hired a staff, and a good portion of that \$171,000 would be their salaries as well, would it not?

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes. The research staff for the committees are, you know, full-time staff during the committee period and they would be . . . I mean they're professionals at whatever level a particular committee requires. And they will be charged to that amount as well.

Mr. Wakefield: — That would be — pardon me — that would be proportionally split then between committee support services and salaries, would it?

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes. The support services is all of its . . .

The Speaker: — Mr. Chair, again to, to perhaps offer some explanation. As an example, the Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade, we budgeted \$95,500 broken down into our best estimate — that the committee having public hearings throughout Saskatchewan — and of the total budget \$47,000 of that 95 is allotted . . . is allowed for *Hansard* transcription of the meetings, and that's based on 135 hours of debate.

The \$12,000 is provided for travel expense of committee staff. The remaining \$36,500 is for the salary of a committee researcher; \$17,000 for advertising; \$13,000 for other miscellaneous expenses: meeting rooms, printing, and the like.

So just to expand a little bit on what Mr. Yates has said that those salaries and costs and expenses are not only staff — permanent staff — but people that may be hired by the committees as researchers to give them some support in whatever areas they're dealing with.

Mr. Wiberg: — Mr. Chair, and to Mr. Speaker, if I understand this correctly then, *Hansard* staff salaries are apportioned according to the amount of committee work they do, the amount of legislative work they do. Is that our understanding then of your explanation here?

Because you've said there's been . . . for staff, *Hansard* staff to be able to travel with the committees, of course there's certain costs involved with that, but these are salary costs. Then is their salaries apportioned to how much committee work they do, or is that how this is broken down?

So that you provide to your best estimates, and certainly that's all you can do is your best estimate, so that we can show then how much time *Hansard* has to spend, *Hansard* staff has to spend with on committee work and with the legislative work.

The Speaker: — Yes, they're paid on the basis of an hourly rate. For the committees . . . the best estimate for example for the Rules and Procedures Committee, our best estimate is 36 hours of debate at a cost of \$12,500. So you're absolutely right. It's apportioned on the amount of work that people from *Hansard* have to do in addition to the legislative processes and procedures.

Mr. Yates: — Would it be fair to assume that when we're on the . . . any one of the committees is on the road doing public hearings, two or three members of *Hansard* would have to attend in order to look after the various needs of the committee including prolonged hearings and setting up of equipment and various technical needs?

The Speaker: — Yes, the short answer to that is yes. There would be more than one person from *Hansard*.

Mr. Yates: — So it would be multiple salaries?

The Speaker: — The short answer to that is yes. There would be more than one person from *Hansard*.

Mr. Yates: — So there would be multiple salaries?

The Speaker: — Yes, thank you.

Ms. Ronyk: — And yes we do have to carry our sound system with us and the recording system. And sometimes we'll have a technician along. Sometimes our *Hansard* people are so experienced with doing this that they sort of act as technicians too and set up the system . . . (inaudible) . . . maintain it, but there's usually two or three.

The Chair: — Is there any final questions or are we ready to proceed? No further questions. All right.

Subvote (LG01) agreed to.

Subvotes (LG02), (LG03), (LG04) agreed to.

Subvote (LG05) and (LG06) — Statutory.

The Chair: — We have resolutions. We need a mover.

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2001, the following sums:

For the Legislative Assembly \$5,758,000

Do I have a mover? Moved by Mr. Prebble. All those in favour. Those opposed. That's carried.

**Supplementary Estimates 1999-2000
General Revenue Fund
Legislative Assembly
Vote 21**

The Chair: — Now the *Supplementary Estimates*, which have been distributed, is on page 7 of the *Supplementary Estimates*, is subvote (LG04) in the *Supplementary Estimates*. Is that agreed to?

Mr. Wakefield: — Can you direct me to that again?

The Chair: — It is on page 7 of the *Supplementary Estimates*. It is the Committee Support Services related to the Special Committee on Tobacco Control . . . well special committees. Did you need to see that before we . . .

Okay is there any questions on that? I didn't mean to jump ahead of us, but was there any questions on that specific item? I believe it was covered with regards to the special committees. Are we ready to proceed? Is that agreed to? Agreed.

We need a mover.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2000 the following sums:

For the Legislative Assembly \$60,000.

Moved by Mr. Yates. All those in favour? Those opposed? That's carried.

I now have some additional motions. These are the amounts that we have agreed to. And we need a mover. No. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000 the sum of \$60,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Do we have a mover?

Mr. Yates: — I so move.

Mr. Wakefield: — What year was that?

The Chair: — March 31, 2000. Moved by Mr. Yates. All those in favour? Opposed? That is carried.

Okay, No. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, the sum of \$11,035,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Do we have a mover?

Mr. Yates: — I so move.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Yates. All those in favour? Those opposed? That's carried.

We need a mover for this as well:

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.

Do we have a mover? Mr. Prebble. All those in favour? Those

opposed? That's carried.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for your attendance and to your officials. We appreciate all the hard work and excellent service that's been provided in the time that I've been here and I'm sure it will continue. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I thank you, Mr. Chair. And I would like to just put on the record, I want to express appreciation on behalf of the staff of the Legislative Assembly to the members that are here. The responsibilities that the LAO (Legislative Assembly Office) staff have to the people of this province and to its members, we have a great deal to be proud of.

And I know that if there are some areas that members are concerned about with respect to information technology, the outreach programs with respect to broadcast services, that the directors of each of the departments are very capable, competent, and willing to assist in any way possible. And I'm sure that members have recognized that.

The efforts of *Hansard* people as well to assist us in achieving our objectives in serving the people of Saskatchewan.

And I want to thank the board members for their efforts and their time that they allowed us to discuss this issue of the budget as well. It comes under the scrutiny of the committee here, as well as the Board of Internal Economy.

And again, for the benefit of the people of this province, I believe it's important that this process is very essential. And I want to commend the members and thank you for your participation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chair: — Thank you very much. We now have to move a motion that the draft report, that it be adopted and reported to the Assembly today. And so I have a motion to that effect:

That the draft report of the Standing Committee on Estimates be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Do we have a mover? Moved by Mr. Yates. All those in favour? Those opposed? That's carried.

Who would like to move to adjourn? Mr. Wiberg. All those in favour? Those opposed? That is carried. Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 9:55 a.m.