

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**June 9, 1992**

**Mr. Chairman:** — Back to order, please. Where we left off, I believe I had Mr. Van Mulligen as the first name that was on my list.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — I just wanted to get on the list to suggest we take a break.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Oh. Mr. Van Mulligen's off the list.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Mr. Chairman, unless Ms. Haverstock and Mr. Muirhead or yourself feel a need to be *in camera* for a further length of time, we'd like to move out of the *in camera* session and open up the committee.

**Mr. Chairman:** — That agreed?

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Chairman, Doug, did you mean like right at this moment? Like we'd be now?

**Mr. Anguish:** — Yes. Now.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Are the media available?

**Mr. Anguish:** — Well I don't really care if the media are available.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Yes, okay.

**Mr. Anguish:** — I think we'd like the public record to start again though in the committee, Gerry.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Yes. I agree.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Agreed? Okay. Who was the first on the list? Mr. Cline.

**Mr. Cline:** — Yes. Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions relating to the matters contained in the special report of the auditor.

And the list of questions is fairly lengthy and we would like to get written responses from departments, Crown corporations, and agencies with respect to the matters detailed in the report of the special auditor. And we would like the Clerk to make requests of the departments, agencies, and Crown corporations with respect to the questions that we will put.

And I think I should provide the Clerk in advance with a copy of the questions. And I see we have four additional copies here. And I suppose it might be in order . . .

**Mr. Anguish:** — Four copies of the same? Those four copies you passed on, are they the same copies?

**A Member:** — Yes. Can you give one to Mr. Muirhead and Ms. Haverstock.

**Mr. Cline:** — They should be the same.

And would it be your wish, Mr. Chairman, that I read these questions into the record as we go along?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Perhaps, Mr. Cline, what we would do is you would read the entire list into the record rather than stopping and starting at each one. Then at your pleasure we can

go back. I believe Mr. Muirhead has the same request. And to be fair about it I think I would like you to get it on the record and then we can have it dealt with.

**Mr. Cline:** — Okay. Well starting then with page 12 of the special report which deals with the 32 ministerial assistants, at page 12 of course a list appears of several Crown corporations. And we would like the following questions addressed by the Clerk to each of those corporations.

1. Provide us with alphanumeric codes for each person in your organization we are seeking information about.

2. Describe the positions within your organization each of these people was hired to fill.

3. Tell us who requested the employment of this or these persons, who authorized their employment, and who supervised their work.

4. Tell us when and for what period or periods of time these people were hired.

5. Describe the nature of the actual work these employees performed and their physical location while performing this work during the periods noted above.

6. Tell us the monthly salaries paid to this employee or employees during this period and describe any other benefits including non-monetary and/or severance benefits they also received. Also, where were their pay cheques sent.

7. Tell us whether any performance evaluations were completed for this person or these people, and if so, whether copies of these are available. And if this would violate the freedom of information Act, then that could be indicated accordingly and we could simply be advised whether performance evaluations were completed and who signed those evaluations.

Then, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a series of questions, with the same request to the Clerk, relating to the 79 employees paid for by corporations and departments and boards, which appears at page 12 and 13 of the special report. And the questions to be put would be as follows:

1. Provide us with alphanumeric codes for each person in your organization we are seeking information about.

2. Describe the positions within your organization which each of these people was hired to fill.

3. Tell us who requested the employment of this person or persons, who authorized the employment of these persons, and who was to supervise their work.

4. Tell us when and for what period or periods of time these people were hired.

5. Describe the nature of the actual work each of these employees performed and their physical location or locations while performing this work during the periods

noted above.

6. Describe the nature of the work intended by the legislature involved with each of these positions.

7. Tell us the monthly salaries paid to this employee or employees during this period or periods and describe any other benefits including severance benefits they also received; also, where were their pay cheques sent.

8. Tell us whether any performance evaluations were completed for this person or these people and, if so, whether copies of these are available. And then the same proviso would apply with respect to that question.

Then, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the departments listed at page 13, departments and corporations and agencies who received the services of the employees at no direct cost – these would be the 79 employees – we would ask the following questions.

1. Provide us with alphanumeric codes for each person in your organization we are seeking information about.

2. Describe the positions within your department which each of these people was hired to fill.

3. Tell us who requested the employment of this person or these people, who authorized this person or these persons' employment, and who supervised their work.

4. Tell us when and for what period or periods of time this person or these persons provided services to your organization.

5. Describe the nature of the actual work these employees performed and their physical location or locations while performing this work during the periods noted above.

6. Describe the nature of the work intended to be performed by these persons for your organization.

7. Tell us the monthly salaries paid to this employee or these employees during this period or periods and describe any other benefits, including non-monetary and/or severance benefits they also received. Also, where were their pay cheques sent.

8. Tell us whether any performance evaluations were completed for this person or these persons and if so, whether copies of these are available. And again, the same proviso indicated earlier would apply.

Then, Mr. Chairman, with respect to what appears at page 14 of the special report, which I refer to as employees missing in action – those are the employees paid by departments but it was not possible to determine who received their services – we would ask the Clerk to direct the following questions to the appropriate corporations, departments, or secretariat, or board.

1. Provide us with alphanumeric codes for each person in your organization we are seeking information about.

2. Describe the purposes for which payments were made

to this person or these people.

3. Tell us who requested these payments, who authorized these payments, and under whose authority they may have been terminated.

4. Tell us when and for what period or periods of time these payments were made.

5. Tell us the monthly amounts of these payments during this period or periods, and describe any other benefits including non-monetary benefits, severance benefits, etc., that your organization also provided.

6. Tell us where these payments were sent and how they were made.

7. Describe for us the efforts, and results of those efforts, of your organization to determine where these persons were performing whatever services they were paid for.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to move on to section 2 of the special report of the auditor. And this is discussed at pages 16 to 18 of the report and of course there's a list at page 17 with respect to payments by departments and the Public Service Commission and the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation to advertisers. And we would ask the Clerk to obtain the following information from the government organizations listed.

1. Provide us with copies of all advertising invoices and their accompanying advertising funding and approval forms, that is form 85, relating to this expenditure.

2. Provide us with copies of any agreements, orders, or contracts that were entered into with respect to this request for service.

3. Tell us who initiated the requests for services these expenditures refer to and under what authority.

4. Tell us who authorized payment regarding these services and who was responsible for overseeing these services.

5. Provide us with copies, samples, or examples of any materials that were produced or received with respect to this request for service.

6. Describe for us any alternate purposes which these funds may have been applied to other than those shown in the requisitions, orders, or invoices we're discussing.

Then, Mr. Chairman, I want to move on to section 3 of the special report which deals with goods and services provided without charge to ministers which appears at pages 18 to 21 of the report. And at pages 19 and 20 there are some paragraphs dealing with these payments.

And again, there are Crown corporations, the Liquor Board and a department listed. And with respect to those government organizations, we would ask the Clerk to direct the following questions.

1. Which equipment, other than office equipment, the department has provided to ministers or senior staff?

2. Tell us which changes of ministers or staff left you unable to account for this equipment?

3. Tell us whether incoming ministers and staff requested office or other equipment similar or identical to that which your records indicated has previously been provided to outgoing ministers or staff.

4. Tell us the specifics of these requests including their value.

5. Tell us whether the department regained or retained possession of office or other equipment it had previously provided to outgoing ministers or staff subsequent to their change.

6. Tell us the costs incurred by the department when ministers were charged and the factors contributing to these costs. And I should say that obviously relates to what is said in the report about the Department of Highways and Transportation. I'm not sure those questions pertain to any other organization listed there.

Then, Mr. Chairman, with respect to section 4 of the report, which deals with goods or services provided without charge to other government organizations, appearing at pages 21 to 24 of the report – and these are detailed – that pages 21 to 23, we would ask the Clerk to direct the following questions to the government organizations referred to at those pages.

1. Provide us with details of each of these expenses and any documentation regarding their initiation, purpose, approval, directions or other pertinent concerns. And in the case of departments, Mr. Chairman, I think we should ask that any requisitions for payment or certifications under The Financial Administration Act be produced as well.

2. Tell us who requested these goods and/or services and under what authority.

3. Tell us who authorized the provision of these goods and/or services by the department or corporation and under what authority.

And those would be the questions that we wish to put, Mr. Chairman. And we would like the Clerk to put those questions out in as timely a fashion as possible and to get a written return for us in as timely a fashion as possible.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Likewise I have done approximately the same thing — listed some questions for the Clerk of the Assembly to have answered. I guess they mostly have to be answered by the auditor. But I'll do the same thing; I'll address them to the Clerk. I have a copy. I'm sorry I didn't get a lot of copies here. And when I'm through — I didn't know there was going to be media here — I'll give one copy and you can distribute among yourselves when I'm through. I've only got one copy left.

My questions are as follows. I have seven questions with three or four parts to each question, so it won't take very long, Mr. Chairman, to read it into the record.

1(a) In researching any part or all of this report, who is consulted by the Provincial Auditor?

(b) Were those people consulted employed prior to November 1, 1991, or were they hired after that date?

(c) If those people who had been consulted were employees after November 1, 1991, were they in a position to know the answers to the questions?

(d) Please list the people in each department, Crown, or agency that were consulted by breaking them down both by title, date of employment, and role in the personnel function work place, and their relationship to the deputy minister and minister.

2(a) With respect to secondments, is it not true that secondments have taken place during the 1960s and the 1970s.

(b) Is it not true that secondments between agencies of government are actually a tool used by the Public Service Commission to help supplement some other departments in times of need and to help diversify employees' backgrounds.

(c) Is it not true that governments over the past two decades have paid political assistants from departments, Crown corporations, and agencies.

(d) Would the auditor ensure that there is a breakdown between public service and political assistants as to which of the 79 employees listed on page 12 fall into each category of secondment, and would the auditor also please define who is determining who is a political assistant and who is a public servant.

3(a) Would the auditor suggest additional staff be hired and extra cost to the taxpayer be incurred to perform special duties on an *ad hoc* basis like Consensus Saskatchewan or the Future Corporation, or are secondments a better use of tax dollars if the staff are available to supplement other areas of government.

(b) With respect to the 19 employees listed on page 14, who was consulted as to these people's functions? Were the ministers responsible for their sponsoring departments or agencies consulted? Was any staff employed prior to November 1, 1991 consulted, and who are these people, and what was their role in the personnel function of their work place?

(c) Were these 19 people also, in part or in whole, included as part of the auditor's findings on page 11 involving the 32 ministerial assistants or as part of those listed on page 12 in the group of 79?

(d) To ensure no double counting or the impression of double counting is left in the public domain, would the auditor, while protecting the privacy of the individuals' names, provide a comprehensive breakdown of which ministerial assistants fall into which category and which ministerial assistants fall into more than one category.

(e) Would the auditor also consult with the official

opposition in determining which secondments of any description described in his special report are ministerial assistants and which would be better defined as public servants.

4(a) With respect to the section of the report dealing with payments for advertising costs for product apparently not received, was it not pointed out that in many cases departments or agencies shared the costs of advertising if the theme was generally attributable to more than one originating department or agency.

(b) In the cases where departments claim no product or at least no knowledge of product from money spent, who was consulted and what was their role in relation to the auditing or financial management process. When were they employed by the government or agency, and what was their relationship to the deputy minister or minister?

(c) In all cases listed on page 17, did the auditor determine whether any or all of these expenditures were part of other departments or agencies' commitments to communication campaigns or was there no one available to determine this within the originating department or agency.

(d) With regard to the current process of allocating advertising contracts, can the auditor comment on the openness of the process, the integrity of the actual tendering process compared to, for example, the Department of Highways and Transportation open tendering process, the value of the money being spent, and the competitive nature or lack thereof within this process.

5(a) With respect to section 3, is it the auditor's contention that ministers ordered the Liquor Board to establish a presence at the Big Valley Jamboree or did the Liquor Board establish its presence for use by guests from the tourism industry, visiting dignitaries, and other officials.

(b) Is it the auditor's contention that the Liquor Board should not be an instrument of the government's tourism policy or is it his contention in this case that it should be used to promote tourism but that its role should be formalized.

(c) With respect to any other services or items provided to ministers by agencies or departments of the Crowns, did the auditor do any comparisons to practices in the 1960s or the 1970s. And if not, would he, so that an adequate long-term analysis of common practice can be done.

(d) With regard to those recommendations made in section 3, can the auditor report on any meetings, conversations, or exchanges of written material which could update the public on the implementation progress to date.

6(a) In regard to the various services or products supplied by government departments or agencies to other departments or agencies without charge, did the auditor do any research to determine whether this was a practice during the 1960s or the 1970s; were officials not questioned as to who authorized such practices; and

were these officials being consulted hired before or after November 1, 1991.

(b) Is the auditor's contention that the expenditures were improper or that the accounting for those expenditures was improper.

(c) Would the auditor make available the contents or intent of any correspondence; communications, verbal or otherwise; or meetings which his recommendations under section 4 and section 5 have been discussed or the implementation thereof have been initiated.

7. For questions no. 4 and 5 of Mr. Val Mulligen's memo of May 26, 1992 to Mr. Robert Vaive, the Deputy Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee, please provide this information in comparison to similar periods of time in the last term in the last NDP (New Democratic Party) government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it proper to have the pages take a copy and give it to the media or should I . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — I believe that's already been done.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — The media have a copy of this? Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** — The next person I have is Ms. Haverstock. In the vein of what's happened here, do you have a similar typewritten request for the committee?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I have only five questions and they're in addition to Mr. Cline's.

**Mr. Chairman:** — In addition to Mr. Cline's. Perhaps to formalize this particular process — both Mr. Cline and Mr. Muirhead have presented lengthy written submissions to the Clerk — that we should formalize that process by a motion. The Clerk has provided me with a generic one and I would read it to the committee and see if it met with the approval of Mr. Cline and Mr. Muirhead.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Why would we need a motion if there's agreement on the committee? I don't understand the purpose of the motion.

**Mr. Chairman:** — In all likelihood the Clerk will prepare letters to go out under the signature of the chairman of Public Accounts, which will, we hope, add a little weight to our investigations and that being the matter of . . . it probably would be best to formalize . . . confirms the committee's wishes, I guess.

**Mr. Anguish:** — What does the motion state?

**Mr. Chairman:** —

That the Clerk be authorized to seek in writing answers to a series of questions read to the committee by Mr. Cline and Mr. Muirhead addressed to various departments, Crown corporations, agencies and other businesses indicated in the *Special Report of the Provincial Auditor*.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Well I did have some questions about some of these questions. In going through them – for example, question 1 that Mr. Muirhead raises – the auditor gives quite an extensive briefing on the process that he followed in completing this report. Now this is the first time we've had a chance to look at these. I'm not sure, for example, what the current process of allocating advertising contracts and the auditor's comments on that process and comparing it to the Department of Highways and Transportation process, what's that got to do with the issues before us?

I'm entirely prepared to look at the government's process for allocating advertising contracts, but I assume that that's a process that the auditor will be commenting on in the normal course of events as he does his reports for a year's activities.

I'm not sure why it is that we're getting into a process that is barely established, but what the point of that is and how it relates to the special report before us. Again, like, I've got no problem looking at the government's process for advertising or for contracting out advertising. But it seems to me normally in Public Accounts you look at something that's taken place already or something that can be reported on, as opposed to asking the auditor to report on a process that is barely established.

There's a number of questions here. For example, 5(a), is it the auditor's contention that the ministers order the Liquor Board to establish a presence at the Big Valley Jamboree or that the Liquor Board establish its presence for use by guests from the tourism industry, visiting dignitaries, and other officials.

I'm not clear why we'd want to ask the auditor to answer those questions when it seems to me the people we should be asking the questions of are those that in fact authorized that kind of process or that kind of procedure if necessary so that they can answer for themselves.

It seems to me that one of the things that you want to do in the case of this committee is get it directly from the horse's mouth as opposed to putting questions, if you like, through a third party who may not be able to report to the extent that he necessarily feels comfortable with; or that in any way is going to give us the information that we're really after. And it seems to me that you need to be going to the appropriate instruments.

Is it the auditor's, for example, is it the auditor's contention that the Liquor Board should not be an instrument of the government's tourism policy? Or is it his contention in this case that it should be used to promote tourism but that its role should be formalized.

Well, I mean like, why don't we ask the Liquor Board if they're somehow tied into the government's tourism policy.

I'd be interested to get the auditor's comments on doing a comparison to practices of the '60s and '70s. You know, why not the '40s and '50s too, or you know since 1905. I'd like to get his comments on that too. I'm not sure what that's leading up to. So I'm not sure that I think '60s . . . the questions that Mr. Cline asked were clear and were

intended to go to departments to get information for the committee.

Although these questions are directed at the auditor, I'm not sure whether the auditor, you know – let him speak for himself – is in much of a position to answer some of these questions. And some of them I just, I don't know what the point is.

**Mr. Chairman:** — There's a list on this. I think Mr. Van Mulligen posed some questions. Mr. Muirhead as the originator of his request should have the opportunity to speak on it.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably, Mr. Van Mulligen, I had some reservations about some of the questions that Mr. Cline asked: why and what for. But I had it in my mind as I . . . in our break I told the auditor that I was going to present questions for the auditor to answer, and when he comes down with the written answers and there's something that's not appropriate or not able to answer or whatever, he would say that in the written report. So I'd like to leave it to the auditor to tell us why some of these questions should not be in his report.

So I'm suggesting that – the same as Mr. Cline had put in a written request – I put in a written request. And if there's questions coming from Mr. Cline that is not appropriate, then our auditor will say so in his written report, and why. And the same thing with my request, that if there's something that's not appropriate in here, you say so and why.

I thought that was fair. Because we could be here a long time if I go back and go through Mr. Cline's and say, well now why should that be answered? Even though, Mr. Van Mulligen, you say it's department to department, these are still comments here that was made by the auditor in his reports and what not. And I think that's fair. Leave it up to the auditor – if he says it's not appropriate, and why. And I'm satisfied with that.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Is it now an opportune time for me to pose my questions? I was not going to engage in this . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — Okay, then back to Mr. Cline.

**Mr. Cline:** — Well I think the problem here, Mr. Chairman, is that . . . I want to make it clear that my questions don't relate to the Provincial Auditor in terms of a request to him for information. There's a very simple reason for that, and that is that the Provincial Auditor's role under The Provincial Auditor Act is to provide a report but not to provide us with background information – that is, his working papers, the information that he has been given directly by departments, corporations, and agencies. That's very clear.

What I am doing in my questions, and I would like a separate motion with respect to my questions, not dealing with Mr. Muirhead's questions in the same motion – that can be dealt with separately – what I am doing is asking for factual information from departments, Crown corporations, and agencies which the Provincial Auditor is not in a position to give to this committee because that is not the way the Provincial Auditor functions.

I want to make it very clear that what Mr. Muirhead is doing is asking the Provincial Auditor for a series of sometimes factual information which could be obtained from departments, sometimes opinions, and sometimes questions which are almost argumentative in nature.

Now the problem I have –and I certainly don't want to be difficult, because I have a right to ask questions, Mr. Muirhead has a right to ask questions, but I just want to point out some of the differences so that it isn't perceived that somehow we're saying that I can ask questions but Mr. Muirhead can't – but the problem I'm having, and I sense that other members of the committee may have, is that some of the questions Mr. Muirhead is asking should properly be directed to the appropriate departments, Crown corporations, and agencies, not to the Provincial Auditor. Some of them are clearly beyond the jurisdiction or the mandate of the Provincial Auditor and some of them are clearly beyond the personal knowledge of the Provincial Auditor who was not here in the 1960s or the 1970s and so on.

And I could go through the questions of Mr. Muirhead. I don't propose to do that; I think they speak for themselves. But to my way of thinking it's quite clear that the questions put the Provincial Auditor in a very awkward position because they ask things in some case that are argumentative. They ask things in some cases that are not part of the mandate of the Provincial Auditor. They ask things that are not within the knowledge of the Provincial Auditor.

And it would seem to me that in fairness to the Provincial Auditor and consistent with The Provincial Auditor Act, which says that he is to present us with reports, we are then to follow up and get what kind of background information we want directly from the horse's mouth, which isn't the mouth of the Provincial Auditor. I just make the respectful suggestion that perhaps some of these questions of Mr. Muirhead could be reworked and redirected to the appropriate governmental officials.

But in any event, if the Clerk advises that we should have motions with respect to these questions that have been put, then as far as I'm concerned with respect to the questions that I've put, a separate motion with respect to those to be dealt with by the committee I think would be in order. And I will leave it to the committee to decide, with respect to a separate motion, what to do with Mr. Muirhead's questions.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Before we entertain any more discussion, Mr. Cline, the motion that I read out with Mr. Muirhead's name deleted, does that satisfy your request as per your question?

**Mr. Cline:** — Yes, I have no problem with that.

**Mr. Anguish:** — I don't think we can deal with this motion on a point of order on individual requests. I maintain that we don't have the motion for today. If we want to go on the advice of the Clerk that we need this motion, for whatever reason, I think our debate's going to take us much longer than we've got time allowed for today on the committee.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Can I just get a clarification from the chair? The questions that Mr. Cline put forward to the committee, is it your understanding that the Clerk, notwithstanding anything else that's happened here today, will in fact be submitted to the departments for answers? Or is it your position that these questions will now be held in abeyance until the next meeting?

**Mr. Chairman:** — The intent was — and I was seeking advice — that the normal practice of parliamentary procedure is that when the committee agrees on something that it be formalized. That isn't necessary. If the committee gives it verbal agreement to proceed with Mr. Cline's questions, they automatically become the committee's wishes and it proceeds.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Is it your understanding then that exclusive of anything else that may have been put forward, that there is agreement that Mr. Cline's questions will be submitted forthwith to the appropriate departments?

**Mr. Chairman:** — If the committee agrees to that, that would be the process.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — I'm asking: do you sense that that agreement is there now, for the Clerk to be able to proceed? Or is something more substantive required at this point for the Clerk to proceed to put those questions?

**Mr. Vaive:** — Mr. Chairman, we don't need anything more substantive. The fact that the committee agrees that the Clerk undertake to do this for the committee is in itself a motion, and the practice has been to have the motion supported; moved by a member of the committee. And if the committee does not wish to do that, it is not in keeping with parliamentary practice.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — So those questions then will after this meeting go forward to the departments?

**Mr. Vaive:** — This was my understanding, they would be . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — There was never any intent not to have them go forward; it was just to put it in the proper form and go out. And the Clerk informed me that normal practice is for the committee chairman to sign the request, on behalf of the committee, that goes forward. In this case there will be several dozens of letters to sign and he asked me if I wanted to sign them all, and I thought in the best interest of the committee it would be appropriate that I take the time as committee chairman to put my John Henry on all of them.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Okay.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Okay?

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — If it's appropriate I'd like to move that:

The chairman and appropriate officials from the Saskatchewan Liquor Board be invited to attend the next meeting of the committee to answer any

of the questions that might be contained in the questions put forward by Mr. Cline, and any such other questions the committee may have with respect to the findings contained in the auditor's special report.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Am I on the understanding that we're not voting on this then? Then the request for Mr. Cline goes forth as mine goes forth the same way?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Well so far we're just dealing with Mr. Cline . . . Just to formalize this on the record, I would like Mr. Cline to make a motion that his remarks go ahead and the committee can agree to it and then it's done.

**Mr. Cline:** — Okay. Well I will move that:

The Clerk prepare a list of questions which are now on the record to each department, agency, or Crown corporation or board which the questions relate to, to be sent out over the name of the chairman requesting the information indicated in the series of questions.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Is that agreed?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — If I may, Mr. Chairman, I requested sometime ago that I have an opportunity to ask some questions that would be in addition to Mr. Cline's questions. So I would ask the committee to entertain my questions so that they can be included in this motion?

**Mr. Chairman:** — Okay, I want to be fair to everyone here. We've dispensed with Mr. Cline's questions. Mr. Van Mulligen has made a motion. We should dispense with that in a formal manner, and then we have to dispense with Mr. Muirhead's questions, and then move to yours.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Okay, actually we have to go back to your original motion, and we're no longer going to have it, I understand, so that's the first thing that we have to deal with.

**Mr. Chairman:** — We're no longer going to have it. We'll deal with Mr. Van Mulligen's motion now:

That chairman of the Saskatchewan Liquor Board be invited to attend the next meeting of the Public Accounts Committee to answer questions with respect to the April 21, 1992 *Special Report of the Provincial Auditor*.

Is that agreed? Carried.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — I'd like to make the motion:

That my written request, or my request to the Clerk, be supplied and signed by the chairman to this committee.

And as speaking on the motion, I felt that we've been sitting here *in camera*, out of camera, talking about the auditor's special reports. Now I feel, Mr. Cline, with due respect, that all the questions you've asked are quite available to be answered by the departments. My

questions are directly to the auditor on his report. And I'm quite satisfied and I voted for years to go ahead so I can't understand why I haven't got a right to ask the question to the auditor to answer questions on his special report because that's what we've been here for.

So I feel just the same as you feel, that you think that you can go back and go back to department to ask my questions. Well I say you feel you can do the same thing. So to be fair to one another I would like my . . . as I talked to the auditor before — Mr. Strelloff — at the break and my questions will go to him and from the Clerk, and if it's not appropriate, he can say so and why. And I have no problem with that.

If it's not appropriate questions that I put forth, but I want him to be able to look at these questions that he gets from the Clerk and let him say that these aren't appropriate questions for me to ask of his report. Because we're really talking about his report here, not department questions which you said yourself and it will show on the record, Mr. Cline, that these questions are more or less to the department, and I went and put . . . asked my questions to the auditor and put him on the spot to ask questions. Well it's his report. Why haven't I got the right to do that? So that's the only point I make in my motion. I asked you people to support me as I supported you and yours.

**Mr. Anguish:** — What does the motion say?

**Mr. Chairman:** — There isn't . . . Mr. Muirhead just gave a verbal. I don't have a formal written motion.

**Mr. Cline:** — But you do have a motion from me, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Passed and carried.

**Mr. Cline:** — Have we . . . I'm sorry. I missed that.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Passed and carried, Mr. Cline.

**Mr. Cline:** — Okay.

**Mr. Anguish:** — I guess my only concern, Mr. Muirhead, is in terms of the length of time it may take for the auditor to respond. You have every right to ask the questions that you've put forward to the committee today. There's no question about that.

I am, however, concerned that what basically you're doing is you're expanding the terms of reference that initiated the original *Special Report of the Provincial Auditor*. And I like your attitude that some of the questions, if they're not appropriately put to the auditor, that he can respond in that way.

My only concern with some of the questions, I state again, is the time it would take in gathering some of that information together, and I wouldn't want to delay the work of the committee, so that we can make sure we deal with the *Special Report of the Provincial Auditor* as expeditiously as possible.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Any other comment on this matter?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — I'd just like some clarification as to where we are with the particular motions, and I don't really know if this one is required or not. So if you could bring me up to date and I shall read this out . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — Well we've dispensed with one from Mr. Cline and one from Mr. Val Mulligen, and we're awaiting Mr. Muirhead's written . . .

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Well, it was just what . . . I'm reiterating what I stated earlier. In addition to the information requested by Mr. Cline, I move:

That the questions posed by member from Saskatoon Greystone be directed to government departments, agencies, and corporations.

Since we have not heard those questions yet, I suggest that we wait with this motion.

**Mr. Chairman:** — You're next on the list, Ms. Haverstock.

**Mr. Anguish:** — Have you got the questions?

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Yes. I've been waiting since . . . well, you wouldn't want to have me . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — If this committee is agreed, perhaps while Mr. Muirhead's writing out his motion, Ms. Haverstock could put her questions on the record.

**Ms. Haverstock:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like this, in addition to the information that's been requested, because I think that it may get to some information that we wouldn't glean otherwise. And I would like these questions posed to various departments, agencies, and corporations.

1. To your knowledge, was your department required to change its budget, either by increasing the budget or the reallocation of funds, in order to accommodate employees for whom you had no supervisory responsibility or authority.

2. If so, what portion of your department's budget was affected?

3. From whom did you receive this directive?

4. Were you provided with any information regarding the responsibilities of these individuals, and if so, describe them.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Does the committee have any comments on Ms. Haverstock's questions?

**Mr. Kujawa:** — It's too late. My comment was: damn good questions.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Don't use that word in the House. It upsets Herman.

I take it from the committee's comments, we have agreement on Ms. Haverstock's questions, or do you want the motion read out? Agreed.

Motion by Mr. Muirhead:

That the questions I have asked the Clerk to have written answers signed by the chairman to be tabled to the committee. These questions are to be answered by the auditor.

**A Member:** — Repeat that again?

**Mr. Chairman:** — That the questions Mr. Muirhead has asked the Clerk of the committee to have these written answers . . . written questions submitted by the chairman and to be tabled with this committee. These questions are to be answered by the auditor. Is that at his discretion?

**Mr. Muirhead:** — At his discretion. Should be answered at his discretion.

**Mr. Cline:** — I'd like to, if it's in order, suggest an amendment which is in accordance with what Mr. Muirhead said a few minutes ago, which would be that the Provincial Auditor be invited to comment upon whether the questions posed might more appropriately be directed to other government officials.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Well I think that's the intent of this motion. Mr. Muirhead?

**Mr. Muirhead:** — I don't mind. Because it's his discretion . . . with his discretion.

**Mr. Kujawa:** — Really further to that same thing, one of the questions for instance is: does the Provincial Auditor have an opinion as to whether the Liquor Board should be involved with tourism. That is a government policy thing. It is not within his field and he should feel free to say I don't consider this within my jurisdiction.

**Mr. Chairman:** — I think that's the intent of Mr. Cline's amendment.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — If you want to give these questions to the auditor and if he wants to come back to us and say yes, no, I don't know, you'd have to ask someone else or whatever it is, or it's impossible to get the information you're looking for or you're asking for opinions which is not my place to offer and you'll have to ask someone else, that's fine.

But the auditor shall also come back to us if, in his opinion, these questions constitute some other special report pursuant to the Act. And I'd like to know that. Because some of the questions have precious little to do with the special report before us and suggest to me another whole special report and expanded different terms of reference, expanded terms of reference, and it's not exactly clear that . . . Well, he'll have to let us know if in his opinion that assignment would interfere with his other duties as prescribed in the Act.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Mr. Chairman, Mr. Val Mulligen, to be fair, the only reason I done this because I had my right to sit here and maybe take an hour or more asking the questions and talking about it, and I only did it to — the same as you people did — shorten up the time element. So, I'm quite willing to, as I've said, and I've said to you

personally, that if the questions are not appropriate, then just say so. That's all you have to do.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Perhaps the auditor would like to comment — I know that his abilities vis-a-vis budget, staff, that type of thing have been taxed extensively with the work of this committee and he certainly has been asked to do more things — what he feels about the various requests.

**Mr. Strelloff:** — Mr. Chairman, members, we'll carefully look at all the questions and when we can answer them, we'll answer them; and when we can't answer them or are unable to answer them, we'll say so, and why.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Fair enough.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Is the committee satisfied with that? Agreed. We are adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 11:29 a.m.