

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

May 2, 1984

MINUTE NO. 11

May 2, 1984 at 8:00 a.m.

1. PRESENT: Mr. Shillington in the Chair, and members Engel, Glauser, Katzman, Martens, Meagher, Morin and Weiman.

Officials Present:

Provincial Auditor's Office

F. Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor

B. Atkinson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

A. Martens, Audit Manager

Comptroller's Office

G. Benson, Deputy Comptroller

G. Crook, Analyst

Observers:

D. Miller, Analyst

C. Henneberg, Analyst

2. An *in camera* briefing session on the Departments of Finance and Highways was held.

3. **Public Hearing: Department of Finance**

Witnesses:

M. Costello, Deputy Minister

D. Rowlett, Associate Deputy Minister

L. McFarlane, Associate Deputy Minister

M. Meiklejohn, Assistant Deputy Minister

K. Mackrill, Director, Administration

4. Department of Finance: Hearing completed

5. **Public Hearing: Department of Highways**

Witnesses:

J. Sutherland, Deputy Minister

M. Herasymuk, Director, Operations Division

A. Schwartz, Director, Support Services Division

P. Fitzel, Director, Financial Services Branch

A. Massier, Director, Management Services Branch

I. Millard, Budget Control Officer

6. The committee requested the Department of Highways to provide through the committee Clerk fifteen copies in response to:

- (a) a list of all contracts let
 - (b) the names of all bidders
 - (c) the amount of each bid
 - (d) the reason why the low bid was not accepted by the Department
7. A Point of Order was raised by the member for Morse pertaining to a question asked by the member for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg. The Chairman ruled the question out of order on the grounds that it requested a forecast and as such implied future years under review.
8. Department of Highways: Hearing completed.
9. The committee decided to adjourn *sine die* until a later date. In the interim the committee Clerk was instructed to provide members with a complete list of flagged items, to date; for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet upon their receipt of all requests for information; for the committee Clerk to prepare a draft report after the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agree upon items for the final report; and that the committee will not publish an interim report.
10. It was moved by Mr. Shillington:
- That the Public Accounts Committee Clerk express the committee's gratitude to the Provincial Auditor for his participation in the work of the committee and to convey to the Provincial Auditor their wish for a fast recovery from his illness.
- A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to, unanimously.
11. The following documents were tabled in committee:
- PAC32/84 Response from the Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture, dated April 26, 1984 regarding questions raised by the committee at their meeting of April 12, 1984.
- PAC33/84 Letter from the Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Highways and Transportation dated August 9, 1983 listing the remedial actions of computer implementation.
12. An *in camera* briefing session on committee participation at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Annual Meeting in Charlottetown on July 9-11, 1984 was held. The following members will be attending: Shillington, Engel, Katzman, Martens, and Meagher.
13. The committee adjourned *sine die* at 10:20 a.m. No further Departments to be called.