

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

February 8, 1989

MINUTE NO. 8

February 8, 1989 at 9:00 a.m.

1. PRESENT: Mr. Van Mulligen in the Chair and Members Anguish, Hopfner, Lingenfelter, Martens, Martin, Muller, Neudorf and Prebble

Officials:

Provincial Auditor's Office

F. Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
B. Atkinson, Deputy Provincial Auditor
H. Hunt, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Comptroller's Office

G. Kraus, Provincial Comptroller
T. Paton, A/Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee met *in camera* for a briefing on the Auditor's Report.
3. PUBLIC HEARING: Department of Parks and Renewable Resources Culture and Recreation (now Parks, Recreation and Culture)

Witnesses:

D. Cressman, Deputy Minister
D. Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Support Services
A. Appleby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Renewable Resources
R. MacLennan, Executive Director, Operations
K. Rogers, Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture

4. Mr. Anguish asked a question regarding the tendering out of contracts for golf carts and golf course in the Battleford Park.

A Point of Order was raised and the question was ruled out of order on the grounds that it was not relevant to the year under review.

5. The Chairman made a statement about the mandate of the Committee and quoted from the Public Accounts Committee's November 1982 report to the Assembly as follows regarding elements that the Committee had agreed made up its mandate:

The written statement of the role and responsibilities of the Committee comprise a general statement of purpose and a list of issues that the committee is to examine, assess, report on to the legislature, and the follow up with the administration, including:

- (a) the reliability and appropriateness of information in the Public Accounts to provide a full and fair accounting of operations and financial transactions;
- (b) the collection of, and proper accounting for, all taxes and other revenues due;
- (c) the maintenance of expenditures within the limits and for the purposes authorized by the legislature;
- (d) the adequacy of safeguards to protect assets from loss, waste and misappropriation;
- (e) the regard for economy in the acquisition of goods and services;
- (f) the regard for efficiency in operations; and

(g) the effectiveness of programs in achieving their stated objectives.

6. The following document was tabled:

PAC 31/88-89 — List of contractual services received in the year 1986-87 (Parks and Renewable Resources)

7. The Department agreed to provide a list of new contracts that were let in the year under review for services and facilities that had been previously provided by the department and department employees.
8. Mr. Prebble requested copies of all the bids for a specific contract regarding Duck Mountain Provincial Park. The Department replied that the details of the successful contract were available if the contract was attached to the Order in Council. The Committee debated whether the other information should be made available in these types of situations. The committee agreed that the Department should inquire into the matter and report on whether the Department would release that type of information.
9. The Department agreed to provide copies of all Forestry Management lease Agreements that were part of an Order in Council and that were in effect in the year under review and including the old Simpson Timber Agreement (if it was an Order in Council).
10. The Committee requested the Department to provide statistics regarding the number of trees planted for the 10-year period prior to the year under review and requested the rationale for the planting of hardwoods rather than softwoods.
11. The department undertook to respond in writing to several other questions.
12. The hearing on Parks and Renewable Resources was adjourned with the understanding that the Department may be called back at a subsequent meeting.
13. The following document was tabled:
- PAC 32/88-89 — Correspondence Dated January 25, 1988 and February 2, 1988 between the Provincial Auditor and the Minister responsible for Crown Management Board regarding access to the Minutes of the Board of CIC.
14. An *in camera* briefing was held on the Department of the Provincial Secretary.
15. It was moved by Mr. Neudorf:

That this Committee immediately proceed to hearings on the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee, and further that during the next session of the Legislative Assembly recommendations on the mandate and operation of the Public Accounts Committee be presented to the Assembly.

The motion was ruled out of order on the grounds that it was not relevant to the agenda item under consideration.

Mr. Hopfner challenged the ruling of the Chair.

Thereupon Mr. Chairman put the question: Shall the ruling of the Chairman be sustained? The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman thereupon proposed the motion moved by Mr. Neudorf as follows:

That this Committee immediately proceed to hearings on the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee, and further that during the next session of the Legislative Assembly recommendations on the mandate and operation of the Public Accounts be presented to the Assembly.

16. A debate arising, an amendment was moved by Mr. Lingenfelter:

That the word “immediately” be deleted from the first line and the following substituted therefore: “commencing Monday, February 13”

The debate continuing and the question being put on the amendment, it was negatived.

17. The debate continuing, an amendment was moved by Mr. Prebble:

That the following be added to the motion:

And further that this work be done from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. starting tonight and continuing each week night until its work is completed so that the period from 9:00 — 5:00 p.m. can be used for an examination of the spending of government departments.

The debate continuing and the question being put on the amendment, it was negatived.

18. The debate continuing, a point of order was raised that Mr. Lingenfelter had used the word “liar” in reference to a Member and was therefore out of order. Mr. Chairman ruled that the words were unparliamentary and directed the Member to withdraw. Thereupon Mr. Lingenfelter withdrew the said remarks.

The debate was continuing on the main motion when the committee adjourned.

19. The committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m. until Thursday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Resume consideration of the motion adjourned in Item 14 above. Departmental hearings as scheduled on the agenda for Thursday as agreed upon by the Committee on Monday.