

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**March 14, 1989**

**MINUTE NO. 1**

March 14, 1989 at 8:30 a.m.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Van Mulligen in the Chair and the following Members: Anguish, Lyons, Martens, Martin, Muirhead, Muller, Neudorf, Hopfner and Rolfes.

**Officials**

Provincial Auditor's Office

W. Lutz, Provincial Auditor

F. Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor

B. Atkinson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Comptroller's Office

G. Kraus, Provincial Comptroller

T. Paton, A/Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee considered the proposed agenda and whether to put the Office of the Provincial Auditor on the agenda and to call the Provincial Auditor as a witness.

3. It was moved by Mr. Muller:

That the Office of the Provincial Auditor be placed on the agenda as the last item on the agenda list of departments and agencies to be called.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

4. **Public Hearing: Department of Finance (Department of Revenue and Financial Services and Municipal Employees Superannuation Commission)**

**Officials:**

Art Wakabayashi, Deputy Minister of Finance

Bill Jones, Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury and Debt Management

Dennis Polowyk, Director, Cash and Debt Management, Treasury and Debt Management Division

Bob Blackwell, Executive Director, Operations and Budget Review, Treasury Board Division

Walter Biech, Director, Audit Branch, Revenue Division

Doug Matthies, Director, Accounting and Administration, Saskatchewan Pension Plan

Brian Smith, Executive Director, Public Employees Benefits Agency

Bill Van Sickle, Executive Director, Administration Branch

5. The Committee requested, from figures provided to the Department of Finance, the amount of loans written off by the Agricultural Credit Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1987.

6. The Committee requested the Department to provide the amount of the accumulated deficit for the year ended March 31, 1987 broken down by the Livestock Plan and the Production Loan Plan.

The Department agreed to provide the figures for the accumulated deficit in the form available in the financial statements of the corporation.

7. Mr. Lyons asked the following question:

Would the Department provide the financial background information regarding how the amount of \$109,000,000 for loan loss provision was determined?

The Deputy Minister responded that the requested information was part of the budgetary decision-making process and thus he was not able to give the information.

A Point of Order having been raised regarding whether the question was in order, the Chairperson heard the views of various Members and then deferred his decision to the next meeting.

8. The Committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until Thursday, March 16, 1989 at 8:30 a.m.

**Agenda:**

Department of Finance (including Department of Revenue and Financial Services and Municipal Employees Superannuation Commission) continuing.