

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**April 5, 1990**

**MINUTE NO. 2**

April 5, 1990 at 8:30 a.m.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Van Mulligen in the Chair and the following Members: Anguish, Baker, Britton, Hopfner, Muller, Lyons, Rolfes, Sauder and Swan.

**Officials**

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Fred Wendel, Acting Provincial Auditor  
Brian Atkinson, Acting Assistant Provincial Auditor

**Comptroller's Office**

G. Kraus, Comptroller  
T. Paton, Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee agreed that it would not meet on Thursday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 17 due to the Easter Break.
3. **Public Hearing: Crown Investment Corporation** (1987-88 Auditor's Report) (continuing)

**Officials in Attendance:**

W.B. Gibson, President and Chief Executive Officer  
J. Leslie Wright, Director of Accounting Services

4. The debate continuing on the motion of Mr. Rolfes:

That the Public Accounts Committee request that a copy of the Coopers & Lybrand Study commissioned by Crown Management Board on March 12, 1987, be made available to the Public Accounts Committee.

The question being put, it was negatived.

5. A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Anguish who asked the Chair about the Committee's rights about a possible contempt of the committee by a witness.

Mr. Hopfner raised a Point of Order on the Point of Order raised by Mr. Anguish that the Committee move *in camera* for the protection of the witness.

The Chairman ruled that since the Point of Order of Mr. Anguish was hypothetical no decision on either Point of Order could be taken.

6. At 9:00 a.m. the Committee recessed.
7. At 9:12 a.m. the Chairman called the Committee back to order.

8. Mr. Anguish moved:

That this Committee consider if the testimony of Mr. W.B. Gibson, before the Public Accounts Committee, on Tuesday, April 3, 1990, was in contempt of the Public Accounts Committee.

And debate arising . . .

A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Sauder that the Committee was digressing and ought naught to be pursuing this motion. The Chairman ruled that the motion by Mr. Anguish had already been determined to be in order.

And debate continuing . . .

A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Baker that the rights of the witness were being abused.

The Chairman ruled that the witness had no rights of intervention unless directly addressed by a Member of the Committee.

And debate continuing . . .

A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Britton that the questioning and line of argument being pursued by a Member of the Committee were outside the parameters of the motion of Mr. Anguish.

The Chairman ruled against the Point of Order and made three observations: that the Committee had the right to move *in camera* if it felt the witness needed protection; that individual Members of the Committee could ask direct questions of the witness if they felt his testimony were being taken out of context or if they felt clarification of his testimony were needed; and he reiterated that the motion before the Committee had already been determined to be in order.

And debate continuing . . .

A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Hopfner that the Committee move *in camera* which the Chairman ruled to be out of order since it is incorrect to move a motion on a Point of Order.

And debate continuing . . .

A Point of Order was raised by Mr. Muller that the witness should have a right to interject in the proceedings of the Committee at any time.

The Chairman ruled against the Point of Order ordering that questions must be directly put to the witness and directly answered.

And debate continuing . . .

A Point of Order being raised by Mr. Hopfner that the debate of a Member of the Committee was outside the parameters of the motion and the Chairman ruled in favour of the Point of Order.

And debate continuing . . .

The question being put on the motion of Mr. Anguish, it was negatived.

- 9 At 10:06 a.m. the Committee recessed.
10. At 10:12 a.m. the Chairman called the meeting back to order.
11. At 10:30 a.m. the Committee adjourned to Tuesday, April 10, 1990.

**Agenda:**

Crown Investment Corporation (continuing)

Standby: Department of Education