

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 25, 1994

MINUTE NO. 29

9 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Martens in the Chair and Members Cline, Crofford, Koenker, Serby, Sonntag and Upshall.

Other Member: Ms. Anita Bergman

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
Rodd Jersak, Audit Manager
Rod Grabarczyk, Audit Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller
Terry Paton, Executive Director
Gordon Chan, Analyst
Lori Taylor, Analyst

2. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 3 of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993.

Mr. Jersak made a presentation. A discussion followed.

3. The Committee initiated consideration of paragraph 3.23.

4. The Committee recessed at 10:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

5. In consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendation at paragraph 3.23, it was moved by Mr. Koenker:

That the Government should examine how to disclose more fully, in departmental annual reports, information to describe its investment in infrastructure.

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

6. The Committee considered the Minister's response to paragraph 3 of its Sixth Report, as the matter relates to the issues addressed at paragraph 3.23 of the Provincial Auditor's Report. The Committee noted that a Task Force on Reporting Capital Assets had been created under the auspices of the Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Board and agreed to encourage the Minister of Finance to monitor the Task Force's progress.

7. In consideration of paragraph 3.29, the Committee agreed to reiterate the recommendation it made in the fourth paragraph of the Sixth Report. In respect to the Minister's response to the said recommendation, the Committee noted the Minister's point of view but reserved any further comment until the views of others on this matter are known.

8. The Committee recessed at 12 p.m. until 1:25 p.m.

9. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 4 of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993.

10. Mr. Grabarczyk made a presentation and laid before the Committee the following document:

11. **PAC 98/22** - Wall Street Journal Article of April 6, 1994

A discussion followed.

10. In consideration of paragraph 4.26, the Committee noted the recommendation of the Auditor as well as the Government's movement toward better consistency in estimates when calculating the costs and liabilities of its pension plans.
11. In consideration of paragraph 4.28.

It was moved by Mr. Koenker:

That the Government should implement the Pension Review Task Force announced in the 1992/93 budget documents to study its full pension obligations to both those presently covered by Government plans and those presently having no pension coverage.

(Reference to this Pension Review Task Force and \$300,000 budget allocation for it is found in the 1992/93 Estimates.)

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

12. The Committee revised its agenda for the afternoon of October 26 and the morning of October 27. It was agreed to call the Department of Community Services (in respect to Chapter 10 of the Provincial Auditor's Report) and the Department of Agriculture (in respect to Chapter 9).
13. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 5 - The Financial Management Review Commission.

It was agreed to note for the Committee report that in respect to the recommendation at paragraph 7 of the Sixth Report, the Government had responded appropriately and further that the Provincial Auditor will be doing a status report on the Commission's recommendations in his next report.

14. In respect to the Financial Management Review Commission, Mr. Upshall presented the following document:

PAC 99/22 - Gass Recommendations - Status as at January 26, 1994.

15. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 6 - Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly.

The Provincial Auditor made a presentation and a discussion ensued.

16. The Committee considered its agenda for the morning of October 26. It was agreed to review Chapter 7 of the Provincial Auditor's Report and resume consideration of the Minister's response to the Committee's Sixth Report.

17. It was moved by Ms. Crofford: That

this Committee do now adjourn. The

question being put, the motion was

agreed to.

18. The Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. until Wednesday, October 26, 1994 at 9 a.m.

Gregory Putz
Clerk of the Committee

Harold Martens, MLA
Chair