



Standing Committee on Regulations

Hansard Verbatim Report

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS
1998**

Buckley Belanger, Chair
Athabasca

Larry Ward, Vice-Chair
Estevan

Dan D'Autremont
Cannington

Walter Jess
Redberry Lake

Mark Koenker
Saskatoon Sutherland

Sharon Murrell
Battleford-Cut Knife

Maynard Sonntag
Meadow Lake

Don Toth
Moosomin

Grant Whitmore
Saskatoon Northwest

The Vice-Chair: — We'll call this meeting to order.

Ms. Woods: — A new way of starting. What we were planning on doing this morning is basically just to give the members of the Regulations Committee an idea of what has been happening with regard to the visit of the Australian Regulations Committee.

We've handed out to each of you some background material. One is the draft agenda which I'll get into in a bit more detail afterwards.

The second stapled group of papers is some information that we pulled off the Internet. First of all it's got the terms of reference of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee which is the committee that is proposing to visit us. It's a joint committee from the Parliament of Victoria, which is one of the states in Australia. A state is equivalent to a province here.

One thing about their state level parliaments is that they are bicameral. They do have an Upper and a Lower House, and this being a joint committee, has membership from both Houses in it.

The final information that we gave you is the biographies of the four members that will be attending. One of the members is from the Upper House, and that's Hon. Maree Luckins, I'm not sure how you pronounce it. So there are four members that will be arriving in Regina. They will be accompanied by one staff person by the name of Tanya Coleman, and she's the legal adviser to the SARC (Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee) committee.

I'm just going to let you go through this written material yourself on your own time and then we'll just go right to the draft agenda.

The Australians will be arriving on June 13, which is a Saturday, and they're arriving mid-afternoon. One thing I should point out at this point is that we made the assumption when we did the draft agenda that the members of the committee may not be available to meet with the Australians on the weekend because we assumed you would be back in your constituencies. If we're wrong and you would like to participate in any of the events on the Saturday or the Sunday, please let us know.

So we've got them coming in Saturday at 3. They will be met by myself; in all likelihood the Clerk, Gwenn Ronyk; possibly Monique; and Bob Cosman as well. If members would like to attend as well, that's all right.

At that point we'll take them to the hotel. Bob has offered to take them along to an event he's going to that evening which is a lobsterfest. We're going to try to contact Tanya Coleman and find out if there is some interest on the part of the Australians for that. We don't know how much they'll want to do the first day because they may be somewhat jet lagged. Regina is the first stop that they're doing. After they're finished here they're going on to Ottawa, followed by I believe London, England.

So the second day, the Sunday is what we're going to devote to

some touring around the city, and we've got some options there. We're going to wait to see if they have any particular interests that they would like to pursue, but if you have any suggestions of other things that you think might interest them, please let us know.

I'm just going to move right on to the Monday then. When they initially contacted us, we gave them some suggestions as to who they might want to visit or meet with, and those basically were the individuals that came to the orientation of this committee last . . . I guess a year ago February — February 1997. So what we have on the agenda are briefings by Ian Brown from the Department of Justice, Phil Flory on the subject of bylaws, and Lynn Mynja and Noella Bamford on the regulatory reform process.

One thing we weren't sure of when we made the agenda was whether the House is going to be sitting or not. If the House is sitting, that does have implications for the members because their time is going to be tied up, and also for Bob Cosman and myself because we'll probably be tied up in the House Monday afternoon.

If the House is sitting, we thought they'd like to sit in on question period. If the House isn't sitting, then that gives us a little bit more time for briefings and doing other events. But till we know for sure whether we're going to be sitting or not, the program is in a state of flux.

So beginning on Monday, we've got an opening reception for them here at 9:30, followed by their first business session. And that is what we propose to do — is to have a regular committee meeting, but we'll start it off with a little bit of background by myself and Bob Cosman on how we operate our committee. I suspect there will be differences between what we do and what the Australians do.

Once that is finished, we thought we would offer them a brief example of how the committee would operate by bringing in maybe one or two regulations, maybe a couple of bylaws, and going through the process that we go through for reviewing them so that they can have a bit of a practical experience as to what we would do with our review process.

Followed by that there will be a photograph taken and then the lunch hosted the Speaker, and he has agreed to do that. All the members of the committee would be invited to that as well.

The afternoon then, there's the option of sitting in on question period or doing a tour of the building, followed by the next briefing which would be by Ian Brown and Jane Sather.

The subjects that we have there are ones that they have discussed between Ian Brown and the Australians. There has been some correspondence directly between Tanya Coleman and Ian Brown, Phil Flory and Lynn Mynja. So that's where some of these subject areas are coming from. Phil Flory will speak on professional bylaws and that would be the end of the business day.

And we're proposing to have this committee host a dinner for the Australians. We suggested Golf's Steak House because it's

close to where they're staying, and they're at the — is it Hotel Sask?

A Member: — Yes.

Ms. Woods: — So then it cuts down on the amount of driving people have to do. And at this dinner, we are proposing that the members plus their spouses or their partners will be invited as well as the individuals that we have invited to speak to the Australians. So that would be Ian Brown, Phil Flory, Lynn Mynja and Noella Bamford.

Finally on the Tuesday we'll have a fairly short day. We're still a little unclear as to when they're actually leaving. We think it's around noon on Tuesday. So we would have them check out in the morning, bring them over to the Legislative Building, and have the first briefing by the Australians to the members of this committee so that you can have some exposure to how they approach the review of regulations in Australia.

They generally tend to be very advanced on this particular aspect of review. And I think Don can speak more on that. It is something that is fairly high profile in Australia, and they take it very seriously.

Following that briefing, we'd have the final briefing with Lynn Mynja and Noella Bamford on the regulatory reform process. I believe Lynn Mynja has actually moved on to a different office but she has agreed to come back and speak to the committee on this particular aspect. That's what we've got for a draft agenda right now so we're open to any suggestions that people might have.

The Vice-Chair: — Okay, thank you Margaret. Is there any questions, comments, from the committee?

Mr. Toth: — One of the questions, Margaret, is the Australian group that's coming here — they were coming specifically just to get an idea of what we do in regard to Regulations Committees — and did they have any specific requests of what they were hoping to be a part of, or see or view?

Ms. Woods: — Apart from wanting to meet with members of the committee, they would also like to see a Regulations Committee meeting in progress. That's why we've tried to tie one in. I think the agenda we have right now, it's going to be a very short business meeting, but if we've got more time I think we could extend it or provide more room for discussion. But that was the two areas that they wanted to discuss with regard to the Regulations Committee and its members.

Mr. Toth: — I think they will find our regulations fairly laid back compared to their extensive use of regulations committees.

Mr. Cosman: — I wonder, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Toth also they were looking for some explanation of the operation of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms as compared to our regulations so they're interested in our Canadian constitutional aspect as well.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I know one clause — the right to carry guns.

Ms. Woods: — I guess one other thing I can point out at this point is that we're organizing this from the LAO (Legislative Assembly Office) standpoint, out of the office of the Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk so Bob is involved, I am involved, and also Allison who I'm sure you know. She is also doing a lot of the leg work and the phoning and organizing for us so if you have any questions she's a good person to talk to.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Never having sat on Regulations Committee before, do we actually see the regulations before we review them on the committee or don't we really do any . . .

Mr. Cosman: — Due to popular requests we will attempt to have the material that the committee will be considering out about one week in advance so that you'll have a chance to review the material, get acquainted with the issues, read the regulation that's being criticized, and put everything in context, and perhaps even make marginal notes for yourself, and questions, and things of that nature.

Nothing precludes a member from actually reviewing the complete set of regulations that are published in the *Saskatchewan Gazette* virtually each week and raising their own issues if they wish. Basically you are reviewing just what I have reviewed and consider to be of interest to the committee. But I'm applying just the terms of reference and the set criteria of the committee. You may have other interests that you want to raise. Nothing stops you from doing that. So perhaps seeing in advance what I'm raising you may then recognize some issue that I've missed that you would like to raise, and that's fine too.

The Vice-Chair: — Thank you. Any other questions? Do we want to deal with the election?

Ms. Woods: — What I would have liked to have done with the matter of the chairmanship is to have some indication on the record from the current Chair, Mr. Belanger, as to whether he does wish to resign his position and allow a member from the official opposition to be elected as Chair.

I think from my standpoint I would prefer to have something from him on the record or either in writing. So it's . . .

Mr. Toth: — . . . follow that for the time being until we talk to the current Chair I guess.

Mr. D'Autremont: — As I said, being new on the committee, I'm not sure of all the procedures here. Is it not standard practice or tradition that a member of the official opposition be the Chair?

Ms. Woods: — That would be the tradition. I think that's normally why we would assume that the Chair will be transferred. But in order to have it recorded on the record, I think we need to have some indication from the current Chair as to what he wishes to do.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — You're suggesting right now that if we were to defer, it would be a matter of etiquette as opposed to procedural.

The Vice-Chair: — The suggestion's been made that we have a chairman-elect in view of the resignation that would be

forthcoming . . . anticipated resignation. What's the wish of the committee on that? Do you think that's . . . I guess my only thought on it was that it would be nice to have the Chair in place before this happens. And whether we'll have another meeting or not before this, I doubt it. I was just thinking it would be nice to have the Chair in place before we had our visitors.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Well I would make such a motion.

The Vice-Chair: — Moved by Mr. D'Autremont that Mr. Toth be the chairman-elect. Okay, we have a motion for the chairman-elect. Seconded by Ms. Murrell. All in favour of the motion? Okay, we have a new chairman-elect, Mr. Toth, who will do his best to get us a trip to Australia.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — This may be to state the obvious, but we should somehow just . . . somebody, whether formally or informally, notify Mr. Belanger about why we did it within his absence.

The Vice-Chair: — . . . take care of that?

Ms. Woods: — Sure.

Mr. D'Autremont: — . . . indication of resignation.

Mr. Jess: — I'm sure he'll be devastated.

Mr. Toth: — We'll leave that and the Vice-Chair will stay as is. Agreed?

A Member: — Pending a trip to Australia.

Vice-Chair: — I'm still here so they can't do that. Okay. I'm not resigning; I'm staying.

Any other business? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to adjourn. Moved by Maynard, seconded by Walter. All in favour? Okay. Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 8:25 a.m.