SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES February 24th, 2003

MINUTE NO. 5 5:25 p.m. — Room 10, Legislative Assembly Building

- 1. **PRESENT**: Mr. Speaker in the Chair and Members D'Autremont, Hagel, Junor, McMorris, Thomson, Weekes and Yates.
- 2. It was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That the proceedings of this meeting be conducted *in-camera*.

The question being put, the motion was adopted.

3. It was moved by Hon. Ms. Junor:

That the business agenda, as indicated on the meeting notice, be adopted.

The question being put, the motion was adopted.

4. Mr. Speaker tabled the following document, which had been distributed to Members of the Committee on March 11, 2002, in response to the Committees request *(re: Minute 4, January 8th, 2002)* that the Board of Internal Economy be consulted with respect to the cost of Committee and House reforms:

RPC 03/24 Board of Internal Economy Response to Committee Reform Recommendations (Memorandum dated March 11, 2002, from Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly).

5. The Committee considered a request that Members be authorized to access the Internet from their desks in the Chamber. The following document was tabled by Mr. Speaker:

RPC 04/24 Rules Committee Decision Item: Wireless Internet Access from the Chamber (Prepared by Information Systems Branch, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on behalf of the Speaker).

A discussion ensued. Members agreed to adopt the decision item and include a recommendation on wireless access in its next report to the Assembly. It was moved by Hon. Ms. Junor:

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That, in the interim period before the Chamber refurbishment and technology upgrades take place, the Legislative Assembly provides wireless access to the Internet from the Chamber and Members' lounges to be in place for the 2003 Spring Session.

The question being put, the motion was adopted.

6. The Committee re-examined the draft rules and procedures presented and adopted in principle at its last meeting (*re: Minute 4, January* δ^{th} , 2002). Members agreed by consensus to a number of amendments to the draft.

The Committee Clerk was requested to amend the draft new rules and procedures accordingly and to incorporate the amended rules and procedures into a Third Report to the Assembly.

7. The Committee considered changes to the wording for the budget motion, as presently required by Rules 13(2) and 15 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. It was agreed that the wording of the motion should be changed to read as follows: "That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government."

The Committee Clerk was requested to incorporate the amended rules into a Third Report to the Assembly.

8. The Committee considered a recommendation to the Assembly with respect to extra-duty remuneration for Chairs and Deputy Chairs of legislative committees (re: recommendation 4 of the Committee's Second Report). It was agreed that only the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the proposed policy field committees and those of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts should receive extra-duty remuneration, at a level determined by the Board of Internal Economy.

The Committee Clerk was requested to include a recommendation on this matter in the Committee's next report to the Assembly.

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9. In consideration of the responsibilities Hansard would have in servicing the committee reforms, it was agreed that the Board of Internal Economy should be asked to provide additional funding for that office.

Mr. Speaker was asked to make a representation to this purpose at the Board meeting scheduled for February 26th, 2003.

10. The Committee considered time frames for presentation of a Third Report to the Assembly. It was agreed that the report should be presented to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee Clerk was requested to draft a Third Report for the consideration of Committee Members. It was agreed that after receiving the draft report, the Committee would meet to adopt the report, consider a date for its presentation to the Assembly, and to decide on a recommendation for the implementation date of the reforms.

11. It was moved by Mr. Yates:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

12. The Committee adjourned at 9:47 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Gregory A. Putz Committee Clerk Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky Speaker and Chair