Ontario

Legislative Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING #8/78
THE BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
HELD IN THE PREMIER'S DINING ROOM
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
AT 4:30 P. M., ON MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1978

PRESENT:

Members:

The Honourable John E. Stokes, Speaker, Chairman
The Honourable Robert Welch, Q.C.
The Honourable James A. C. Auld
Mr. Bud Gregory, M.P.P.
Mr. Robert Nixon, M.P.P.
Mr. Elie Martel, M.P.P.

Secretariat:

Mr. R. J. Fleming, Director of Administration, Secretary
Miss Badrul Ali, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Yvonne J. Chortyk, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Mr. Harry Worton, M.P.P.
Mr. K. W. Leonard, Assistant Finance Officer
Mr. S. T. Nelson, Purchasing & Asset Control Officer
Mr. William S. Wilson, Personnel Officer

ABSENT:

The Honourable Douglas Wiseman

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

Item 1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting #7/78

Moved by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Gregory and agreed that the Minutes of Meeting #7/78 be approved as circulated.

Item 2 Budget Review:

Moved by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Martel and agreed that the House be asked to authorize the Board of Internal Economy to review and approve or otherwise dispose of the budgetary requirements of the Standing Committees of the House.

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Item 2 Budget Review: (continued)

(a) Standing Procedural Affairs Committee

Moved by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Martel and agreed that conditional on a Resolution by the House in the matter of staffing for the Standing Procedural Affairs Committee the Board authorize the hiring of a research officer for a maximum contract of one year and that a secretary be obtained from Go-Temp Services pending a formal report from the Committee on staffing requirements.

(b) Standing General Government Committee

It was agreed that the Speaker advise the Chairman of the Standing General Government Committee that the Board has authorized sufficient funds to retain the consulting services of Mr. Feldman for up to 20 hours pending clarification from the Chairman with respect to Mr. Feldman's duties and a detailed breakdown of the budget of the Committee.

(c) Standing Statutory Instruments Committee

Discussion deferred to future meeting.

It was agreed that the Board defer any approval of the total budgets of Standing Committees.

Item 3 Budget Review:

(a) Select Committee on Ontario Hydro Affairs

Moved by Mr. Auld, seconded by Mr. Martel and agreed that the sum of up to $120,000 be approved for the services of Mr. Alan Schwartz, Siegal, Fogler; up to $110,000 for the services of Mr. J. Fisher, Canada Consulting Group; and up to $200,000 for the hiring of expert technical consultants as outlined in a letter to the Speaker from Siegal, Fogler dated April 21, 1978.

(b) Select Committee on Company Law

Discussion deferred to future meeting.

(c) Select Committee on the Ombudsman

Discussion deferred to future meeting.

It was agreed that the Board defer any approval of the total budgets of the Select Committees.

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Item 4 Select Committees - Financial and Administrative Controls

With respect to guidelines covering expenditures for meals and accommodation the Board agreed that:

(1) Each Member of a Select Committee may receive a $25 non-accountable per diem expense allowance to cover the cost of meals, beverages, gratuities, telephone, laundry, local taxis, etc., for those days that the Committee is sitting and that in the case of visits to the United States or overseas this amount would increase to $35.

(2) The cost of airport transportation will be considered additional to the per diem expense allowance and Members may be reimbursed on presentation of receipts.

(3) The actual cost of hotel rooms only will be covered by the Legislative Assembly, and shall be moderately priced.

(4) The Chairman or Clerk may not cover the cost of Committee Members at group meals or charge such costs to hotel bills.

(5) The Chairman or the Clerk may not purchase supplies of alcoholic beverages out of public funds for use by the Committee.

In addition, it was:

Moved by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Auld and agreed that proposals for Committee travel must be approved by the Board during the review of Committee budgets. (Mr. Martel dissented).

Item 5 Extension of O.M.E.R.S. Pension Plan to Ministers' Personal Staff

Discussion deferred to future meeting.

Item 6 Other Business:

(a) Constituency Office Accommodation Allowance - Overexpenditure

It was agreed that if there are unexpended funds from the stationery and postage accounts, that these unexpended portions could be used to defray other expenditures for office accommodation.

(b) Portable Dictating Equipment

Moved by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Martel and agreed that portable dictating units (minis excluded) compatible with equipment already in

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Item 6 <u>Other Business</u>:

(b) <u>Portable Dictating Equipment</u> (continued)

use by the Caucuses be made available to Members not to exceed a total cost of $22,000 during the 1978-79 Fiscal Year and that Members check with the Purchasing Officer of the Assembly regarding their requirements.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time and on motion duly made by Mr. Auld, seconded by Mr. Nixon, the meeting then adjourned.

John E. Stokes

26/4/78