Legislative Assembly of Ontario

MINUTES OF MEETING # 4/97 OF THE BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY HELD IN ROOM 180, THE SPEAKER'S BOARDROOM AT 4:15 PM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

Present

The Honourable Chris Stockwell, MPP,Chair
The Honourable David Johnson, MPP
The Honourable Robert Runciman, MPP
The Honourable Noble Villeneuve, MPP
Mr. John Baird, MPP
Mr. John Gerretsen, MPP
Mr. Bud Wildman, MPP

Secretariat

Mr. Claude DesRosiers, Clerk of the House, BOIE Secretary
Ms Barbara Bishop, Assistant Secretary and Recording Secretary

Legislative Assembly Staff

Mr. Dennis Clark, Sergeant-at-Arms
Ms Deborah Deller, Executive Director, Legislative Services
Ms Mary Dickerson, Executive Director, Legislative Library
Ms Barbara Speakman, Executive Director, Assembly Services
Mr. Ajit Deshmukh, Director of Finance
Ms Ellen Schoenberger, Director of Human Resources

Guests

Mr. Peter Hardie, Special Assistant to the Speaker
Ms Zina Decker, Executive Assistant to the Clerk
Mr. Terry Mitchell, Assistant Director, Finance/Office of Assembly and Commissions
Ms Barbara Cowieson, Director of Administration/PC Service Bureau
Mr. Peter Curtis, Executive Director/Liberal Caucus Services
Ms Darlene Lawson, Caucus Administrator/NDP Caucus
Mr. John Wehrstein, Assistant to the Honourable Noble Villeneuve
Mr. Charles Vincent, Assistant to John Baird, MPP
Ms Roberta Jamieson, Ombudsman
Ms Fiona Crean, Office of the Ombudsman
Mr. John Allan, Office of the Ombudsman
Mr. Erik Peters, Provincial Auditor

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

ITEM 1: **Approval of Minutes of Meeting #3/97**

Moved by Mr. Baird, seconded by Mr. Gerretsen, that the Minutes of Meeting #3/97 be approved by amending Item 7: 1997-98 Estimates by replacing the existing two paragraphs *"Mr. Johnson requested . . . in August"* with the following:

It was agreed that the Management Advisory Committee and the three caucus administrators would work together to finalize the 1997-98 Estimates to achieve an overall savings of 5% on the Assembly Offices and the Boards and Commissions.

ITEM 2: 1997-98 Estimates

OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Villeneuve, and agreed, that the Clerk would prepare the motion for the 1997-98 Estimates, pursuant to the direction given by the Board at this meeting. The motion will then be presented to the three caucus administrators for review, as soon as possible, so that the Board can deal with this item at its next meeting, scheduled for October 15.

Members Office Support Services

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Villeneuve, and agreed, that the caucuses would prepare a review of Members Office Support Services budgets over the past three years and present a report to the Board at its next meeting.

Office of the Ombudsman

Ms Jamieson, the Ombudsman, presented her Estimates to the Board and was asked to present new estimates to the Board at its next meeting, showing the impact of excluding the cost of restructuring and PSPF from the base to achieve a 5% reduction, and the ramifications of this reduction on the operation.

Provincial Auditor

The Provincial Auditor, Mr. Peters, was asked to appear before the Board at its next meeting with a plan showing how to achieve the target of $7,066,300 plus the PSPF as set by the Board.

ITEM 3: 1998-99 Estimates

Moved by Mr. Baird, seconded by Mr. Gerretsen, and agreed, that prior to the preparation of the 1998-99 Estimates, the three caucus representatives, Messrs. Baird, Gerretsen and Wildman, would undertake a process to consult with their respective caucuses on all matters of the expenditures of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and have access to pertinent information required to undertake this effort.

It was agreed that the Speaker would be the final arbiter of what information would be pertinent.

Further, they will report back to the Board of Internal Economy at its December meeting.

ITEM 4: ORC Housekeeping Services

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Baird, and agreed, that staff would again revisit the Option 1: to re-engineer service delivery using in-house staff, which was initially presented at Meeting #3/97, with a view to achieving even greater savings and the implications this would present.

ITEM 5: Life and Fire Safety Program

- **Proposed Fifth Floor Renovations**

This Item was deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

ITEM 6: Recommendation for Upgrading the Members' System

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wildman, and agreed, that the recommendation for an upgrade to Members' Systems be deferred until budgetary options are reviewed by the caucuses.

Further, that the meetings necessary to make the budget decisions will take place between the three caucus administrators, the Director of Legislative Information Systems and the Executive Director of the Legislative Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Householders

The subject of householders was raised, vis a vis the new Canada Post policy of non-delivery of junk mail. The Speaker undertook to contact Canada Post.

Constituency Office Furniture

Three newly elected members wish to obtain surplus furniture for their constituency offices, with any moving expenses to be paid outside of the Members' global budget, as was the past practice.

MOTION TO ADOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 1997.

Speaker