

2. Re: Municipal Finance Officers Association Conference  
Edmonton, Alberta -- October 21st to 23rd, 1971  
(Item 8, Report 65, October 12, 1971)

The following report is submitted by the Municipal Treasurer regarding the above:

The Municipal Treasurer, after obtaining Council approval to attend this conference, found that he was obliged to forego the opportunity, due to the Manager's absence on the business trip to San Francisco, (Oil Refinery Pollution Study) which took place at the same time. Permission was obtained to send the Assistant Municipal Accountant as a substitute delegate.

#### CONFERENCE

There were approximately sixty delegates attending this conference. The program was well laid on by our Alberta hosts. The subject matter for the most part was interesting. Many of the speakers were quite good, some were excellent. The following is a resume of the topics covered:

- Municipal Finance Officers Association - Present and Future
- Municipal Finance Officers Association - On Review
- Communications - Are we getting through?
- Auditors - What is their role?
- The Budget
- The Role of the Finance Officer
- Data Processing in General Government
- Microfilming

Of particular interest was the "Toronto Story", a rather lengthy paper delivered by Mr. John Yockey, Commissioner of Budgets and Accounts, City of Toronto. Very briefly it covered the following:

#### Municipal Budget System

He spoke of the budget as a planning and administration tool. He stressed that emphasis should be given to the type and volume of service delivered. It was necessary to set out a proper statement of objectives thought to be achieved.

He mentioned that a considerable use is made of computers - preparation and production of various information both on past history and current data which is used as an aid to future forecasting. Another use of the computer is for budgeting and accounting control. One can check with the computer to obtain up-to-date information on the status of a particular budget account.

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Planning and Study of Objectives

He related the undertaking of the City of Toronto, wherein they had solicited from ratepayers and civic groups, ideas concerning goals and objectives for the city. These various aims and objectives have been compiled and outlined. A committee has been set up to study and report on the many aims and objectives, the means of achieving those aims, the present status of such objectives, the priorities, and on any other matters essential to the attainment of these goals. This is a very broad undertaking indeed. It does seem to emphasize the need for future planning.

The PROMUS System

P R O vincial M U nicipal S imulator

Essentially this is a plan or program whereby with the aid of the computer specified conditions and circumstances can be simulated, set up in a pretend situation, which will then produce information forecasting the result of a particular course of action. This then is another very sophisticated operational tool available to administrative officials to assist them with their long range planning of municipal development.

By means of study and comparison of alternative programs one is in a position to choose a course of action most closely resembling the desired result.

This PROMUS system is designed to evaluate both the internal financial and economic structure as well as the structure of the community as a whole.

By all reports it was a successful conference. I appreciated the opportunity to attend. Mixing with people, sharing ideas and experiences is always rewarding, and more particularly when there is a common denominator.

MUNICIPAL TREASURER

*E. A. Watkinson*

Per: E. A. Watkinson.

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