STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 380
In noting that there are a number of outstanding expropriations, some dating back to1976, and the cost of carrying those expropriations forward was a burden that was realized at the time of final settlement, Councillor Swandel inquired how many expropriations were open and how much of the total funding was going towards the actual settlement of the expropriations and how much was additional costs.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy replied that he recently raised questions about this issue and advised that the City had many millions of dollars sitting for outstanding expropriations. He added that the few expropriations he had seen settled seem to be coming in at about half of the money set aside and there may be a great deal of potential money that could be put to better use or cancelled; and agreed to research the matter further.

Councillor Swandel asked what happened to the surplus monies from those outstanding expropriation accounts if they were coming in at 50 percent of projected costs.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy replied that a report was forthcoming which recommends that all monies for capital projects remaining unspent after five years be automatically cancelled and reported on so that Council can either reduce its expenditures or find alternate use for the money. He added that presently a lot of money had been spent in Charleswood as the current practice made it easy for departments to come forward in the middle of a budget year and state that they needed a project and had found money that was not spent on a previously identified project. He added that the new motion would stop this practice, requiring financing for all project to be prioritized and stand the test of a positive vote by Council.

Councillor Swandel asked how much money there may be in capital projects that are five years of age or greater to which Councillor O'Shaughnessy advised that he would take the question under advisement and report back to Council.