PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1990

FEBRUARY 1991

Financial Audit Division Office of the Legislative Auditor State of Minnesota

91-7

Veterans Service Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 • 612/296-4708

SUMMARY State of Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor Veterans Service Building • St. Paul, MN 55

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1990

Public Release Date: February 1, 1991

No. 91-7

OBJECTIVES:

- EXAMINE THE ASSOCIATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
- EVALUATE INTERNAL CONTROL STRUCTURE: Employee and employer contributions, annuity payments, refunds of contributions and administrative disbursements.
- TEST COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN FINANCE-RELATED LEGAL PROVISIONS.

CONCLUSIONS:

We issued an ungualified opinion on the financial statements.

We found the internal control structure to be effective.

We found no departures from finance-related legal provisions.

Contact the Financial Audit Division for additional information. (612) 296-1730

FINANCIAL AUDIT DIVISION



STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR VETERANS SERVICE BUILDING, ST. PAUL, MN 55155 • 612/296-4708

JAMES R. NOBLES, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Representative Dee Long, Acting Chair Legislative Audit Commission

Members of the Legislative Audit Commission

George Cicmil, President, Board of Trustees Public Employees Retirement Association

Members of the Board of Trustees Public Employees Retirement Association

Ms. Mary Most Vanek, Acting Executive Director Public Employees Retirement Association

Audit Scope

We have audited the financial statements of the Public Employees Retirement Association for the year ended June 30, 1990, and issued our report thereon dated November 5, 1990. We have also made a study and evaluation of the internal control structure of the Public Employees Retirement Association in effect during June 1990.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial activities attributable to the transactions of the Public Employees Retirement Association are free of material misstatements.

As part of our examination of the financial statements and our study and evaluation of the internal control structure, we performed tests of Public Employee Retirement Association's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts. However, our objective was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions.

Management Responsibilities

The management of the Public Employees Retirement Association is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. This responsibility includes compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and contracts. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that:

 assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition; Representative Dee Long, Acting Chair Members of the Legislative Audit Commission George Cicmil, Chairman Members of the Board of Trustees Ms. Mary Most Vanek, Acting Executive Director Page 2

- transactions are executed in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory provisions, as well as management's authorization; and
- transactions are recorded properly on the Public Employees Retirement Association's records.

Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

Internal Accounting Control Structure

For purposes of this report, we have classified the significant internal control structure policies and procedures in the following categories:

- employee and employer contributions;
- annuity payments;
- refunds of contributions; and
- administrative disbursements.

For all of the internal control structure categories listed above, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk.

<u>Conclusions</u>

In our opinion, the internal control structure of the Public Employees Retirement Association in effect at June 30, 1990, taken as a whole, was sufficient to meet the objectives stated above insofar as those objectives pertain to the prevention or detection of errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial transactions of the Public Employees Retirement Association.

The results of our tests indicate that, with respect to the items tested, the Public Employees Retirement Association complied, in all material respects, with the provisions referred to in the audit scope paragraphs. With respect to items not tested, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Public Employees Retirement Association has not complied, in all material respects, with those provisions. Representative Dee Long, Acting Chair Members of the Legislative Audit Commission George Cicmil, Chairman, Members of the Board of Trustees Ms. Mary Most Vanek, Acting Executive Director Page 3

This report is intended for the information of the Legislative Audit Commission and management of the Public Employees Retirement Association. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which was released as a public document on February 1, 1991.

We would like to thank the Public Employees Retirement Association staff for their cooperation during this audit.

James R. Nobles Legislative Auditor

John Asmussen, CPA

Deputy Legislative Auditor

END OF FIELDWORK: October 25, 1990 REPORT SIGNED ON: January 25, 1991