

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association



Annual Actuarial Valuation

December 31, 1990

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645 State Ori ce Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company
Actuaries and Consultants

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June 14, 1991

Board of Trustees Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association Faribault, Minnesota

Submitted in this report are the results of the December 31, 1990 actuarial valuation of the assets, actuarial values and contribution requirements associated with the benefits provided by the Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association.

The valuation results contained in Section A provide the actuarial information needed to determine the employer's "minimum obligation" effective January 1, 1992. Section A also contains comments regarding the valuation results.

The valuation was based upon information furnished by the Association concerning benefits, financial transactions, active members, terminated members, retirants and beneficiaries. Data was checked for year to year consistency but was not otherwise audited by us. This information is summarized in Section B.

A description of the actuarial funding method and the risk experience assumptions used is contained in Section C. The economic risk experience assumptions, as well as the actuarial funding method to be used, are established by state law.

Information needed to comply with Statement No. 5 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board is contained in Section D.

The actuarial valuation was prepared using generally accepted actuarial principles and practices based upon the methods, assumptions, summary of plan provisions and the member and financial data described in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

/J. Daniel Petersen

lary W. Findlay

Section A Valuation Results

COMMENTS

Economic Assumptions and Financing Method

The economic assumptions of 5% annual investment return and 3-1/2% annual salary increases are established by state law. State law also specifies that the annual minimum obligation of the municipality shall be determined by adding (i) the employer normal cost percent times covered payroll to (ii) the level dollar amount required to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability by December 31, 2010.

It is worth noting that when the same assumptions and methods are applied to plans which differ in nature, the valuation results may not be comparable. Caution should be exercised when attempting to assess the financial condition of one Association relative to another on the basis of valuation results produced using the assumptions and methods mandated by state law.

Proposed Change in Retirement Age Assumption

Over the past several years there has been a noticeable differential between the ages at which people are actually retiring from this Association and the age being assumed for valuation purposes. In February of this year we requested permission from the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement to lower the assumed retirement age from 58 to 55. (During 1990 there were two members who retired — one at age 50 and one at age 47 with payment deferred to age 50). The Legislative Commission did not respond to our request and consequently we were unable to make the assumption adjustment.

If the recommended assumption change had been made in connection with this valuation, the normal cost would have been 4.88% of covered payroll higher, and the unfunded accrued liability and the annual amortization payment would have been higher by \$486,137 and \$39,252 respectively. If the trend toward earlier retirement continues, future contribution amounts will probably increase substantially.

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association CONTRIBUTION RATE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS

Member portion & Employer portion Effective January 1, 1992

	If Paid Equally Throughout Year Normal Cost			
Contributions for	% of Active Payroll for 1992	+	UAAL Dollars	
Normal cost of annuities:				
Age & service: to members Age & service: to survivors Disability Death before retirement Refunds of member contributions Total Normal Cost	17.18% 0.13 2.13 0.30 <u>0.26</u> 20.00%			
Amortization of unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (UAAL) (19 year level dollar payment)				
Retired lives Active members Total			\$ 21,298 <u>124,634</u> 145,932	
Total Cost of Benefits	20.00%	+	\$145,932	
Member contributions	8.00%			
COMPUTED EMPLOYER RATE:				
(a) If Paid Equally Throughout Year(b) IF PAID AT CALENDAR YEAR END	12.00% 12.30%	+ +	\$145,932 \$149,536	

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association Present Actuarial Condition

The Association's accrued actuarial assets were in excess of \$3.2 million on December 31, 1990 -- a considerable sum of money if unencumbered and allocated among a small group of persons. This is not the case with the Association's assets.

The following schedule puts the \$3.2 million into perspective by showing the relationship between accrued actuarial assets, actuarial accrued liabilities, and the number of persons with actual and potential claims on the Association's assets.

	Accrued Actuarial <u>Assets</u>	Actuarial Accrued <u>Liabilities</u>	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued <u>Liabilities</u>	Percent <u>Funded</u>
Retirants and Beneficiaries Retired Members (11) Surviving Spouses (3) Surviving Children (0)		\$2,710,728 35,520 0		
Total (14)	\$2,516,392	\$2,746,248	\$ 229,856	91.6%
Deferred Members (1)	371,333	405,252	33,919	91.6
Active Members (13)	337,231	1,880,820	1,543,589	17.9
Total	\$3,224,956	\$5,032,320	\$1,807,364	64.1%

Actuarial accrued liabilities represent the value, computed as of December 31, 1990 of:

- (i) retirement allowances likely to be paid the 14 retirants and beneficiaries; and
- (ii) the contributions assumed to have been made for the 13 active members from entry into the plan until December 31, 1990.

The value of retirement allowances likely to be paid the 14 retirants and beneficiaries, discounted for investment earnings and mortality, was computed to be \$2,746,248 as of December 31, 1990. To put this amount in perspective, the \$2,746,248, together with investment earnings, will just be sufficient to pay the 14 retirants and beneficiaries their allowances for their remaining lifetimes. This assumes the 14 retirants and beneficiaries live and die according to the assumed mortality and the \$2,746,248 is invested to yield an average annual return of 5.0% over the remaining lifetimes of the retirants and beneficiaries.

With respect to the active members, the actuarial accrued liability of \$1,880,820 represents the amount that would have been accumulated by December 31, 1990. This assumes the normal cost (which is expressed as a level percentage of pay) had been contributed from the date of hire until December 31, 1990 for the 13 actives, and that these amounts had earned 5.0% interest. It also assumes that the members in the past have lived, died, withdrawn, retired and received salary increases according to the actuarial assumptions shown in this report.

Historical Funding Ratio Schedule (\$ in thousands)

Valuation Date <u>December 31</u>	Actuarial Accrued <u>Liabilities</u>	Accrued Actuarial <u>Assets</u>	% <u>Funded</u>
1981	\$2,385	\$1,114	46.7%
1982	2,631	1,329	50.5
1983*	3,035	1,410	46.5
1984	3,312	1,699	51.3
1985	3,553	1,935	54.5
1986#	3,587	2,112	58.9
1987	3,726	2,408	64.6
1988	3,923	2,649	67.5
1989	4,335	2,961	68.3
1990	5,032	3,225	64.1

^{*} After change in assumptions.

[#] After change in benefit provisions.

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association

Computed Contributions - Comparative Schedule

Year En <u>December</u> Valuation		Total Normal Cost as a Percent of Valuation Payroll*	Contribution For Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
1981	1983	N/A	N/A
1982	1984	17.84%	\$ 86,800
1983	1985**	19.93	110,297
1984	1986	19.78	111,678
1985	1987	18.88	114,398
1986	1988#	19.41	106,688
1987	1989	19.61	97,713
1988	1990	19.61	96,972
1989	1991	19.78	107,595
1990	1992	20.00	145,932

^{*} Includes employee contributions.

^{**} After change in assumptions.

[#] After change in benefit provisions.

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association CONTRIBUTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1992

For any period of time the percent-of-payroll contribution rate is converted to dollars. The amount of dollars for any calendar year depends upon the results of the last actuarial valuation, and the timing of contributions within the year. The later the contribution date, the greater the dollar amount will be.

The municipality's dollar contribution for the year may be determined as follows:

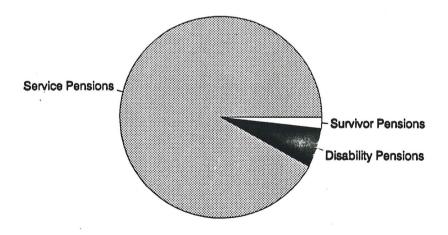
(1)	Estimated covered payroll for 1992	\$	
(2)	Total normal cost % from page A-2	20.00%	
(3)	Total normal cost (Line 1 times line 2)		\$
(4)	x 1.035 1990 Administrative expenses paid from the Special Fund		
(5)	Amortization payment on UAAL from page A-2		145,932
(6)	Total contributions required (Line 3 plus line 4 plus line 5)		
(7)	Employee contributions (Line 1 times 8%)	\$	
(8)	(a) State amortization aid based on 12/31/78 UAAL of \$1,072,347 \$16,139 (b) State amortization aid based on 1984 legislation 2,613 (c) Total State amortization aid	18,752	
(9)	Estimated insurance premium aid		
(10)	Estimated total contributions from other sources (Line 7 plus line 8 plus line 9)		
(11)	Employer's Minimum Obligation if payment is made in equal installments throughout the year (Line 6 minus line 10)		\$
(12)	EMPLOYER'S MINIMUM OBLIGATION IF PAYMENT IS MADE AT YEAR END (Line 11 times 1.0247)		\$

Section B

Valuation Data and Summary of Benefit Provisions

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association
Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1990
By Type of Annuity Being Paid

Type of Annuity Being Paid	No.	Monthly Amounts	Computed Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
Retirants receiving: Age & Service Disability	10 _1	\$15,324.00 	\$2,431,356 279,372
Totals	11	16,362.00	2,710,728
Beneficiaries receiving: Spouse Child	3 _0	300.00	35,520 0
Totals	3	300.00	35,520
	-		
Totals	14	\$16,662.00	\$2,746,248



Monthly Amount Paid by Benefit

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association Inactive Members Eligible for Deferred Benefits December 31, 1990

		Computed
	Monthly	Actuarial Accrued
No.	Amount	<u>Liabilities</u>
1	\$1,525,00	\$405,252

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association
Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1990
By Attained Ages

		Number	
Attained Ages	Age & Service	<u>Disability</u>	Death Before <u>Retirement</u>
45-49 50-54 55-59	2 1	1	
60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79	3 1 2 4	_	
Totals	13	1	

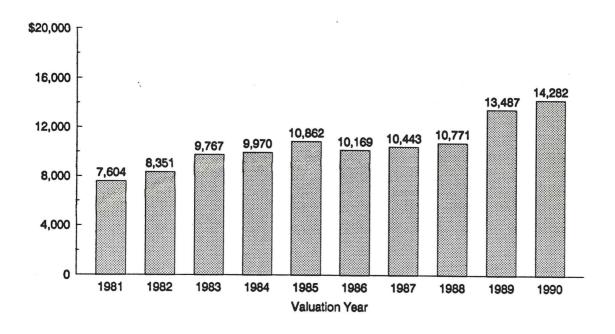
Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association

Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Rolls

Comparative Statement

Valuation Date December 31	No. Added	No. Removed from Rolls	<u>Rolls</u> <u>No.</u>	End of Year Annual Allowances	Discounted Value of Total Allowances
1981	3	1	13	\$ 98,858	\$1,245,718
1982	0	2	11	102,864	1,271,616
1983	0	0	11	107,436	1,373,618
1984	4	2	13	129,610	1,788,660
1985	2	1	14	152,064	2,080,068
1986	1	1	14	142,366	1,857,024
1987			14	146,204	1,840,140
1988			14	150,792	1,929,612
1989		1	13	175,327	2,369,712
1990	1		14	199,944	2,746,248

Average Annual Allowances



Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association Active Members December 31, 1990 By Attained Age and Years of Service

Attained Age	0-4	Year <u>5-9</u>	s of Se 10-14	rvice t 15-19	o Valua 20-24		te 30 Plus	T <u>No.</u>	otals Valuation Payroll
25-29 30-34 35-39		1 1 1	1					1 2 1	\$ 32,838 68,946 32,838
40-44 45-49 55-59		_	, 1 	2 3 —	1 _1	_1		3 4 2	116,199 157,341 <u>73,106</u>
Totals		3	2	5	2	1		13	\$481,268

While not used in the financial computations, the following group averages are computed and shown because of their general interest.

Age: 43.0 years.

Service: 16.0 years.

Annual Pay: \$37,021.

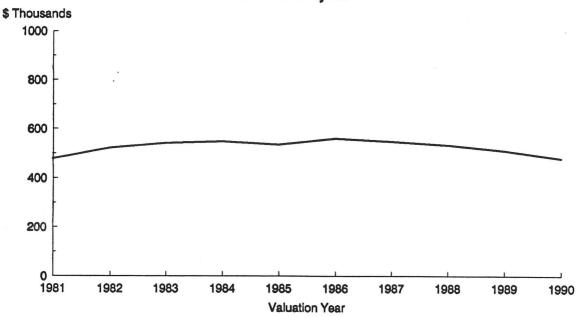
Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association

Comparative Schedule

Of Active Members

Valuation Date		Valuation		Averag	ie	
December 31	Active Members	Payrol1	Age	Service	Pay	% Incr.
1981	21	\$479,509	38.2 yrs.	10.6 yrs.	\$22,834	22.8%
1982	21	523,060	39.2	11.6	24,908	9.1
1983	21	543,354	39.7	12.4	25,874	3.9
1984	20	549,331	38.3	11.6	27,467	6.2
1985	18	536,372	38.7	12.3	29,798	8.5
1986	18	561,150	39.7	13.3	31,175	4.6
1987	17	549,056	41.3	14.7	32,297	3.6
1988	16	534,747	42.4	15.7	33,422	3.5
1989	15	513,310	42.9	16.1	34,221	2.4
1990	13	481,268	43.0	16.0	37,021	8.2

Valuation Payroll



Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association

Brief Summary (12/31/90) of Benefit Provisions Evaluated and/or Considered

Age & Service Retirement

Eligibility. 20 years of service and 50 years of age.

Amount. 50% of final salary.

Disability Retirement

<u>Eligibility</u>. Disabled to the extent that unable to perform duties of police officer before being eligible for age & service retirement.

Amount. For service up to 6 years, 12-1/2% of salary of first class patrolman. For each year of service in excess of 5 years, the percentage is increased by 2-1/2% to a maximum of 50% of salary of first class patrolman.

Member's Death While Active, Or In Deferred Status, Or Retired

Eliqibility.

Spouse. Legally married to member at separation from service and residing with member at time of death. Benefits terminate upon remarriage.

Child. Younger than age 18.

Amount.

Spouse. \$1,200 per year.

Child. \$300 per child per year. Children's maximum is \$1,500 per year.

<u>Vested Deferred</u>. 20 years of service and separated before age 50. Payment beginning is deferred to attainment of age 50.

<u>Post-Retirement Adjustments ("Escalator")</u>. Benefit adjustments are made equal to 1/2 of any adjustment in salary of active first class patrolman. (Member's benefit only.)

<u>Member Contributions</u>. 8% of current compensation. Total member contributions are refundable, without interest, if no monthly benefit is payable upon separation.

<u>Lump Sum Death Benefit</u>. A designated beneficiary will be eligible for a lump sum death benefit for a member who dies: 1) at age 75 or later equal to \$6,400 or 2) before age 75 equal to \$32,000.

Section C

Valuation Methods and Assumptions

Faribault Policemen's Benefit Association Valuation Methods and Assumptions

The Entry Age Normal Cost method was used to determine the normal cost of all benefits. The rate of investment return (interest) as required by state law used in making the valuation was 5.0 percent per annum, compounded annually. Age & service retirement was assumed to occur at age 58, attained age if older.

Mortality Table*

Single Life Values:

	Pres	ent Value	:hly			
	Lev	Level		asing	Future Life	
Sample	For L	For Life		/early	Expectancy (Years)	
<u>Ages</u>	Men	Women	<u>Men</u>	Women	Men	<u>Women</u>
45	\$177.21	\$189.58	\$280.82	\$314.75	29.50	34.00
50	163.12	177.21	246.55	280.82	25.20	29.50
55	147.50	163.12	212.60	246.55	21.16	25.20
60	130.52	147.50	179.49	212.60	17.42	21.16
65	112.87	130.52	148.28	179.49	14.05	17.42
70	95.20	112.87	119.70	148.28	11.09	14.05
75	77.77	95.20	93.83	119.70	8.52	11.09
80	61.71	77.77	71.69	93.83	6.39	8.52

^{*} UP-1984 Table set forward 2 years for males and set back 3 years for females.

Sample Rates of Separation from Active Employment
Before Retirement, Death or Disability

Sample	% of Active Members
Ages	Separating within Next Year
20	1.50%
25	1.25
30	1.00
35	0.75
40	0.50
45	0.25
50+	0.00

Pay Adjustment Factor Used To Project Current Pays

Sample Ages	Present Pay Resulting in Pay of \$1,000 at Age 60	Present Increase in Pay <u>During Next Year</u>
20	\$ 253	3.5%
25	300	3.5
30	356	3.5
35	423	3.5
40	503	3.5
45	597	3.5
50	709	3.5
55	842	3.5
60	1,000	3.5

Use of the pay adjustment factor illustrated above is required by state law.

Anticipated Disability Retirements

Sample Ages	% of Active Members Becoming <u>Disabled within Next Year</u>
20	0.08%
25	0.08
30	0.08
35	0.08
40	0.20
45	0.26
50	0.49
55	0.89

Section D

The Pension Benefit Obligation
and Certain Other Disclosures
Required by Statement No. 5 of the
Governmental Accounting Standards Board

PENSION BENEFIT OBLIGATION

The amount shown below as the "pension benefit obligation" is a standardized disclosure measure of the present value of pension benefits, adjusted for the effects of projected salary increases, estimated to be payable in the future as a result of employee service to date. The measure is the actuarial present value of credited projected benefits and is intended to (i) help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, (ii) assess progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due, and (iii) allow for comparisons among public employee retirement plans. The measure is independent of the actuarial funding method used to determine contributions to the plan.

The pension benefit obligation was determined as part of an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1990. Significant actuarial assumptions used in determining the pension benefit obligation include (a) a rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 5.0% per year compounded annually, (b) projected salary increases of 3.5% per year compounded annually, attributable to inflation, and (c) the assumption that benefits will increase 3.5% per year after retirement.

At December 31, 1990, the unfunded pension benefit obligation was \$1,688,524 determined as follows:

Pension Benefit Obligation:

Retirants and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits and terminated employees not yet receiving benefits	\$3,151,500
Current employees	
Accumulated employee contributions including allocated investment income	337,231
Employer financed	1,408,754
Total Pension Benefit Obligation	\$4,897,485
Net assets available for benefits, at cost (market value was \$3,256,945)	3,208,961
Unfunded Pension Benefit Obligation	\$1,688,524

The total pension benefit obligation as of January 1, 1990 was \$4,190,127. During the year, the plan experienced a net change of \$707,358 in the pension benefit obligation.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE

The Association's funding policy provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that, expressed as percentages of annual covered payroll, are designed to accumulate sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. The normal cost and actuarial accrued liability are determined using an entry age actuarial funding method. Unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities are being amortized as a level dollar amount over a period of 19 years.

During the year ended December 31, 1990, contributions totaling \$271,386 -- \$233,055 employer and \$38,331 employee -- were made in accordance with contribution requirements determined by an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1988. The employer contributions consisted of \$62,084 for normal cost and \$170,971 for amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Employer contributions represented 43.58% of covered payroll.

Significant actuarial assumptions used to compute contribution requirements were the same as those used to compute the standardized measure of the pension benefit obligation.

Computed Contribution Comparative Schedule

Fiscal Year	Valuation Date	Contribution Normal Cost % of Valuation	UAAL	Valuation		ntribution cal Year
December 31	December 31	Payroll	<u>Dollars</u>	Payroll	Computed	<u>Actual</u>
1987	1985	10.88%	\$114,398	\$536,372	\$172,755	\$150,372
1988	1986	11.41	106,688	561,150	170,715	204,970
1989	1987	11.61	97,713	549,056	161,458	172,084
1990	1988	11.61	96,972	534,747	159,056	233,055
1991	1989	11.78	107,595	513,310	168,063	
1992	1990	12.00	145,932	481,268	203,684	

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ANALYSIS OF FUNDING PROGRESS

	(1)	(2) Pension	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) Unfunded PBO
Valuation	Net Assets	Benefit	Percent	Unfunded	Annual	as a Percentage
Date	Available	Obligation	Funded	PBO	Covered	of Covered Payroll
December 31	for Benefits	(PBO)	(1)/(2)	(2)-(1)	Payroll Payroll	(4)/(5)
1987 1988 1989 1990	\$2,417,639 2,652,520 2,949,407 3,208,961	\$3,574,375 3,771,984 4,190,127 4,897,485	67.6% 70.3 70.4 65.5	\$1,156,736 1,119,464 1,240,720 1,688,524	\$549,056 534,747 513,310 481,268	210.7% 209.3 241.7 350.8

Analysis of the dollar amounts of net assets available for benefits, pension benefit obligation, and unfunded pension benefit obligation in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the net assets available for benefits as a percentage of the pension benefit obligation provides one indication of the plan's funded status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage over time indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan. The unfunded pension benefit obligation and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded pension benefit obligation as a percentage of annual covered payroll approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan.

Appendices

APPENDIX I

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES AND OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES

<u>Promises Made, and Eventually Paid</u>. As each year is completed, the plan in effect hands an "IOU" to each member then acquiring a year of service credit -- the "IOU" says: "The Pension Plan owes you a portion of your retirement benefits, payments to be made in cash, commencing when you qualify for retirement."

The related key financial questions are: Which generation of taxpayers contributes the money to cover the IOU? The present taxpayers, who receive the benefit of the member's present year of service? Or the future taxpayers, who happen to be in town paying taxes at the later time when the IOU becomes a cash demand?

A sound principle of sound retirement plan financing is to have this year's taxpayers contribute the money to cover the IOUs being handed out this year. By following this principle, THE CONTRIBUTION RATE WILL REMAIN APPROXIMATELY LEVEL FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION -- our children and grandchildren will contribute the same percents of active payroll we contribute now.

A PENSION PLAN BECOMES CLOSED

The diagram in this appendix shows two important activities which occur after a plan has been closed to employees hired in the future.

Cash benefits paid continue to increase for decades, while active member payroll begins to decrease to zero.

<u>Funding Method</u>. A funding method is the long-term, planned pattern for employer contributions.

For an open plan (a plan covering future employees), the level-percent-of-active-member payroll funding method is the basic funding method.

The level-percent funding method can also be applied to a closed plan. However, the resulting contribution percent usually jumps to a high rate, because the number of covered active members is decreasing.

A preferred funding method for a closed plan consists of: level-percent funding for normal cost (the cost of members' service now being rendered); plus a level dollar contribution for unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities over a limited period of years. The period of years must be limited so that plan assets don't become zero while benefits are still payable.

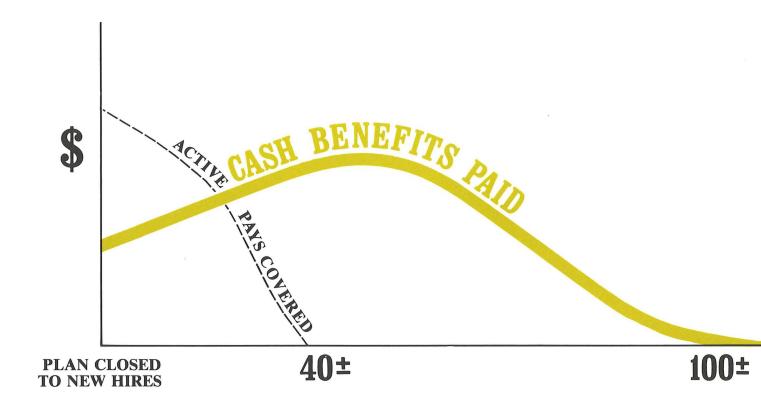
<u>Computing Contributions To Support Plan Benefits</u>. From a given schedule of benefits and from the employee data and asset data furnished him, the actuary determines the contribution rates to support the benefits by means of an actuarial valuation and a funding method.

In making an actuarial valuation, assumptions must be made regarding anticipated financial experiences for the next year and for decades in the future. Only the subsequent actual experience of the plan can indicate the degree of accuracy of the assumptions.

Reconciling Differences Between Assumed Experience and Actual Experience. Once actual experience has occurred and been observed, it will not coincide exactly with assumed experience, regardless of the wisdom of the assumptions or the skill of the actuary and the millions of calculations he made. The future can be predicted with considerable but not 100% precision, except for inflation which seems to defy reliable prediction.

A well-managed plan copes with these continually changing differences by having periodic actuarial valuations. Each actuarial valuation is a complete recalculation of assumed future experience, taking into account all past differences between assumed and actual experience. The result is continuing adjustment in financial position.

A CLOSED PENSION PLAN



YEARS OF TIME

A plan becomes closed when no new hires are admitted to active membership. The persons covered by the plan at the time of closing continue their normal activities and continue to be covered by the plan, until the last survivor dies.

CASH BENEFITS LINE. After a pension plan becomes closed, the usual pattern is for cash benefits to continue to increase for decades of time. Eventually the cash benefits will peak, and then gradually decrease over more decades of time, ultimately to zero. The last cash benefit is likely to occur a century after the time the plan is closed.

The precise amounts of cash benefits cannot be known now, and must be estimated by assumptions of future experiences in a variety of financial risk areas.

APPENDIX II

MEANING OF UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Almost every pension plan (public or private) has "unfunded accrued liabilities", so whatever they are, they aren't rare. Since the term is not part of everyday conversation, it needs some definition.

"Accrued liabilities" are the present value \$ of plan promises to pay benefits in the future based upon service already rendered - - - a liability has been established ("accrued") because the service has been rendered, but the resulting monthly cash benefit may not be payable until years in the future. Accrued liabilities \$ are the result of complex mathematical calculations, which are made by the plan's actuary (which is the name given to the specialist who makes such calculations).

If "accrued liabilities" at any time exceed the plan's accrued assets (cash & investments), the difference is "unfunded accrued liabilities". This is the common condition. If the plan's assets equalled the plan's "accrued liabilities", the plan would be termed "fully funded". This is a rare condition.

Each time a plan adds a new benefit which applies to service already rendered, an "accrued liability" is created, which is also an "unfunded accrued liability" because the plan can't print instant cash to cover the accrued liability. Payment for such unfunded accrued liabilities is spread over a period of years, commonly in the 20-40 year range.

Unfunded accrued liabilities can occur in another way: If actual financial experience is less favorable than assumed financial experience, the difference is added to unfunded accrued liabilities. In plans where plan benefits are directly related to an employee's pay near time of retirement (a common plan provision) rather than his average pay throughout his working career, unfunded accrued liabilities have been increasing in recent years because unexpected rates of pay increase have created additional accrued liabilities which could not be matched by reasonable investment results. Some of these unexpected pay increases are the direct result of inflation, which is a very destructive force on financial stability.

The existence of unfunded accrued liabilities is not bad, then (any more than a mortgage on your house is "bad"), but the changes from year to year in amount of unfunded accrued liabilities are important - - - "bad" or "good" or somewhere in between.

Nor are unfunded accrued liabilities a bill payable immediately (your food costs are payable immediately), but it is important that policy-makers prevent the amount from becoming unreasonably high and it is vital that your plan have a sound method for making payments toward them so that they are controlled.

The existence of large amounts of unfunded accrued liabilities indicates that total contributions in past years were less than level - - - an almost certain history if retired life liabilities are not fully funded now.