

Annual Actuarial Valuation December 31, 1987

Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company Actuaries & Consultants

> 645 State Office Building Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

HV 8148 .M52 M55ax 1987

MS 69 77

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	Item
1	Signature Page
A-1	Comments
A-2	Contribution Rate
A-3	Present Actuarial Condition
A-5	Comparative Contribution Schedule
A-6	Contribution Work Sheet
B-1	Retirant and Beneficiary Data
B-5	Active Member Data
B - 7	Brief Summary of Benefits
C-1	Valuation Method and Assumptions
D-1	Pension Benefit Obligation Schedule (for GASB 5 compliance)

Appendix I Financial Principles and Operational Techniques Appendix II Meaning of Unfunded Accrued Liabilities 200 Globe Building • 407 East Fort • Detroit, Michigan 48226 • 313-961-3346

May 26, 1988

Board of Trustees Minneapolis Police Relief Association Minneapolis, Minnesota

Submitted in this report are the results of the December 31, 1987 actuarial valuation of the assets, actuarial values and contribution requirements associated with the benefits provided by the Minneapolis Police Relief Association.

The valuation results contained in Section A provide the actuarial information needed to determine the employer's "minimum obligation" effective January 1, 1989. 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 Gary N. Findlag

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.

CONTRIBUTION RATE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS

Member portion & Employer portion Effective January 1, 1989

	If Paid Equally Normal Cost	Thr	oughout Year
Contributions for	% of Active Payroll for 1989	+	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	22.17% 3.60 2.04 1.64 <u>0.00</u> 29.45%		
Amortization of unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (UAAL) (22 year level dollar payment)			
Retired lives Active members Total			\$254,210 9,772,029 10,026,239
Total Cost of Benefits	29.45%	+	\$10,026,239
Member contributions	8.00%		
COMPUTED EMPLOYER RATE:			
(a) If Paid Equally Throughout Year (b) IF PAID AS OUTLINED BELOW	21.45% 21.69%	+ +	\$10,026,239 \$10,140,538

The amounts in (b) were computed to adjust for interest according to the following payment pattern:

- 1. The state amortization aid of \$1,776,600 is received in 4 equal installments on 3/15, 7/15, 9/15 and 11/15.
- 2. The balance of the contribution is received as follows:
 - a. 16.0% of the balance is received from the State on 10/15.b. 35.1% of the balance is received from the City on 7/5 and 12/5.

 - c. 2.3% of the balance is received from the City on 7/15, 8/15, 9/15 10/15, 11/15 and 12/15.

Minneapolis Police Relief Association Present Actuarial Condition

The Association's accrued actuarial assets were in excess of \$153 million on December 31, 1987 -- 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 \$153 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 Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	% Funded
Retirants and Beneficiaries Retired Members (490) Surviving Spouses (219) Surviving Children (19)		\$130,915,248 20,779,824 267,048		
Total (728)		\$151,962,120		
Deferred Members (13)		4,774,008		
Active Members (529)		131,818,827		
Total	\$153,306,992	\$288,554,955	\$135,247,963	53.1%

Actuarial accrued liabilities represent the value, computed as of December 31, 1987 of:

- (i) retirement allowances likely to be paid the 728 retirants and beneficiaries; and
- (ii) the contributions assumed to have been made for the 529 active members from entry into the plan until December 31, 1987.

The value of retirement allowances likely to be paid the 728 retirants and beneficiaries, discounted for investment earnings and mortality, was computed to be \$151,962,120 as of December 31, 1987. To put this amount in perspective, the \$151,962,120, together with investment earnings, will just be sufficient to pay the 728 retirants and beneficiaries their allowances for their remaining lifetimes. This assumes the 728 retirants and beneficiaries live and die according to the assumed mortality and the \$151,962,120 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 \$131,818,827 represents the amount that would have been accumulated by December 31, 1987. 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, 1987 for the 529 actives, and that these amounts had earned 5.0% interest. It also assumes that the members in the past had lived, died, withdrawn, retired and received salary increases according to the actuarial assumptions shown in this report.

Valuation Date December 31	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	Accrued Actuarial Assets	Percent Funded
1978	\$143,363	\$ 25,317	17.7%
1979	163,665	29,846	18.2
1980	179,399	37,980	21.2
1981	200,493	46,721	23.3
1982*	228,109	65,379	28.7
1983	232,890	81,382	34.9
1984*	248,239	94,680	38.1
1985	257,065	115,069	44.8
1985*	264,194	115,069	43.6
1986	272,487	136,075	49.9
1987	288,555	150,307	53.1

Historical Funding Ratio Schedule (\$ in thousands)

* After change in assumptions.

Computed Contributions - Comparative Schedule

Year En Decembe Valuation	r 31	Total Normal Cost as a Percent of Valuation Payroll*	Contribution For Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities \$ or %
1978	1980	21.12%	\$ 5,760,080
1979	1981	23.75	8,494,852
1980	1982	24.64	9,114,128
1981	1983	24.79	10,071,771
1982	1984**	27.40	10,844,206
1983	1985	27.27	10,284,548
1983	1985**	28.74	10,631,760
1984	1986**	28.07	10,041,583
1985	1987**	29.66	10,545,734
1986	1988	29.55	9,868,442
1987	1989	29.45	10,026,239

* Includes employee contributions.

** After change in assumptions.

Minneapolis Police Relief Association CONTRIBUTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1989

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 1989	\$	
(2)	Total normal cost % from page A-2	29.45%	
(3)	Total normal cost (Line 1 times line 2)		\$
(4)	x 1.035 1987 Administrative expenses paid from the Special Fund		
(5)	Amortization payment on UAAL from page A-2		10,026,239
(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 \$118,046,510 (b) State amortization aid based on 1984 legislation (c) Total State amortization aid 	2,020,220	
(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 1.0114)		\$

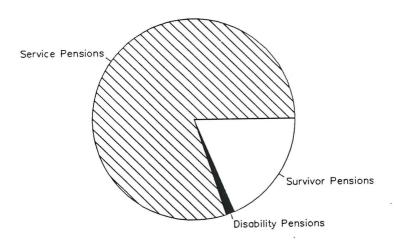
Section B

Valuation Data and Summary of Benefit Provisions

Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1987

By Type of Annuity Being Paid

Type of Annuity Being Paid	<u>No.</u>	Monthly Amounts	Computed Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
Retirants receiving: Age & Service Disability	480 10	\$708,579.81 _12,912.44	\$127,006,032 3,909,216
Totals	490	721,492.25	130,915,248
Beneficiaries receiving: Spouse Child	219 19	160,864.26 4,252.60	20,779,824 267,048
Totals	238	165,116.86	21,046,872
Totals	728	\$886,609,11	\$151,962,120





Inactive Members Eligible for Deferred Benefits

December 31, 1987

		Computed
		Actuarial
	Monthly	Accrued
No.	Amount	Liabilities
13	\$18,634.12	\$4,774,008

Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1987

By Attained Ages

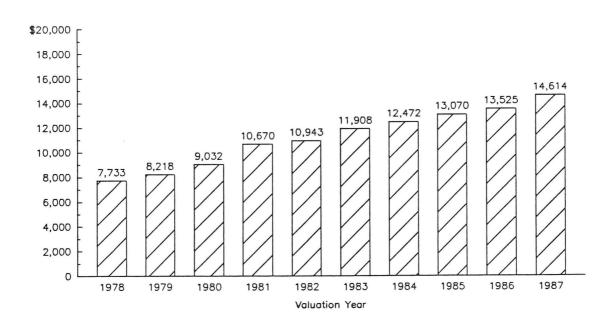
		Number	
Attained Ages	Age & Service	Disability	Death Before Retirement
Under 20		2	16
20-24 30-34 35-39		2	1 1 1
40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59	68 65	2 6 1	2 2 2 6
60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79	119 103 133 80		8 5 4 5
80-84 85-89 90-94 95-99	42 31 11 3	1	1 4
100 & Over	1		
Totals	656	14	58

Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Rolls

Valuation Date <u>December 31</u> 1978	No. Added to Rolls	No. Removed from Rolls	<u>Rolls</u> <u>No.</u> 717	s End of Year Annual Allowances \$ 5,544,391	Discounted Value of Total Allowances \$ 82,727,290
1979	N/A	N/A	731	6,007,316	88,184,433
1980	29	72	688	6,214,153	94,396,604
1981	59	90	695	7,415,469	100,936,794
1981	30				
		29	696	7,616,484	117,978,790
1983	36	40	692	8,238,879	119,499,721
1984	35	35	692	8,630,848	122,412,264
1985	36	29	699	9,135,889	129,482,448
1986	35	38	696	9,413,244	132,060,228
1987	60	28	728	10,639,309	151,962,120

Comparative Statement





Active Members December 31, 1987

By Attained Age and Years of Service

Attained Age	0-4	Years 5-9	of Serv 10-14	ice to 15-19	Valuati 20-24	on Date 25-29	30 Plus	No	Totals Valuation Payroll
30-34 35-39		1	3 65	12				4 77	\$ 148,468 2,858,009
40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59		1 1	45 5 2	123 57 8 5	12 64 19 4	17 42 23	7	181 144 71 39	6,718,177 5,344,848 2,635,307 1,447,563
60 61 62 63					1	1 1 1 1	4 1 3	6 2 4 1	222,702 74,234 148,468 37,117
Totals		3	120	205	100	86	15	529	\$19,634,893

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

Age: 45.4 years.

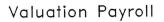
Service: 19.6 years.

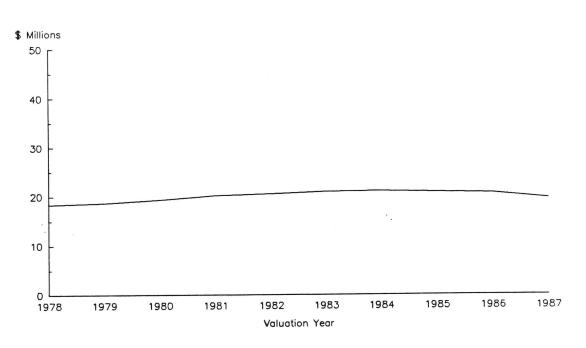
Annual Pay: \$37,117.

Comparative Schedule

Of Active Members

Valuation Date		Valuation		Averag	е	
December 31	Active Members	Payroll	Age	Service	Pay	% Incr.
1978	811	\$18,394,210	40.3 yrs.	13.7 yrs.	\$22,681	- %
1979	771	18,661,284	40.7	14.4	24,204	6.7
1980	737	19,350,672	41.4	15.1	26,257	8.5
1981	712	20,218,664	41.9	15.5	28,397	8.2
1982	686	20,474,356	42.5	16.2	29,846	5.1
1983	663	20,979,972	43.2	17.0	31,644	6.0
1984	641	21,079,926	43.9	17.8	32,886	3.9
1985	611	20,890,701	44.5	18.5	34,191	4.0
1986	586	20,737,368	45.2	19.3	35,388	3.5
1987	529	19,634,893	45.4	19.6	37,117	4.9





Brief Summary (12/31/87) of Benefit Provisions Evaluated and/or Considered

Age & Service Retirement

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

<u>Amount</u>. For first 20 years of service, 34/80 of base pay. For service in excess of 20 years, an additional 1/80 is provided for each of the first 4 years and 4/80 is added for the 25th year to a maximum of 42/80 of base pay for 25 or more years of service. (Members retired prior to 7/80 receive 1/80 of base pay less and those retired prior to 7/69 receive 1/80 of base pay for each year over 20 thru the 28th year.)

Pay Used For Plan Purposes. "Base pay" means the salary of a top grade patrol offi-

Disability Retirement

Eligibility.

Non-duty. No minimum required.

<u>Duty</u>. No minimum service required. (In either case, disabled to the extent that no longer able to perform duties of a police officer including limited duty.)

Amount.

Non-duty. 34/80 of base pay. (Prior to 7/80 non-duty disability benefits ranged from 13/80 to 33/80.)

Duty. 34/80 of base pay. (Prior to 7/80 the amount was 33/80.)

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

Eligibility.

<u>Spouse</u>. Legally married to member one year prior to separation from service and residing with member at time of death. Benefits terminate upon remarriage.

<u>Child</u>. Younger than age 18 or, if in school, younger than age 22. Amount.

Spouse. 19/80 of base pay.

<u>Child</u>. 6/80 of base pay per child. Children's maximum is 14/80 if spouse is receiving or 32/80 if no spouse is receiving.

<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>. Each time base pay is changed, payments to all benefit recipients are simultaneously changed by the same percent that base pay is changed.

<u>Member Contributions</u>. 8% of base pay. Member contributions are non-refundable. If a member terminates after 5 years of service but before being eligible for an immediate or deferred benefit, a lump sum refund of \$500 plus \$100 for each full year over 5 is paid. Section C

Valuation Methods and Assumptions

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 54, or attained age if older.

Mortality Table*

[amp] a	Pres Lev	asing	Future Life			
Sample	For L	.11e	3.5% Yearly		Expectancy (Years)	
Ages	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
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
00	150.52	147.50	175.45	212.00	1/•46	21.10
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
	61.71	77.77	71.69	93.83	6.39	8.52
80	01./1	//•//	/1.09	22.02	0.39	0.02

* 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

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

Pay Adjustment Factor Used To Project Current Pays

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

Anticipated Disability Retirements

Sample	% of Active Members Becoming
Ages	Disabled within Next Year
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, 1987. 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, 1987, the unfunded pension benefit obligation was \$134,830,674, determined as follows:

Pension Benefit Obligation:

Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits and terminated employees not yet receiving benefits	\$156,736,128
Current employees	
Accumulated employee contributions including allocated investment income	0
Employer financed	124,546,751
Total Pension Benefit Obligation	\$281,282,879
Net assets available for benefits, at cost (market value was \$167,016,565)	146,452,205
Unfunded Pension Benefit Obligation	\$134,830,674

The total pemsion benefit obligation as of January 1, 1987 was \$264,962,432. During the year, the plan experienced a net change of \$16,320,447 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 22 years.

During the year ended December 31, 1987 contributions totaling \$17,688,616 --\$16,054,466 employer and \$1,634,150 employee -- were made in accordance with contributions requirements determined by an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1985. The employer contributions consisted of \$4,524,926 for normal cost and \$11,529,540 for amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Employer contributions represented 76.85% 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
----------	--------------	-------------	----------

			Contributio	on Rates			
Fiscal	Valuation		Normal Cost			Dollar Com	ntribution
Year	Date	%	of Valuation	UAAL	Valuation	For Fisc	cal Year
December 31	December 31	_	Payroll	Dollars	Payroll	Computed	Actual
,							
1987	1985					\$15,070,660	
1988	1986		21.55			14,337,345	
1989	1987		21.45	10,026,239	19,634,893	14,237,924	

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ANALYSIS OF FUNDING PROGRESS

	(1)	(2) Pension	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) Unfunded PBO as a Percentage
Valuation Date December 31	Net Assets Available for Benefits	Benefit Obligation	Percent Funded (1)/(2)	Unfunded PBO (2)-(1)	Annual Covered Payroll	of Covered Payroll (4)/(5)
1987	\$146,452,205	\$281,282,879	52.1%	\$134,830,674	\$19,634,893	686.7%

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 goingconcern 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. Funding Method. A funding method is the long-term, planned pattern for employer contributions.

For an open plan (a plan covering future employees), the level-percent-ofactive-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.

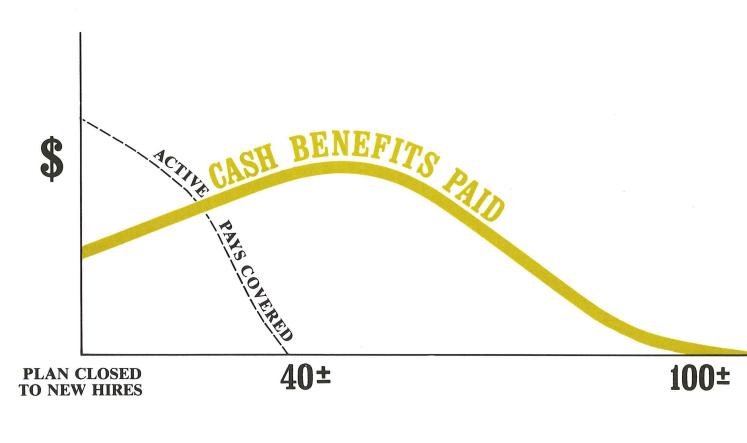
<u>Computing Contributions To Support Plan Benefits</u>. From a given schedule of benefits and from the employee data and asset data furnished him, the actuary determines the contribution rates to support the benefits by means of an actuarial valuation and a funding method.

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.

<u>Reconciling Differences Between Assumed Experience and Actual Experience</u>. 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

<u>A plan becomes closed</u> 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.