

HONORABLE JIMMY D. DEAN, CLA
LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSESSOR
Iowa, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report on
Internal Control Structure,
December 31, 1997

and whether they have been placed in operation, and I assessed control risk in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

My consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that I considered to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of the Lafayette Parish Assessor. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana
February 4, 1998



**Independent Auditor's Report
on Internal Control Structure**

HONORABLE JIMMY D. EGAN, CLU
LASALLE PARISH ASSessor
Jena, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the LaSalle Parish Assessor, a component unit of the LaSalle Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 1987, and for each of the years in the two year period then ended, and have issued my report thereon dated February 4, 1988.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. These standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of LaSalle Parish Assessor is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. 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, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projections 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.

In planning and performing my audit of the general purpose financial statements of the LaSalle Parish Assessor for the two years ended December 31, 1987, I obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, I obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures

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**Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance
With Laws, Regulations, and Contracts**

HONORABLE JIMMY D. DEAN, CLU
LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Ivrea, Louisiana

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
CERTIFIED BY MISSISSIPPI
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

QUALITY OF LASALLE
ASSESSOR PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

PROVIDES SERVICE TO
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the LaSalle Parish Assessor, a component unit of the LaSalle Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 1997, and for each of the years in the two year period then ended, and have issued my report thereon dated February 4, 1998.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. These standards and the audit guide require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to the LaSalle Parish Assessor is the responsibility of the LaSalle Parish Assessor's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of the LaSalle Parish Assessor's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts. However, my objective was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended for the information of the LaSalle Parish Assessor. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana
February 4, 1998

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**Independent Auditor's Reports Required
by Government Auditing Standards**

The following independent auditor's reports on compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts, and internal control matters are presented in compliance with the requirements of Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Acme, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

8. OPERATING LEASE

In November, 1996, the assessor entered into a 48-month lease for an automobile to be used by the assessor's office. Payments on this lease totaled \$6,413 during 1997. The unpaid balance at December 31, 1997, of \$18,860, is to be paid in 36 monthly payments of approximately \$524 each.

9. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

At December 31, 1997, the LaSalle Parish Assessor is not involved in any litigation, nor is he aware of any unasserted claims.

**10. EXPENDITURES OF THE ASSESSOR'S
OFFICE PAID BY THE POLICE JURY**

The LaSalle Parish Assessor's office is located in the parish courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:4713, is paid by the LaSalle Parish Police Jury.

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Iona, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefits accrued to their date of termination. The system also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The system issues an annual publicly available report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the system. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System, Post Office Box 1786, Slidellport, Louisiana 71069-1786, or by calling (504) 425-4446.

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 7.00 per cent of their annual covered salary and the LaSalle Parish Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.75 per cent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the system include one-fourth of one per cent (one per cent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, plus revenue sharing funds appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the LaSalle Parish Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The LaSalle Parish Assessor's contributions to the system for the years ending December 31, 1997, 1996, and 1995, were \$9,366, \$7,484, and \$7,940, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

6. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The LaSalle Parish Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. Substantially all of the assessor's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the assessor. These benefits for retirees and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose monthly premiums are paid jointly by the employee and the assessor. The assessor recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (assessor's cost of premiums) as an expenditure when paid during the year. For the years ended December 31, 1997 and December 31, 1996, the total cost of health and life insurance premiums for the assessor were \$39,758, and \$46,561, respectively. Of these amounts, \$1,858, and \$2,414 were for retiree benefits.

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Iowa, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**3. RECEIVABLES**

The General Fund receivables of \$288,678 at December 31, 1997, are as follows:

<i>Class of Receivables</i>	
Taxes - ad valorem	\$768,849
Intergovernmental revenues - state grant - state revenue sharing (net)	<u>19,828</u>
Net total receivables	<u>\$788,678</u>

4. CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

A summary of changes in office furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance at January 1, 1996	\$58,529
Additions:	
1996	6,071
1997	6,286
Deletions:	
1996	(4,032)
1997	<u>(3,656)</u>
Balance at December 31, 1997	<u>\$63,198</u>

5. PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the LaSalle Parish Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System (system), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees.

All full-time employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment and are not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the system. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service, not to exceed 100 per cent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Breaux, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

G. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

After one year of service, full-time employees earn 1 to 2 weeks of non-cumulative vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. Beginning with the fourth month of employment, sick leave is earned at a rate of 1 day per month and accumulates to a maximum of 30 days. At December 31, 1987, there are no benefits relating to vacation and sick leave that require accrual or disclosure.

**II. TOTAL COLUMN ON THE
BALANCE SHEET**

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned *Memorandum Only* (overview) to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

2. PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 1987 assessed valuation:

	1987 Assessed Valuation	Per cent of Total Assessed Valuation
Louisiana Pacific Corp.	\$4,620,037	9.06%
I.P. Timberlands Operating Company	4,019,252	7.88%
Central LA Telephone Company	3,274,194	6.43%
AMR Pipeline Company	2,940,040	5.76%
Energy LA, Inc.	2,387,790	4.68%
Hunt Petroleum Corporation	1,681,720	3.30%
Koch Gateway Pipeline Company	1,290,640	2.53%
Texas Gas Transmission	979,040	1.92%
Southern Heritage Bank	827,960	1.62%
Columbia Gulf Transmission Company	742,960	1.46%
Total	<u>\$22,771,935</u>	<u>44.89%</u>

LABALLE PARISH ASSessor

Jena, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

beginning of each year. The budget is then legally adopted by the assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the assessor at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes to the budget must be approved by the assessor.

Fundal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments.

F. CASH

Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The assessor may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 1997, the assessor has demand deposits (bank balances) totaling \$71,140.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. Deposit balances (bank balances) at December 31, 1997, are secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$71,140</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$71,140
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>219,720</u>
Total	<u>\$362,000</u>

Because the pledged securities are held by a custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank rather than in the name of the assessor, they are considered uncollateralized under the provision of GASB Codification C30.105; however, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the assessor that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

LASALLE PARISH ASSessor

Irron, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The assessor uses the following practices in recognizing and reporting revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing (which is based on population and homesteads in the parish) are recorded in the year for taxes are due and payable. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, attach as an enforceable lien, and become due and payable on the date the tax rolls are filed with the recorder of mortgages. Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1983 requires that the tax roll be filed on or before November 15 of each year. Ad valorem taxes become delinquent if not paid by December 31. The taxes are normally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recorded in the year prepared.

Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the interest is measurable and available.

Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, ad valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

E. BUDGET PRACTICES

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the

LASALLE PARISH ASSessor

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities (general fixed assets and general long-term debt) that are not recorded in the "funds" because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources. They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position, not with the measurement of results of operations.

Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held for others. The assessor's current operations require only the use of governmental funds (General Fund). Ad valorem tax revenue, authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1935.3, is accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

**C. GENERAL FIXED ASSETS
AND LONG-TERM DEBT**

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. General fixed assets provided by the police jury are not recorded in the general fixed assets account group. All fixed assets are valued at actual historical costs. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. The assessor has no long-term debt at December 31, 1997.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements for these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for reporting all governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Acra, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria include:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and:
 - a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or;
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the assessor's office is located, the assessor was determined to be a component unit of the LaSalle Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the assessor and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. FUND ACCOUNTING

The assessor uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. An account

LABALLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Jena, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a four-year term. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to all valuation limitations. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the office and provides assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The assessor's office is located in the LaSalle Parish Courthouse in Jena, Louisiana. The assessor employs five employees, including four deputies. In accordance with Louisiana law, the assessor bases real and movable property assessments on conditions existing on January 1 of the tax year. The assessor completes an assessment listing by May 1 of the tax year and submits the list to the parish authority and the Louisiana Tax Commission as prescribed by law. Once the assessment listing is approved, the assessor submits the assessment roll to the parish tax collector who is responsible for collecting and distributing taxes to the various taxing bodies.

At December 31, 1997, there are 42,723 real and movable assessment listings totaling \$25,168,977, and \$27,840,358, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 1996, there were 45,368 real and movable assessment listings totaling \$25,896,401, and \$28,212,681, respectively. This represents decreases of 2,645 and 1,382 assessment listings for the years ended December 31, 1997 and December 31, 1996, respectively. The total assessed valuation decreased by \$31,686 for the year ended December 31, 1997, and increased by \$4,408,000 for the year ended December 31, 1996.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the LaSalle Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for LaSalle Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 establishes criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the LaSalle

LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSessor
 Iona, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
 Changes in Fund Balance - Budget
 (GAAP Basis) and Actual
 For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)</u>
REVENUES			
Taxes - ad valorem	\$190,525	\$250,406	\$19,880
Intergovernmental revenues - state grant - state revenue sharing (net)	30,230	28,618	(1,612)
Use of money and property - interest earnings	5,500	5,910	410
Other revenues	3,500	4,756	1,256
Total revenues	<u>229,755</u>	<u>290,790</u>	<u>15,945</u>
EXPENDITURES			
General government - taxation:			
Current:			
Personal services and related benefits	213,731	187,192	26,539
Operating services	48,550	35,349	13,201
Materials and supplies	14,600	9,606	4,994
Travel and other charges	15,014	8,999	6,015
Capital outlay	16,200	4,032	12,168
Total expenditures	<u>321,175</u>	<u>298,748</u>	<u>22,427</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(91,420)</u>	<u>32,992</u>	<u>24,332</u>
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>81,410</u>	<u>300,008</u>	<u>290,608</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>None</u>	<u>\$334,991</u>	<u>\$334,991</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Iona, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget
(DMM Basis) and Actual
For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE</u>
REVENUES			
Taxes - ad valorem	\$253,317	\$274,315	\$20,998
Intragovernmental revenues - state grant - state revenue sharing (80%)	22,000	30,245	(8,245)
Use of money and property - interest earnings	5,000	6,816	1,816
Other revenues	3,000	4,000	1,000
Total revenues	<u>283,317</u>	<u>315,376</u>	<u>32,059</u>
EXPENDITURES			
General government - taxation:			
Cannon:			
Personnel services and related benefits	243,136	233,152	9,984
Operating services	48,000	37,332	10,668
Materials and supplies	16,600	8,672	7,928
Travel and other charges	28,551	12,484	16,067
Capital outlay	17,000	6,386	5,714
Total expenditures	<u>363,317</u>	<u>298,026</u>	<u>65,291</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>17,350</u>	<u>97,350</u>
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>55,800</u>	<u>304,990</u>	<u>249,190</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>(24,200)</u>	<u>322,340</u>	<u>346,540</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LASALLE PARISH ASSessor
Iona, Louisiana
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

Statement A

Balance Sheet, December 31, 1997

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND	ACCOUNT GROUP - GENERAL FUND ASSETS	TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT
ASSETS			
Cash	\$71,341		\$71,341
Receivables	288,878		288,878
Office furnishings and equipment		<u>63,198</u>	<u>63,198</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$390,819</u>	<u>\$63,198</u>	<u>\$473,917</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$2,801		\$2,801
Payroll deductions payable	5,217		5,217
Total liabilities	<u>7,318</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>7,318</u>
Fund Equity:			
Increment in general fund assets		63,198	63,198
Fund balance - unreserved - undesignated	<u>382,901</u>		<u>382,901</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>382,901</u>	<u>63,198</u>	<u>413,699</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	<u>\$390,819</u>	<u>\$63,198</u>	<u>\$473,917</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(OVERVIEW)**



Independent Auditor's Report

HONORABLE JIMMY D. DEAN, CIA
LASALLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Iowa, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the LaSalle Parish Assessor, a component unit of the LaSalle Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 1997, and for each of the years in the two year period then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the LaSalle Parish Assessor's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the LaSalle Parish Assessor as of December 31, 1997, and the results of operations for each of the years in the two year period then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated February 4, 1998 on my consideration of the LaSalle Parish Assessor's internal control structure and a report dated February 4, 1998 on compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts.

West Monroe, Louisiana
February 4, 1998

VERNON COON
MEMBER OF CHARTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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ASSESSMENTS

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LASALLE PARISH ASSessor
Iona, Louisiana

General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 1997

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LASALLE PARISH ASSessor
Irene, Louisiana

**General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 1987**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the parish, or reviewed, and/or other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 3-9-88

