

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Title: **Wednesday, May 6, 1992**

2:30 p.m.

Date: 92/05/06

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

head: **Prayers**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us pray.

As Canadians and as Albertans we give thanks for the precious gifts of freedom and peace which we enjoy.

As Members of this Legislative Assembly we rededicate ourselves to the valued traditions of parliamentary democracy as a means of serving our province and our country.

Amen.

head: **Introduction of Bills**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. minister responsible for Seniors.

Bill 25 Michener Centre Act

MR. BRASSARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 25, the Michener Centre Act. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this Bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is to put in place a board of directors for Michener Centre which will ensure that all services continue to provide the highest quality of care to Michener Centre residents and will form consultative partnerships with community and government agencies to ensure an effective and quality continuum of care.

[Leave granted; Bill 25 read a first time]

head: **Tabling Returns and Reports**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Career Development and Employment.

MR. WEISS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to table the annual report of the Department of Career Development and Employment for the fiscal period April 1, 1990, to March 31, 1991.

head: **Introduction of Special Guests**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Innisfail.

MR. SEVERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly a class of grade 6 students from the Innisfail John Wilson elementary school. These grade 6 students are accompanied by their teachers Ms Graham and Mrs. Layden and also parents Mrs. Hildebrandt and Mrs. Olson. Also, they have an underage student, Dale Olson. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to be able to introduce guests visiting with us today from Wolfville, Nova Scotia. They're in the public gallery. They're Cecil and Hildred Hawkesworth. In his career as a chef Cecil Hawkesworth served over a million people, among them Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. They're accompanied by Mrs. Elsie Hawkesworth of Edmonton. I'd like to have them rise and be greeted by our members and ask them to extend a warm Alberta welcome.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore.

MS M. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly 25 students from Mill Creek school. They're accompanied by teachers Miss Bertagnolli and Mrs. Reid. They are seated in the members' gallery. I would ask that they now rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly.

MR. EWASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also delighted today to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly 44 students from a fine school in Edmonton-Beverly, Fraser school. There are 44 students. They're accompanied by their teachers Ms Corleen McKinnon and Ms Allison Edwards. They're seated in both the members' and the public galleries. I'd ask them to rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you 21 members of a high school leadership class from Namao, obviously a good many future Liberal candidates in there. They're sitting in the members' gallery accompanied by group leaders Norman Zweifel and Ms Glenda Bechdholt. If they'd stand and be recognized by the Legislature, I'm sure they'd appreciate it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

MR. MAIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I saw a Tory candidate or two there as well.

I'd like to introduce a resident of Edmonton-Parkallen to the Legislature today. He has a long and distinguished history of service to Edmonton in both the business sector and the public service, Mr. Speaker. Egerton King is here today and was anxious to be here as my colleague the minister responsible for Seniors introduced Bill 25, the Michener Centre Act. Mr. King's current efforts are mostly involved in helping assure an excellent quality of life for the residents of Michener. I know he's anxious to receive a warm welcome from the Assembly. I'd ask Edge to stand up and receive that traditional welcome.

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to introduce another community activist and community volunteer. He's really actually Mr. Volunteer in the city of Edmonton. He's a very fine resident of the constituency of Edmonton-Calder. Mr. Jim Acton is in the members' gallery, and I would ask him to rise and receive the warm welcome of all members of the Assembly.

head:

Oral Question Period

Election Timing

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the government lost one of its more prominent members with the resignation of the MLA for Three Hills. We obviously had one very unhappy Conservative MLA. Now, it's not surprising, as the Premier made her the scapegoat for the Principal fiasco, and clearly she was unhappy about the dispute with the government and the town of Trochu over the tire plant, but according to the MLA's own PC constituency association, the final straw was the mismanagement of the debt by this provincial government. My question to the Premier is simply this: how can the Premier hope to convince Albertans about the need for Alberta's growing debt when it can't even convince their own backbenchers?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition's allegations, I guess you could call them, in asking his question are incorrect, but that's not unusual with his questions. It does give me an opportunity to say that I'm quite sad to see Mrs. Osterman leave the Legislature. She's a talented, experienced MLA, was a fine member of our cabinet and our caucus. I enjoyed working with her, and I wish her very well in the future.

MR. MARTIN: I don't think the joy was the same on her part, Mr. Speaker. That's the point I was trying to make.

Mr. Speaker, the government has lost the confidence of its own members over its mismanagement and waste. We've had, as mentioned before, eight successive deficits totaling well over \$15 billion. We've gone from a have province with assets to a debtor province, and that's the point the Member for Three Hills was talking about in *Hansard*, if you look, in this particular Legislature. My question is straightforward. This government's in disarray. Why doesn't the Premier do the right thing. Let's clear the air. When's the Premier going to call an election?

2:40

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I think there are a number of MLAs, including myself, who do not like debt or deficits. We naturally don't like to have circumstances where they're necessary or needed.

As far as the hon. member talking about an election, I should just recall for him that we just had one in Little Bow, and the hon. member was pretty embarrassed.

MR. MARTIN: Quite an election, Mr. Speaker. In the Tory stronghold they went from 80 percent to 35 percent. Some mandate. I know he says that he doesn't like debt, but his Treasurer, Deficit Dick, seems to.

Let's look at elections then. I understand that the Premier said that his preference was to get the constituency of Three Hills represented as quickly as possible, but I might point out that the constituents of Calgary-Buffalo have been waiting for more than a hundred days to be represented in the Alberta Legislature. Here's a chance for at least a minielection, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. I'm wondering about Calgary-Buffalo after the 100 days. Will he call the by-election in Calgary-Buffalo now so that they can be represented in the Legislature?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, it is true that I have and the government has taken some time. We felt that with former MLA Sheldon Chumir it was proper, and we wanted to leave a period of time when we might experience and share a certain amount of grief at the loss of such an outstanding member of our Legisla-

ture. We now, as the members probably know, have a period of time, some six months, after a member either resigns or leaves a seat for whatever reason when a by-election should be called. That's the law of this Legislature. So I would hope that we will be moving on a Calgary-Buffalo by-election quite soon.

Mental Health Services

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, this is Mental Health Week, although for some reason the minister hasn't made a ministerial statement about it. We had the one she was going to do. I expect it's because of the shameful state of this government's mental health policies. Let me say that we have the tragic case of Brenda Strandlie, who suffered from a mental illness, who was discharged from hospital on February 26 for the second time in a month. She disappeared on February 28 until her body was found in the North Saskatchewan River last week. She was discharged from the hospital, there was no community follow-up, and her family was not even informed of her discharge. My question to the Minister of Health is simply this. Brenda Strandlie's family is extremely upset, understandably so, and they want some answers. Why did the system fail her so terribly? How could this happen?

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I think that any death of this nature is a tragedy. Certainly it is one about which all of us are saddened to hear. In terms of the family's concern about hospital treatment, the hon. member knows that if they wish to make a formal complaint through the college with respect to a physician or through the hospital itself or through the Health Facilities Review Committee, all those mechanisms are in place, and I would encourage the family to do that when the time is right for them to do so.

In terms of Mental Health Week and in terms of the work that we are doing, on the contrary, I think the progress that we're making in mental health is perhaps slower than a lot of us would like, but the progress is towards bringing the issue out in the open, to getting into board governance for the institutions, to ensuring that as we focus on health care in the 21st century, it's more focused towards community than towards institutionalization and towards the mix in between. I think the paper on future directions for mental health, that I tabled in the last couple of weeks in this Assembly, is testament to this government's commitment to ensuring that mental health is part of the mainstream of the health sector.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, that's nice talk, but the reality is that it's not happening. It's one thing to talk about deinstitutionalization, but for this government that's become dumping, often out there with no backup services, with no housing.

The point with this particular case is that if Brenda had even had a mental health worker that checked on her, this might have been avoided. My question to the minister is simply this: why is she so reluctant to put the necessary resources into the backup services? Perhaps we can avoid these tragedies in the future.

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to get into the issue more openly during the estimates of the Department of Health. In fact, we have a \$56 million budget in mental health in the votes of the Department of Health. Of that, \$34 million is provided directly to community-based services. I recognize that they're not always there when they need them, so the issue becomes ensuring that we work with the community and institutions to ensure that when people are in the community and need the hospital access or in the hospital and need the community

access, there's a better working between what are too often two solitudes in that area. That is the commitment. That is the directional statement, and I believe it's the appropriate direction to be taking.

MR. MARTIN: The minister says that, Mr. Speaker, but the reality is that it's not happening.

The whole push now, Mr. Speaker, that they're talking about is more deinstitutionalization in the future. We've had this in the past, and they're still not providing the backup services. My question to the minister is simply this: how can she consider contemplating discharging even more of the mentally ill to their communities without the proper resources when the results have the potential to be so tragic?

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I am not discharging people who need acute care from hospitals. Decisions are made with respect to a person's care within a facility by professionals.

In the area of acute emergency we've set aside some resources in the budget this year to look at how we might have the existing facilities deal better with acute psychiatric emergencies. It really reflects back on the Member for Edmonton-Highlands' motion yesterday. I'm not convinced that dollars are the only answer to this. It's a matter of bringing these two groups together to ensure that we're dealing not only with the emergency care but with the acute care. Too often I think the Leader of the Opposition assumes that the only pieces of the health system are the acute care system and community living. Issues in health are about what is in between those two ends and trying to pull them all together.

I acknowledge that we're not doing everything the hon. member would like. I fundamentally regret the tragedies that can occur, but we have to be focusing the system towards that goal. As I said, I would be happy to get into it more during our estimates and deal with what we are doing with the \$56 million devoted to mental health in the province.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Provincial Fiscal Policies

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the Royal and the Toronto Dominion banks have recently predicted that Alberta's economic growth over the next year will be one-half as great as the rate of growth predicted by this Treasurer in his recent April budget. This prediction, this information has terminal implications for the Treasurer's guess that government revenues will increase annually by 6 percent over the next number of years. Can the Treasurer explain how he expects to reach this 6 percent revenue growth, which somehow is going to save his budgets in the future, in light of this new economic information?

2:50

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that we would probably find it useless to debate one computer model against another computer model, which is really what the Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark is suggesting when we take on this debate about whose computer is generating the right growth numbers. Let me say that this is not an exact science, but I do have good advisors in Treasury and in government as well who provide to us and on a reasonable basis track the kinds of characteristics of our economy which are important to Albertans and which most Albertans know about. For example, they know

that in Alberta there is a tremendous excitement about the potential in this province, one which is characterized by new investment coming here. We have a very great diversified economy, and we have a lot of people at work in this province. Those issues really are the ones which drive the real economic growth of any province. At the same time, because inflation has been under control, we do have real growth predicted in this province.

In the Budget Address, which we brought down three weeks back, we in fact predicted that Alberta would have a growth rate approximating 2 and a half percent in '92. That'll be probably one of the strongest growth rates of any province in Canada, and as all Albertans know, in comparison to last year, '91, Alberta was the only province to have real economic growth. We forecast that as well, Mr. Speaker, and it's turned out to be true.

Mr. Speaker, I know you're edgy here, but I just want to complete this analysis by saying that people make these kinds of forecasts based on something called general equilibrium models. They plug in some numbers, they wait for the machine to crank out the numbers, and they say, "Alas, here's the best guess we have." But in fact our analysis of these forecasts leads us to confirm the fact that our own forecasts have been as accurate as theirs, and we stand by the 2 and a half percent real growth rate for Alberta for '92, the best in Canada.

MR. MITCHELL: Edgy, Mr. Speaker? Don't you just wish you had a radar screen to track the Treasurer's answers some days?

The Royal Bank, and I quote, goes on to say that they "expect Alberta to be the only province to post a decline in the number of jobs for the [coming] year," the only province in Canada. Mr. Speaker, could the Treasurer please indicate exactly where the 15,000 new jobs that he has predicted in his budget are going to come from?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I enjoy discussions with the various banks that we visit with from time to time, and I can say that we had some fairly interesting analyses and discussions about the forecasts made by various banks. I have found, though, in the past five years that without fail most of those bank economists who make the low forecasts generally forget about the strength of this economy. I always remind them about some key things. For example, did you happen to factor in this time the forestry diversification, the fact that the Al-Pac project in Athabasca is proceeding, some \$1 billion potential investment in that particular project? By the way, did you mention to your analyst that the pipeline expansion taking place in this province is probably unmatched in the history of Alberta? Still further, did you know about the petrochemical industry expanding again in this province with Dow Chemical in Sherwood Park and Strathcona investing heavily? Now, those are just some of the highlights I talk about. You know, the analysts who sit in their Toronto offices depending upon historical data which is out of date – like the Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, out of date – in fact, when I draw to their attention these facts, say: "You know, we didn't know that exciting things are happening in your province. I guess we're just wrong."

MR. MITCHELL: It's just amazing to see the great guru of this Treasury tell other predictors that they're wrong and he's right. Mr. Speaker, it's almost impossible to find a prediction upon which in fact he has been right.

In light of the serious questions that this new economic information raises, Mr. Speaker, will the Treasurer at least make the commitment that he will provide to this Legislature, to the

people of Alberta quarterly updates on the progress that he is making towards his budget over the coming year?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I've worn out this particular Treasury critic two times now, so I guess he won't be around long with his kind of position. He's one of the doom and gloomers. He's the one who gets great delight talking about what's gone wrong in Alberta, but Albertans know that there are a lot of things going right, and that's the clear message.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we have said in this budget document, which has been presented to the people of Alberta, a document which speaks to the needs of Albertans in terms of those key priority areas of health and education and expresses one of the quickest capsulated expressions of confidence that any Albertan could ever imagine: a tax cut – this budget has a tax cut in it. That speaks to our view of the future of this province.

The confidence of Albertans will be expressed clearly in their consumption. They spend a lot of money because they deserve it, because there are no taxes in this province in comparison to any other province in Canada. They have the money in their pockets. They're spending it on items, and with the low interest rates they're now starting to build houses for themselves. That's one of the objectives of this government. All in all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to match the position of Alberta against any province in Canada on any issue, and I know what the result would be, the people of Alberta know what it would be: Alberta first.

Constitutional Reform

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, in view of the lengthy period of time that Quebec has been away from the constitutional negotiating table, many of our constituents were encouraged to see Premier Bourassa in our province yesterday. I'm wondering if the Premier could share with the Assembly his assessment of Premier Bourassa's willingness to generally negotiate. In other words, did yesterday's discussions indicate a Quebec that was trying to understand the Alberta point of view, or was it merely a western sales trip to put more pressure on Albertans to accept Quebec's constitutional demands?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday's meeting was a good meeting. I enjoyed the meeting. It was a meeting between Premiers, yes, but between friends as well, friends who have now been working together some 20 years, I guess, in public life, actually the senior Premiers at the first ministers' meetings.

I was quite impressed by the desire of Premier Bourassa to understand the details of the Alberta select committee's report, to understand our desires for a united Canada, a Canada with Quebec in it, and also meaningful Senate reform, including a triple E Senate. We had a good discussion of these issues. I had a sense of a leader who was going across the country genuinely looking to attain the goal of a united Canada. In our case here in Alberta we are looking to fully understand their needs and their aspirations, and as we talked together, I was feeling better and better about the future outcome of our constitutional meetings.

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, during yesterday afternoon's news conference Premier Bourassa made this interesting comment, and I quote: if we have an idea of what is an effective Senate, then we could discuss the question of the numbers. It's beginning to look more and more like a trade-off is coming whereby the reformed Senate's powers could be seriously eroded in order to get equal representation for the provinces. I'm wondering if the

Premier could comment on the implications of this apparent trade-off mentioned yesterday by Premier Bourassa.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, there are some commentators who are trying to draw that conclusion. Certainly that was not the way our discussions went yesterday. Premier Bourassa had his first chance, as did his minister of intergovernmental affairs, meeting with our colleague the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, to discuss the select committee's report and all the various recommendations in it. Premier Bourassa had a chance for the first time to discuss with me Alberta's views of how the effective powers of the Senate could be developed, and he was quite interested in that. He also started to realize that a triple E Senate is not a threat to Quebec or a threat to any province. As a matter of fact, it is in a way an ally and, I think, would provide not just Quebec but every province with an opportunity to be fully influential in the future national decisions that will be made in Parliament.

3:00

So I felt very good. When previously there had been comments that Quebec was saying absolutely no in terms of equal, that was not the case yesterday at all. As a matter of fact, the position was that we go for the elected, yes; Alberta's made the breakthrough there. We discussed the effective, and we want it to be effective. Understanding how the effective powers might work, then we're prepared to look at the numbers of Senators. This, Mr. Speaker, is from a government and a leader who I think are trying to find a solution to recognize not just Quebec's aspirations in a new constitutional agreement but, since this is the Canada round, to recognize the west and Alberta's desires and needs as well. So I felt good about that discussion.

Senior Citizens Programs

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, on April 15 the minister responsible for Seniors said that there was absolutely no change in programs for seniors this year, but the seniors are asking why it is that they're facing a 20 percent budgetary cut from the government with respect to funding of self-contained housing programs. It's also been said that the government is suggesting that \$5 million could be saved by the government by making low-income seniors pay 30 percent of their income rather than 25 percent for their housing. That's \$600 a year more, and that hurts low-income seniors. My question to the minister is this: can he explain why the budget for this program has been reduced by 20 percent and if it is the government's intention to ask the low-income seniors to pick up the difference between the tabs?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister responsible for Seniors.

MR. BRASSARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. On April 15, if that is the date that is being quoted, we did indeed discuss the program delivery for seniors in this province. At that time, I did mention that the only program that was altered at all was indeed the self-contained housing units. It's true; we're not building as many self-contained units this year as we would like to. There's no question about that. There has been no change in the program whatsoever, but we're not building as many of anything in this province this year. Many capital projects have been reduced, and that's in keeping with the kind of budget and budgetary conditions that we're facing. There has been no change to any programs in delivery of services to seniors in this province in this budget.

MS BARRETT: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not exactly what he said on April 15.

That point aside, let me suggest to the minister that there is a serious backlog of people waiting to get into long-term care facilities and a serious backlog here in Edmonton and in Calgary of people waiting to get into self-contained units. Is the minister saying that there is going to be no additional help for these people, that they're on their own, or is he telling us that they're just going to have to pay more? Which is it?

MR. BRASSARD: I'm saying nothing of the sort, Mr. Speaker, and I don't pretend to stand here and make statements on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, whose responsibility it is to administer this program. Let me tell you that our concern for the seniors and the welfare of seniors in this province has not diminished one iota. As a matter of fact, it continues to increase. I am continuing to meet with 22 agencies representing almost 100,000 seniors in this province on an ongoing basis. We're discussing all of these issues, as it should be. In fact, it's the way the seniors themselves had asked for program delivery in the future. They wanted to be a part of this decision-making, and they are and will continue to be a part of any future decisions affecting them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Cancer Treatment

MRS. HEWES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dangerous and unacceptable waiting lists for cancer patients needing radiation treatment are a source of great concern for care givers, patients, and families. My questions are to the Minister of Health. I understand that steps are being taken to alleviate the backlog in the future. Will the minister please tell us what immediate action has been taken to deal with the crisis?

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the fact that the incidence of cancer in Alberta is rising as a portion of the population is not new news, not to the Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar nor to the government. Finding the resources and the facilities to deal with that was part of what compelled the government in the late '80s to look to the expansion of the Cross Cancer Institute, close to the University of Alberta campus. The capital project will essentially finish this current year. Certainly there will be more equipment in to do the radiological treatment that cancer needs.

Yet it's not just in the area of capital facilities that this government is showing leadership with respect to cancer. I would remind the hon. member that we also dedicate funds out of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund towards cancer research. As well, many of our prevention efforts have to be towards giving Albertans the information they need to reduce their own risk of cancer. It is a matter of looking at the illness as a disease and managing the waiting lists appropriately, and I know that the staff and physicians at the Cross Cancer Institute are doing exactly that very competently.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, certainly we all appreciate the research that's going on, but this is an emergency that needs to be dealt with. I'd like to ask if the minister has collaborated with other western provinces to deal with the demand, which was, yes, quite correctly projected – this isn't a surprise – ensuring that patients aren't at great risk waiting for treatment.

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, it's inappropriate to suggest that all patients have to wait for the six weeks, which was outlined

in the newspaper this morning. Some cancers are able to start treatment earlier, and often because of testing leading up to finally diagnosing what treatment is needed, some can take a longer time. Nonetheless, I think we have to be concerned about the creeping increase in that waiting list.

With respect to other western provinces I think certainly as health ministers we are committed to getting the best use of the resources we dedicate to health in Canada. In fact, British Columbia, one of the major western provinces, is experiencing an even more difficult waiting list than Alberta. I think the issue is not simply to react to the issue as an emergency but rather to support those physicians who are making those decisions, knowing that that capital project will come on stream later this year.

Pine Lake Landfill Site

MR. SEVERTSON: Mr. Speaker, ever since I was elected to represent the community surrounding Pine Lake, there have been allegations and counterallegations about the information being used in the decision-making process to approve a regional landfill at Pine Lake. The latest allegations have come from the Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place, alleging that the staff of the Department of the Environment provided erroneous groundwater flow data. The Minister of the Environment is on record as committing to refute this allegation. Can he now provide the House with information to correct the impression left by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of the Environment.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made that commitment during estimates last night. The fact is that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place has accused me of promoting the Pine Lake landfill site, which is absolutely false. He has accused officials in my department, good-thinking, good-working, committed people, of providing the local authorities with erroneous information, which calls into question the integrity of these good, honest people, and that causes me grave concern.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta Environment has done extensive testing on the site. The initial tests were done in 1988 with additional testing done in 1989 and in 1991. Now, in August of 1990 the Central Alberta Regional Waste Authority's solicitors contracted Golder Associates – and he likes to quote Golder Associates – to review reports and information compiled by Alberta Environment and to provide an independent assessment of the geological and hydrogeological information.

Now, listen to this. The Golder Associates Ltd. report did not refute Alberta Environment's assessment of the hydrogeology of the site, nor the suitability of the site to develop the regional sanitary landfill. Mr. Speaker, the appropriate technical information as well as history related to the site and recent decisions by local authorities is contained in this document, and I would like to file this information with the Assembly today.

MR. SEVERTSON: Mr. Speaker, the Development Appeal Board has approved the landfill with a number of conditions. Those conditions essentially elevate the landfill status and therefore the cost to local taxpayers. Can the minister indicate whether he'll provide additional funding for the landfill with these conditions?

3:10

MR. KLEIN: Well, again, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place slipped me a note the other day and said: surely you're not going to provide funding for this Cadillac proposal which calls for

double clay liners and certain other conditions to alleviate the environmental concerns. Basically, we provide funding for regional landfill sites based on conventional sites and associated transfer stations, and that is our commitment of funding. Basically, what the Development Appeal Board has said is that this site has to be built to standards that would accommodate hazardous waste. In other words, it would have to be built to the same standards as the landfill at the Swan Hills hazardous waste facility. No, we will not be funding those kinds of enhancements.

Kan-Alta Golf Management Ltd.

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, the Natural Resources Conservation Board has been using a very elastic set of criteria to determine who qualifies for intervenor funding. In the Swan Hills case there were broad criteria. Groups from Edmonton were funded, the Indian Association of Alberta. In the Three Sisters project they cut it back rather dramatically excluding the downstream water users and so far excluding some of the local residents. In the case of the Kan-Alta project they excluded absolutely everybody, so there are no intervenors whatsoever. Now, the exclusion of intervenors may be a great convenience to the friends of the Premier who operate that project – the Bryan Bygraves, the Jack Parkers, the Norm Kimballs – but it makes a mockery of the process, a hearing with no intervenors. I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment if he will address the concern expressed most recently by the Natural Resources Conservation Board in their decision that their hands are tied due to the restrictive and politically motivated nature of the legislation. Will he meet with Mr. deSorcy and discuss these concerns?

MR. KLEIN: Well, I meet with Mr. deSorcy on a consistent basis, and we discuss these situations. The board was set up to be an independent body to adjudicate on an unemotional and unbiased basis the social, economic, and environmental impact of a particular project. It is entirely up to that board as to whether they will give intervenor funding and, if they give intervenor funding, the extent to which that intervenor funding shall be handed out.

Relative to the Kan-Alta situation there is a report, and I'm sure the hon. member has it. It outlines quite clearly the position of the NRCB relative to why they are not going to give intervenor funding with respect to the Kan-Alta project.

MR. McINNIS: Yes, and what it says is that their hands are tied by the legislation.

My supplementary question is to the Premier. In January of 1991 the former Member for Calgary-Buffalo circulated a petition demanding that the government release secret financial details of the arrangements between the government and Kan-Alta Golf Management Ltd. I'm wondering if the Premier will commit to full public disclosure of all relevant documents in respect of the relationship between the government and Kan-Alta before this hearing proceeds in the month of June.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'm puzzled at the hon. member, from his earlier question, wanting to commit taxpayers' dollars to intervenors who have no direct interest in a project. I wonder for what reason he would want the taxpayers of Alberta to send money to those who have no interest in a particular project. I can understand some people who would like to get taxpayers' dollars, and they would like to be able to travel around to hearings, I guess, and spend those dollars, but I'm really puzzled why an elected member would want that to happen.

Now, the hon. member also talked about Kan-Alta. The selection of Kan-Alta to run and manage the Kananaskis golf course was made while I wasn't a member of this government. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member and Albertans, when they go there, come away with nothing but praise and admiration for the way the Kananaskis golf courses are managed. If the hon. member has some particular information that he thinks is something he requires in his legislative responsibilities, he should put it on the Order Paper, and it will be dealt with.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight.

Education Funding

MRS. GAGNON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proposed two-count system of funding education, introduced without consultation, is having an adverse and direct effect now on the current contract negotiations between teachers and school boards. School boards are building contingency funds to the detriment of other expenditures in order to be protected from the adverse effects of the two-count system. In light of this adverse effect and the fact that 25,000 students and 1,000 teachers are on strike, will the minister reconsider the two-count policy?

MR. KOWALSKI: I thought she pushed it last year.

MR. DINNING: Well, Mr. Speaker, my colleague the hon. minister of public works almost took the words right out of my mouth, and that's difficult. The hon. member across the way in April of 1991 stood in this Assembly and called for, agreed to a two-count system. I'll repeat her words. She said:

Maybe two isn't enough, but two will do. Up only. Oh, up and down? Well, as long as it meets the needs. If the number of students goes down, of course you wouldn't have to fund as much. That only makes sense.

MRS. GAGNON: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well – and it is in *Hansard* – that we were talking about ESL funding, which is a unique program.

The fact is that there's a direct cause and effect which is leading to this labour strife. I ask the minister again: would he review these shortsighted funding policies to end the situation which exists right now?

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, the government announced in early January on behalf of Alberta taxpayers that we would be providing a 3 percent grant rate increase. Combine that with approximately a volume, an enrollment increase of another at least 2 percent and in some cases up to 3 percent, and your school boards are looking at almost a 6 percent increase in their funding in various parts of this province.

I only have to look across the country to see that Alberta's grants to school boards this year exceed those of virtually every other province in the Dominion. I think of Saskatchewan under the NDP government. They've reduced their grants this year by 2 percent. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? They've promised to do the same thing next year. In Ontario they've announced a 1 percent grant rate increase. In all the NDP provinces across this country school boards are forced with having to fire teachers because of funding by, in these cases, NDP governments.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all school boards in this province to look very carefully at how they spend taxpayers' dollars and to find different ways to fund education in this province. Once again, I can hardly stand on behalf of the government and ask provincial

taxpayers to pay for an education for children who aren't in school. They shouldn't be asked to fund an education for phantom students.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park

MR. CARDINAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the hon. Minister of Health. Sir Winston Churchill park is an island park located on Big Island in the southeast area of Lac La Biche. A causeway was constructed in 1966 from Shelton's Point on the mainland through Long Island to Big Island. I believe it was promoted by the Liberal MP at the time. The construction of this causeway blocked the natural flow of water, of course, between these points. This situation has created numerous complaints, including from the mayor of Lac La Biche, with respect to odours and, more importantly, potential health concerns in that area. My question to the Minister of Health is: could the minister explain to this Assembly and also to my constituents what is being done to address this issue?

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, a study was . . . [interjection] I thought I'd answer it; it was asked.

A study was done by the departments of the Environment and Forestry, Lands and Wildlife with respect to some of the aspects of the waterway. From a health point of view – and I'll restrict my comments to that – under the authority of the Public Health Act the Athabasca health unit in this case has the authority to initiate any action if conditions exist that present a risk to public health. There is no doubt that there are occasions when the conditions in the causeway are perhaps aesthetically displeasing. Whether or not that means they're a public health hazard is the question, and it's one that the Athabasca health unit has asked. They have indicated to me recently, in fact, in correspondence between us that while they're keeping an eye on the situation very closely, they have not identified any health concerns with respect to the causeway at this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

3:20

MR. CARDINAL: Thank you. My supplementary is to the hon. Minister of the Environment, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister give some assurance that if there is a health hazard identified in this particular area our government would be able to deal with the issue appropriately? [interjections]

MR. KLEIN: We've had quite a bit of correspondence . . . [interjections]

Speaker's Ruling Hypothetical Questions

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. [interjections] Order. Order. The Chair regrets to advise that that is really a hypothetical question.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn.

Students Finance

MR. PASHAK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Increases and proposed increases in student fees are placing serious limitations on the ability of the financially disadvantaged to attend postsecondary institutions. To prevent our universities and

colleges from becoming exclusive clubs for the rich, the Smith commission on university education recommends an income contingency plan whereby students would repay loans through a surtax on their postgraduate incomes. My question is to the Minister of Advanced Education. Given that this proposal would increase opportunities for qualified students to attend colleges or universities regardless of their financial situation, will the minister commit to supporting this income contingency proposal?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member made reference to, if I can quote him, "disadvantaged" students. Alberta is the only province that provides in excess of \$30 million to disadvantaged students, including single parents.

As to the proposal of the hon. Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn about a contingency repayment program – i.e., as you earn, you would pay under a tax system – it's one that's been discussed at various levels. It appears to us, however, that if we're to maintain a viable student financial assistance program, we must have students who graduate repay their loans in a uniform fashion and a predictable way. So at first blush it doesn't appear to me, Mr. Speaker, in spite of what Dr. Smith's report says, to be a particularly functional plan.

MR. PASHAK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister is unwilling to provide unequivocal support for an income contingency plan, will he at least now commit to a program that would provide additional provincial support for financially disadvantaged students in proportion to increases in students' fees? For example, maybe he should mandate that part of students' fee increases should go to providing support for the financially disadvantaged.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, we are the only province, to my knowledge, that has spent a year reviewing the whole question of tuition fees and student financial assistance and come up with the following program. Number one, the tuition fees are the lowest in the nation next to Quebec. The increases are clearly predictable; that is, when students enroll, they know on the day they enroll what those tuition fees will be until they complete their course, unlike any province in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should be very proud of what we have, and we're more than open to suggestions of how to improve it. One of those ways to improve it is to be able to find more than \$8.8 million, which we're doing this year to assist that, at the same time that other provinces are cutting back, and I simply point out that the province of Ontario announced the other day a \$10 million reduction in student assistance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before proceeding to the point of order, might we have unanimous consent to revert to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Introduction of Special Guests (reversion)

MR. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to the members of the Assembly this afternoon a group of 20 adults who are presently enrolled in a program at the faculty

of extension at the University of Alberta. This is a group of students from various parts of the world, including South America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. They're accompanied by Mrs. Natalie McAdam of the University of Alberta's faculty of extension. They include high school graduates from these other countries who have come to Canada to improve their English language skills and other professionals, such as nurses and lawyers, who are upgrading their English language skills. While the individuals who are seated in the public gallery rise, I'd ask the members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming them today.

Point of Order Tabling Documents

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, I'm rising under *Beauchesne* 495, related to citation and tabling of documents. I thought I heard the Minister of the Environment observe during answers to questions that Golder Associates somehow supported the conclusions of Alberta Environment endorsing the landfill site, which is most perplexing, because I would like to table photographs of the site showing how a trench cut fills with groundwater almost immediately. Now, anybody with a half an ounce of common sense and an eye for the truth would realize . . . [interjections]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The Chair really believes that that is not a proper way to introduce a document for filing and would reject the point of order.

head: **Orders of the Day**

head: **Committee of Supply**

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I'd like to call this afternoon's Committee of Supply to order, please.

head: **Main Estimates 1992-93**

Culture and Multiculturalism

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This afternoon we are considering the estimates of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism, located beginning on page 83 of the main budget estimates book and on page 28 of the element details book. I would ask the hon. minister to make any opening comments.

MR. MAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to this day each year as we get an opportunity to talk about the good things we're doing in the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism. I'm pleased to see that the opposition critics are also in the audience eagerly awaiting the opportunity to say nice things about the good work we've done over the past 12 months.

Mr. Chairman, I want to describe, before I begin, something that happened to me about six days ago. I was in the audience at Victoria composite high school in the Eva O. Howard auditorium for a student production of something called *The Wiz*. This is an upbeat, modernized version of the old *Wizard of Oz* story. This production involved singing and dancing, acting. There were musicians in the orchestra, set, costume design. All the facets of production including backstage, front of house, promotion, program activities – all of that – all of it handled by and large by high school students at Vic comp here in the city of Edmonton.

3:30

Some of the participants in that production would be of interest to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The young lady who

played Dorothy was Anya Fox. Her dad is employed occasionally as the member of the Legislature for Vegreville. I was quite impressed by her performance. The young man who played the Tin Man is the grandson of a former Edmonton Eskimo great, Frankie Morris. There were several others, about a hundred people in all involved in this production, Mr. Chairman, and from top to bottom, front to back, beginning to end, an outstanding professional type of a production.

I would expect that many of those young people will be seeking careers in the arts in the future. That's why they're studying in high school some of the finer points of the arts. It is there, I believe, that the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism has a major, major role to play in providing future opportunities for young people who want to pursue lives in the arts, be they just for their own amusement, for entertainment of local communities, or whether they want to pursue them on the local, the regional, or the world professional stage. That's what we're here to do, and that's why we have an Alberta Foundation for the Arts that provides about \$16 million annually in granting: to provide individual study grants, to provide operating support for amateur and professional organizations, and all the way up to providing operational support for the facilities and buildings and structures in which those individuals and organizations can either play their music, perform their plays, or display their visual arts.

Mr. Chairman, that's why we've just recently introduced a cultural industries agreement with the federal government that will provide added stimulus and support for the industrial part of culture – which are the sound recording, the book publishing, the filmmaking industries – so that individuals who display talents in those areas can have an opportunity to live and work and prosper in Alberta and we can keep that creative talent growing here. We don't have to have people get on airplanes to Los Angeles or Vancouver or Toronto or Nashville to do the work that could easily be done here. That's, of course, why we have our departmental programs that do so many good things over the course of the summer, things like MusicCamrose series and other things that our department has been putting on in communities around the province.

That's the arts development side, Mr. Chairman. We've gone through some difficult times in this province, as everybody well knows. The pressure on the tax dollar is intense, and for a variety of reasons we've been able to secure arts funding against those pressures. Number one, by moving into the Lottery Fund, our Arts Foundation has been able to maintain a level granting field, a level granting stream of money during a time when government operations and government-funded, tax-base-funded, General Revenue Fund based activities have been shrinking. Over the last three years in our department, for example, overall government spending has been reduced. Our departmental spending globally has been reduced 12 to 15 percent over the last few years. Yet that arts funding that's so important has been maintained.

I should also mention that in the context of decreased funding what we show in this budget, Mr. Chairman, is a continued increase in our base library operating grants. Now, there were some questions raised by members of other caucuses about a disaster about to befall libraries. The truth is that during the course of the last three years, and it's again reflected in this document that's before us today: ongoing increases in library support grants. There are some changes in library programs as well. Those programs have been examined, they have been in place, they have been reviewed, and they have been deemed to be wanting. Because of that we've made some important changes in how library funds flow from the tax base through the department into local libraries.

The first and most important thing to remember is that base library grants, that per capita grant that goes to every library based on the number of people in the area, has increased again this year, an additional 2.5 percent increase, which matches the grant increase that was provided to municipalities for their base operating grants. Mr. Chairman, that is the third year in a row that we've been able to acquire an increase in those base library operating grants. Even if the people in the town don't read or can't read, they still get their increase on their per capita grant.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, we've increased by a much larger amount the base operating grants on a per capita basis to our regional library systems. We are deeply committed as a department and as a government to expanding the regional library system network across this province. We have established another library system this year, the Chinook Arch library system. Unfortunately, because of the strictures on government spending we have not been able to provide the full amount of establishment and operational funding for that system, but the system is established. It has been given some small grants. We're supporting it in ways we can through providing a salaried employee to work with the system. As those dollars become available - and we'll be fighting hard to get them - that other library system will be up and running in an important and fruitful way. All those others who are waiting to join existing library systems, other libraries who are on queue, will in the course of time - soon, I hope - be able to join their systems.

I want to talk for a second about what changes we've made in resource sharing. This was a program that had a finite length of time. It expired on March 31, 1992. As we were coming to the end of our time with resource sharing, we felt it was appropriate to examine that. No program can operate in isolation and be immune from a review, and certainly resource sharing is one of those. So our department in consultation with libraries and librarians and library users across the province determined that in fact the resource sharing component of our library support needed some help. It had become not at all cost efficient. In fact, some of the phone calls for information were costing upwards of \$30, \$40, \$50, in some cases as much \$65, \$70, \$75 per inquiry. Mr. Chairman, I'm sure you'll agree as will other members that that's just not a reasonable use of taxpayers' dollars. There must be a better way. I believe we've found that better way. The bulk of those dollars that were attached to resource sharing, that in fact were due to expire and be gone from our budget in their entirety, have been retained in large measure and have been added to the base per capita grants for our regional library systems.

It's long been my feeling, Mr. Chairman, that decisions on how libraries should operate should not be made by an assistant deputy minister or a director or a bureaucrat in Edmonton or a politician in Edmonton. Those decisions are more properly made at the local level: by the library board in the local community or in the local regional system. We've made that happen by pushing more dollars into those programs that are unrestricted. The library can see their needs, see the demands. They see their dollars, and they can make their own decisions on how that will work.

I should emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that interlibrary loans and the availability of information library to library has not been altered in any way. Anybody can phone any library and get the information they need. It will be handled now, though, by the local library and not necessarily by a program that demands that resource sharing be done in a certain way.

We've made some internal adjustments on libraries as well. Some people have mentioned the end of the existence of the Alberta Library Board as a signal that our commitment to libraries is somehow evaporating. Mr. Chairman, I tabled in this Legisla-

ture just a few days ago the annual report of the Alberta Library Board for the year '90-91. There will be one more Library Board report for the just concluded fiscal year. After that the Alberta Library Board will be something that we can remember fondly as something that did good work. In the current fiscal situation in which we find ourselves, when we've got to make choices about where we're going to spend those scarce dollars, I looked at the expenditures for the Alberta Library Board and saw something in the order of \$50,000, and I saw needs in libraries. Faced with the choice, does that \$50,000 go to a library board that provides me with advice and does good work, or does that \$50,000 go directly to the libraries and let them do the work that they so pressingly need to do and that is so important? The choice was easy, was quick. It was obvious that that money should be in the hands of libraries, not as an advisory board to the minister. I must tell you that each member of the board and its Chair agreed unanimously that that was the wise, prudent, and desired choice. So that's the choice that was made, and that is why the Alberta Library Board no longer exists.

3:40

I want to take this opportunity now to thank Percy Woods, the Chair, and the members of his board for the hard work, the creative work, and the excellent force and voice they provided for libraries in this province.

I'm looking forward to continuing our work with libraries. Tomorrow afternoon I leave for Jasper for two or three days. The annual Library Conference was one of the first things I attended when I was appointed minister, and this will be my fourth conference. I'm looking forward to meeting librarians. The libraries are evident in virtually every community across this province, and they are an important, important component of what this department does in its work annually.

I should say a word as well about the historic resources component of what we do. This, of course, is the museums, historic sites, archives component of our department. This is a very, very important aspect of what we do. In essence, the reason we have archives and museums and historic sites is because of the mandate out of the department to preserve Alberta's history. We do that because it's important to have a record of what has happened here in the past. I have said this in the past, Mr. Chairman: that the happy fallout from that is that people want to see that collected history of our past. Our Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, the Provincial Museum here in Edmonton, the Frank Slide centre in the Crownsnest Pass, the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump near Fort Macleod, the Oil Sands Interpretive Centre in Fort McMurray, and a host of other government owned and operated historic sites across the province are about to be joined by three exciting new projects, two of them in northern Alberta and one in the south.

Opening this June is the Fort George-Buckingham House interpretive centre at the site of two early fur-trading forts just east of Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan River. Coming up later this fall is the opening in Wetaskiwin of the Reynolds-Alberta centre, in my mind one of the most impressive facilities that you'll find anywhere on the planet describing the history of machinery, transportation, flight, farm equipment. It will be a most fascinating place for those interested in things mechanical to go, just south of town here about 40 or 50 miles in my colleague the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation's constituency of Wetaskiwin-Leduc. Then down south in Cardston the Remington-Alberta Carriage Centre will describe the history and all facets of horse-drawn travel. This is a co-operative venture. It'll be operated by the government through our department. The town of Cardston

donated the land, and local resident Don Remington donated several dozen fine examples of horse-drawn vehicles. This, in my mind, is again another outstanding example of the kinds of things that our department has put together that will attract literally hundreds of thousands of people annually from all over the world to come to this province and see what we have here. That provides that great beneficial economic boost on the tourism side. I'm so proud that our department has had a role to play in that area.

We've also got a couple of other things going on that we cooperate with. They're not necessarily our projects, but we're cooperating with them. The western heritage centre on the Cochrane Ranche just west of Calgary in the Banff-Cochrane constituency will be when it opens a terrific story-telling place describing cowboy and western history. Then a traveling exhibit that's not going to be restricted to just Alberta, although it will open in Edmonton, is the Ex Terra Dinosaur Project. This will travel the world, and it will be seen by literally millions. Dinosaur specimens found on the Gobi desert, in the high Arctic, and in Alberta, some of them never seen ever by anybody prior to this, newly discovered specimens: it's interesting to describe things that old as new. Mr. Chairman, when the Ex Terra project gets up and running and is traveling the world, it will be, I believe, an outstanding scientific, educational, informational, and entertainment package for people around the world.

So that in essence is the overview. We have made some other changes that will have an impact, however, based on the reality that we have had to trim our expenditures again this year. We have to do it. We're a small department; we're less than one-half of one percent of total government spending, Mr. Chairman. Nevertheless, we have to demonstrate that we, too, are part of the overall government effort at restraint. So there have been some adjustments downward in some operating grants.

The Glenbow Museum has had a small reduction of 5 percent in our support there, and that is reflected in the documents today. I have met with members of the board and senior management at the Glenbow, and I would like to congratulate the people who work at the Glenbow. Faced with the difficult situation they saw, not only in a slight reduction in the government grant but a big downturn in their ability to raise funds in the private sector, the staff agreed to a zero percent wage increase, which in my mind is a responsible course of action, and it's one that I would highly recommend to other Albertans who are seeking wage increases from their employers. Perhaps a reality check would suggest that "Let's keep it at zero and keep our jobs" would be a prudent course of action. Glenbow has demonstrated that, and I offer my congratulations to them.

We've made some slight adjustments as well in the winter operational hours of our Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village just east of Edmonton. This has been a 12-month-of-the-year operation, Mr. Chairman, and will continue operating right through the summer until fall. But we have found that to be prudent, we just can't keep the place open on a regular basis. For the paying traffic it just doesn't pay, and it's not prudent. In November of 1991 we had seven visitors in the entire month, and that dictated to us. We'll retain our staff there, obviously. We use that as a base of operations for much of what we do. We'll retain a staff there for guided tour groups and school groups that need to visit, but in terms of a public facility we were able to realize significant savings, and those savings could be directed elsewhere in the department as well.

Mr. Chairman, I would also mention staff positions. Last year our department underwent a significant reallocation of staff and a significant downward adjustment. This year in terms of manpower reduction we have eliminated a considerable number of

vacant positions. In terms of actual people who were in those positions and whose jobs have been modified or changed, the impact is very, very minimal; we had only two permanent positions that were occupied. One of those individuals has taken a voluntary settlement allowance and is moving on to another occupation, and the other individual is in the process of being redeployed elsewhere in government. We had some temporary salary positions as well that were closed or altered, but we've adjusted staff within our allocated dollars to continue to deliver our programs in an efficient manner and to continue to do the work that we feel is so valuable.

Many people have asked me: "What's the government's commitment to culture? What are you guys doing? Where's your commitment?" Mr. Chairman, I look around this province and I see historic sites, I see museums, I see people by the hundreds of thousands flocking to them. I see symphony, opera, ballet. I see art galleries. I see local theatre. I see a variety of large facilities being operated and innumerable festivals where tens of thousands of people go. I see a network of libraries at the local level and a growing network of library systems. I see an Alberta Foundation for the Arts with \$16 million in lottery funds to distribute via juried grants right across this province. I see a stand-alone department of culture, one of only two provinces in the land that have such a thing, and I see a minister and a government committed to making this happen.

I see 40-some odd million dollars in a budget supplemented by, as I say, \$16 million for the arts, another \$3 million or so for historic resources, another two and a half million dollars on the multiculturalism side, and I see a great commitment to culture. I have not spoken about the multiculturalism side because my colleague the Chair of the commission is in the Assembly and I know he'll want to make some remarks about the fine work that he and his fellow commissioners and staff have been doing. It's been an important and difficult time for some people on the multiculturalism side trying to grasp how important it is that we operate as a province, all of us together as people understanding one another. We cannot be split up into groups. We can't be in divisions of this group and that group and the next group, each of us vying for dollars. That just doesn't work. It will not work. It never has. We have to be all together. Our ability to understand one another and work with one another is paramount if we're to succeed as a province.

My colleague the MLA for Redwater-Andrew has been working very hard in his three years in his position, raising the profile of the commission, doing excellent work. I would invite him to share with the committee some of his thoughts.

3:50

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

MS BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I'd like to put to the committee the proposal I've done for, I think, the last four years, and that is to split the 30-minute allocation that I would have for opening remarks between myself and the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. Is there agreement on this?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MS BARRETT: Good. Thank you.

Point of Order
Reflections on a Member

MS BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, before I get started, I'd like to raise a point of order, and that is related to, I would suggest,

Beauchesne 67. I just wonder if when the minister referred to the Member for Vegreville, he misspoke himself by accidentally saying that the member "is employed occasionally" as the MLA for Vegreville.

MR. MAIN: Mr. Chairman, it was a joke.

MS BARRETT: It's very difficult to tell with this minister what he considers funny. He did, after all, run for the Reform Party once.

Debate Continued

MS BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask somebody at the Table to maybe try to alert me when about 15 minutes has elapsed, I'd appreciate that.

The minister gives glowing comments about the state of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism in the country. My comments, as the minister knows, will focus on the cultural component, the arts component basically. Researcher Patti McIntosh has done an outstanding job in doing a fairly long-term review of funding to the arts in Alberta, and I'm going to recite some of the information that she's brought to my attention because it is so good.

First of all, the minister should know that Alberta ranks seventh in the country when it comes to an interprovincial comparison of expenditures on culture, seventh. Remember, even if one disagrees with the federal position that we're now a have province that didn't need continued EPF transfers, the fact is that seventh for a so-called have province is not very impressive. There are a lot of other provinces that are funding the arts at a much stronger level in terms of percentage of total budget and in terms of per capita. I should also note the number of provinces which have arm's-length funding bodies, such as Newfoundland, P.E.I. with an arts council, Nova Scotia with an arts council, Manitoba with an arts council, Saskatchewan with the Saskatchewan Arts Board. These are all independent agencies for the funding of the arts, not just like the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, which I know the minister will refer to in his closing comments as well as the observations that he's already made. These are directly related to the departments of culture and not something independent or funded by lotteries. So I think the point should not be missed on the minister.

In terms of per capita expenditure, I was startled to see that Alberta is almost at the bottom in Canada. We rank eighth, Mr. Chairman. Now, when you consider that we're talking about a combined expenditure of lottery dollars and public tax dollars out of GRF, that is a really low level of commitment, I think, for a province like Alberta. I know that the minister will accidentally forget or make a joke about the following observation, which he knows to be true, and that is that across this country every dollar invested by public authority in the arts results in more than one dollar being generated for the GRF – every time. The dollars are not lost. They have a multiplier effect that is greater than the cost of the contribution.

So, Mr. Chairman, to go through the department on a vote-by-vote basis, let's just have a look at the most startling of the facts.

In vote 1, Departmental Support Services, you'll see, comparing 1988-89 to 1992-93, that the cost of the Minister's Office has increased by 23.8 percent. The Deputy Minister's Office has gone up by 33.9 percent. Financial Services and Management, up by 27 percent. When it comes to Award Programs, the decrease is 34.2 percent. In four years 34 percent decline: that's nothing to brag about, Mr. Minister. The people who are working in the arts are working for the lowest wages of all wage earners in the country.

The only category of people who are living on lower incomes are the retired. That is the only category. Otherwise, those working in the arts are the lowest paid in the work force, period. To have the award programs reduced to 34 percent of what they were four years ago is absolutely unbelievable.

Now, I want to talk for a moment about library services as well. I see that over the same period of time, 1988-89 to '92-93, the increases to library services have only been 10 percent. That nowhere near meets the rate of inflation in that period of time. Cultural Facilities has come close at 28 percent. Historical Resources Development has not come close either at 17 percent. Now, you look in Cultural Development. Program Support over the four-year period has gone down to 49 percent of what it was four years ago, and the Arts Branch is at 28 percent of what it was four years ago. Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation is 93 percent of what it was four years ago, and of course Historical Facility Development is now gone.

On the subject of Historical Facility Development, I would like to suggest that this should not be gone. We now are facing – and in fact it was a government MLA that brought this up in my absence – the loss of the flatiron building in Edmonton, the Gibson Block. Now, I should note that a number of grants for historic resource preservation were in recent years up to a hundred thousand dollars. In fact, recently in Lacombe the flatiron building received \$30,000 for purposes of preservation. Now, we don't know if we're going to get the money out of the lottery dollars. If we're not, I want to see if there's any commitment by the minister to bring back the grants for heritage preservation at least to preserve this building. It's of wide public concern. It's one of I think – did I hear 20 left in North America? There are very few of these buildings left. It is worth the public investment to save them.

MR. SIGURDSON: Twelve.

MS BARRETT: Is it 12? My colleague the Member for Edmonton-Belmont says that it's 12. Okay; 12. We're getting it from the minister's staff upstairs as well. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about Cultural Development, one sees that field services is now totally eliminated. Last year, for example, it at least had a small budget of \$418,000. I wonder if the minister can explain why this program is being eliminated.

In terms of library usage, year after year I've come here and said that the erosion of funding to libraries is going to change the nature of usership, and I found out recently that it has. I believe that usership of the Edmonton public library system now has gone down to fifth or sixth place in Canada. We held first place in Canada for, I believe, more than one decade. One has to suggest that this is a result of the library not being able to keep up with periodicals that are of interest to the public or to keep their stacks with new acquisitions soon enough to accommodate the public interest. There are all sorts of other services, of course, for which they now charge which used to be free, and some of the other services have had to be cut back. Now, the minister says, "Well, you know, we're keeping up; we're glad about our financial commitment." I'd like to point out that just in Edmonton alone the Public Library this year, in this budget, is losing \$75,000 in special funding – that's the resource grants – but gaining \$62,000 in operational funding. That's with that 2 and a half percent increase on the per capita basis, which I'm sure is much appreciated. But what that means at the bottom line is that the library ended up losing a little over \$13,000 in the process. That's not fair. Oh, the minister is shaking his head. Is the minister prepared to say that the EPL did not lose \$75,000 this year in the resource

grants? If he's prepared to say that, I'd be prepared to take my seat for a moment.

4:00

Okay; carry on. I see a net loss of \$13,000. I don't call that keeping pace with the increase in inflation. My note says actually that EPL usership has gone down to sixth place, so I can be categorical about that. For years we were able to boast first place. I believe this is a trend that's going to continue if the funding is not meeting the rate of inflation so that at least the libraries can keep pace with demands of the public and expectations that are reasonable. Remember library usership is not lost money. That would be like saying that putting money into the education system is lost money. The result of people reading more and being more educated, particularly when you consider that it's self-motivated as library usership is, is extremely important in the context of what the Treasurer and the Economic Development and Trade minister want to talk about all the time, and that is the global economy. Then what's educated keeps their place and then what's not educated do not. Boy, I'm not good at trying to imitate bad language, but anyway. The point is that if your access to educational resources is limited by funding, then you are really saying that those who are voluntarily attending night school on their own are going to have to suffer declined access to real resources. That's like cutting education funding as far as I'm concerned.

In terms of vote 2, Cultural Development, overall when you take 1988-89 estimates and compare them to the current year, do you realize that the percentage compared to 1988 for this vote is 82 and a half percent of what it was four years ago? That's a significant reduction in commitment by the government to this important industry.

I note again that when it comes to Historical Resources Development, even those funds have not kept pace with the rate of inflation over the last four years. You'll see the total increase over a four-year period is 17 percent. When we go to Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation overall, which is the guts of the program I should argue, that funding now stands at 93 percent of what it did in 1988-89, and that includes the extraordinary funding for the Dinosaur Project, which, by the way, I do applaud.

I'd like to talk to the minister briefly about the way his department runs things. I cannot for the life of me understand why the minister has not taken up the option that I've presented to him in the past in the form of a private member's Bill, of allowing a genuine arm's-length relationship between the agency which funds the arts outside of the awards program conducted from his department, and that is allow the establishment of an arts council which itself would elect an arts board which would be the adjudicator of grants. The suggestion that I put forward in a private member's Bill for several years is that each arts discipline within the council membership would decide if their grant adjudication should be conducted by the board itself, which is elected, or an elected jury of peers.

The other observation that I'd like to make, my colleague having given me notice that my time is almost up, is that when the minister wants to conduct public hearings on the state of the arts in Alberta, he should do so long before the Treasurer presents the budget to Albertans and not afterwards. In the case of the Let's Talk Culture program that was recently conducted, I would note that Edmonton artists were only given 10 or 11 days' notice of the meeting. That presented problems. I have notes that were taken at the meeting. I'd love to go through all of them. If I get a chance to come back in, I will. There are a number of criticisms that the minister was exposed to at that Edmonton meeting, but time and again it was that the time for preparing briefs for

submissions to the meeting was insufficient, at least in the case of Edmonton and, I suspect, elsewhere. So if the minister is going to act like the Premier and make like they've suddenly grown ears for the first time in 21 years of government, I would suggest that they also start using calendars to do their planning so that they're not asking people to meet impossible deadlines.

I hope that I'll be able to continue my remarks later on and thank the committee for agreeing to share the time between myself and my colleague. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

MR. GIBEAULT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few comments on the multicultural side of the minister's portfolio. It's very timely that we are having this debate on the estimates for the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism when many Albertans are reflecting on the recent events in Los Angeles and Toronto. In fact, it was just yesterday that there was an antiracism rally here in Edmonton, the provincial capital. There were a number of distinguished leaders in the community who were there - Chief of Police Doug McNally of the Edmonton Police Service, Don Aitken of the Alberta Federation of Labour, representatives from the native community, and others - all expressing their concern about the situations that lead to the kinds of things that Albertans have been horrified to see in Los Angeles and Toronto on their television screens. Conspicuous by his absence was the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. I guess he couldn't get around there to show a little leadership and set an example. Perhaps he could have sent the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission, but he didn't do that either, because he wasn't there. So there was no leadership there from the provincial government at this action that was an expression of the concern of many citizens in our community about the situation in other centres and the possibility that such tragedies might occur here if we don't pay attention.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues and I in the NDP caucus have been supporters of multiculturalism as a public policy because we believe it's a policy that includes everyone, that cherishes everybody's contribution, and doesn't allow people to be singled out or marginalized in our province and of course in our country, yet we have seen less than inspired leadership coming from the people who are hired and paid and appointed to provide that leadership here at the provincial level: the minister and the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission. I can imagine and understand the difficulty these two gentlemen have in trying to do their job when their boss comes out and says we shouldn't even have multiculturalism as part of the public policy of this province. What kind of a disgrace is that? A Premier of this province who just earlier this year said that multiculturalism should just occur naturally, that it shouldn't have the support of public legislation. Well, if that's the case, what do we need to be paying a minister and a chairman of a commission for? It's a waste of money. Of course, if they believe that they're doing something valuable, then they're basically saying that they don't support their boss's policy position. I would like to hear them state exactly that on the record, if that's their view.

Mr. Chairman, after the Premier came out with those outrageous statements, there were all kinds of editorial reaction. I would refer members, for example, to the *Calgary Herald* editorial of March 29 headlined "Multicultural confusion" because it was so unclear where this province's policy was. The Premier was saying one thing and the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism and the chairman of the commission are saying other things. Their

editorial of March 29 concludes by saying, and I put this on the record for the members' information:

instead of abandoning any government recognition of Canada's cultural diversity it would make more sense to debate and revise the existing laws, programs and policies. To that end the provincial government should be taking the lead and not passively following a reactionary agenda as it now appears to be doing.

Mr. Chairman, no wonder people in the province are confused about where this government is going.

4:10

Mr. Chairman, I'd also like the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, who has abandoned us, and the chairman of the commission to tell us if they have, to use an expression that the Premier seems to love, kicked butt around the cabinet table to get that report on the qualifications of foreign professionals released so that we can see what this government is proposing to do to remedy a very serious problem. Has he or hasn't he? We'd like to know that, because Albertans have been waiting for three years for that report to come. I recognize it's the responsibility of the Solicitor General and the Chair of the occupations and professions bureau, but they have abdicated their responsibility. We just heard the other day the Solicitor General saying that he was not going to be releasing that publicly, so I'm asking the chairman . . .

Point of Order Relevance

MRS. MIROSH: A point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. Point of order, Calgary-Glenmore. Citation.

MRS. MIROSH: Mr. Chairman, we're talking about a budget to the minister of culture. This has nothing to do with culture; this has to do with professions and occupations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you have a citation to refer to? [interjections] Order please. [interjections] Order please, Lesser Slave Lake. Thank you.

The Chair does not note any point of order. Please proceed.

Debate Continued

MR. GIBEAULT: To move on to other topics, has the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism done anything to advance English as a Second Language services in this province? I recognize that's the responsibility directly of the Minister of Career Development and Employment, but the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism and the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission are supposed to be advocates, Mr. Chairman. I want to know what they've done to advocate on behalf of people in this province who need English as a Second Language services. We know there's a departmental study that came out recently saying that the provincial government should be allocating \$9 million more for English as a Second Language programs than they're currently doing. I'd like to know what the minister of multiculturalism has been doing on that particular front.

Of course, another area that people are concerned about is the policy of employment equity, Mr. Chairman. Any minister who's responsible for multiculturalism and worth his salt surely could be able to stand up and give some leadership on that, but of course we haven't seen that either. We've heard him actually stand up and say he's opposed to that kind of policy.

Mr. Chairman, I just refer the minister to a couple of recent – and some of his colleagues, especially that dinosaur the Member

for Lacombe who seems to enjoy criticizing any employer who makes an effort to try to make their work force more representative of the population . . .

Chairman's Ruling Criticizing a Member

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, hon. member. Order please. The Chair wishes to caution the hon. member about referring to other members in the House in a derogatory manner. Please proceed.

Debate Continued

MR. GIBEAULT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd refer him to the recent article that just came out a few weeks ago in the *Calgary Herald*: "Job equity has way to go." Many CEOs, or chief executive officers, fail to grasp the issue. It would be good reading, because a lot of the Tory backbenchers in this Assembly fail to grasp that issue as well. I'd also refer them for their information to the article that was in the *Edmonton Journal* just recently as well on this subject of employment. The headline was: "Doing the Right Thing." It said as a subheading: "Employment equity is not about hiring unqualified people to meet quotas, but to make the workplace fair." That's what we're talking about. I'd like to know when this minister and the chairman of the commission are going to embrace that policy and promote it as public policy in the province of Alberta.

Mr. Chairman, at this point, having outlined a number of reasons why I am concerned about the lack of leadership that's been shown by the minister, I would like to make a motion. I have copies for all members of the House.

Minister's Salary

Moved by Mr. Gibeault:

Be it resolved that vote 1, Minister's Salary, for the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism be reduced to \$1.

MR. GIBEAULT: Speaking to my motion, Mr. Chairman, I've outlined a number of the concerns I've had with the lack of performance in this area from the minister, but let me just add a couple of others.

Mr. Chairman, you might remember the Ukrainian community doesn't seem to have much confidence in this minister either. You remember the *Edmonton Sun* of March 24: "Minister's 'bully-boy' tactics raked." A disgraceful performance from this minister. Obviously he doesn't enjoy the support of the Ukrainian community. There was an incident a little while ago with the Council of India Societies. They don't appreciate the way the minister tells them how to run their shows. There was the Sikh community who couldn't get any support from this minister in terms of the turban issue and also no support, it appears, in terms of getting the heritage festival to allow the Sikh community to participate. I could go on at length. I'd like the minister to tell us who has confidence in him, because I don't know who it is.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to encourage members to support my motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The amendment appears to be in order.

Speakers on the amendment? The Member for Redwater-Andrew.

MR. ZARUSKY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment is something that I think is fairly ridiculous at this time. I know

the minister is doing his job and doing a super job. It's not easy to run a large Department of Culture and Multiculturalism involving many areas: historic sites, libraries, and other things, and indeed multiculturalism, which is a big area in itself. I think at this time we should just not say too much more but defeat this motion, because saying that the minister doesn't support any of the groups – well, where do you think the money in the votes comes from? It's the minister that has to go to bat for the department to get this budget and get it in these tight economic times.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is a ridiculous motion, and I think we should defeat it right now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

MS BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not so sure that I agree with the Member for Redwater-Andrew. First of all, I think he overlooks that the money for this department comes from the taxpayers, not from the minister. Let's keep that in mind.

I had no idea which comments exactly my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods was going to concentrate on, but I think he's right; I think the taxpayers have a right to expect the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism to show up and stand up for the legitimacy and welcome of all ethnocultural communities in our society.

Quite frankly, a couple of years ago I went to several public forums on the issue of the Sikh members of the RCMP being entitled to adapt their headgear to accommodate the turban, which is not a hat. I never, not once ever, saw either the minister for culture, any of his deputy ministers, or the Member for Redwater-Andrew who occupies the position at \$16,000 a year of being the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission. Not once did they show up, Mr. Chairman. I think that shows contempt for the multiculturalism component of this department. I wish that there was some honesty. I wish you guys would either stand up for multiculturalism properly or cut that element of the department and tell the truth about where you really stand. I stood up for the people of Alberta. I stood up for the human rights in Canada.

MR. PASZKOWSKI: So did we.

MS BARRETT: No. The Minister of Advanced Education said, "So did we." I never saw you at any such forum. [interjection] I'm sorry. I understand it was the Member for . . .

Point of Order Criticizing a Member

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hon. Minister of Advanced Education on a point of order.

MR. GOGO: Well, I take exception, Mr. Chairman, to being identified in a negative way, a negative sense just for sitting in my place doing my work. I made no comment at all. I'm sure the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands would withdraw that inference.

MS BARRETT: Oh, Mr. Chairman, I would more than willingly, once my light comes on . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: The light has been off for days.

MS BARRETT: And I didn't even notice.

Mr. Chairman, I would gladly withdraw the comment about the Advanced Education minister. I knew that the comment came

from across there. I thought it was him because it sounded like his voice, but I understand it was the Member for Smoky River who said that.

Debate Continued

MS BARRETT: I say I never saw one Conservative MLA at any of those forums, so don't give me this nonsense. [interjection] That's right. My temperature rises when I hear doublespeak from this government. Doublespeak indeed: I never saw a Conservative MLA at any one of those forums, and I think that this government should tell the truth about where it really stands.

The point that the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods made is absolutely accurate. You've got a Premier in January saying that he doesn't believe that multiculturalism should enjoy the force of law, and you've got a Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism who never had the guts or the time, whichever it is, or the chairman of the multiculturalism . . . [interjections]

Point of Order Relevance

MR. MAIN: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. You can't make comments like that. We're talking about spending estimates, dollars and cents. [interjections]

4:20

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. [interjections] Order. The Chair would like to make the observation that debate is not advancing very quickly this afternoon and also point out that given the nature of the amendment, I think general comments about the program of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism are in order, but I would suggest to members of the Assembly that nothing is being accomplished by continuous remarks which although perhaps not completely unparliamentary are certainly on the edge of it. That applies to both sides of the House, and I would like debate to proceed with more decorum. Thank you.

Edmonton-Highlands.

MS BARRETT: Point taken, Mr. Chairman.

Debate Continued

MS BARRETT: The point I was getting at has everything to do with the amendment now under consideration. I don't believe that the government, and in this case specifically the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, has demonstrated the conviction that would be implied by the very title of his department. I believe that if the minister was unable because of time constraints, although I can't believe that it would happen four or five times over a three- or four-month period that he was already going to be booked, to make it out to an event to talk about an important human rights matter, a matter of extreme significance to an ethnocultural community of substance in the province, then surely he could have contacted the Multiculturalism Commission chairman and asked him to attend and stand up for, first of all, the human rights as they are under the Canadian law, and secondly, for the convictions expressed in the preamble to the Bill which established the department in the first place. That's what I challenge, and for that reason I support the amendment.

[Motion lost]

Culture and Multiculturalism (continued)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Further, the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

MR. WICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to be speaking today on both aspects of the portfolio that we're addressing this afternoon. Let me first of all pay a compliment to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. I do get out into the community quite a bit and talk to people involved in culture and also people involved in multiculturalism. In culture the feedback I get at cultural events, cultural activities is that the minister is doing a reasonably good job. There does not appear to be a great deal of flak in that area considering there is a shortage of dollars and it is a very, very difficult time during this economic period. That's the good part. I think that's sort of illustrated in his opening address in which he dwelt totally on culture and no reference was made to multiculturalism other than that the chairman of the commission would make some comments. Possibly those comments will be coming. I think it does illustrate that there is a relatively clear handle in cultural activities in terms of that particular portfolio, but it does lack in multiculturalism.

[Mr. Moore in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, in multiculturalism today of all periods of times it's very, very important that the message of multiculturalism and the understanding of multiculturalism be achieved by all. A minister responsible for multiculturalism has to have the respect of the constituents that he represents, has to be seen as a friend to the ethnic communities, sort of like our first minister responsible for multiculturalism, Horst Schmid. I know it's unfair to constantly refer to a previous member and expect someone else to fill that member's shoes, because it would be very difficult for anyone to fill the shoes of Horst Schmid. He was an extremely capable minister of multiculturalism. His background, his ethnic heritage I think aided, and he did identify very closely with the ethnic community. There was a great deal of respect there.

Just some comments on culture. I think Alberta has a right to be proud when we look at the cultural activities that we have, probably highlighted here in the city of Edmonton more than any other place including the city of Calgary, but not to say that we don't see a good degree of cultural activities take place in Calgary and other parts of Alberta. We see heritage days will occur throughout the province in the smaller centres as well as the large ones. If we look at the city of Edmonton, for example, if we look at the city of Calgary, we see there are great, great opportunities for cultural activities, particularly the summer festivals. I believe Edmonton has really become known as the capital city of festivals. It just seems in the summer that one follows on the heels of the other; it's a three-month period of festivals. The front of City Hall is always alive with people. It adds to the downtown, it adds to the economy, it adds to an appreciation of those finer things in life, and it tends to take away from the everyday woes that we have in trying to keep budgets going and keeping the economy going and just the day-to-day types problems that we all encounter.

Our library system has been referred to. I know there are problems in some of the regions in terms of library facilities. Concerns are expressed. I would like to see, for example, in the riding of Edmonton-Whitemud another library branch in the southwest portion. The Southgate branch is probably the best utilized branch that there is next to the main branch downtown. I'm sure that city council in its wisdom will see fit in terms of priority to find a place for that library. It may not be this year. It may be next year, but it will come. It is recognized as a priority that is needed in the southwest.

Now, I want to talk a bit about multiculturalism, Mr. Chairman. More and more I hear in the community the question of multiculturalism being related to equality: equal opportunity in terms of employment, equal opportunity in terms of services, programs. The beer and wine scenario the minister will occasionally throw at us, particularly in this particular caucus, trying to leave the impression that we want to spend millions and millions of dollars in beer and song activities promoting multiculturalism, is wrong. If you talk to ethnic leaders, ethnic leaders see that as a tradition. They see it as a benefit, but by and large their priority, their test of multiculturalism, is acceptance by all. It is becoming very, very difficult during this period of time when we witness on television some of the things that happen in all parts of the world. Multiculturalism, of course, is a resource that can be tapped in terms of economic trade, international trade, particularly with the Far East, the Middle East, and at times possibly we don't utilize it as much as we should.

When one talks in terms of multiculturalism and how to achieve the ultimate multiculturalism, in the old days the various ethnic communities seemed to test multiculturalism in terms of being able to build a cultural centre that they could call their own, like the Dutch Canadian Club or the Italian club or the German club. Then, of course, you have the temples like the Hindu temple, the Sikh temple and such, which are places of worship which are a little different than cultural centres. But there does not seem to be the same thrust towards the cultural centres any longer that there was, probably because there is a recognition that economic times aren't that good and there are other priorities, the priority being acceptance by all people and the opportunity for equality. I highlight that because that becomes very, very important.

4:30

Moods change. Attitudes change. We've seen a great deal of change in the three years I've been here in how people feel about multiculturalism, as to how they perceive it. A lot of times there are a lot of misperceptions. I think it's time that we went through a process again with the end result being developing a master plan, developing a blueprint, developing a vision for today. What do the ethnic communities want in terms of multiculturalism? How do they now identify multiculturalism? It's got to allow for full participation at the grass roots, and it's got to be done through some type of process, whether it be sessions or seminars throughout Alberta, whether it falls in the line of charettes*. Charettes were a very, very important tool at one time in getting people involved in the process of change, getting people involved in the decision-making process.

Multiculturalism, if anything, today needs leadership. It needs a guardian, and the minister of multiculturalism has to be someone that is perceived as a guardian of multiculturalism, someone that is there prepared to stick up for the ethnic communities, someone that's prepared to promote their particular needs, traditions, values, or rights. It's not there; it's lacking. It's really, really lacking. When the leaders of today, particularly the minister of multiculturalism, are not prepared to do that, the difficulty is that it can enhance or inflame the lack of acceptance that is out there. People can read a wrong signal in there. They can read a signal in there that it's acceptable to demand that all people be the same. The talk we hear, "When you come to Canada, you either behave like a Canadian or you go back to your country," is not right, Mr. Chairman. That simply is a misperception it isn't possible to achieve. People do change their ways. A lot of members of the ethnic community that are identified as ethnic leaders were born in this country, were not necessarily born in another country. I've

*The spelling of this word could not be verified at the time of publication.

been to forums where people have stood up and said that if they don't like the way it's done here, then they should go back to where they were born. Well, possibly they were born at the Royal Alex or possibly they were born at the University hospital.

It really, really saddens me when I see racism occur, and it does occur, but I believe that it's more a lack of understanding. You can sit down and talk to people, explain what multiculturalism is all about, why there's a need to allow immigration in this country, tell people and explain to them how it was that immigrants built this country into what it is, and if we didn't allow immigration in this country, we would have a declining population. Our economy would falter; it just simply would not work. This process that some people want, that we close the gates and just open up Canada to our own kind, to the people that are already here, is a fallacy, and it simply would not work. It's not realistic. I know the minister doesn't abide by that myth either.

I believe the minister recognizes the benefits of immigrants: the builders of this country, the builders of this province, and the builders of this city. We can talk in terms of lack of acceptance. We can talk in terms of racism. I can go back years and years and it's always been there to a degree, but as time goes on, particularly with more and more members of visible minorities coming to Canada, it seems to be on the increase. It's unfortunate. Despite all the commercials that are done, despite all the forums, there seems to be a hardening of the Canadian position, particularly in Alberta, towards the acceptance of people from other countries, particularly if they're of a different colour.

I can recall in the early '50s in Thunder Bay, in a Finnish community, when a number of Italian people came and were picked on. I couldn't understand it myself. They were called names. They sort of had their own poolroom because they weren't accepted in the other poolrooms. It wasn't fashionable even to associate with them because they were those Italians that came over here. There were nicknames for them and slang terms and so on. There was a period of time when Germans were looked down on. My wife was born in Germany. I can recall that we were trying to rent this suite, and the landlady said, "I would rent it out to anyone except a German." Then we get into a situation where it seems for a period of time that the French are picked on. Then the natives are picked on. It's almost like we go through a process that society targets certain groups: the Koreans, the Vietnamese, and now, it seems, East Indians, but in particular Sikhs.

Sikhs have a culture of their own; there is no question about it. They have certain religious beliefs that we have to respect, and they're very, very noticeable by their presence. They are members of a visible minority. I can be in the Superstore, for example, and I could count the people and probably see 400 people that are white, white-skinned. Possibly 30 or 40 are members of visible minorities, but somebody else would go in there and say, "The whole store is full of people from Pakistan, from India." They don't see the white people. They simply see the people of visible minorities because their attitudes are such that they see these people as "those other people," and it can be very, very difficult.

I've had the opportunity to go to forums, and I've heard people get up there at microphones and say the ugliest things. I've had those types of phone calls. Our caucus stood front and centre when it came to protecting the rights of the Sikh community, preserving their religious beliefs. We've done that with all ethnic communities because our caucus believes in multiculturalism, our caucus believes in equality, and our caucus believes in acceptance of all people. But at times it can be very, very difficult, when one gets phone calls from people – and some people can be very close to you – and they don't understand how you can take a position in support of a member of a visible minority. I'm sure others

who have been in that same situation as me have gotten those same types of phone calls. They can be ugly phone calls. They border on threatening phone calls, but I guess if it's for the good, one has to stick up for their principles and one has to kind of cast those things aside.

We had a situation not long ago in this House. It was raised by one of our members, Mr. Chairman, that the RCMP were being accused of reverse discrimination. I explained this one to my neighbour, who was having some real difficulties with the application process within the RCMP. I broke it down and explained how in a Sikh community, if there is a need for the law to go in there, if another member of the Sikh community is the law, there's going to be a much greater level of communication. If that member of the Sikh community is not allowed to wear a turban, immediately that respect for that member is not going to be there. People have to realize that it's not a question of just hiring all white people to be RCMP officers, because on a reserve, for example, you have to have native people that are part of the RCMP. I wish that members would sit down and think about that and work out those figures rather than add to flaming what is already an ugly situation there, because it does not help. It just adds to that level of intolerance, and it makes it extremely difficult.

There's a story that I hear quite often. A German girl and a girl from an Iranian family lived next door to each other. The little Iranian girl says to her friend next door: "Do you know that my father knew one of the Prime Ministers of this country? In fact, my father has a picture of himself with that Prime Minister." The little German girl says, "Oh, I don't believe that," so she runs next door and she gets that picture. Sure enough, it's a picture of her father and a picture of then Prime Minister Trudeau. The little German girl says, "Oh, which one is your father?" I think that illustrates very clearly that in the eyes of the young people there is no difference; we're all the same. You find it in the schools. When one goes into the schools and speaks to the grade 6 students or the grade 3 students, they're hand in hand, they're side by side, and they see each other all as friends and they play together. It's only when they get home that in some cases the adults will kind of twist their minds and set them off in the wrong direction.

4:40

There's no question, Mr. Chairman, that at times we move too fast. When we look at the issue of bilingualism, if one could replay that back in the days of Prime Minister Trudeau, possibly the approach to bilingualism should have been a bit slower at that time. There should have been greater emphasis within the educational system, because that is the place to change attitudes, within that educational system. If there is one thing that I would have to stress to the minister, it is the incorporation of as many programs as possible that create that understanding at a young age, at that level of grade 1 or grade 2, so when those students get out of school, when they become adults, they know what other cultures are all about and they're much more likely to be accepting of members of other ethnic communities.

Before I wrap up, Mr. Chairman, I want to go specifically through the budget here and just ask a few questions. I hope that the minister would take the opportunity to address them or respond to them, or if he can't respond to them today, respond to me possibly in writing. Before I do that, one closing comment is that I know at times we tend to be critical, and rightfully so, of the way that lottery dollars are allocated, the way lottery dollars are administered. But one area that lottery dollars do go into that I hear a lot of positive things about are the foundations, and many of those foundations are there to promote cultural activities and

appreciate that support. That's why in this caucus, for example, we've made it a policy that that's one of the areas that would be earmarked for lottery dollars, along with other areas. It's a very, very important area to preserve, because there's no greater leadership that can be shown in terms of community programs than the people within the community. Rather than government sitting back and trying to run all these programs or activities, it is always better to get the dollars to the community and let the community be the decision makers, because they know what's best in their community.

Now, going to the budget, specifically on page 85, vote 1.0.2, Deputy Minister's Office, that shows an increase of 10.1 percent.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. WICKMAN: Yeah, shame; that's what I say too. Shame, unless there's a reasonable explanation for that. I'm sure the gentleman up there didn't get a 10.1 percent raise.

Then, secondly, in Communications there's a decrease of 10.7 percent, so possibly there's been a shift from there to there, and that may be the explanation.

Now, Award Programs shows a very, very major, substantial reduction of 66.2 percent. I'm not sure specifically what Award Programs that refers to and why there would be that type of dramatic cut, from \$103,000 to \$35,000.

Now I go to vote 2.1, Program Support, an increase of 8.1 percent. To me the terminology of Program Support again reeks of administrative costs. Again I would question why costs increase always at that particular level: the administration, the deputy minister's office, and so on and so forth. That is a very, very significant increase of 8.1 percent.

Vote 3.3, Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation, a reduction of 16.5 percent. Possibly that could relate to the statements the minister made on the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. Possibly he could respond as to why there's a decrease of 16.5 percent there and also at the same time possibly respond to a proposal that I'm aware of for an expansion at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, where they want to add a new concept to it, and how that's coming along if there's anything there.

Now, farther down on that same page it shows Payments to MLAs, \$1,000. I'd like to know who that payment was made to, because when we go to vote 4, we have Payments to MLAs of \$15,000. Again I'd like to know who that \$15,000 goes to, if it all goes to the Member for Redwater-Andrew or if it's other MLAs, because it talks in terms of MLAs, not an MLA.

Multicultural Commission Chairman. Now, that's a reduction of 72.9 percent. I don't believe that that would refer to the Member for Redwater-Andrew. I'm not sure what would account for that reduction there. Multicultural Commission Chairman having a comparable figure at one time of \$148,700 just doesn't make sense to me. There's got to be something wrong there.

When we go to the revolving fund, I have one question there that relates to the revenues. Now, particularly in southern Alberta, the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, we see a very, very significant increase in the estimated revenues, from \$400,000 to \$560,000. Provincial Museum Bookshop: we see a reduction from \$250,000 to \$20,000. The Edmonton Jubilee Auditorium: we see an increase but not as substantial as the Calgary Jubilee Auditorium.

In the minister's response, if he could respond to those specific questions, on that note, Mr. Chairman, I'll conclude. Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Redwater-Andrew.

MR. ZARUSKY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed a pleasure to get up and speak on the estimates of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism. I'd glad that we got the silly motion out of the way because now we can get into some of the serious stuff that's being done in the department. I'll be speaking on the activities in the division of multiculturalism, and I'm glad that I'm speaking after some of the comments that were made on multiculturalism, because obviously some of the members aren't paying attention to what's happening in this province.

So on this note, I want to once again thank the minister for the kind co-operation and the good working relationship we have working in this whole area, because it covers a lot. I think things are really working out well in attendance of areas of multiculturalism. Also the staff of Culture and Multiculturalism are, I think, doing a super job and really easy to work with, because of all the happenings in the province and the direction of the way we're going and also the positive response from Albertans, Mr. Chairman, on multiculturalism.

I can tell you that in the last three years, since 1989, a lot has happened, which I'll cover here today. Firstly, I want to reiterate our government's commitment to multiculturalism. It's something that's been happening, as the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud indicated, since 1971 with the first minister of culture and multiculturalism, Horst Schmid, and that continuation is there. I can tell him that I met the former minister many times at different functions, and he is very glad of the direction we are going. Also, I know the minister is going in the same direction and, indeed, all our caucus and the Premier.

I want to indicate to the House today, Mr. Chairman, the diversity in our own government, in our caucus right here, being probably the most multicultural of members in Canada or maybe the world. I know that every member here came from someplace. Whether it's first, second, third, fourth, fifth generation, everyone's roots came from someplace else, so you can see that the diversity is there. To indicate what really is unique and different – and we're glad that we do have it – is that on our team we have three members who are of aboriginal descent, first Canadians. They're here, and I think we should applaud them for that, because they have great input on what native aboriginal issues are in this province. I think that's why our government has gone this far with settling issues with aboriginal native people. So if somebody says that multiculturalism is not working, well, here's a good example of it. No other government can brag that. Even the opposition parties can't brag about it. We indeed can, and we're very proud of it.

4:50

I guess another area we have to support very strongly and indicate – and some of the members should listen to this – is that we do have legislation on multiculturalism, our Multiculturalism Act of 1990, which created many other areas, a Multiculturalism Advisory Council and a direction for multiculturalism, encouraging people to respect each other and respect the good they're doing in this province.

But as our Premier has indicated, you can't legislate multiculturalism, whether you try it in Canada, try it in Alberta, or try it in any part of the world. It can't be done. You need the understanding and the direction from our minister and from the Multiculturalism Commission for people to appreciate the diversity of this province. I think many governments maybe legislate too much, and that's why they run into problems. I know the NDP would definitely legislate every little thing and force things upon people, and that can't be done. That's why this province is

working so well in this direction. People do get along very well in all areas.

What I want to do today is outline some of the things that the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission is doing and has done. I think the two members, the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods and the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, should listen and listen very closely to this, because obviously you have not been going around the province like we have. I will start with year two of our multiculturalism action plan, a plan that we started on last year. It's a three- to five-year plan.

The first area I will touch on, which is very important, is education. We've had many workings with the Department of Education. The latest one, at the end of February, was our newspaper and education kit, which the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Calgary Herald* participated in. It went to all schools. The presentations were done. The minister and myself visited many schools and areas in that one week announcing this educational kit. I've visited many schools since, and most of them have enrolled in this program. They are using it in their schools, on the importance of multiculturalism to the school, which is so important to our young people in our province, actually the people that'll be taking over from us sometime in the future. So you can see, Mr. Chairman, that this is one area we're working in.

The next area is the Alberta Vocational College, which we're working with, and that's a program called First Step. That's working with postsecondary students to have them fit into the workplace, the diverse workplace that's coming in the future. I can tell you that over a million Albertans are other than English or French, and also new immigrants are coming in. That's another area we're working in.

The third one, as I mentioned earlier, was our school visits. I've visited, I'm sure, 20 schools this year already, speaking to all levels from grade 3 right up to high school, to grade 12. I can tell you, these young children are very well versed and know what multiculturalism means and what direction it's heading in. As a matter of fact, a lot of them have read our report, Focus for the '90s. They know what's in there. There are programs that Albertans indicated to the Multiculturalism Commission back in 1988 in Interchange '88. This area they know about.

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

Just on Monday morning I visited Fort McMurray. The hon. member there was very supportive and made sure that we visited a school that is very involved in multiculturalism. As a matter of fact, the whole community was, because they are in their multicultural week this week, and the kick-off was on Sunday and Monday, a large activity at the school. Also, Syncrude was there, a large corporation supporting this because they know the importance of working with the different ethnic people. So you can see that this is another area we're working very strongly in. That, members and Mr. Chairman, takes a lot of time, but we do find the time in our schedules to make sure that these young students are aware.

The fourth area in education and working with young people, the youth of our province, is our youth symposiums and workshops. Back in the fall of 1990, Mr. Chairman, we had a symposium at Nakoda lodge for our young people. Around a hundred students from age 16 to 18 attended this youth symposium, and we gave them the opportunity to tell us what they feel multiculturalism should be and some of their ideas. The whole weekend was spent in think tanks and many other areas, and they came up with some pretty good suggestions which we've been working on in some of these youth education programs. We hired

a student out of this group last year to do a consultation with the schools and see the direction it's going in. These people were from all over the province. Many other areas are having these youth workshops. Even in my constituency one area had a large youth workshop with a couple of school boards. Also, I know Provost is having some and Medicine Hat and other areas in southern Alberta, just to mention a few. So you can see that our young people are really getting involved in multiculturalism, and I think this is one direction we're really going to be spending a lot of time working in.

The next area is with the Department of Health. That's developing strategies with the University of Alberta, and that's in rehabilitation medicine. We've funded a program there, Mr. Chairman with the diversity in this province, our new immigrants coming in, to have the university educate people in this end through language programs and many others. Also, with the Misericordia hospital we funded another program that worked with a higher level of the new immigrants coming into this province, making physicians, nurses, and staff of hospitals aware of some of the needs of these people when they're either sick or in other areas of health that they need. That's another area we've got a program going with. Also, St. Michael's extended care centre here in Edmonton: another program with the elderly and their multicultural needs. I can tell you, this centre takes people from all ethnic communities and indeed helps them and helps staff and many other people understand their needs.

Also, with the Foothills and Peter Lougheed hospitals in Calgary similar programs are going on, and with the Calgary board of health; we've got our staff and programs in there. The needs of our new immigrants to fit in, and maybe our older Albertans - because I can tell you that as people get older, sometimes when they're in a health facility for the elderly, they change back to their home language or native language. That's where the staff has to understand and know why they do it, that it's just a part of life. This is the program we're doing.

We're also working with municipalities, and one area which we're working very closely and very strongly with is the town of Provost. Every member here, Mr. Chairman, knows what happened in Provost a couple of years ago, the racist incident. I think a community that gets hit by this sometimes doesn't realize how to handle this. Sometimes they come out with some bumps and bruises, but luckily it worked out that nobody was hurt in this incident. The town of Provost has been working very closely with the Multiculturalism Commission to make sure it never happens there, and an awareness program so other communities are prepared so none of these racist incidents happen anywhere in this province. That's another area.

5:00

Another area we work with very closely is the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I just had the opportunity to speak to them at the beginning of April in Calgary. I know the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism was there, and the Minister of Labour also was there, Mr. Chairman, to speak to these groups on some of the programming we have in this province. I can tell you that when I was there, I had municipal leaders from other provinces come up to me and commend us and congratulate us on the good work we're doing in multiculturalism and taking some of our programs back to their own provinces. This is what we're commended for here in Alberta. It's a stride for our government, the minister, and myself, naturally, an achievement we think we've done. This is, as I say, being recognized all over Canada right now. We are also working with the cities of Lethbridge, Edmonton, and Red Deer and also the United Way of Calgary, so

you can see that we are touching on all these areas. With the limited staff we have, I think the work is getting done and getting done very well.

Another area we've worked very closely with is the business sector. Last fall we had our second annual symposium on multiculturalism in the business place. Mr. Chairman, guess what? I will read off the corporations and companies that were involved there: the Royal Bank, Shell Canada, Canadian Airlines, Petro-Canada, Calgary Economic Development Authority, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Horne & Pitfield, and a division of IGA . . .

MR. MAIN: Hughes aircraft.

MR. ZARUSKY: Hughes aircraft was there, the minister informs me.

You can see these people are interested in the diverse workplace that's coming up and really appreciating it. These symposiums also attract over a hundred people, a hundred business leaders. From not only this province but from all over North America we get people there. This is where we get speakers, and they discuss these different areas that we have to deal with. The diversity in the workplace naturally is one and understanding why people in some areas need recognition. It is working very well. So, Mr. Chairman, that's another area.

Other areas, naturally, that we're working with are cultural/racial minorities. Our cultural ambassadors program is another area we're working with, educating people to become multicultural ambassadors for this province, the grass-roots people of this province. They want to go around and spread the message and work with their communities to make sure that the understanding is there, Mr. Chairman. So you can see that this is another area.

Another thing that's happened that is really working well this year – and our legislation of 1990 indicated this – was the Multiculturalism Advisory Council. The appointments were made in September of 1991. Out of that we've got 23 members from all over the province, and not only out of the ethnocultural groups but municipal leaders, people from police forces, native people, and also our youth. We've got two young people that attended the multiculturalism symposium on our multiculturalism council now. I just want to outline to you the reporting mechanism. The vice-chairman of the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission, which is Orest Olineck, is the chairman of the advisory council, so in working with me and my close relationship with the minister, you can see that the reporting mechanism is there, and it's well recognized. We get these ideas right to the top channels within a matter of hours; sometimes in minutes we can do it. You can see that the setup in the Act is so that we don't need to legislate anymore. We've got people at all levels of the Alberta government and the mainstream working together. I can just reiterate some of the things that we are doing as I go on. I know the minister is going to answer some of the questions that were posed by the members who spoke.

Firstly, I just want to answer a few by the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. I'm glad that the Leader of the Opposition is here, because I think that the leader could change the critic here, get somebody that's a little more understanding. Maybe a suggestion: somebody like the Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn could be the multiculturalism critic because he's got a very positive attitude and certainly would be an addition in getting the message out instead of coming in with the negative. The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods also indicated that we didn't attend a rally, I gather, someplace here in the city. I can tell you – and I know I can speak for the minister and myself and our government

– that we do not condone violence, and I think that's what some of these things are doing.

It's unfortunate that we had the happenings in Los Angeles. We'd never want to see that in this province, and I'm one that certainly would fight and speak against it in every and any way possible. This is why at the commission we are doing this, so it doesn't happen in this province. I can tell you that through our work I don't think it will. That's why I sometimes don't think that government leaders should attend, because some people at these rallies will indicate that we should start doing this in this province, and I think that's wrong. I can go on record telling anybody that violence is wrong, and that's all there is to it. I hope it doesn't happen in this province. I don't think it will because we've got the understanding here.

Some of the other areas. The paper on foreign qualifications is a very good report. That comes under the Department of the Solicitor General, and we are working right now with the different departments to make sure that this report gets released so we can get some action on it. Hon. member, just don't worry about it; it's going to be done. Albertans know that.

The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods and the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud and, I think, even the Member for Edmonton-Highlands got in on this – I don't know how the member did – on employment equity. Well, I can tell you that with the different areas we're working with in multiculturalism, with our business sector, our municipalities, our departments of Education and Health – these people all realize that there's a need to hire people for their qualities and qualifications and not colour or race or religion. I think that's happening in this province. We've got these employers, these big corporations, that are looking at people for their qualifications. I think that's very important, and I myself can tell you that I would never support employment equity, because there are other ways to work at it. That's what we're doing here at the commission, Mr. Chairman, and it is going very well.

5:10

Mr. Chairman, just a few more comments. I know that in Alberta diversity is a reality. As I said, we must learn to accept this diversity and benefit from it as a people and as a province. Anyplace I speak to different groups, we always indicate that this is what we have to work on. I've said throughout my presentation here on multiculturalism that it's not news to say that some people in this province are not tolerant of others and do not treat others fairly or with respect. As I've said, that's not news. But with our programs I think we're going in the right direction. There is not only a social price to pay for this insensitivity but also an economic one, and I think this is why the commission exists. It's got the support of the minister and of all the rest of our government because we are given many indications that we are going in the right direction. I believe that one day we will live in an Alberta where a citizen's racial or cultural background will not matter, either at work or in the community, but I don't think we're there yet. We still have a job to do, and I know that with the minister's support and the Premier's and the rest of this government's, it's going to be done.

That's why, Mr. Chairman, I hope the members that spoke listened and listened well. This is all in *Hansard*, and I'm sure they can read it over, especially the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud because exactly what he outlined on multiculturalism through his presentation are the areas we are working with already, are the people we're meeting with. I know that in the past three years or so I've covered this province probably from the farthest point north to the farthest point south, meeting with our different

communities, the needs of these communities, and actually working very closely with the aboriginal community, which is so important to us at this time in this province. They are people that are recognized for their contribution to this great country and this province. As a matter of fact, at this point we have a member of the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission that is a native person from the Whitefish Lake band near St. Paul, Goodfish Lake, and at one time was a chief of the Whitefish Lake band there. He's really giving us good input into what the needs of the native people are in this province. We are going in the direction of following some of his recommendations and advice on working with our native communities, and it is happening all over the province.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, I hope the members listen and listen well. At this time I want to thank the minister once more for his great support in multiculturalism, and I want to leave him enough time to answer some of the questions that other members presented.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to speak on this great subject of multiculturalism and the great advances we've done here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lacombe.

MR. MOORE: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I've listened intently to the debate this afternoon, and I've enjoyed it because it underlined one serious flaw in the process: never once did I hear of Canadianism. Never once did I hear "Canadian," which we are. Every person that ever moved to this country came here to be a Canadian, and I never heard it mentioned. It's a serious flaw, and I think it's one thing we should certainly examine.

I want to look at vote 4 because time's running out, and I know the minister wants to get in here, and I have difficulty getting to the point sometimes so that people understand where I'm coming from. I want to talk about vote 4, Multiculturalism Development, \$1 million and whatever it is. Think about the value we're getting, value to two people: value to the new Canadians coming to Canada and the value to Canadians that are here. It's called Multiculturalism Development. That name even turns me off. I do not like multiculturalism; I like Canadianism. I think multiculturalism divides this country, and hyphenated Canadians are the worst thing we ever developed in this country. That goes right back to those so-called founding nations, English Canadians and French Canadians. Where the heck were us Irish and Ukrainians? We all got left out of the picture. But they're still hyphenated Canadians, and we are perpetuating it with our legislation in this budget here today under development. I hope the minister will tell me - I'm doing it as quickly as I can, Mr. Minister, so you can get in - where in the world are you promoting Canadianism? Where are you saying to new Canadians what Canada is about? Can you show me the truth there?

No, all I've heard is you emphasize their culture. Well, let me talk about their culture, and I'll talk to every new Canadian. When he left his country, he left to come to Canada. If he was so proud and wanted to promote his culture like we are, he would have stayed where he was. Why would he come over here, where he didn't have his culture? He came over here to be Canadian. I want everyone to listen to that. He came here, and we're doing him an injustice while we keep promoting that because we have a few of what we call activists in those groups that come over here, and we have some cheap politicians that really promote it because they think they're getting the vote of the minorities. All they are doing is insulting those minorities that came over here to be true Canadians, and we spend \$1,213,000, or whatever it is,

to promote this. I think we should be promoting - and I'm going to ask the minister if he can show me where he is promoting this, under program delivery, and so on. Where is he promoting this to these new people, teaching them Canadian history, Canadian geography so they understand the country they came to, so they have a good background? What did they come to? What is their country, so they can be proud of it?

How much did we spend promoting totally English language? That's a big premium. We'd like to see some of this, really going out and promoting that. Don't leave it all up to Education. We're spending this in this guise?

What about our style of government? A lot of these new Canadians come from different styles of government than we do. We have the British parliamentary system, and I think we should be teaching what we have here so they don't come over here from some country that has a type of government that maybe society in general in Canada doesn't accept and start promoting it here. No; we should show what our style of government is. It's a British parliamentary government. We should teach it.

We want to talk about the free enterprise system we are in and how if they work, they get benefits. The more you work, the more you benefit, the more you grow, the more you have, and the better it is. Everybody is happy. We should be saying that to Canadians instead of saying what is your culture? We're going to promote your culture. I want to say that there has to be a lot of time spent on teaching new Canadians the system we work in in the private sector, because they've got to come over here and work. They've got to land here; they've got to find a job. We talk about our young people coming out of the high schools and universities not knowing the work world they're going into. They're having a hard time adjusting. What do you think about these new Canadians? They're coming here, and that's a tremendous shock to them, to come to our style of work system.

I'm looking in here and I'm asking the minister to go through and show me all this in the subprograms. I'm still on vote 4, in case you were wondering, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to see where we are giving these new Canadians a real understanding of the work area, the work sector, what's here. You know, we have them coming over and saying, "Oh, well, I've got a degree here and I've got a degree there at that university, and I can jump right into your system." Well, it isn't just that easy. Instead of defending that, we should be saying: "This is Canada and this is our system. You came here, and we want you to be part of it. We're glad to have you, and you will make a great contribution." We know they'll make a great contribution, but let's give them the opportunity. Let's not waste the money on a lot of these things that look good, da da da da, promoted by academics and bureaucrats most of the time, but not by the people that came over. They didn't ask for it when they left.

When they left their country, they came over here to be Canadians, and I want us to say, "We're here; we're Canada, and this is what it is to be a Canadian." If we give them every opportunity to be a Canadian, they'll be Canadian, and we'll get rid of that ruddy hyphenated Canadian that we've had to put up with ever since the so-called founding nations got established by the federal government and are still perpetuated and dividing Canada to this day. Surely in the 125 years or whatever that we've existed, we can see what hyphenated Canadians did, hyphenated French Canadians, English Canadians. All it's done is divided Canada, and we're fighting it here today in our Constitution, still fighting what has been perpetuated, and we see this coming in, that we are still perpetuating it.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the minister will show me where all these things fit in. I know he's got 10 minutes. I've only taken five minutes. Surely in 10 minutes he can give me the answers.

5:20

MR. MAIN: Mr. Chairman, so many questions, so little time. It's interesting to note the amount of time that's spent during the two hours or so by the time we adjourn here. We have two hours to discuss \$43 million worth of estimates, and we have spent, I would guess, 75 to 80 percent of the time with members addressing the most important and critical issue, obviously, in the minds of the members here and probably in their constituents': the people issue, the issues in our department that touch people, and that's on the multiculturalism side. You just heard an eloquent appeal from the Member for Lacombe, expressing views that are held by a great many Albertans about this frustration they feel with multiculturalism, the word and what they believe it stands for.

I would draw the members' attention to the recent remarks made by the Member for Redwater-Andrew in his capacity as chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission. Nowhere in those near 30 minutes of remarks did I hear him say "ethnic." I didn't hear him say "hyphenated Canadians." I didn't hear him say "ghettoized." I didn't hear him emphasizing one group against the other group. I heard him emphasizing and discussing programs that are aimed at drawing people together, that are aimed at putting us all in the same boat.

Mr. Chairman, I've got on my lapel a pin put out by the Multiculturalism Commission. It says "One Heart Many Colours." This is the theme of the Multiculturalism Commission's public programming efforts. "One Heart Many Colours" in four words captures the essence of what we're trying to do in our Multiculturalism Commission with all these programs and all these dollars, roughly 2 and a half million dollars of lottery money and about \$1.2 million in general revenue funds to pay the salaries and run the affairs of the office.

"One Heart Many Colours." One heart: we're all here in this together. We're all here as Canadians, whether we've been here for five generations or five minutes or, as in the case of the ancestors of three of my colleagues in this Legislative Assembly and our caucus, for 5,000 years. We're all here with one purpose in mind: one heart. But we're from many different backgrounds and many different origins and cultures and religions and faiths: many colours. "One Heart Many Colours" captures in four words and in a 'slogo' what we're trying to do, and it's directly in line with what the Member for Lacombe requested. That's exactly what we're doing. I'll pass this pin on to him, and he can wear that with pride as he goes back to Lacombe and explains that he's been involved in the debate on multiculturalism and he's got what he's looking for.

Let me address some of the specific questions that have been raised. There are just a few minutes, but some things need to be addressed. Some things need to be on the record in *Hansard*, and other things will be addressed via letter or, for those in the Liberal caucus, via fax, which they're so in love with.

A lot of talk centred this afternoon on employment equity. I would just draw members' attention to the members' gallery, where members of the staff and those who work for the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism are. We've got people from Trinidad; we've got people from Sweden. We've got a couple of Brits, a few Irishmen, a couple of Scots. There's a Jew up there. We've got somebody from Portugal. Who else have we got? We've got Scandinavians. All there not because we got a list of ethnic groups and tried to make sure we had one of each. No.

We have these individuals working for the better state of affairs in the province of Alberta because they're the best people for the job. It just so happens they're from different cultures, different names, different backgrounds. That's not why they're there; they're there because they're the best people for the job.

The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods would have us get a list of cultures and say, well, gee whiz, you don't have anybody from the Caribbean. Go find somebody to fill that spot. You don't have anybody Chinese. Find someone. My position and that expressed by the Member for Redwater-Andrew and that of the government is let's get the best people for the job. Let's shake the trees, find out where they are if they're in an ethnic group. One of the members has talked about a police force and having the people who can relate with their clients. I agree with that. Let's go out and shake the trees and recruit in those communities and find the best people for the jobs. But the notion of quotas just gives me shivers, and it's not something I would support.

We talked about racism. The member wants the government to do something about racism. This is an enormous responsibility, an enormous task to place on the shoulders of never mind a government, to place on the shoulders of democracy, to solve racism, something that's been with us as humankind since we first emerged from the caves. To put the responsibility for ending racism on democracy or a government or a minister and a department is beyond comprehension. We're working on it. I don't expect we'll solve it. I don't expect it will go away. It's a human condition, a human failing. What we're trying to do is have people work with each other and understand each other, and hopefully then we'll see a better atmosphere in which we can all work.

Much has been said about multiculturalism today. It's an important component of what we are as Canadians. The Premier's remarks were raised. The Premier has clarified his remarks. I've clarified them. You have not seen any attempt here to repeal our Multiculturalism Act that we passed a couple of years ago. We're working, and we need a legislative framework in which to work. But the notion of compelling people to do this is just anathema to this government.

I think it's important that we deal with some of the facts on the cultural development side that were raised by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands. I will just draw your attention to one fact that puts the proper perspective on most of her remarks in that she knows not of what she speaks. The awards program cut out: she mentioned that. Granted, it's gone, but she mentioned this in the context of artists' wages, as if the awards program was directly related to artists' wages. This is a recognition program that we've had in place for a few years that has recognized volunteers and outstanding contributors to Alberta, nothing to do with payments to artists. The other departments have picked up some discipline-specific areas, in recreation and environment, forestry, and others, and it was deemed that we'll review all our awards programs. In the meantime, we'll recognize some budgetary savings by eliminating that.

But that's just the kind of thing that we hear from the ND critic, looking for us to spend, spend, spend and making arguments about where we relate in comparison to other governments. I can say about these kinds of comparisons that while you can make an argument for them, I would urge the member to just look around and see what we've got. I'd look at results and not focus on dollars. Never mind spend, spend, spend; look at what we result. In the last three years in this department, while our overall spending and our overall staff complement has gone down by 10 percent – the call on the taxpayers has gone down by 10 percent

– during that time we've developed and are about to open two full-scale museums. We're developing and about to open two full-scale interpretative centres; one opens next month. We now have dozens of new historic sites operating. We've established a co-ordinated arts foundation that is going around the province now asking Albertans how they would like that money to be spent.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. minister, I hesitate to interrupt, but I think it is time that we perhaps adjourn debate.

MR. MAIN: Well, that's an excellent suggestion, Mr. Chairman. I will move we adjourn debate, and I'll undertake to answer the questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of the motion, please say aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Those opposed, please say no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Carried.
Hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those in favour of the report, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those opposed, please say no. Carried.
Deputy Government House Leader.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, by way of information the House will sit as the Committee of Supply tomorrow evening, dealing with the Department of Family and Social Services.

[At 5:29 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Thursday at 2:30 p.m.]