

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Title: **Thursday, October 7, 1993**

1:30 p.m.

Date: 93/10/07

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **Prayers**

MR. SPEAKER: Let us pray.

Our Father, keep us mindful of the special and unique opportunity we have to work for our constituents and our province, and in that work give us strength and wisdom.

Amen.

head: **Introduction of Bills**

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

### Bill 265

#### Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1993 (No. 1)

MS HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 265, the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1993 (No. 1).

This Bill includes amendments that will strengthen certain child protection provisions within the Act, and most importantly they will ensure that the needs of children are always carried first and foremost.

Thank you.

[Leave granted; Bill 265 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

### Bill 266

#### Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues Amendment Act, 1993

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to introduce Bill 266, the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues Amendment Act, 1993.

This Bill will ensure that the council has a full complement of board members at all times. We believe this action will strengthen the voice of the council and government's response to their recommendations.

[Leave granted; Bill 266 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-North West.

### Bill 267

#### Telemarketing Act

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 267, that Bill being the Telemarketing Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill outlines the hours during which telemarketing calls can be made to homes. It provides that no further calls be made should that person request it. It also talks about disconnect guidelines and the nature of contracts that will be entered into as a result of telemarketing solicitations.

[Leave granted; Bill 267 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

### Bill 268

#### School Amendment Act, 1993

MR. HENRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to introduce Bill 268, the School Amendment Act, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, briefly, this Act provides some parameters for schools with regard to disciplining students and specifically excludes the provision for corporal punishment.

Thank you.

[Leave granted; Bill 268 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park on behalf of the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul.

### Bill 269

#### Environmental Ombudsman Act

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul I seek leave to introduce Bill 269, the Environmental Ombudsman Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill extends the mandate of the Ombudsman to enable him to investigate and review the effectiveness of government bodies in protecting the environment not only when cases are referred to him but on his own volition.

[Leave granted; Bill 269 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

### Bill 272

#### Uniform Building Standards Amendment Act, 1993

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to introduce Bill 272, the Uniform Building Standards Amendment Act, 1993.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, establishes the task force on energy efficiency to propose changes in the Alberta Building Code and other measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and the release of carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming.

[Leave granted; Bill 272 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: Would there be consent of the Assembly to revert to Notices of Motions?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

head: **Notices of Motions**

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, customarily the notice for written questions and motions for returns occurs on Tuesdays. As that will not be possible next week, I would like to give notice that under Written Questions I will be moving that the final written question which is appearing on today's Order Paper, that being Written Question 208, be taken up on the next sitting day.

Under Motions for Returns I will serve notice that I'll be moving that motions for returns appearing on today's Order Paper do stand and retain their places with the exception of the following: motions for returns 170, 172, 184, 185, 186, 187, 196, 197, 203, 205, and 213.

head: **Introduction of Guests**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, in the members' gallery today are 24 young students accompanied by teacher Jim Bosma and three parents and helpers: Annette Nanninga, Erna Van Niejenhuis, and Sylvia Nanninga. They're all from Neerlandia. Neerlandia is located about 60 miles to the north of the city of Edmonton, one of the first Dutch communities in the province of Alberta. I would ask all of our visitors to rise and receive the warm welcome of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Roper.

MR. CHADI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly a good friend of mine, a businessman from Toronto, Mr. Jalal Saleh, who is sitting in the members' gallery. I would ask that Mr. Saleh please stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly 26 grades 6 and 7 students from the Rimbey Christian school. They are accompanied by group leader Caroline Perley and parents and helpers Theresa Gyori, Wanda Nickoriuk, and Grace Bennik. I would ask them to stand, and I would ask members to give them the traditional welcome. They are seated in the members' gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

MR. ZARIWNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly 51 students from a grade 6 immersion class and a grade 6 English class from McKernan elementary and junior high school. They are accompanied by Danielle Pawlychka and Roxanne Wiebenga as well as two parents: Mrs. Dewitt and Mrs. Riddle. They're in the public gallery. I'd ask that they stand and we give them the traditional warm welcome.

**1:40**

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a young man who is an exceptionally bright light in the members' gallery today. I couldn't help but have my eye caught by his presence in the Chamber. He happens to be a fine resident of Red Deer-North. I know that the Member for Red Deer-North might be a little embarrassed in introducing him. He is Mr. Logan Day. He is the son of our Minister of Labour. I'm told that he fights with his father each morning for the wardrobe, and I think he won today. I'd ask him to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

head: **Oral Question Period**

### **Health Care Wage Rollbacks**

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, health care workers have resoundingly said no to rollbacks because they say that they should not be the victims of a selective or a discriminatory income tax. Now hospitals, through their association, have said no because they say the government doesn't have a plan. The Premier and I were mayors of major cities of this province. Both of us were involved in downsizing, and I remember the Premier saying that a collective agreement was sacred and that it shouldn't be broken. He didn't do it; I didn't do it. We didn't do it because it would have been wrong to have done it. My first question, Mr. Premier, is this.

Since both sides have made the November 23 deadline meaningless by saying no, I'd like the Premier to tell Albertans what he's going to do now.

MR. KLEIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in answer to the specific question, what we are going to do is give this process six or seven weeks, meet with the representatives, the various unions and associations to see if can achieve voluntary compliance.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, the target is not the rank and file. We have asked certainly the administrators of municipalities, school boards, hospital boards, college boards to provide the leadership by taking rollbacks. We've also said to ourselves as a government that we have to provide the leadership, and indeed cabinet ministers started by rolling back 5 percent. As you know now, there will be a proposal going to Members' Services that all MLAs will have their salaries and the associated compensation for committee work and so on reduced by 5 percent. So we are providing the leadership. We're saying to these people, "Look, if we all work at this thing together, we can reduce our deficit, we can have a better Alberta, and we can demonstrate to the rest of this country that we're willing to sacrifice and that we're willing to work co-operatively." That basically is what we're trying to achieve.

Now, to say that there was no plan is not right. Part of the plan was to achieve what we're doing through a series of roundtables. The first roundtable was held in Red Deer to address this year's budget. Throughout that roundtable it's my understanding that people consistently said: the best way to approach this is to have everyone buy into it and have everyone make a bit of a sacrifice. This came from doctors, it came from nurses, it came from health care administrators, it came from patients, and it came from the public at large.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like the Premier to tell Albertans that he will respect his own words – that collective agreements are sacred – and clearly that there will be no legislated rollbacks.

MR. KLEIN: You know, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not entirely correct in his assumption that there wasn't an appeal. This is a bit of history just to set the record straight. I remember attending a meeting in Ottawa with his esteemed leader then the Hon. Pierre Trudeau. He called together a number of mayors, but I'm quite amazed he didn't call Laurence to that meeting. [interjections]

### **Speaker's Ruling Decorum**

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. [interjections] Order please. [interjections] Order. It is that kind of behaviour that runs us out of time, and every day we have members who don't get to ask questions.

The hon. the Premier, briefly.

### **Health Care Wage Rollbacks**

*(continued)*

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, just to set the record straight on this, I and a number of other mayors met, some Conservative mayors, some Liberal mayors, and I'm sure some ND mayors – mayors were apolitical at that particular time, at least the good ones were. Anyway, the prime minister then said: look, I want you to go back to your work force and sell 6 and 5 to them on a voluntary basis; we don't want to legislate this; we want these unions to voluntarily comply with 6 and 5 at this particular time. I remem-

ber bringing 13 representatives of civic unions into my boardroom. Some of them said they might be interested, but a lot of them said: go away, Mr. Mayor.

MR. DECORE: I don't want to hear what Louis Riel thought or what Pierre Trudeau thought. I want to know, Mr. Premier, if your words mean anything. Are you going to hold the collective agreements sacred or not? Yes or no.

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, collective agreements are important, but if there is a resolve on the part of both parties, any contract can be changed or amended.

MR. DECORE: That's called wiggling away.

#### Advisory Council on Women's Issues

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, my second question is this. The minister of community services says that he will appoint a Conservative MLA – God help us – to head up the women's advisory council. The council was originally set up to be a strong – and this is the word that needs to be underlined, Mr. Minister – independent council that would advise government on policies that affect Alberta women. Now instead of killing the council, like the previous minister wanted to do, he wants to politicize it. First question: explain to Albertans, Mr. Minister, the logic you've employed in reaching your decision to politicize this council and turn it into a PR mouthpiece for your government.

MR. MAR: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that the hon. member would ask this question because it gives me an opportunity to clarify what I said in the House the other day. I want to clarify that the decision to appoint an MLA chair has not been made. However, I want to point out that this government and this minister are committed to continuing to have a voice for women in this province. We are committed to women's issues and improving the quality of life for women in this province. A number of recommendations have been made with respect to matters that the council deals with. One suggestion that has been put forward for consideration is to appoint an MLA member. There are many others as well.

MR. DECORE: Well, now there really is confusion. I'd like the minister to tell Albertans what his position is, what position he personally takes. Are we going to have a Conservative backbench MLA, or are we going to have somebody that really does represent women and women's problems in Alberta?

MR. MAR: Mr. Speaker, my position and the position shared by members of this government is that we're deeply concerned about these issues, and we're doing our best to address them. We're looking at all ways of improving the manner in which women's issues are dealt with. With respect to any clarification, I hope that I've made it clear to the hon. member and members of this House that the issue of appointing an MLA chair is not a decision that has been made. I've made that clear in a letter to the chair of the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues, Miss Catherine Arthur.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Premier, since the Premier has told us, told Albertans that he intends to ensure that there is a publication of this vacancy and all other vacancies and since he has said that this would be an open process where there would be a review body, I'd like the Premier to assure Albertans that this process will in

fact be proceeded with, proper advertising and a proper review process, to get that best man or best woman for the job.

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that indeed work is proceeding very rapidly now to devise a process whereby these positions are advertised. Certainly I shared with the hon. member a process where the ministers will be required to set up a review procedure to have the public administration office along with the minister and perhaps whomever the minister wants to bring in on the process to make sure that we do indeed get the right candidate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mayfield.

#### 1:50 Hospital Construction

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of some 27 health care projects deferred earlier this week – and I quote from the minister's document – were in the “planning and design stage.” Even if 10 percent of the expenditures on the Immaculata hospital at Westlock have been made, anyone in the construction business will tell you that the vast majority of that 10 percent goes into design and planning. To the Minister of Health: why would the minister defer 27 other health care projects, such as Airdrie, Drumheller, Eckville, Slave Lake, and allow this particular project to go ahead when to date the claim is that 10 percent of the construction cost is made and there is no evidence that it is not just pure planning and design?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the hon. member wished to address that question to the Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services, where it is more appropriately answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services.

MR. THURBER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that the hon. member understands what he is asking, because certainly there's a percentage of the cost of any of these construction projects that goes into the design and programming and the documentation and the rest of that. The rest of it goes in after the contract is issued, and then you go on from there. I'm not sure that anybody could understand the question that he put forward.

MR. WHITE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm having difficulty when the member opposite asks me if I understood the question and then he repeats the question back to me.

#### Speaker's Ruling Supplementary Questions

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. If there's a misunderstanding, then the supplemental question allows the asker to ask his question in a more clear and understandable way, if he wishes.

MR. WHITE: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

#### Hospital Construction (continued)

MR. WHITE: Could the minister table in this House a copy of a document that will unequivocally prove where the costs are on that particular hospital to date? That document is called a statutory declaration by the architect in charge. We'll take it to the end of the month, which is September 30, sir. Simple.

MR. THURBER: No, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: What did he say?

MR. SPEAKER: The answer was no.

MR. WHITE: My final supplementary then. The minister may answer this if he wishes, if he wishes to answer any question. We're not sure if he's capable of that or not. [interjections] The Minister of Health is much more accommodating, sir. Perhaps I could ask her one. What sort of objective criteria, not political criteria, was used to determine whether the Westlock hospital went ahead versus perhaps the Slave Lake hospital?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the member would want to include all of the hospitals that were approved to go ahead. I am sure that he would like to know the criteria that we use for all health facilities to proceed.

There is a clear guideline and process that is followed when defining priorities in going ahead and either building or upgrading health facilities, and it's based on a number of factors. It can be based, one, on the age of the facility – I would remind the hon. member that the facility in Westlock was built in 1927 – and also the service that it provides according to the service that is needed. For that particular one, because there seems to be a great deal of interest in that one, it was very obvious that there was a substantial need for long-term care beds, which did not exist in that community at all. So part of the project is for long-term care beds, and there is a downsizing in the number of acute care beds. We look at the utilization of the hospital. That can be measured in a number of ways. One is the hospital performance index, and that hospital has one of the highest in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, followed by Edmonton-McClung.

#### **Blood Fractionation Plant**

MRS. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, the Calgary Economic Development Authority had put forward a proposal for the Red Cross/Miles company blood fractionation plant. As the Foothills hospital site in Calgary-Bow was part of this proposal, naturally we were disappointed by the choice of Nova Scotia for this plant. Madam Minister, my question is: what is Alberta's reaction to the announcement from Nova Scotia that this plant would be built there?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Well, the reaction from the Minister of Health for Alberta to the announcement is one of somewhat surprise and I guess some disappointment that this action would have been taken, particularly in light of a decision that was reached at the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of health meeting just a few short weeks ago to have a review of this very issue. There was a deputies committee put in place to respond, to bring us back a risk analysis, a financial analysis, a needs analysis, and to report back in 90 days. So, Mr. Speaker, we were a bit surprised at that announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MRS. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Alberta communities, including Calgary, Edmonton, and Spruce Grove, wanted to be the site of this plant. My other question is: why didn't Alberta get this economic advantage?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, meetings were held in July with both the Canadian Red Cross and Miles Canada, and during the discussions with them a question was asked: would Alberta be in a position to provide loans, grants, or guarantees? The response to them was no; Alberta was not in a position to provide loans, grants, or guarantees. I understand that the province of Nova Scotia has in essence provided upwards of some \$25 million-plus of taxpayer incentives with respect to this, and that's unfortunate, because the position of this government is that in essence the private enterprise system should be able to function in a free market system. That's the model that we're attempting to see spread throughout the country of Canada, and that is a negative for economic development in the province of Alberta. It would be indeed unfortunate if we found that we were now competing with the provincial treasurers of nine other jurisdictions in this country when I think there seems to be a general feeling among the vast population of the country of Canada that governments, in fact, should not be providing loans, grants, guarantees, that kind of monetary incentive, to attract businesses.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

#### **UniCare Integrated Software Inc.**

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is absolutely amazing is that the audited financial statements of UniCare tabled in the House yesterday bear no relationship whatsoever to what the Premier was telling us in this House several weeks ago. My question is to the Premier. What would ever possess the Premier to stand in this House and tell the people of Alberta that the losses on UniCare were \$4.2 million when in fact the March 1993 UniCare financial statements state very clearly that the losses were \$5.9 million?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, in the discussion of UniCare at that time I believe the numbers were estimates. I also know that the hon. member clearly remembers that the minister made a commitment to table those statements in the House at the appropriate time, which was when the negotiations for sale of that was done, and that was done yesterday. The facts are clearly in front of the House. There was no intention of not laying those facts before this House at the final stage, and that has been done.

2:00

MR. MITCHELL: Well, the Premier was pretty determined about the fact of \$4.2 million when he stood here and read the press release from the hospital.

My second question: how could it be that the U of A hospital would pay UniCare staff over \$1 million to sell \$1.7 million worth of their own software to themselves?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, when this issue arose some time ago, I explained it to the House, and I will cover it one more time.

The UniCare software company is not and was not publicly funded. It was in operation as a subsidiary of the University of Alberta hospitals, clearly within their mandate under the Act for them to operate. It was not done with public funds. I think the questions on how they conducted the business of that company should be properly directed to the University of Alberta. They were discretionary funds. They were not public funds. They clearly acted within their Act. I understand from some of the debate that has occurred in this House that the party opposite believes in local autonomy, board autonomy, and all of those

things that are laid out within their availability within their Act. That's the way they acted.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Speaker, we believe in a Premier who would stand in the House and tell us what the facts are.

My third question is: what could possibly have gone so horribly wrong in a company that after five years and \$5.9 million of public money, it would have a whopping net book value of nothing more than \$40,107 and no cents at all?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, the questions on the operation of the subsidiary company, as I said, should be clearly directed at the University of Alberta hospitals. The question to the minister and to this House is on the appropriate actions of the University of Alberta hospitals in this matter, and they have clearly acted within their Act.

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, just to comment, if I can, to supplement. It seems to me that the Liberals over there have been squawking and screaming about these boards having autonomy. Now, you can't have it both ways. We're willing to give these boards autonomy and maintain their autonomy.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Stony Plain.

#### Legal Aid

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year's estimates allocate almost \$26 million . . . [interjections]

#### Speaker's Ruling Decorum

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair regrets interrupting the hon. Member for Stony Plain, but his colleagues are interrupting him and the opposition is also interrupting. So could there be some order in this House for the hon. Member for Stony Plain.

#### Legal Aid

(continued)

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This year's estimates allocate almost \$26 million to serve the needs of legal aid, yet we constantly hear that there's a shortfall in funding for this program. My question to the Minister of Justice is this: what is the range of total billings actually paid out to individual lawyers from the highest to the lowest on behalf of legal aid?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, I don't have precise figures, but I presume that the lowest would be maybe \$15 if somebody had an initial call and that was all there was to the file. The high range was published not too long ago at somewhere around \$245,000 in gross billings, but you must understand that those are not just fees. Those are fees and disbursements. Disbursements are things paid out on behalf of clients that are not looked at as income. The top was around \$245,000, \$247,000.

MR. N. TAYLOR: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I would like to know what the range is that has actually been paid out on behalf of clients using the system. In view of confidentiality I wouldn't want specific cases but again a range similar to what he's given out for the lawyers.

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, that's pretty difficult to tell, because first of all there's confidentiality through the Legal Aid Society. The Legal Aid Society is an arms'-s-length group, which, although funded by the government, is not operated by the government, and they receive requests for legal aid and decide on the merits of the case whether legal aid is paid, and then according to a tariff pay that. The best you could do is find out how many certificates were issued in relationship to the gross billing that was done. That wouldn't show in terms of fees alone but fees and disbursements. So it's very difficult to tell on that part.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Mr. Speaker, there is, I believe, a youth court staff counsel pilot project that is coming up or has come up. I would like to ask the minister: in view of the fact that that budget has been cut an additional 2 and a half million dollars this year, how will that impact the whole legal aid system?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, there has been some concern at the rising costs of legal aid, and we've been looking at various mechanisms that might be used to control the costs, not to reduce the costs. This pilot project, which is being carried out by the Legal Aid Society with the approval of the Law Society of Alberta, will run in Calgary and in Edmonton, and it will be oriented to the youth court. The Legal Aid Society will hire staff counsel rather than using the judicare model that we have had where private counsel are used. Because you will handle cases as any employee would for a base salary, you won't drive the prices up through volume. You'll have more specialized people. We're interested to see how this pilot project will work.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

#### Tire Disposal

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After years of delay real tire recycling in Alberta is about to get under way with the selection of the Alberta Environmental Rubber Products Co. to collect and recycle large scrap tires from northern Alberta. What this means is that Alberta Environmental Rubber will be paid through the \$4 tire sales tax to collect and recycle large tires and Inland Cement will be paid to collect and burn passenger tires. The problem is that since no other tire recyclers can get paid to collect scrap tires, no other tire recyclers can compete in this heavily subsidized marketplace. My question to the minister of economic development: does your government kill small business by accident, or is it part of an overall design?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately that isn't a question, and it's not worthy of an answer.

MR. COLLINGWOOD: We'll make an assumption as to the answer, Mr. Speaker.

My second question: if you're committed to free enterprise and job creation, will you assure all Alberta tire recyclers that they will continue to get fair access to scrap tires and that they'll be free to grow?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, that is a question that I'd be very, very happy to respond to. This whole question of recycling in the province of Alberta has been well studied in the last several years, particularly in the tire area. I think we are making progress in the whole area. We have the industry involved along with government in terms of the rules and the regulations.

In the absence of the Minister of Environmental Protection, who is the lead minister and the minister responsible for this particular activity, I will alert him to the fact that the hon. member has raised a question, and the Minister of Environmental Protection will be in a better position upon his return to the House to provide some additional information to the hon. member with respect to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplemental.

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary, then, to the Premier: given that tire recycling initiatives in southern Alberta have not yet been finalized, will the Premier abandon the selective process for the southern Alberta tires and give free enterprise a chance?

MR. KLEIN: The hon. member obviously doesn't understand how the tire board works. Mr. Speaker, when this was conceived, it was thought that the people responsible, the companies responsible for creating the problem should look after the problem, and government should give them the wherewithal to do that. This is now entirely out of the hands of government and in the hands of the industry as represented by the tire board. Now, if the hon. member wants the direct answers to these questions, I would suggest that he contact Mr. Knowler of the tire board, one of the industry representatives, and put it to him.

2:10

SOME HON. MEMBERS: You fired him. You fired him.

MR. MITCHELL: You're not still paying him; are you, Ralph?

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, excuse me. Whoever the chairman is.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Little Bow. [interjections] Order, hon. members. The hon. Member for Little Bow is entitled to some recognition.

### Grain Harvest

MR. McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Given the variable and unseasonable weather that the entire province of Alberta has been experiencing, would the minister please provide a direct response to us to update us on how farmers throughout the province are proceeding with their harvest?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister of agriculture.

MR. PASZKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that the hon. Member for Little Bow is entitled to a lot of recognition actually for asking a question such as that, because agriculture is indeed one of the major engines that drives this province. I think it's important that we recognize the contribution that agriculture makes, even though the Liberals may make light of it. It's very, very unfortunate.

As everyone who may be interested – and I see the Liberals are more interested in discussing it amongst themselves than hearing the actual plight of the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Could the hon. minister attempt to get to the answer to the question?

MR. PASZKOWSKI: The answer basically is that even though we've had a difficult fall, we've had some reasonably good

weather the last period, and harvest has progressed rather rapidly. We're now at a stage of roughly 70 percent harvest completion. With the weather having turned against us again, it will be slowed down somewhat. Nevertheless, after a long and difficult and stressful fall it has moved to the point where we are roughly 70 percent completed in the province of Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MR. McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Leader of the Opposition doesn't know the difference between canola and a first-rate, one-way . . . [interjections]

I'll ask my supplementary of the minister of agriculture. Would the minister please advise what the market outlook for Alberta farmers is for their grains which are currently under adverse weather conditions?

MR. MITCHELL: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. PASZKOWSKI: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly it's important to our agricultural community to have some insight as to what the market opportunities are for our grain. We'll start with wheat, where by the way we're looking at a potential record crop in Alberta if indeed it all gets harvested, approximately 19 million tonnes in total. Of that, the wheat yields by and large are average to good. The quality is not that good unfortunately. Grades 1 and 2 are going to sell at a premium price. Grades 3 and 4 are going to sell at a price that is not as strong as what we've been used to. Fortunately the wheat has not sprouted, and therefore it will qualify for milling.

The rest of the world. The United States has got a large crop of wheat. It's a poor quality crop of wheat. Europe is in the same position. They have a large crop of wheat but of poor quality. So the poor quality is going to compete against world quality as well. The upper grades are going to be selling at a premium, the lower grades at a poorer price.

As far as barley is concerned, the yields in Alberta are excellent, well above average. Malt is probably going to trade very well throughout the world. [interjection] It's unfortunate that you're not interested in hearing what the farmers need to know. It's very unfortunate. For barley, particularly in the United States, the opportunities are very strong this year because the quality of barley is poor in the United States, and that's unfortunately where we're caught in on the continental barley market. There is an excellent opportunity there. The prices are premium prices in barley.

As far as canola is concerned, the quality is good, the yields are good, and prices are strong.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplemental.

MR. McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A serious final supplementary. Because of the incidence of fusarium and vomitoxin in southern Manitoba, would the minister advise this Assembly and farmers in Alberta if there's any dangers of this disease affecting Alberta wheat and barley? It takes time to . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. There doesn't seem to be any connection between the disease and weather.

We're running out of time, hon. member.

The hon. Member for West Yellowhead.

### Education Roundtables

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Roundtable discussions on education will be held this month in Calgary and Edmonton, and we've been receiving quite a few calls from people who'd like to be in on it. They're rather suspicious about the criteria that have been used for the selection of the participants, so I would like to ask the Minister of Education why he has not released a list of participants.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, as I believe I've indicated earlier in this Assembly, when we began the planning of the roundtables, we set up a steering committee with representatives from a number of organizations. I won't go through the whole list, but they include such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association. That steering committee recommended a list of categories of participants, so many to be selected by and then invited by the Alberta School Boards Association, for instance. So that is the structure under which the invitations were sent out. There were also a number of places for representatives of the general public, which I think is only proper, so we have a broad representation from across the province. There is also an effort being made to provide a broad geographic representation.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that the minister will announce the list forthwith, as well as the dates of public forums to be held around the province so that all Albertans can have their say?

MR. JONSON: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important to emphasize – I have indicated this quite clearly – and I think the hon. Member for West Yellowhead knows that our workbook, which is quite usable, quite straightforward, poses a number of important questions, is available to anyone who wishes to phone in or write in and ask for it, and we welcome the responses of individuals in that particular way. We have made a commitment to publish the list of participants – there is nothing ultimately secret about that – when that list is completed and as we approach each of the roundtables.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Since the minister has not made a commitment to public forums in addition to the roundtables, will he perhaps see to it that these roundtable discussions be broadcast on our educational channel, Access TV, because of the widespread interest?

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, I welcome proposals of a constructive nature from any member of the Assembly, and in terms of part of his remarks, I note that particular suggestion. In terms of another series of meetings, we have been having a multitude of meetings on long-term planning. I would remind the hon. member that going back to the fall of 1992 we held a round of regional meetings across this province talking about future fiscal realities. Secondly, we're just in the process of completing a number of regional meetings to talk about grants and about school buildings and a number of other issues. The roundtables, very important meetings, are designed as the major concluding round of this overall sequence of discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, followed by Edmonton-Meadowlark.

2:20

### Health Care Wage Rollbacks

(continued)

MR. SOHAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Health. The Alberta Healthcare Association, which represents over 240 health care facilities in the province, issued a news release this morning stating that it does not support the provincial government's request for a voluntary rollback of 5 percent in the case of health care employees. I would like to know, Mr. Minister, your response to their not supporting the request.

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, clearly I'm disappointed that the Alberta Healthcare Association has chosen not to support our request for a voluntary rollback of compensation. It is my hope that they might reconsider that position.

The Premier of this province and this government made a commitment to all Albertans when we formed the government, and indeed through the election and following the leadership election of Mr. Klein, that we would consult on all issues with Albertans. We feel that this is a part of that consultation, asking people to be a part of decision-making, and we would sincerely hope that that process will be followed in this area. I recognize that the time lines are tight. However, I think everybody recognizes the pressures are significant.

MR. SOHAL: My supplemental to the minister. AHA states that the request for a voluntary rollback of 5 percent jeopardizes the collective bargaining process when there already exists a legal framework to deal with pay issues. How do you respond to that?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, we respect the collective bargaining process clearly. That is why we have requested a voluntary rollback in salaries, benefits, and fees. We've asked the employers and the employees to review these salaries, fees, and benefits and to bring us back a plan for a reduction of 5 percent. We do that with respect to the collective bargaining process.

MR. SOHAL: Mr. Speaker, my final supplemental, also to the minister. The layoffs in the health care sector have created a need for some kind of work force adjustment strategy; that is, job search, debt counseling, et cetera. Madam Minister, what help is being offered or is being planned for recently laid off health care employees?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, on Monday, when we announced the reductions that would amount to the \$122 million savings that are required to meet our budget in health care, I also announced that the government, working with labour and employers, is preparing a work force adjustment strategy. We recognize, as they do, the need for that to ensure that we have the skills for the jobs that are to be there in the future, and we are very committed. My colleague the Minister of Labour will be working with all of the affected groups in preparing that strategy, and Alberta Health is committed to that as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall that preambles are not allowed for supplemental questions.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

### Liquor Control Board Employees

MS LEIBOVICI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By Tuesday all ALCB employees will have received their pink slips. It now

appears that the terms of the contracts are not being adhered to, career transition programs are inadequate, and part-timers were lead down the garden path with regards to the possibility of severance packages. My question is to the Minister of Labour. Why are full-time employees who accept the voluntary severance package being cheated out of their full 90 day's notice?

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, there's no cheating going on whatsoever. All collective agreements need to be honoured. In any discussions that I've had with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs there's been no indication of this whatsoever. I think that if such a serious matter is coming up in the mind of the member opposite, we should get details of that. It's not been brought to my attention whatsoever.

MS LEIBOVICI: Mr. Speaker, I must say that I'm surprised it has not been brought to the hon. member's attention given that there is the inadequacy in terms of the notice periods.

My supplemental is: given that the minister has made a commitment to work force adjustment strategies and career transition programs, can the minister explain how a video and a 1-800 number will help anyone get a job in this economy?

MR. DAY: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's like saying: what does one simple 911 number, if that's all that's happening, do to help emergencies? There's a lot more behind it. There's a lot more services that are available. So the member opposite picks one in isolation out of a series that can be delivered and says: that's all that's being done. I feel that's not an appropriate way to address this. Work force adjustment strategies are complex, offering a variety of assistance that may help workers in distress, and it's up to the employer and the employees, with labour facilitating where asked, to fashion something that's appropriate to those particular needs.

MS LEIBOVICI: Mr. Speaker, my final supplemental is also to the Minister of Labour. Where is the severance package for long-term part-timers, one of whom is in the public gallery, that the Premier has publicly supported and has not delivered on?

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, it's fair to say that this question of assistance to those who are part-time employees has been brought to us for consideration, not by the Liberals but in fact by representatives of the workers themselves. We're in discussion on those very items right now at the request of the workers' representatives themselves, not at the request of the Liberals.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Egmont, followed by Edmonton-Whitemud.

### **Workers' Compensation Board**

MR. HERARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Labour, responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. A number of businesses in my constituency are concerned about the future cost of Workers' Compensation Board premiums. Would the minister explain what is currently being proposed with respect to WCB premiums?

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of injecting a little note of optimism into today's proceedings, I can advise that the WCB, even as we discuss items right here today and in the days following, is issuing to businesses the assessment rates for the upcoming year. When you consider all of the dollars that are being required

from the business community for WCB assessment rates, there is no increase overall in WCB assessment this year. Within those parameters, some businesses, based on their injury rate experience and on their injury rates themselves, may experience an actual increase in rate. Many industries are experiencing a decrease because of how they've gone after injury rate reduction. Overall there is no increase in the amount of dollars coming out of the business community to take care of WCB assessment rates this year.

MR. HERARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: if the overall cost to business isn't going up and there aren't any more dollars going into WCB over last year, how will the WCB ever reduce its large unfunded liability?

MR. DAY: Well, I've two in a row. Again, I hate to sound optimistic, because that's very risky around here, but I can tell you that by a multipronged attack on the unfunded liability that was announced back in January, also being released this week are the figures that show, number one, that the operational costs of WCB have been reduced some 20 percent. There's a much more consistent claim management process in place. Because businesses have really been aggressive about going after injury rate reduction, the rate of injuries has been reduced significantly enough that we will see this year – and I can state this publicly today – a decrease and a payment to the unfunded liability of approximately \$160 million. So the figure you used to hear of over \$600 million unfunded liability by December 31 of this year, we will deliver. WCB will deliver on that, and the new figure will be approximately \$444 million with the projection to see it reduced to zero within four years.

MR. HERARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to the minister: are you receiving calls and comments from business with regards to these kind of plans?

MR. DAY: As recently as yesterday WCB met with the industry task force and other business groups to lay out the figures for the upcoming year. Overall, the response was positive and encouraging that WCB has got hold of its situation and is, indeed, seeing reductions in these areas. There will be businesses that experience an increase in their rates, and individuals may hear from those, but in fact it can be indicated to them that any increase in their individual rate is because of their experience rating or their injury rates. Overall, the response that we're getting is positive.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud.

### **2:30 Provincial Tax Regime**

DR. PERCY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week Standard and Poor's issued their credit watch on Alberta. Two things stand out in this credit watch. First, although they confirm Alberta's credit rating, they say that the outlook is negative, whereas for a province such as Manitoba they say that the outlook is stable. More importantly, not once, not twice, but three times this report talks about the province's commitment to use its revenue flexibility, if needed, to meet the deficit reduction targets. They talk of the commitment of this government to using its tax revenues. My question is to the hon. Provincial Treasurer: why is it, Mr. Treasurer, when you go to New York, you and your officials talk tax, but when you're in this Legislature, you talk reductions?

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, let's talk facts in this Legislature. What has been said clearly and consistently is that this government



has spelled out a four-year plan that commits to balance the budget by 1996-97. I would point all hon. members to the plan where it says that we are going to attack this problem on the spending side, not on the revenue side. That is our commitment. Let's also be clear what has been on the record and what was on the record during the election campaign, no less. Premier Klein made it clear on June 4 in that bastion of wisdom and journalism, sort of the Edmonton-based version of *Pravda*, the *Edmonton Journal*, front page. "Tax hikes not ruled out," said Mr. Klein. The Premier made the same statement two days before the provincial general election: that he would not rule out taxes during this four-year period but his approach, this government's approach is to do it on the spending side, not on the revenue side.

DR. PERCY: Mr. Speaker, my supplemental is to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Will you commit to holding a referendum before you increase personal taxes or introduce a sales tax?

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, we have made our plan clear, and the Premier made it clear. Not after the election, two days before the election the Premier was asked the question: will you promise to introduce no new taxes? He said: "Any new taxes? No. Raising taxes? I can't give that guarantee because there are things that happen in society like the rising costs of operating." He went on. He was asked about a sales tax. "Will you give a commitment never to introduce a sales tax?" "Absolutely," said Ralph Klein. What did Laurence Decore say when asked the question? Well, we're not sure because it's not . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order. [interjections] Order.  
Final supplemental.

DR. PERCY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplemental is to the Provincial Treasurer. Now that you've flip-flopped on taxes, can you assure the House that when this issue comes forward, tax increases, you will allow a free vote and relax your members from party discipline?

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, this government had the courage to bring out a four-year plan on May 6 spelling out that we would tackle the problem on the spending side, not on the revenue side. This Premier, this leader, two days before an election – two days before an election – had the guts, had the courage to say that he would not rule out that possibility during a four-year term. The leader of the Liberal Party didn't have the guts or the courage to stand up and say the same thing. What the Premier has said and what this government has said from the start is that we will tackle this problem on the spending side, not on the revenue side, because we have a spending problem; we do not have a revenue problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members, the time for question period has expired. Might we revert briefly to Introduction of Guests before proceeding to the next order. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

head: **Introduction of Guests**  
(*reversion*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Vegreville-Viking.

MR. STELMACH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for providing this opportunity. It is indeed my pleasure to introduce to you and

through you to the members of this Assembly 33 students, a grade 10 social class from St. Mary's high school, Vegreville, and their teacher Colleen Fjeldheim, and of course their principal, Mr. Peter Varga, a man of many talents who is also the school bus driver. Included in the group are three students from Japan, Colombia, and Germany. Would this House please give them the traditional warm welcome?

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

MS LEIBOVICI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly Sharon Ward, a part-timer with ALCB and also vice-chair of local 50. If she could please stand.

Thank you.

head: **Members' Statements**

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

### Advanced Education

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak today on student access and tuition fee increases in postsecondary institutions. They're key issues in Calgary-Varsity.

In my constituency of Calgary-Varsity the University of Calgary operates one of the most dynamic postsecondary institutions in western Canada. They have maintained this level of achievement by being proactive in dealing with the current fiscal realities facing this province. The university has implemented five-year plans to support academic priorities. Teaching units are planning a 17 percent budget reduction over five years, with nonacademic units budgeting for a 20 percent reduction. Salaries have been capped or reduced, and the university community has encouraged changes to create efficiencies and identify better and different methods of operating. Mr. Speaker, the University of Calgary is getting the job done. It's time for this government and for the people of Alberta to play their role in this process.

Tuition fees in Alberta are the second lowest in the country. Private institutions such as the Henderson business college offer postsecondary programs on a cost-recovery basis. One answer is to allow postsecondary institutions such as the University of Calgary more authority to set their own tuition fees. More money, Mr. Speaker, will mean more students. This would inject a sense of decentralized decision-making and a competitiveness in the universities in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, this government in concert with all postsecondary institution stakeholders needs to review all student finance programs in this province. We need to develop a new system that will meet the needs of everyone involved. Perhaps we should look at tying student loan repayments to an individual's income tax over several years. The answers must respond to stakeholder needs and still reflect the true cost of advanced education. This government also needs to look at instituting two-year budgeting processes and plans for departments. If Advanced Education were to provide this, the job of the university would be much easier.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray.

### Health Care in Fort Chipewyan

MR. GERMAIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to take the House this afternoon on a short travelogue to the isolated northern community of Fort Chipewyan. It is a commu-

nity that lies just south of the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories. It is a community that does not have an all-weather road. It is a community in which isolation during the winter and indeed in the summer is very pronounced.

Against that short travelogue, Mr. Speaker, I want to paint the backdrop of health care in that community. That community has for their health facilities a small collection of units in which a health nurse dispenses the health needs of that community. The community consists primarily of First Nations peoples belonging to Treaty 8, Metis people, and nonnative people. Can you imagine the concern in a community when they must count on a traveling-in doctor biweekly? Can you imagine the concern when they must count on a dentist coming in once a month for dental health? Imagine the concern if you have a dental problem the day after the dentist has come and gone.

**2:40**

It costs \$250 to fly from Fort Chipewyan to Fort McMurray. It costs nearly \$700 to fly from Fort Chipewyan to Edmonton. We have to determine soon in this House whether we indeed have equal access health care for all Albertans or whether we have equal access health care only for Albertans with hospitals and hardtop pavement. The residents of Fort Chipewyan – the collection of residents from the First Nations, the Metis people, and the whites that live up there – need better in the area of health care. That is why on October 4 it was particularly disconcerting to the residents of Fort Chipewyan, to the First Nations and the Metis and the non-Metis, as to why a little unit, a mobile home unit to provide health care, was canceled. We can do better, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-East.

#### **Maintenance Enforcement**

MR. AMERY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring the House back to Calgary-East. This afternoon I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the issue of maintenance enforcement, a matter of great concern to residents in the constituency of Calgary-East. It is unfortunate that an astounding 61 percent of all female headed single families, or 10 percent of Alberta's population, live in poverty.

One of the reasons for this is that some noncustodial parents ignore court orders and do not pay adequate alimony and child support. With the exception of ex-spouses who perhaps, due to unemployment or a disability, legitimately cannot meet these financial obligations, why should Albertans have to pay the tab for someone else's debts? This province's Maintenance Enforcement Act has been considered a success compared with other governments'. The garnishment of wages, direct deposit systems, and agreements with other governments has improved the Attorney General's efforts to collect on court ordered payments. The federal and provincial governments must work together to examine other measures to make sure that ex-spouses pay alimony and child support.

Other jurisdictions across North America, Mr. Speaker, are currently addressing this program. One recent example is Quebec, which is presently implementing a program that would suspend drivers licence renewals if a child support account is in arrears. This would be an inexpensive and effective deterrent to those who disregard financial obligations ordered by a court. This government presently uses this system to collect unpaid parking tickets. Are Alberta children not worth more?

I hope to address this important issue later in a private member's motion. Let us ensure that Alberta's children can have a bright and promising future ahead.

head: **Projected Government Business**

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Opposition House Leader.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask the Government House Leader what he proposes for the agenda of the House for next week. We are specifying public works for Thursday afternoon.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 13, in the evening in Committee of Supply it will be Justice and Attorney General. Then Thursday it would be the designated department, Public Works, Supply and Services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise as well that we will be asking His Honour to be available on Thursday, October 14, at the conclusion of the question period for Royal Assent on Bills 5 and 7 as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Just for the information of members, the Chair has heard some mutterings from the opposition area about points of order. I'd refer hon. members to the Order Paper. After the Routine is completed for the day in question is the time for points of order. The Chair has had notice that the hon. members for Redwater, Edmonton-McClung, and Edmonton-Mayfield wish to raise points of order, and now the Chair receives the signal from the hon. Member for Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan.

The hon. Member for Redwater.

#### **Point of Order**

#### **Oral Question Period Rules**

MR. N. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point is subsequent to oral questions. In *Beauchesne*, sixth edition, it would be 403, 408(a) and (e), 409(5), and 410(5). I particularly refer to the fact that the Whip, the hon. Member for Stony Plain, for the government bench asked a question of the Attorney General that would be more properly handled, as it says in these references, either by a letter or by a written communication. Either put it on the Order Paper as a question, or put it just as written correspondence. In other words, there are mathematical figures that could be put out at any time. The reason I bring it up: I know there are a lot of new members in the House so I haven't said much about whether a question is of importance or has urgency, but the Whip, who is possibly looked up to by his bench, shouldn't be leading them off in habits that'll get them into problems down the road.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I refer mostly to 410(5), which says quite clearly that "the primary purpose of the Question Period is the seeking of information and calling the Government to account." Now, this House bends over backwards to allow the private members on that side to ask questions, but it stretches credulity to the point of breaking to think that they're "calling the Government to account." The rest of the thing didn't bother me, but when I see the Whip coming in, you cannot help but take the rather uncharitable view that what they're trying to do is take up time with puffballs so that the real "calling the Government to account" cannot take place. This is why I'm trying to call a stop to that procedure.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the fact that Redwater was at least listening. It's unfortunate that he hadn't

paid sufficient attention to the question. I would imagine that we should make it a rule of this House that people such as myself when we're in our place during question period and need aids to hear by should use them all the time. Because when we get to the direction of the question which was to the hon. Minister of Justice, which was to take the government to task – as he indicated from *Beauchesne* – which was to get good information, very good information, for all members of this House, which was in response to constituent concerns with respect to a very significant budget item to the tune of \$26 million, I rather resent it that because I happen to be on this side of the House and I happen to be the Whip, who's got responsibilities in here, that that member should indicate through a quotation from *Beauchesne* that my rights in the House should somehow be inhibited during question period.

I do not sit here and question his sometime comments with reference to other members: which end of an animal particular ministers look at, funny little things that go on. Those things do take away very much from the tone of the House. Now, I asked three questions with very succinct supplementaries, without any preamble, following your rules to the letter, bringing out information to this House that there was a very important initiative that came out today – if they read their news releases, they would know it came out today – with the youth project, which was a very different direction in how legal aid is being provided to the youth end of our province, a section of the population we have been very, very distressed about. I'm talking about young offenders. When he sits there and says that those questions are frivolous, he doesn't have a point of order.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Each member has had their chance to speak on this point of order. The Chair is going to review the Blues carefully as to the content of that question, and we'll have a ruling in due course.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung.

### Point of Order Brevity

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise under *Beauchesne* 410(7), which requires brevity in questions and answers. Once again, today I think we would all be disappointed that both sides of the House received no more questions than they would normally have received. It again is not the fault of questioners. I note today that all questioners actually had preambles of three or fewer sentences to their question, consistent with the rules. It is therefore a problem, I would argue, of answers. However, to be fair, I would like to acknowledge that two ministers distinguished themselves today with the brevity and the conciseness of their answers, and for the record I would like to say thanks to the Minister of Community Development and thanks to the Minister of Education.

2:50

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, on this point of order which is raised at this particular time by the Liberal House leader the hon. member quotes 410(7), brevity. You know, he can be magnanimous at times, but then he goes on to become combative. I can cite Standing Order 23:

- (h) makes allegations against another member;
- (i) imputes false or unavowed motives;
- (j) uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder.

Then he cites one or two members of Executive Council and says that they're models. Well, I want to make it very clear that all

members of Executive Council and all members of this government caucus who are charged with the responsibility to respond to questions in this House are, in fact, models for all members of the Liberal caucus to follow in terms of how to answer questions. There is just simply no way whatsoever that the hon. member can stand here and basically say that, well, his team somehow has some brilliance in raising questions. Mr. Speaker, if that isn't a put-down, then, to all other hon. members of the House – and it falls under 23. I just simply can't find a point of order on this particular matter, and I would ask you to rule such a point of order completely out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Time, gentlemen, please. The Chair recognizes that there is a continuing battle with the clock. The Government House Leader cannot deny that. The Chair will agree with the Government House Leader that the opposition brings a lot of this onto itself and to other members of the House by their constant carping and sniping while somebody's trying to answer a question. They do bring disorder to the House. There's no question about that. The Chair will agree that every minister should examine themselves carefully before they answer the question as to how they're going to answer these questions concisely. It is a two-sided street: the longer the question, the longer the answer is likely to be. The Chair urges both sides to try to continue to improve performance, because we should be getting to 15 questions per day.

The Chair wanted to pay tribute to the Assembly earlier and apologizes for being remiss in not doing so before now, but Tuesday really was an improvement over what we've seen, and it shows what can be done. The Chair is not going to blame the government and certainly not going to blame the opposition entirely either. This is a partnership that you will have to try to work on to improve. We have a long weekend. Let's contemplate it.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mayfield.

### Point of Order Relevance

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to question a member that is repeated in the kind of performance that we've seen in this House. I cite 23(b), 23(d) in our Standing Orders; 408, 410, 417, and 496. It seems, sir, that we have this difficulty, and you pointed out many, many times that brevity is important in this House. I won't deal with that as you've dealt with it just now.

Also dealing with questions and answers to questions, that certainly is in 23(b), where it speaks of: the answer and the question should be of some relevance. So the question and answer should have something to do with each other. When you're dealing with relevance, sir, I submit to you that as much as we on this side think what we have said in the past is in fact relevant, it is not relevant to the question at point when the question is asked of this side of the House. The minister of finance continually tells this House and reads from documents explaining what we on this side of the House have said during some election, which I say to you is totally and completely irrelevant to what the member's question is and the answer to that.

I submit to you also – I'm trying to be very brief here – “should not provoke debate,” which is contained in 408(2). When you do raise what another member has said somewhere in the past, that's precisely what the object of the exercise does, and you'll note, sir, that it does just that continually. We've had examples of that today and yesterday. I know it frustrates you no end, sir.

Brevity in questions has been dealt with, so I shan't deal with 410; 417, "Answers to questions should be as brief as possible."

Then the last one, sir, for which we haven't seen much offence in this House thus far. I quote from *Beauchesne* 496: "A Member may read extracts from documents, books or other printed [material] as part of a speech," but in doing so the rule is infringed. Now, when you read from a document that he discredited in his own speech – he discredited totally and completely the *Edmonton Journal*, I believe, and then proceeded to quote from that document. Well, sir, that is simply not admissible in this House. I ask the Chair to rule that those kinds of statements are totally out of place and do not aid and abet at all in the brevity of any kind of proceedings during question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the Chair briefly would state at this time in response to this point of order that it's really impossible for the Chair to police every possible question and answer as we go along. A lot of this has to be left to hon. members. The Chair wants to refer to the Blues and *Hansard* with respect to the hon. member's point of order, which the Chair understands relates to the question and answers by Edmonton-Whitemud and the Provincial Treasurer.

The hon. Member for Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan.

#### Point of Order Tabling Documents

MRS. ABDURAHMAN: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I stand on a point of order, and I reference Standing Order 37(1) and *Beauchesne* 1. During the debate on Bill 205 I had requested on a point of order a tabling of documents referenced by the Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat. There may be a misunderstanding, but I believe I only have part of the tabled document, attachment 2. I'd request, please, that I have the full document.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat is currently unavailable. It's always been the custom that these matters are not dealt with in the absence of the member who may be cited.

MR. N. TAYLOR: If I may add to it, this is just a copy of 629 or 529; I can't read it. Attachment 2 is all that's filed. We're saying then, obviously there's an attachment 1 missing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair will undertake to bring this to the attention of the hon. member for resolution.

#### Point of Order Questions by Standing Policy Committee Chairmen

MR. SPEAKER: Before calling Orders of the Day, the Chair realizes it promised a ruling with respect to the point of order raised on September 1 by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre. The events giving rise to the point of order were that a member who is a chairman of a standing policy committee had previously answered a question asked by another hon. member. The point made by the Member for Edmonton-Centre was that if the members who chair the standing policy committees were to take the responsibility for answering on behalf of government, they should not be allowed to ask questions in question period.

3:00

The authority the hon. member cited was *Beauchesne*, paragraph 413, which states:

Those such as Parliamentary Secretaries who are clothed with the responsibility of answering for the Government ought not to use

the time of the Question Period for the privilege of asking questions of the Government.

The first task is to grasp the nature of these committees and the members who chair them. First, these committees are not committees of this Assembly. Second, these committees are not created by statute. Third, on October 5, 1993, the Government House Leader advised the Assembly that

these committees ask for and receive input from the general public, and their purpose . . . is to receive advice for the formulation of policy. They are not . . . in a final position to determine government policy . . .

None of [the chairmen of the committees] has taken the Executive Council oath of office, and . . . none has been asked to take the executive office code.

Finally, neither the committees nor their chairmen are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

Given this information, two questions then arise in dealing with this point of order. First, are the members who chair the standing policy committees like parliamentary secretaries? The *Précis of Procedure* of the House of Commons, fourth edition, on page 174 defines parliamentary secretary as "a Member of the Government party named for a period of one year to assist a Minister as the Minister directs." The Parliament of Canada Act sections 46 and 47 provides for the appointment of parliamentary secretaries by the Governor in Council. These are specific appointments, and there's nothing like them. You either are a parliamentary secretary, or you are not. We do not have parliamentary secretaries in Alberta, and we do not have the legislation which would enable their appointment. The Government House Leader made this point on Tuesday. The chairmen of these committees therefore cannot be said to be like parliamentary secretaries.

Second, are the members who chair the standing policy committees "clothed with the responsibility of answering for the Government"? Given the information provided by the Government House Leader, the answer is no. Since these individuals are not appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, are not members of Executive Council, and are not in the position to determine government policy, they cannot be said to be "clothed with the responsibility of answering for the Government." The key here is the statement by the Government House Leader that these individuals do not have any executive or cabinet responsibility.

The Chair wishes to go back to basic principles for a moment. Heard in the book *Canadian Constitutional Conventions* states at page 50, quote:

The principle of responsible government figures prominently in the rules relating to the formation and operation of Cabinet since the government must be held continually accountable to the elected representatives in the legislature.

Question period is a matter of government accountability, as the learned author points out at page 52 of his book.

Tardi, in his book *The Legal Framework of Government*, at page 83 states:

The body which today exercises executive government must also be clearly identified. In legal theory, the executive government encompasses the monarch, the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Therefore, because the monarch and the Lieutenant Governor are not present in the Assembly, it is the Premier and the cabinet who are responsible and accountable in question period.

Since these chairmen are not members of cabinet, they are not directly accountable to the Assembly. They are likely accountable through Executive Council. Therefore, any questions put to these chairmen must be narrow and relate only to the procedural matters and agenda of the standing policy subcommittees. This in turn means that these chairmen have the same right as any other

member to ask questions in question period. Of course, members who chair committees of the Assembly and have a responsibility to the Assembly may be asked questions. As *Erskine May* points out at page 286, "questions are also sometimes addressed to the chairmen of committees directly concerned with the working of the House," such as the Member for Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan.

Finally, the Chair recognizes that in the past members who chair certain statutory bodies, although not members of Executive Council, have been asked questions in question period. An example is the member who chairs the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Strictly speaking, this is a departure from British parliamentary custom, as *Erskine May* points out at page 286:

nor may questions be addressed to private Members about matters with which they are concerned as members of commissions or authorities outside the House.

The Chair accepts that asking questions of members who perform executive duties under statute has become a practice in this Assembly. However, the Chair cautions members that questions to such members must be within the scope of their mandate and should not address matters for which government should be accountable for in question period.

Thank you.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

### Point of Order

#### Allegations against Members

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise on a point of order having the experience of violating more rules from *Beauchesne* than anybody else this session. I would like to rise on 23(h), on the comment from the Leader of the Opposition that there was nobody in the back bench of this government that could effectively represent the women's advisory commission. I see a government composed of more women than any other caucus in the history of government. I see a caucus composed of Indian, Vietnamese, native Indian, Metis origin, founding pioneers of Alberta. I see parents of daughters. I see concerned parents. I see actively involved people in the community, and I would actually take real umbrage being accused of not being able to provide effective representation to the women's advisory commission. I know that you don't usually address this when the other person who made the statement's not here, so I just leave it with you. I would like to thank you for allowing me to express those views.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Redwater on this point of order.

MR. N. TAYLOR: Just to put some input. I think you said 23. What was that thing you quoted?

MRS. ABDURAHMAN: It was 23(h).

MR. N. TAYLOR: Section 23(h) in the orders. "Makes allegations . . ." I see.

No, Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to put in here was that this committee . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: It should be (i).

MR. N. TAYLOR: Pardon. Section 23(i).

This member is correct if this body is supposed to be representative of just a wide-open committee of which anybody could be in, but this body was set up as an advisory council to government.

So to sit and put government people on an advisory council to government is what we're talking about. It doesn't make sense, and it's not a case of whether you're female or male or in between nowadays. It's a plain old-fashioned case that you're not supposed to be in the government if you're on a committee advising the government.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. Member for Redwater has fallen into the trap of not observing the term "private member." For the elucidation of everybody concerned, the members in the second two rows on the government side are not members of any government. They support a government. The only members of government in this Chamber are the people who sit in the front row on the Speaker's right. They are the government and the only members of government.

With regard to the point of order, the Chair recognizes a complaint that has some basis, but it does not really form a point of order technically, because the order states allegations against a particular member and does not apply to a group. Notwithstanding that, the hon. member could have raised this complaint on another part of this section, which is that the language was of such a nature as to create disorder and promote a debate during the question period, which we shouldn't do.

### 3:10 Orders of the Day

#### head: Government Motions

#### Adjournment for Thanksgiving Weekend

16. Mr. Kowalski moved:

Be it resolved that when the Assembly adjourns at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 1993, it shall stand adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 1993.

[Motion carried]

#### head: Committee of Supply

[Mr. Tannas in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call the committee to order.

#### head: Main Estimates 1993-94

#### Economic Development and Tourism

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you'd like to begin this afternoon with some comments.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to be back before the Committee of Supply. The last day on which we were here, there were a large number of questions that were raised of me. I had attempted to answer some of the questions in the House at that time, and I'm completely in the hands of the Assembly. If the Assembly would like me to deal with those answers to those questions today, I'd be very, very pleased to proceed and bring everybody up to date on the specifics of all of them.

I indicated as well to the Liberal House leader that today we would also be hoping to look at the lottery fund revenue and disbursement commitments, and there is of course certainly a document with that. I'd be happy to deal with any and all matters affecting the lottery fund or the lottery legislation.

Before I perhaps proceed with both of those, Mr. Chairman, just to indicate that it's amazing how a few days in this business really goes, because there are so many activities, there are so many

things that go from one week to the next. Just to highlight a couple of things that have happened just recently in the whole industry in these two areas: one with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and perhaps one also with respect to lotteries.

Last weekend in Calgary, Mr. Chairman, beginning on Wednesday and going Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, we hosted in the province of Alberta one of the largest conventions ever held by an organization called the North American state and provincial lottery organizations. This was an opportunity that we had bid on through the Western Canada Lottery Corporation several years ago. There were delegations and groups from a large number of states and provinces in North America that did attend, and the whole discussion was with respect to lotteries. It was a great opportunity, I think. Then from a tourism or economic development point of view, having those 1,000 delegates in the city of Calgary for some five days laid about \$5 million worth of American money in the economy of the province of Alberta. So it's those forms of bridges and that building together that really makes this whole thing kind of interesting.

Earlier this week in Jasper, in fact from Monday through Wednesday – one of the things that we do here in our tourism department, in our province is something called reverse selling. Rather than having sales people from the province of Alberta go to other jurisdictions in North America or the world to promote Alberta, what we have done is gone the other way. We had some 54 tourism wholesalers from the United States and Canada that we prequalified. These are major wholesalers who will sell tourism packages in the province of Alberta. We invited 54 of them from a prequalification list. They had to, in fact, do a certain level of business and had to have a certain amount of territory that they dealt with. They met with 107 of Alberta's private-sector tourism suppliers to discuss, in fact, the purchasing of tourism opportunities in the province of Alberta as we go through 1994 and 1995.

That's really significant, Mr. Chairman, because I think I pointed out the other day when I was giving my overview here that the only jurisdiction in Canada in the last fiscal year that actually showed an increase in the amount of tourism in its provincial jurisdiction was the province of Alberta, where there was an overall 3 percent increase in tourism attractiveness to the province of Alberta. One part of Alberta, Calgary and the southern Alberta region, showed a 10 percent increase in tourism. That is quite incredible when you take a look at the marketplace that's happening throughout the rest of the world. To a large degree I sincerely hope that, in fact, that increase is a result of very aggressive marketing that's going through a lot of the organizations in Calgary, from the Calgary convention association to the Calgary Economic Development Authority and, in fact, private entrepreneurs in the Calgary area who've done it.

It's one of the things that we do in terms of marketing. We will continue to do this. These were wholesalers that came from the United States and Canada. Before too long we'll be doing another kind of seminar for several days, and we'll be inviting wholesalers from Europe who are prequalified to come here and in fact get firsthand opportunities from tourism wholesalers in this province.

Midweek as well, Mr. Chairman, I circulated to all Members of the Legislative Assembly three very important documents which were called business guides for the United States marketplace. They arrive out of an understanding of the free trade agreement that is, in fact, under almost formal review, at least we've signed two of the three signatories of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. In fact, these three particular documents that we just released have come about in response to private-sector interest

here in the province of Alberta. One of these pamphlets was called Business Entry to the United States. The second was Getting Your Goods across the Border, and basically it looks at practical questions that companies may have here who are beginning to plan to export. The third one was a document called Government Procurement, and it outlines some of the types of United States government contract opportunities available to companies. All members will know that the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services, that particular department, started printing a document several years ago which outlined procurement opportunities in the province of Alberta for all entrepreneurs in the province of Alberta.

In addition to that, in a previous portfolio under the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services we've entered into agreements with other provinces in western Canada and provinces in eastern Canada and also with the federal government to in fact set up such instruments as the western purchasing information network, which allows an entrepreneur in the province of Alberta to operate out of his or her home and in fact access through a very, very low-cost modem all of the contracts that are currently being made available by various levels of government in these other jurisdictions that signed on. It's a very, very low-cost way of doing business. It means that you do not have to subscribe to thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of magazines and business trade pamphlets. It means that you don't have to spend thousands and thousands of dollars on a monthly basis phoning different governments to say, "Well, what are you offering today?" It's a very clean, simple computer program. If you're in the widget business, you phone up, you punch into the program that says: who is wanting to buy something in the widget area? They'll print out for you in a matter of seconds. All of the levels of government in Canada will make that available. It's going to change the dynamics of the workplace, because in essence you can have your own business in the basement of your home. You don't have to have a storefront on the most expensive plot in town to do business. I think it's really significant, and it's part of the whole overall review.

These are just three of the many, many events that just occurred in the last five days, but they're important ones. Mr. Chairman, if one of these days I ever have the opportunity to give up the position of Government House Leader, I intend on basically marketing this stuff on a daily basis instead of having to be worrying about question period and attendance in the House and whether or not there's a point of order coming or going. So stay tuned because I soon intend on abandoning that topic and getting on to the real exciting thing.

A question was raised the other day by one of the hon. members with respect to – I guess there was some research that was in one or two of the Edmonton daily papers that basically had headlines like: boat got double bucks, says Grits, and riverboat may sail in days. There was a question in here saying that there was a document that was filed somewhere that basically said that the riverboat company was going to be looking for a certain amount or level of government money. Then the question addressed to me in the House, Mr. Chairman, was: well, if they only asked for that, why did you give them that? I said: well, I don't know; I wasn't involved in the discussion at the time.

I have done some research since yesterday. A great many hours I had to spend yesterday afternoon into the late evening and most of this morning trying to ascertain much of this information. It turns out that the words used in the question were not exactly a hundred percent. They were sort of misleading – I shouldn't say misleading, but they were leading words. In fact, the document that was tabled by the hon. member basically talked about just

really an overview, that somebody was talking about a projection. The fact of the matter is – in response to the question why did the government provide a guarantee of \$947,000 when the company only asked for \$400,000? – the question itself was wrong. The company asked – asked – for a guarantee of \$947,000. They did not ask for a guarantee of half of that or any other figure.

I thought the hon. member would want to know that answer today, because it might preclude her from going down a wrong road in some questions she might be working on this weekend in anticipation of next week's question period on Wednesday or Thursday. I thought that would be helpful advice in a nice way.

3:20

There also were questions with respect to Chembiomed Ltd., and the hon. member took the time to raise the question, so I'm very, very happy to respond to the question. Mr. Chairman, Chembiomed Ltd. is one of those high-risk biotechnical, I suppose, initiatives that occurred during the 1980s. Chembiomed basically received approval on June 20, 1985, from the government of Alberta. They received a five-year funding agreement in the amount of \$30 million. That agreement expired in 1991. Chembiomed Ltd. is a collaboration of business, academia, and government. It was the three parties. It was created in 1977. It was created to exploit Dr. Raymond Lemieux's research in the synthesis of biologically active carbohydrates. Commercially the company compared favourably with most other companies in the developing biotechnically based industry in the mid-1980s. When I say "compared favourably," all of them basically lost money, and Chembiomed was no exception to that rule: no more losses, no better losses. Chembiomed was accepted at one time as the most advanced research capability in carbohydrate technology in the world and was judged to be years ahead of its nearest competitor in product development. The company's products demonstrated medical breakthroughs in organ transplant medicine and AIDS research.

In the 1991-92 fiscal year the government decided it could no longer support the financial operations of the company. However, we did want to see the continuation of the research associated with it, so on October 26, 1991, the decision was made to transfer the ongoing research activities to the Alberta Research Council and to wind down operations of the company by March 31, 1992. Assets not transferred to the Alberta Research Council were sold. The decision allowed Chembiomed Ltd. to remain a legal entity, retaining the rights to technology to allow subsequent benefits from successful commercialization to benefit the province. Chembiomed also retained title to its building, which Biomira Inc. is leasing with an option to purchase. [Ms Carlson left the Chamber] Oh, the hon. member . . . Okay. Well, then we won't answer the question about how much assistance was involved, just to say that that perhaps is an update with respect to Chembiomed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there were a lot of questions raised with respect to the estimates on September 13. I, frankly, am in the hands of the hon. members, because on the one hand I know they want the answers, and perhaps me providing the answers may preclude some other questions this afternoon. On the other hand, we have spent an incredible amount of man-hours with respect to these answers. I guess if an hon. member raises a question, then perhaps it is incumbent upon the minister to respond. So perhaps that's the feeling of the Deputy Government House Leader, who was suggesting, yes, that if you raise the question, you should respond to them. So I'd be very happy to begin.

In *Hansard* of September 13 '93, on page 181, there was a question from the Member for Calgary-North West. He said: how comfortable is the minister that the \$140 million figure of the total

ministry budget is accurate? Well, Mr. Chairman, I didn't have a chance at that time to respond to that question. I'll respond to it today. The budget of \$140 million is accurate. It reflects good programming and good work of the department.

On that same day the member said, "With an amalgamation of three departments into one, is there not still substantial room for further [staff] reductions?" The response to that question: yes, there is always opportunity as we continue to evaluate and as we continue to go forward to see if in fact we can create bigger efficiencies and better efficiencies.

The member also said on pages 181 and 182: why did vote 2.3.2 go from \$490,000 to \$1.4 million this year? What's going on in tourism and trade programs? Well, Mr. Chairman, that vote increased amounts for the formation of the major events and promotions unit that we have, which brings together the larger promotional events of tourism, trade, and investment. Remember, it was an amalgam of the three into that area. That unit's responsible for Alberta representation at major international trade shows. In addition, that unit takes a lead role in developing and facilitating with industry the reverse marketplace, the type that I gave indicating what was happening in Jasper earlier this year, along with the major economic indicators that we have.

In the current fiscal year we're organizing our involvement in 32 events in 12 different industry sectors, and the majority are in the areas of oil and gas, equipment and services, environmental technology, tourism, proactive and reactive media relations. Of the shows 10 are in Alberta, eight are in Canada, and the remaining 10 are in other countries.

The hon. gentlemen may like to know some examples of the kinds of promotions that were held in Alberta in 1993. They included the *Jurassic Park* promotion, which was held June 11 to August 31 of this year. The Calgary Oil and Gas Trade Show was held June 15 to 17; the Abbotsford Airshow in Canada in which we had representation from Alberta; Alberta Aerospace Industries on August 4 to 8; the Equi-Fair, September 8 to 12; and this week the Alberta Marketplace, October 4, 5. In a couple of weeks from now we'll have the Alberta International Forestry Show from October 21 to 23, and in the spring of 1994 we'll have Enviro Fair and the media marketplace.

Some of the events held outside of Alberta, Mr. Chairman, include the Offshore Europe show in Aberdeen, Scotland, which was held September 7 to 10, and the Control Ambiental show in Mexico City, which is September 20, 22. We'll be in Petrovietnam in Saigon with a mission of Alberta entrepreneurs in the oil and gas industry on October 14 to 16 as Alberta entrepreneurs attempt to get involved in that marketplace in a rejuvenated Vietnam. We'll be in the environmental show in Montreal in November 1993; Moex in Malta in January 1994; the Olympic balloon project in Norway, and of course the Olympics are in Norway in February 1994; the Media Marketplace in New York and Los Angeles in March of 1994.

It may very well be, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Calgary-North West might even want to attend one or two of these events as one of the critics from the Liberal opposition. If he would like to get more information with respect to that, we'll certainly provide for him the information as to how you register and my good offices may even assist him – my good offices – if he wanted to get there, because we want to promote Alberta, and there could be some good promoters. If there are some good promoters, anybody who wants to help with this, we'd be happy to do it.

Mr. Chairman, another question on page 181. What is the status of the Premier's Council on Science and Technology? "Are we getting good value for the \$381,000 budget?" Well, I can either

give a long answer or I can give a short answer. I know that I would not want to provide a précis because it would probably leave something out, so perhaps I should give some of the examples. I really think the council is doing a very good job. It's an advisory council. The government basically said that we want to see a number of things happen. It has made recommendations to the government in a number of ways, and there is action being taken.

Now, this is with respect to the Premier's Council on Science and Technology. This autumn in the science education at the K to 12 levels Alberta Education made science one of its four core areas of the elementary curriculum. I want to thank the Minister of Education for coming forward in that regard and being proactive in that regard, because one of the key components in the future is perhaps a move away from the arts and the focus on arts that occurred through much of the '60s and the '70s and basically a recognition as we go to the next millennium that science in fact will become a great leveller throughout the whole world. That's just one example.

A number of recommendations have been incorporated into the document that the Premier issued earlier this spring called Seizing Opportunity and in the setting up of the Tax Reform Commission with respect to the importance of science and technology in the province of Alberta in the new directions we have to go. Our personnel administration office here in the province of Alberta in the area of training of public service managers was asked to take a look at particularly a number of departments where administrators were being hired – in fact to look at them to see if they had a background in science and a background with a management philosophy that had some recognition of science.

In the high-performance computing area, Mr. Chairman, the partially government-supported HPC Inc. facility was opened in Calgary in June of 1993. We're currently involved in negotiation with the federal government concerning the installation of a high-speed telecommunications network, which is currently expected to be in place on a trial basis by the end of the calendar year. We're involved in working with career counselors at the high school level primarily in the province of Alberta and advising them of sources of job information in technology-sensitive areas.

3:30

As well, Mr. Chairman, and this may very well be of interest to the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie and perhaps the Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert and others, we have had published a short publication of women in science and technology. It was published in September of 1992. In biotechnology, Mr. Chairman, advice was provided on Alberta's actions relating to a national biotechnology strategy. There have been ongoing meetings that our science and technology group here in Alberta has had with the National Forum of Science and Technology Advisory Councils in 1990. That's certainly an area that I think is very important that we go forward with and an important one that we would want to continue to promote.

Now, on page 181: what value is Alberta getting for the funds spent in Alberta offices? Can the minister show that Alberta has got 15 new businesses or 2,500 new business or increased trade? It was kind of a good question because it gave you a heck of a lot of room to play with if you could come up with a number between 15 and 2,500. Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm very, very pleased to report that in fact we think that as a result of what has happened, we can show quantitatively that in 1992 overall exports increased 9.4 percent to \$19.4 billion and exports are up 9.9 percent for the first quarter of 1993 in the province of Alberta. Mr. Chairman,

that is very, very significant. We're talking about 9.4 and 9.9 percent increases.

Of course, another way to evaluate, Mr. Chairman, is to basically evaluate effectiveness in total tourism receipts. Total tourism receipts now exceed \$3 billion, and I indicated earlier that those revenues on a provincewide basis were 3 percent and 10 percent in Calgary-Banff.

Of course, then a third way, Mr. Chairman, is to evaluate investment flows, and we've had 350 new investments . . .

[Mr. Kowalski's speaking time expired]

MR. KOWALSKI: Oh, Mr. Chairman, this is kind of important. Questions were raised of the minister. The minister would be very, very happy to respond to all the questions, and I wonder if I could have leave of the House to continue answering these questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know that that can be asked through the Chair.

We have been asked by the minister to give unanimous consent to giving him a few more minutes to complete the answers to the questions that were asked earlier. All those in favour, please say aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those opposed, please say no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. KOWALSKI: Thank you very much for that. The last time we did this, Mr. Chairman – remember? – I was accused of filibustering my own estimates, and we went on for two and a half hours. [interjections] I know there's no time limit on it; I will be governed by that, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

#### **Chairman's Ruling Seeking Unanimous Consent**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I now have a point of order before I can get order. [interjection]

You're not at your place. If somebody's in their place and wants to make a point of order, they can do so.

Mr. Minister, we didn't get unanimous agreement. I learned this lesson badly the other night. You will have other chances in a moment, if they're not going to give unanimous consent. We had it withdrawn the other night.

With that, Calgary-North West.

#### **Debate Continued**

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have watched the hon. minister in action before, and I'm sure he'll be pleased to know that I've taken his guidance and counsel to heart: that we should be models. So sit back, relax, and listen. Here we go.

I'd like to start, Mr. Chairman, with my favourite company, the Alberta Opportunity Company, program 6. Total operating expenditures proposed under this particular subdepartment: \$17.5 million. When I look back at the annual report of the Alberta Opportunity Company – and I raise this one today because I don't think we got to it last time. Because there are so many interesting issues in this minister's department to be discussed, I don't think



we really discussed it very thoroughly. My initial question, I guess, right off the top is: last year \$14.1 million is what we allocated, according to the budget document; this year the minister proposes to increase that by \$3.4 million, and I'd like to know why.

I must give credit where credit is due, you know, Mr. Chairman. They are moving with much more alacrity in getting these annual reports out, because here we are in October and we already have the annual report for the 1992-93 fiscal year. I would like to compliment the minister on getting that report out in a timely fashion.

Having said that, the report does indeed raise some interesting questions. If you'll bear with me, Mr. Chairman, the reason I have to ask sort of through the annual report is because the only thing we have in the budget documents is a proposed expenditure of 17 and a half million dollars, and there's no rationale of why we should accept that. Now, when I look at the annual report and I look at the notes – because with any annual report, of course, there are always notes that follow the statement of changes in financial position; there are always some notes at the end of it – there are some figures that rather jump out at me. I wonder if the minister might be able to answer those as well, because I have some subquestions that really come out of what's happened in the past that will lead me, help me make my decision on whether or not I support this 17 and a half million dollar proposed expenditure. I've got to be honest with the minister right up front. I'm very concerned about this, and the chances of my supporting it are pretty slim, based on the past record.

Note 4 in the annual report talks about loans and accrued interest receivable, less the allowance for doubtful accounts. So we see a \$11.3 million loss for doubtful accounts. I say to myself: they lost \$11 million last year, and we gave them \$14.1 million last year. So if we take that same kind of a proposal, we're saying that this year we're going to give them 17 and a half million dollars. Last year they lost 11 and a half million dollars out of \$14.1 million, ballpark; I'm rounding off here, obviously, Mr. Chairman. Then it seems to me we're likely to lose, out of the 17 and a half million dollars we're proposing to give them this year, probably around \$14 million. That doesn't seem to me to be a very good rate of return on our investment.

And then I look further along in the annual report, and it talks about venture investments. Now, just putting it all in perspective, the \$11 million loss in allowance for doubtful accounts is on a total of \$108 million in loans. Then we get down a little further, venture investments. It says that last year they made \$9 million in venture investments, and they lost \$6.9 million out of the \$9 million. That's better than two-thirds, in fact, Mr. Chairman. I say to myself: losing two-thirds of your venture investments makes it difficult for me to want to support that.

So I thought, well, maybe there's some good news somewhere, because the government benches keep talking about what good news this is. So I looked a little further. I came to Note 6, which happened to be the very next one, and it said: seed investments. Well, they loaned about \$2.4 million and lost \$1.7 million out of the \$2.4 million, and I said: well, that's not really good news, either.

Well, maybe if I go a little further, perhaps I can find some good news. I kept looking for good news, and I said to myself: well, is there some good news in here somewhere? I looked, and I said: well, gee, their accumulated deficit has gone down a little bit. It's gone from \$34 million down to \$33.5 million. I said: well, that's a step in the right direction, I guess. But then I said to myself: well, why would that have gone down like that? Quite frankly, I couldn't find any answers.

Then I looked at Note 12 a little further on, and I said: oh, here's why; they simply wrote off any opportunity, any chance at all of ever getting back \$9 million in accounts written off in the 1993 year. I said: there's no chance in the world we're going to get any money back on the \$9 million, and, further, they're making an allowance that they're anticipating losing another \$21 million. I said to myself: you know, they've already got a 33 and a half million dollar loss; they're anticipating, according to their own documents, a further \$21 million loss, forgetting the fact they've already written off \$9 million this year. And the minister comes to me and to all Albertans and says, "We'd like to give this company another 17 and a half million bucks." I said to myself: I can't do that. So I'd really like the minister to tell me what the good news is in this corporation. When I look at their annual report from previous years, and they say they've got a \$33 million surplus and they wrote off \$9 million last year and they're allowing \$20 million more this year, how can this possibly be good news?

In particular, I go back to Note 2, and it says right there in the last paragraph, to quote from the 1992-93 annual report of the Alberta Opportunity Company:

The Province of Alberta maintains the financial viability of the Company by granting money appropriated for this purpose.

In other words, if the government didn't give it a grant every year to keep it going, this company would fold up. Given that it's got \$33 million in annual deficits, the only way it seems that they buy that down at all over the years is when the government gives it a huge grant and they manage not to lose it all. That seems to be the only way they actually buy down the deficit. Well, it doesn't seem to me to be making a whole lot of sense when the government takes money out of one pocket, throws it in another pocket, and if there's anything left at the end of the year, they say, "Hey, we made money."

So I would really like, well, maybe the Treasurer, but the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, under whose portfolio the Alberta Opportunity Company lies, to tell me why it is that we should support this corporation. Quite frankly, when I look at the annual report, I am very skeptical. Now, that's not to say that nobody has ever benefited by the operations of the Alberta Opportunity Company, because surely somewhere along the line there's 33 million bucks walking around out there that somebody's managed to get ahead on. Unfortunately, they managed to get ahead on the backs of the Alberta taxpayers, and as I've said before, quite frankly I don't believe we can afford that. You know, it's only a one-line item. There's very, very little in terms of description in the budget documents that are here for us. It simply says

To provide support for the operations of the Alberta Opportunity Company. . . . provide funding for small and medium-sized businesses to promote the growth and diversification of the provincial economy.

Well, certainly we want to diversify the economy, but when we're doing it in such a rather ineffective manner, it hardly seems to me to be an appropriate mechanism.

### 3:40

Moving along to two other areas, Mr. Chairman. One of the important tasks of economic development of course deals with trade, and we have some line items in here that in fact deal with trade and the idea of promoting interprovincial trade and in fact international trade. I know that this government supported the free trade agreement, which the Alberta Liberal Party also did. One of the things that I look at is: how are we doing? The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has in the past looked at trade and where we are going in the future. Of course, we have a section

devoted to Tourism, Trade and Investment, vote 2.3, that deals with this very issue.

The interesting concern from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is, they say, that one of the biggest problems we have is that there are barriers between easy movement of goods and services and people from one province to the next. I'm talking about one province to the next. I'm not talking about one nation to the next; I'm talking about one province to the next. All within this great land of Canada, there are difficulties. In fact, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association says that a single market could save billions of tax dollars, and when they say billions, they mean 6 and a half billion dollars.

So I look at our budget here that says Tourism, Trade, and Investment, \$25 million, and I say to myself, you know, if we could save some of that 6 and a half billion dollars, maybe we could save some money here. So I looked a little further, and I said: what were the big cost items? Cost item 1 that they refer to is more efficient government goods procurement and more efficient government services procurement. Those two items together, according to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, with whom I've chatted with representatives on a number of occasions, are in total, combined, costing the Alberta taxpayers somewhere around \$5 billion.

[Mr. Clegg in the Chair]

Now, if we in fact could recognize, transfer, however you like it, some of those savings to our budget right here, even if we only take 10 percent of that, because Alberta has 10 percent of the population of this country, and we applied it directly to tourism, trade and investment, there could be potentially a saving of half a billion dollars that could be saved in part through, I'm sure, the department of public works, because they wouldn't have to pay such high prices for items. The development of trade in the province: this budget line item could be reduced right within the province of Alberta. To save half a billion dollars right within our own province simply by getting rid of some of the barriers that we have would certainly be a step in the right direction. So I'm a big advocate of that.

I'm wondering what it is that the minister is doing to reduce those trade barriers either under this line item, Tourism, Trade and Investment, or other line items, because the barriers to trade are clearly a big cost item to this government and therefore, of course, to the people of Alberta. So I'm wondering what it is that the minister is doing in that regard. I'm sure the biggest one the minister already knows about, although it's not directly, I suppose, related to government activity. The two things that then follow up with the government procurement services that I mentioned earlier are agricultural trade barriers and trade barriers affecting the movement of beer and wine. Those are issues that are severely impacting Albertans and, in fact, all Canadians. I would like this government to take a leading role in removing some of those trade barriers. So I'd like to know where we're going in that direction.

Where the Canadian Manufacturers' Association says you could realize some savings: the scale of production could be increased. In other words, instead of having a whole bunch of small plants, you could make one or two larger ones, and that would result in some savings. The corporations would be able to compete more effectively against one another. The companies that are now working on preferential government purchasing contracts would have to become more effective, and that would be a step in the right direction. Obviously, of course, if you get one province that sets up any kind of a barrier or whatever in one province, it's going to have an impact, because you're going to get responsive barriers in the other provinces.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I've talked about barriers. Just to quantify what this really means, and again this is research that's been done by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, they have estimated that there are a total of 500 of these types of barriers costing us \$5 billion in total, which is really a rather staggering amount of money. I would really like to know what it is that the government is doing in this department or in any other department, for that matter. But since we're on Economic Development and Tourism today, what is it in particular that the government is doing in that regard?

Mr. Chairman, the other areas that I would like to touch on a little bit – in fact the minister talked about some of our tourism initiatives and, I think, was listing off a long list of trips and trade and tourism shows and such and so on that are proposed or have been held and are going to go on in the future. Of course, I've talked about foreign offices in the past as well. One of the difficulties we have there is that to simply go over and say that we've gone on a trip – for example, the minister said that we've got a \$3 billion tourism industry. If you just look at the face of that number, as the minister responded, it sounded like he was saying that all of that tourism industry, that whole \$3 billion – it's not quite \$3 billion – is due to the outrageous success, the wonderful success of our foreign offices. We know that that's simply not the case. What the minister said was that here are our foreign offices, on one hand, and on the other hand he said: here's our total trade and here's our tourism investment and here's our tourism return and so on and so forth. What I would like to know is: how much of that list, say for tourism of \$3 billion, can be directly attributable to our foreign offices? We do talk in here, again in Tourism, Trade and Investment, about our agents general, our staff in our different offices, and we have an expenditure here of almost \$10 million allocated specifically to our foreign offices. I'm wondering why it is that we can't get a clear, definitive answer that says: we're spending \$10 million this year; in the 1993-94 fiscal year we propose to spend \$10 million, and in return we're going to get \$50 million worth of investments. Why can't we get that kind of a number that clearly shows we're spending X and our return is Y, instead of this global figure which means absolutely nothing? So I'm putting the question again to the minister. We're spending this amount of money, under Tourism, Trade and Investment, vote 2.3, and we need some clear figures, because Albertans have a right to know what it is we're getting for our money.

3:50

Now, the difficulty that I have with these is that in addition to putting this money out for these foreign offices, the government then goes out and hires consultants. They hire consultants to do this, that, and the other thing. When I look at some of those consultants' fees and what we're getting for them, again I have to say to myself: what is it that we are really getting for value in that area?

Mr. Chairman, I see that my time is moving along quickly here, so I'll make a few concluding comments. The project called Westaim is funded under Advanced Technology and Engineering Support, 3.2.7. I think the concept of Westaim is basically a pretty good concept; that is, to develop new technologies and market them to the world. But then when you look at the process by which this is to occur, one of the difficulties is that I doubt very much, under the way the system currently works, that we're going to get many investors into a project. The reason I say that is because of course this is a government funding program. Sherritt Gordon puts in 25 cents on the dollar on a project, and the government matches that with the other 25 cents. So there's 50 cents on the dollar. The proponent of the project puts in the other half, the other 50 cents of the dollar. Well, so far so good.

The problem is that the proponent of a project also has to bring the technology and at the end of the project doesn't own the technology. Westaim and the province of Alberta own the technology. So it's hard for me to believe that given this kind of a structure, which obviously is very favourable to Westaim, anybody else is actually going to come on board and buy into this. So I would like to know, since we're putting this year \$1.08 million into this particular project, how it is that the government expects to get much return on their investment.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as I see that I am getting close to my time, the minister did ask for some suggestions regarding what it is he should do with respect to the issue of full-time equivalent employees. We did say, "Well, yes, you've reduced somewhat, but are there not more reductions that can occur?" The minister said, "Well, give me some names." I'd be happy to provide him with some names. We could start with, in principle, first of all the concept of all the people who got jobs without a full competition being issued for their positions. We could start, for example, with Stan Schellenberger, who is a former Tory Member of Parliament. He gets a pension, gets \$100,000 in pay, and we're really not sure what it is that he does for that. We could look at Jim Armet, who was the former executive assistant to the former minister, who now also has some kind of a spot within government. We're not quite sure. We could look at Don Clarke, who was a sometime candidate for the Conservatives, got a contract, again, that was never given any public notice. We could look at Matt Collins, former executive director of the party in Calgary. He is paid \$72,000. Those are the kinds of people that the minister should look at.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, in reference to the last question raised by the Member for Calgary-North West, please be advised that I indeed will look at all of the staff associated with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Please be advised that, in fact, I have spent a great deal of time already looking at some of these very competent people. We've had some very interesting discussions about many of the other things that we'll be going with as well.

Mr. Chairman, when I had discussed the matter of this additional recall of this particular department today, in the exchange between myself and the House leader for the Liberal caucus there was some interest in the lottery fund. Of course, there is an estimate for the lottery fund, and to this point in time there have been no questions raised about it. That's okay with me, because that's all I've heard for the last five years. Everybody wanted to raise questions with it, and now having had several opportunities, nobody's done it yet. Perhaps I could just look at these estimates and just do a quick overview with respect to the document, page 49 of the budget document, because it was part of it today. In terms of the update that was given in the September budget update, we were looking at estimated revenues of some \$228 million, and that was compared to the May budget, a document of \$199 million.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we've also put out the profile, which all members can take a look at, that shows that in our September update we're looking at annual expenditures in the 1993-94 fiscal year of \$142,670,000, which would see a surplus that would then be transferred out of the lottery fund into the general revenue fund, a surplus of \$85,330,000. Mr. Chairman, when we introduced the May budget, that transfer was \$43 million, so there's been an additional \$42 million that has accrued under the Alberta lottery fund that would now be transferred into the general revenue fund.

In the profile in terms of all the disbursements that are listed in there, there's a long list of disbursements that go with it. The

agricultural exhibitions and fairs in the province of Alberta will receive \$6,880,000; the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede board, \$5 million; Edmonton Northlands, \$5 million. Hon. members should know that those \$5 million grants that are provided to both Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Edmonton Northlands are the result of a long-standing commitment that occurred in the 1970s. It was at that time that these two organizations were in fact the originators of the lottery fund in the province of Alberta. Events then showed that the province of Alberta moved in and took over authority and control, and in a partial way of honouring that agreement, we agreed we would provide both of these organizations these \$5 million grants on an annual basis. They in turn took the grants, Mr. Chairman, and did capital developments both in Calgary and in Edmonton. The AgriCom building in Edmonton is the most recent example. So these \$5 million that flow to both of these boards pay off the debentures of the original investment on most of the capital infrastructure at both places. So it becomes an easy flow of dollars. They wanted to have something built. The province said that we didn't have the dollars to pay for it completely, to assist them in paying for it, but if they went ahead and did it, then there would be a debenture that would go to allow them to do the repayments. It's worked very, very well.

There's a modest program of \$2,950,000 that the minister of agriculture and rural development, rural economy, administers that he called agricultural initiatives. There are agricultural society fair grants for class A, for classes B and C, agricultural societies' very, very modest grants that go from \$3,000 to \$7,500 a year for the most part.

The Citizenship and Heritage Secretariat is funded by the Alberta lottery fund. It is not the general revenue fund that funds the Citizenship and Heritage Secretariat, a budget of \$2,475,000. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation receives \$2,850,000. The Alberta Foundation for the Arts – and we discussed last evening the estimates of the Minister of Community Development – and various artistic organizations throughout the province of Alberta receive upwards of \$15,754,000. Some of these organizations, Mr. Chairman, are pretty important in our society, but they also receive very substantial funding. In essence, I've made the comments in the past that virtually everyone who goes to a facility like the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton or the Citadel in Edmonton – and of course there are similar kinds of organizations in Calgary – basically has 25 percent of the price of their tickets subsidized by the Alberta lottery fund. The Citadel here in the city of Edmonton receives something like over a million dollars a year.

The Chinook Arch regional library system: we've heard some discussion about that particular project in this House in recent days. It received \$250,000 from the Alberta lottery fund that allowed them in essence to make with the new capital infrastructure that they had. In the past the Department of Community Development, or its previous names that it had, paid for some of the capital infrastructure, but in recent years it was the Alberta lottery fund that in fact provided the dollars for some of this infrastructure.

There are some other ones, Mr. Chairman, that we might want to make comment on. Recently in downsizing of government the Alberta Sport Council and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation were amalgamated. They receive on an annual basis \$14,885,000 from the Alberta lottery fund. Their job, of course, is to promote the sporting events in the province of Alberta and to do a wide variety of other things. Just looking into the future, some pretty important events will occur in the province of Alberta in the next couple of years. The community of Slave Lake will

host the world Arctic games in 1994, and the city of Grande Prairie and all of northwestern Alberta will host the Canada Winter Games in the early spring of 1995. Of course, in the past we've had the Olympics in the province of Alberta in Calgary. We've had the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. We've had the university games in Edmonton, and we've had the Canada Games in this province in southern Alberta.

4:00

We also did participate in the Scouts Canada 1993 National Jamboree, which was held in Kananaskis Country in midsummer of this year. Thousands and thousands of young men and women gathered, unfortunately in the rain, for a couple of weeks, Mr. Chairman.

Tourism initiatives through the CTAP program and Team Tourism program received some \$10 million on an annual basis; the Wild Rose Foundation, \$6.6 million. We provided \$5 million under the advanced medical equipment purchases program. In the past we bought magnetic resonance imagery machines for some major facilities in the province of Alberta. Those machines cost some \$2 million. They were paid for under the Alberta lottery fund. The community facility enhancement program, 30 million bucks. We provided the Ex Terra Foundation with \$1,940,000 this year.

Mr. Chairman, the Ex Terra Foundation dinosaur show that was held in Edmonton was successful. It seems that people judged certain things by the number of people who attended the show while in the city of Edmonton. It was successful from this perspective. While it may not have attracted all the people some people thought it was going to attract, the fact of the matter is that what it gave in terms of publicity to the province of Alberta was quite significant on a national and an international basis. We were able to get a follower – and I mentioned this on September 13 – that went with the movie *Jurassic Park*, which has been shown throughout the world, and basically gave us tremendous amount of coverage. This Ex Terra Foundation show will be going to another part of Canada, to be opened very soon – perhaps under way even now – in the city of Toronto. It will be going to Japan in 1994. When it leaves Canada for Japan, there is a possibility it may in fact go to Australia for a period of time. Some of the individuals associated with the Ex Terra Foundation were in Japan and Australia in recent days and have come back and reported to me that there is a possibility that that will happen. That will provide us with incredible dividends in terms of promotion of the province of Alberta and promotion of one of these very important things in the world.

Most of the reviews that are done clearly indicate that people are fascinated by three things in the province of Alberta. They're fascinated by RCMP with red serge coats, they're fascinated by the Rocky Mountains, and they're absolutely fascinated by dinosaurs. There's something international about a dinosaur, and of course Alberta is really the great home of the dinosaur.

Mr. Chairman, we are also providing to the Glenbow-Alberta Institute \$3.2 million this year. We've also indicated that under the education equity program and the approach to provide equity financing in education, we will provide this year \$17.5 million out of the Alberta lottery fund. The medical expenditure is here in a very significant way. There are educational expenditures here in a very significant way.

Perhaps a lot of members, because they may read stories in the paper and get confused about the reality of the whole world, somehow think this is just a Tory slush fund and there happens to be one minister who somehow . . . I don't know what he's supposed to do with this. I guess he sits in his bedroom at night,

counts up all the lottery tickets or something, finds out how many dollars there are, and apparently somehow just willy-nilly, if I believe the stuff I read, dispenses it. All of these expenditures, Mr. Chairman, are expended essentially through organized infrastructure that goes with it.

I've said repeatedly, repeatedly, repeatedly, ad nauseam, that in fact there are boards or agencies that cover these things, and there are auditors and chartered accountants that deal with it. This is the annual report for the Alberta Art Foundation, Mr. Chairman, which receives dollars from the Alberta lottery fund. It's an annual report. It's got everything in it anybody would ever want to know. It's a public report, and it's audited by the province's Auditor General. It is not the minister responsible for lotteries who willy-nilly somehow dispenses these dollars to this particular entity. This is the Alberta Art Foundation report.

There's an annual report for the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Mr. Chairman, which contains all the pertinent information with respect to each and every one of these questions. There's an annual report for the Alberta Sport Council, which does exactly the same thing in their periodic reports as well.

Mr. Chairman, there's an annual report for the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, which covers all expenditures. It includes a listing of every conceivable project they do. It is not the minister of lotteries who made a decision to give to the recreation parks and cultural department in the town of Lacombe \$625 that would assist them in purchasing benches and mats for some activity they have. We give a global figure. There's a board in place, and it's not one minister running around willy-nilly doing this.

Here is the annual report of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, the 1992 annual report, which clearly indicates where the \$5 million goes and how all the money is expended. The Alberta Multiculturalism Commission has an annual report. Here is the final report of this community facility enhancement program, a report that was made public, and it has every conceivable project throughout the province of Alberta, over 3,000 of them, listed: the name of the applicant, a project description, and the approved amount. I don't know; in the past, somehow I was living in a daze. I knew what I was doing, I knew what my colleagues were doing, and then I read this stuff and got the criticism saying that somehow I willy-nilly did all this by myself. Well, it's impossible, absolutely impossible, and the opposition members know that whether or not they want to admit it.

Mr. Chairman, the 113th annual report of Edmonton Northlands, which covers everything, audited and reviewed by professional accountants in the province of Alberta, a public report. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation of Alberta Community Development on the Ex Terra Foundation, a complete public report with all the documents. The Glenbow annual report. The Alberta Museums Association annual report. The Science Alberta Foundation report. The hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung raised some questions about the Science Alberta project and said, "Why did you reduce their expenditures?" Well, in fact we did not. We signed a contractual obligation with them, a contract, gave them dollars based on two years, and said that was it. The contract was over after two years. Then they came back and said, "Well, could we have some more?" I said, "Look, the contract was only for two years." They said, "We need some more money." I said, "Okay, we'll provide you with some more dollars based on consultation with my colleagues." It was a reduced amount, but it was done on a contractual obligation.

The Alberta tourism, parks, and recreation annual report; the Wild Rose Foundation annual report; the Western Heritage Centre Society annual report: all public information. All of these deal

with thousands and thousands of projects in the province of Alberta. There is legislation which governs this, Mr. Chairman. The legislation was approved by this Legislative Assembly. And now we have the estimates. All members may question any and all things about them. If they want to lobby about their community facilities enhancement program – I've already received two notes from Liberal members today saying, "Hey, are you going to approve my project or not?" putting political pressure on me on the very day that my estimates are before this Assembly. If I were a suspicious person, I might almost think that if somehow I didn't give special attention, break the queue, put their application ahead of somebody else's, they might give me a rough time today in these estimates. Well, I'm not going to be browbeaten. They can send all the notes they want; these projects are going to be dealt with with all the degree of fairness and equity everybody else's project is going to be dealt with.

So what you've got here is these estimates under the Alberta lottery fund, and I repeat: 1993-1994 estimates, the September update shows an estimated revenue of \$228 million. It shows a lottery fund surplus to be transferred to the operating general revenue fund, an increase from the May budget of \$85.33 million. That \$85,330,000 goes into the general revenue fund. It's spent for education and medical purposes.

That is just a brief overview. I'd be really, really pleased to deal with any other questions hon. members have. There are certainly a lot more answers that could be given, but I'm sure there may be the odd question as well.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

MS CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to begin by addressing the comments the hon. minister had with regard to my concerns for the North Saskatchewan River Boat company. I find it very interesting that the government can find the resources to guarantee a loan for \$947,000. I find it even more interesting that the government can find the cash to give them a \$400,000 nonrepayable grant. I wonder if the minister could tell me how many children you can send to kindergarten for \$400,000. It seems to me that in times of economic restraint the government should be putting priorities on people, not things.

4:10

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the estimates. The following excerpt was written by Hal Wyatt, chairperson of Toward 2000 Together, the advisory committee which was appointed by this government.

**Point of Order  
Decorum**

MR. N. TAYLOR: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think it's the height of discourtesy parliamentarywise for the minister and another minister to have a discussion while we're discussing his estimates. There's nothing in the minutes, but it's not kosher. Surely he can tell where to put in the foundations for the Westlock hospital without doing it in this . . .

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, unlike the Member for Redwater, this member has the capacity to listen to two people at the same time and listen completely.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, you haven't got a point of order. With my good chairmanship, we do keep everything quiet, so we'll just ask them to be quiet, which they've been.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

MS CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the report, it states . . .

MR. N. TAYLOR: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I'm prepared to be thrown out of this committee if it's on an issue of the minister refusing to listen. If you want to ask me out, if you want to stop and call in the Speaker, that's fine. I'm prepared to take it all that way, because this is absolutely silly. It's rude, it's silly, it's unparliamentary. So if you wish to throw me out, could I ask now that you call the Speaker of the House back to get a ruling on whether the member should be listening or chatting with the other member?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, under Standing Order 1, if this member or any member of this House has to go to the washroom, presumably, then, on the principle being advanced by the Member for Redwater, that person would be providing a discourtesy to somebody else. May I just point out that everything said in this House is in *Hansard*. On September 13 when this minister was here, this minister listened to about four different presentations of 20 minutes each which had a litany of questions. This minister came back today prepared to respond to all those questions. I didn't have an opportunity to respond to all those questions. This minister can sit here and listen to the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, who's raising a question about the Edmonton riverboat company. That's her subject. I understand her question. The gentleman beside me has every right in this Assembly in committee to move wherever he chooses to move, and the gentleman is consulting with me on the Edmonton riverboat subject.

MR. N. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, still the issue is that I'd like to adjourn and call in the Speaker. The question isn't riverboat or anything else. It's whether in the minister's estimates he can continue a conversation with another minister while questions are being asked of him. That's all it is. I would ask you to ask the Speaker . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, hon. member, you haven't got a point of order. You've got a concern, and maybe other members of this House have a concern. You know the rules, hon. member. People go in and out and they do talk to each other, and that method will continue.

MR. N. TAYLOR: The rules are . . . If you want a rule of order – but now it's gone by – it would be right under the very first page as a matter of fact, the definition on 24. The point is that he's now listening. All I'm trying to do is get just a modicum of courtesy, because I know if he asked me a question, I wouldn't turn around and start talking to somebody behind me.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, I accept the petition of the hon. member. I would just ask him to remember his own conduct in the past. On many, many occasions when I stood in this House with my estimates as the Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services, the hon. gentleman would come and petition me for support for the Westlock hospital.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was not a point of order. Let's not have any more interruptions.

Sorry, hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

MS CARLSON: Well, in fact, the minister wasn't listening, because I had moved off that topic on to another one, so I will begin again.

### Debate Continued

MS CARLSON: The following excerpt was written by Hal Wyatt, chairperson of the Toward 2000 Together Advisory Committee, a committee which was appointed by the government. It states: not surprisingly, committee members began to realize that the role of governments and the decisions they make need to change; the public is no longer willing to accept government decisions that are not based on input from affected stakeholders; governments should be facilitators, not players in business itself. This is a very good point. In fact, it's one the Liberals have made on numerous occasions. They stated: there is also an urgent need to address the deficit and debt problems of governments at all levels. Again, this is a very good point.

I would have to believe the committee expected and recommended that the government consult with the affected stakeholders in a co-operative manner when addressing these issues. An example for the minister would be proactively negotiating the 5 percent wage rollback with public-sector employees, not simply dictating that it will be done. Accepting an imposed wage rollback implies that somehow workers are to blame for the expenditures. It must be made clear that the fiscal mismanagement of this government is to blame, not the workers who carry out their duties. Imposing rollbacks outside of the collective bargaining process fundamentally is wrong, in addition to being against the recommendations of this committee.

The committee also stated that we should not expect government to provide the programs it has in the past, including loans, subsidies, or other financial benefits to businesses, special interest groups, and individuals. This committee felt the strong need to recommend that the government change their role and their decisions, including loan subsidies and financial benefits to businesses. These recommendations are not a surprise to us or to Albertans in general. However, they do appear to catch the government unaware. On page 76 of the government estimates, the last paragraph reads "Services Provided by Program" and clearly states:

Funding is provided to assist the company with its operations. The company provides various forms of financial assistance including loans [and] loan guarantees . . .

This is just another example of this government keeping their promise of getting out of the business of being in business. I can't help but wonder if this is what the hon. minister is referring to when he trots out his latest slogan of the Alberta Advantage. My question to the minister is: who has the advantage here? It clearly is not the people of Alberta.

This government has proven time and time again that it has neither the expertise nor the technical ability to make solid business decisions on loans and loan guarantees, yet they insist on doing so.

When I take a look at the estimates, I see wasted dollars that could have been better spent reorganizing health care, social services, education, particularly when I look at the services provided by AOC. Instead of putting added dollars into essential services, this government has chosen to make disastrous decisions on loan guarantees. In fact, in the last year alone the poor decisions of this government have cost Albertans \$53 million in cash payouts. That's cash payouts. The year prior to that it was \$43.3 million. The year prior to that it was \$31.1 million. I would suggest from these figures that the government has done absolutely nothing to get out of the business of being in business and, in fact, is increasing their business participation in Alberta. These figures I've just stated do not include payments made under program guarantees such as the farm credit stability program and the student loan program.

The cost of these decisions and the cost of broken promises by this government are astronomically high for the people of this province. While the brunt of the burden is borne by the poor and the disadvantaged and the children and the elderly, we are paying additional long-term costs for which the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism can be held directly responsible. One of those costs is the foregone opportunity for enhancing economic development in this province. A perfect example of this is the lack of attention, Mr. Minister, that you and your department have paid to the very real problem of shrinking access for international air service in central and northern Alberta. This problem is significant and very important to all the residents in this area. In fact, it's so important that the reeves and mayors of the five municipalities of the county of Leduc, the county of Parkland, the municipal district of Sturgeon, Strathcona county, and the city of Leduc have begun a co-operative effort with the people of Edmonton to ensure that we have an economically viable international airport. Conspicuously absent from this process is a representative from this government.

4:20

As stated by these municipal representatives, air service strikes at the economic viability of the entire capital region. It affects jobs and livelihoods in communities throughout central and northern Alberta, and they have a population of more than one million people. Undeniably, because of changing circumstances, international air service is now in question for central and northern Alberta, and this will diminish the strength of the entire region. Is this another example of the Alberta Advantage? Will the minister continue to ignore this problem, which is affecting not only the tourism industry, for which he is responsible, but also the entire economic development of central and northern Alberta?

If this government and in particular this department under discussion today had acted in a proactive manner, they could have had a significant impact on the changing circumstances. Instead, the government chose to embark on high-risk loan guarantees. The people of this province have put their trust in your government, yet you continue to let them down. On paper you develop admirable objectives such as the Alberta Global Business Plan, yet in practice we see a contradiction and it's business as usual.

Mr. Minister, once again, for the second year in a row I would like to request cost-benefit comparisons on the foreign offices. I believe Albertans have the right to know what criteria were used to determine where foreign office dollars are spent. They also have the right to know what the tangible benefits of these dollars will be. When will the minister develop a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of these foreign offices? How can we determine if the dollars outlined in vote 2.3.12 are being spent in an efficient and cost-effective manner if we have no means by which to measure their performance?

The province of Alberta spends nearly \$10 million per year maintaining foreign offices in five different locations around the world, yet it has never been able to produce a cost/benefit analysis of the tangible monetary benefits received through retaining these offices in their present form. It is time that this government conducted a comprehensive and independent review of these offices.

I would like to remind the government that the province of Ontario recently undertook an independent review, and they came up with a number of commendable recommendations. These recommendations had an overriding goal of introducing cost effectiveness and tangible monetary returns for taxpayer dollars expended. I urge the government, as my colleague for Calgary-North West has, to use this process as a model for reviewing Alberta's foreign offices.

Five of the highlights of this Ontario report – and you may wish to pay attention for these five highlights – are: one, improving efficiencies through increased collaboration with the federal government; two, focusing the roles of agents general on trade promotion; three, judging the performance and compensation of staff on results; four, using agents overseas as an alternative to permanent overseas offices; and five, appointing agents general on the basis of relevant skills and experience. This one is worth repeating: appointing agents general on the basis of relevant skills and experience.

This brings up a real concern. It's difficult to measure that success of foreign offices in a truly concrete manner. What does give you confidence in their ability to meet their mandate is the quality of people you hire to perform in those offices. Of course, we would have a great deal of confidence in that quality only if the people were hired on the basis of merit.

This government has a long history of using agent general positions for political patronage purposes. You clearly do not know whether the job is being done adequately if you don't know that you have in fact the best people in place. Clearly, Mr. Chairman, political affiliation does not necessarily have any correlation with individual merit. An additional problem with patronage appointments is the effect these political appointments have on the morale, the dedication, and the commitment of capable, competent, and well-intentioned public servants working in this department. These people are passed over for these high-ranking positions not because they're not the most qualified persons for the job but because they do not have the right official political credentials. This has to be a very debasing realization for a civil servant who has dedicated himself to the service of this province.

I would like to remind the government that their most recent patronage appointment, John Oldring, stated that he would slash patronage by appointing a nonpartisan advisory board to oversee government hiring and appointments. This is a highly commendable comment, and I look forward to the day when the government actually acts on this matter.

MR. WOLOSHTYN: Mr. Chairman, a point of order, please. I would request that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Norwood wake up and listen to the debates.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That's obviously not a point of order, hon. member. As long as he doesn't snore, we'll go on.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

MR. WOLOSHTYN: My apologies to the members.

MR. GERMAIN: Mr. Chairman, I thought it was inappropriate to comment on whether a member by name was in or out of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

MS CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Underscoring the problems with political patronage appointments are the comments of those of the Auditor General. Recommendation 7 of his report recommends "using the expertise of the Public Service Commissioner to short-list suitably qualified candidates for appointments." We are facing a new economic reality in this province. It is high time that Albertans receive proof that dollars invested in foreign offices are actually yielding some monetary dividends.

I would like to remind the minister that he calls foreign offices significant, yet at the same time he reported that agent general Mary LeMessurier is retiring and Sig Schmidt is returning to work in Alberta until September 1994. You actually revealed at that time that you would not be filling these positions and that you would leave the positions dormant or vacant for a period of time. You also confirmed at that point that David Manning from New York was doing part-time consulting for the Department of Energy. I would like to ask the minister how he could possibly consider the position of agent general important when you can just leave the position vacant for undefined periods of time.

I wish to spend a moment speaking to international trade barriers, because these barriers are a fundamental hindrance to economic development in this province. The government has established an interdepartmental co-ordinating committee on international trade. I would like to ask the minister what his rule is regarding this committee and what initiatives his department has been proposing here. Also, who specifically represents the department on this committee? What progress on this front can the minister report? Specifically, I would like to know what progress has been made on formulating a dispute resolution and compliance enforcement mechanism.

We require government procurement tendering that is as competitive as possible. While the western procurement agreement, which was signed in 1989, was a step in the right direction, this agreement allows for exemptions if the economic development strategies of a province could be compromised by implementing them. A 1989 study by Canada West Foundation found that 60 percent of procurement could be exempted under this formula. So I would like to know what progress is being made towards making the process of government procurement truly competitive.

Also with regard to international trade barriers, there is another really good example of obviously partisan hiring. Jim Horsman, the former Deputy Premier and minister of FIGA, is a chief negotiator for Alberta at an estimated salary of \$90,000. Would the minister please tell us how many days a week Horsman actually works?

#### 4:30

Speaking to Small Business Counselling, line 2.1.3, these dollars have been reduced by 7.76 percent, Mr. Minister. There are many reasons for assisting the growth of small business and many reasons for that to be the focus of this Legislature. As you earlier attested to in your comments, small business has been proven to be successful both in rural and urban Alberta. Your own recently published document, *Seizing Opportunity*, calls small business the "backbone of our economy," yet we see no commitment from the government to create a climate conducive to the growth of small businesses. This government seems to be only concerned with helping big business.

The government reports that small businesses make up 90 percent of all businesses in Alberta and that they account for 45 percent of all jobs in the province, including 70 percent of all new jobs. Some economists give an even more glowing report of the virtues of small business when they say that they create 81 percent of all new jobs in Canada. We also have to recognize that small business is the only sector flexible enough to respond quickly to the changing, fickle pace of the market and fill niche markets.

Why, then, is the facilitation of small business growth not being made a priority by this Legislature? Why was Small Business Counselling slashed by almost a quarter of a million dollars? Why was the small business incubators program completely gutted? In fact, Mr. Minister, we talked about that point the last time the estimates were being discussed, and we talked about your lack of

commitment to rural Alberta with regard to small businesses and the incubator program. I would like you to further comment on that. [interjections] Well, it's true. He stands over there and talks about his commitment to rural Alberta, but we don't actually see any figures. We don't actually see any commitment on the table, and I challenge the minister to do so.

Financial assistance to small businesses should not be done through direct loans or grants or other financial assistance.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, you've got one minute, because you were interrupted two or three times by points of order. So if you have a minute to wrap up, then we're going to give you that.

MS CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Assistance to small businesses can be made through many avenues in the form of a soft assistance. These are strategies that the Alberta Liberal caucus has long supported and initiatives that this Legislature cannot afford to neglect, particularly in these economic times. There have been many, many success stories in the Alberta small business sector, but there could be many more if we changed the way the government interacts with private business. Many entrepreneurs have great ideas but lack the business and marketing skills to put these ideas into practice. In the past this fact has contributed to the high failure rate among small business ventures. Government does have a role in alleviating this problem, but it is as a facilitator, not a financier.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow.

MRS. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to congratulate the minister. He has done a really super job of reorganizing and restructuring approximately three departments into one and has done a very excellent job of guaranteeing the smoothness of programs and the continuation of service to constituents and to members. I'd also like to compliment his staff for their co-operation and the very efficient way in which they help all members in their duties. I know it's been a mammoth job of reorganizing, but I think they have truly done a super job of it, and I would like to congratulate them.

Mr. Minister, I'd like to talk on the lottery fund estimates, page 7. As a former board member for the Glenbow Museum, I notice that they are now switched over to lottery funding, \$3.2 million. This is a change, of course, in the way they were used to being funded. I wondered if consideration has been given to granting the funding in one lump sum so the museum could benefit from interest that could be generated in their account. It's my understanding that previously it was done in a lump sum and they did have that additional revenue. The Glenbow has spent a lot of time in reorganizing and restructuring to meet the economic realities of today, and I think it would be very beneficial and important to try and help them in this area. They are certainly a highly respected institution and have a very active program, being a museum, archive, art gallery, research facility, and publisher of many academic papers and books. They have a well-recognized international reputation for excellence. I would certainly like to see if we couldn't help them out in that matter.

The western heritage centre at Cochrane. I see that they received \$3 million from lottery funding in this year's budget. I wondered what the current status is for this project. Also, is this an annual sum or a one-time grant? We're all very interested in seeing it being completed and coming on the tourism pathway,

which will certainly have a great economic spin-off in the Cochrane area.

I would like to congratulate the minister and department for the continued funding for the Foundation for the Arts. The arts truly are an economic advantage, and I've been told that to the city of Calgary approximately \$25 million does come from the different activities of the arts community. If you just take a small example of the number of people who have traveled to the city of Calgary to see some of the mega events that came, such as *Cats*, *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera*, there were the travel costs involved, there was accommodation, there were meals. Many people decided to make it a holiday weekend and spent a lot of dollars in the city. I think that's a real economic spin-off. We certainly benefit from these types of projects.

Many tourists also come to the Kensington area of Calgary-Bow. We have many local artists there doing handicrafts and art. These artists receive a very small grant, sometimes to help with their training or for specific projects that they've undertaken. These minor grants frequently come to about \$300, so it's not a great wealth benefit to them but is really a recognition of their contribution and their talent. I think that by encouraging them with these small grants, there's a definite spin-off in other ways by people coming to find the artists and their products and buying them and contributing to our economy.

People often ask me why lottery dollars aren't used for health care. This is one of the misconceptions. I see from the estimates that there are significant amounts of lottery dollars flowing through to health care with the Wild Rose Foundation. I know there are many health advocate groups who receive funding. There are many organizations who do a lot of health care who receive funding to help with their staff. For instance, I know that the Woods Foundation, which does a lot of work with underprivileged children and adolescents, has received funding at least twice to help pay for some street workers who go out with a van and help the kids who are on the streets. They pick them up, bring them to a safe environment, and help them sort out their problems. So I think that's a very worthwhile and very excellent program.

Groups such as the Kerby Centre have also benefited from the Wild Rose Foundation. These seniors certainly do a wonderful job in the city of Calgary as an information base and also a health promoter for senior citizens. They also benefit from the Wild Rose Foundation, and there are many others we could mention as well.

The advanced medical equipment purchases: perhaps the minister could enlighten us a bit with what these types of things are and where they are placed. I understand that we usually are very fair, having a northern and a southern Alberta branch of some of the equipment that's bought. The medical innovation program also is funded through lottery dollars. This is quite a significant amount of money that goes into health promotion and prevention of illness and other problems. I wish you would provide for me some of the details of these health programs so that my constituents would perhaps better understand some of the benefits that we do get in the health care field from the lottery program.

My communities were very pleased to see that the CFEP 2 program commenced this year, being made up of a number of older communities with halls and facilities that are becoming older and needing renovation and repair. Some had to be made accessible for changes in life-style, where people who are now disabled are able to get out into the community, which certainly brightens up their lives and gives them a more active role to lead in the community. So this particular community facility enhancement grant is very important to older communities such as my own. With the finish of the CRC grants - that program has



terminated now – there is no other place for them to go for funding. With the kinds of communities that I have, where you have many seniors but you also have the communities beginning to regenerate with young families coming in, you have to also look at some things such as the creative playgrounds that some of the children who are growing up in these older communities need as well.

So I think this is a very important program. I certainly support it, and I'm very pleased that the minister has decided that once again community service, community-based groups and agencies, and community health care, which is what the Kerby Centre and some of the seniors centres are – they have a lot of their health care done in those centres – are a very worthwhile project. I'm very pleased to see that we have continued to maintain the community base, and again I think it's a very good use of our lottery dollars.

I'd like to thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

4:40

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mayfield.

**Point of Order  
Speaking Time**

MR. HAVELOCK: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, hon. member.

Point of order.

MR. HAVELOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I refer to Standing Order 29(d), where it's referenced in here that "time limits on speaking in debate in the Assembly shall be as follows," and it goes on to say that "no member shall speak for longer than 20 minutes in debate on a motion or a Bill." Mr. Chairman, in giving the hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie additional time to complete her comments, you did so without seeking the unanimous consent of this House. I would like a ruling on that, please.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have a very good point of order, hon. member.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's too late. She can't take it back anyway.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, but parliamentary staff has informed me that the hon. member was jewed out of – I can't use that word – one minute short on her time.

Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mayfield.

**Point of Order  
Speaking Order**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, is it not appropriate for the minister to respond to questions? Is this a new procedure we're following now in the House, that the minister is to be denied? Questions are raised. Would it not be appropriate for the minister to respond to those questions?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it certainly is, hon. minister, but the policy we've been following is government side, opposition side.

We've had the hon. Member for Calgary-Bow . . .

MR. KOWALSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie spoke; the Member for Calgary-Bow spoke. Does the minister respond?

I would be prepared to allow the Member for Edmonton-McClung to go forward, but I would not want to be denied an opportunity to respond to the questions either, Mr. Chairman. Surely we had Edmonton-Ellerslie, Calgary-Bow, maybe the minister, or we had Edmonton-Ellerslie, Calgary-Bow, Edmonton-McClung, minister. Will I have a chance to answer the questions?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The chairman has made a rule. Edmonton-Mayfield.

**Debate Continued**

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's timely that I rise and speak at this point, because one of my responsibilities is to aid and abet the minister's job of gathering in and dispensing the funds from the lotteries that he's so proud of.

The member speaking just prior to myself spoke at length on complimenting the member of this House responsible for disseminating these funds at length and, if I might use his term, "ad nauseam." When he talks about the expenditures of his government and how he expends these funds using the largess of the government and describes it over and over again as willy-nilly, he's absolutely correct that it's willy-nilly. Then he has the audacity to go on and tell this side of the House: two of your members came over here and asked us . . . You're missing the point entirely, Mr. Minister. The point is that one person does not sit and lord it over either his side of the House or our side of the House that anyone must come and beg to have something done in their community. Before the minister came to this particular position, there was another program in place, the community recreation/cultural grants, which were a per capita grant. Every community was treated exactly the same as every other community, whether they be a large urban centre or a small municipality or an ID, for that matter. They were given the responsibility of disseminating these funds. They understood what the local needs were. It did not come from on high, and to say that we just lay hands upon these things.

There are currently 800 applications before that minister, and he obviously doesn't have much interest in the matter. You can plainly see that. There isn't any rule of this House that says that a minister must respond to questions, but it certainly is nice if the minister – oh, the minister had to go to do what he said earlier in his explanations. Shall I hold my questions until he returns? No, you can go to the washroom and come back. Good. Thank you kindly, sir.

Well, there's certainly some question about the propriety of dispensing the funds willy-nilly, as he says. There certainly is. Where is the fairness and equity? Where is any kind of judgment by anyone, except after the fact, that it was right or wrong? The last date that we could really get some stats on finding out where these moneys were disseminated, it was clear that in government ridings of the time, \$28 per head was disseminated, \$28 versus less than \$14, less than half, in non government ridings. Now, if that doesn't tell you something: that something is fundamentally wrong with the ability of the government to listen, let alone care.

If you're talking about what's happening in the present, what is happening as we speak, there are VLT machines being spread throughout this province, to the detriment of those same communities they wish to serve. Now, the minister can stand in his place, and has done, and say: Oh, no, no, no; all the money that's coming in is being disseminated in the same fashion. It is not. The Lions Club that runs the raffles and the bingos in Airdrie, perhaps, does not get the money to disseminate to their favourite charities or the way they think it should be done. They simply do

not. It's dispensed by that minister and that minister alone. [interjection] Stating a point of order, I presume?

MS HALEY: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A point of order.

MS HALEY: I'm concerned about the hon. member opposite discussing the Airdrie Lions Club. If you're going to, could you please inform the House of your numbers.

MR. WHITE: That's not a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There's no citing whatever. It's merely an interruption. We all recognize it, clear and simple.

Mr. Chairman, continuing on from where I was rudely interrupted . . . [interjections] If the members don't care to listen to what is happening out there, that people are telling me – maybe it's not happening in their communities. If it isn't happening in their communities, it's very odd, because it certainly is happening throughout this province. We have ample evidence in a presentation that was made to a committee that is of your caucus, the standing committee on natural resources and sustainable development. The Royal Canadian Legion, of which every single one of the urban and suburban members here have a branch, are telling us, this side and the government, that they are hurting. They are hurting in a major way. They're saying: "Look, unless you give us the opportunity to reap some of the rewards of having a VLT on our own premises, and I mean having not just the 15 percent off the top of the amount of money that comes in but the actual net profits, what you're hurting is our raffle sales and our pull-ticket sales." They're down somewhere between 30 and 35 percent, as they say. Now, that is absolutely . . .

**Point of Order  
Factual Accuracy**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, a point of order with respect to Standing Order 23. The hon. member is conveying untrue information with respect to the Royal Canadian Legion branch 35, Red Deer, Alberta. That is incorrect information.

4:50

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I don't think it's a point of order, hon. minister. I think it's a disagreement with what the hon. member is saying and what the hon. minister believes.

Hon. member, continue.

MR. WHITE: Thank you kindly. Just to clarify, even though it is absolutely not even close to a point of order – we all recognize that. He can't even cite the exact section, in fact. In 23 there's X number of parts there, and he usually delivers all of them.

**Point of Order  
Imputing Motives**

MR. KOWALSKI: On the point of order, 23(i), please, Mr. Chairman.

The hon. member is now using insulting language. He's now being combative, and he's now causing and acting and using abusive and insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder. Now, Mr. Chairman, as well as that, under 23(i) he "imputes false or unavowed motives to another member."

I was kind in not challenging the rotation in terms of the conduct of this committee, and I ceded what I believe was my rightful place to respond to, I think, fairly well researched

questions coming from the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie and then extremely well developed questions coming from the Member for Calgary-Bow. I ceded that, Mr. Chairman, to allow this member then to have an opportunity to talk. The hon. member then should use some degree of courtesy to get to the point so that in fact we can proceed. If the hon. member, on the basis of the concession provided by the minister in responding to questions, legitimate questions from two hon. members, now is simply going to stand up and make a mockery of the purpose of this committee, then that particular member should go and visit with his House leader over the weekend and attempt to learn some of the rules of decorum in this House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, are you responding to the point of order?

MR. WHITE: Yes, sir. With the greatest of respect to this House, sir, and I honestly mean that, in the last little while there has been a great deal of disrespect shown in this House, not usually from that particular member, but in this case it certainly is. There is absolutely no point of order unless he can point specifically to a place where I may have erred. Now, I can't see where I've erred at all. It certainly wasn't in response to citing a Lions Club from Airdrie. And I can certainly have an opinion as to how the Member for Calgary-Bow – I can certainly have an opinion upon that. I can certainly have an opinion as to what was said in a news release and presented in a document titled: a brief presentation to the standing committee on natural resources.

If the member can be specific in his chides and in his response, if he can tell me precisely where out of the Blues or from anywhere else, I'll be happy to review those questions. Perhaps I did err, but certainly to use the time in this House just to continually interrupt a member – that was three times in interruptions – is beyond being reasonable. It's just plain rude, sir, and it has nothing to do with the rules of order, absolutely none.

MR. McFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, may I speak to the point of order?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. McFARLAND: For clarification, if nothing else, to the member who's challenging the Chair at this moment, I would like to point out that it was my impression that he referred to all, meaning every, Royal Canadian Legion. I would like the member to know that I was just at Vauxhall general legion branch 193 this past Saturday for the opening and dedication of an addition to a community hall which the Royal Canadian Legion, Vauxhall branch 193, had built with its own funds without any government assistance. They are debt free. They built it with cash on hand, and there was not once any reference made to a hardship because of any imposition of this government on pull and pay tickets, VLTs, or any other such item.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, on the point of order, hon. minister, I certainly see your point. However, I would ask the Member for Edmonton-Mayfield to kindly watch remarks that may cause upsets to other members. Please continue.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Chairman, I have stated I will do my best to watch them, and should I make any errors, I'm sure they'll be pointed out over and over and over again, as it will be. However, I'm merely quoting from a document that was presented to a

committee, and this committee happens to be represented here in this House . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll go on with the estimates, please. We've dealt with the point of order.

MR. WHITE: Yes, thank you.

### Debate Continued

MR. WHITE: Well, I'll continue on with a quote from a document here. It says, for a matter of clarity . . . It's a document clearly titled Regarding VLT Terminals in Legion Branches. Plural. Now, I'm willing to file this document, as it clearly states in the rules that if one quotes, one should. I'm quite prepared to do that. I'd cite page 3:

A survey of Legion Branches throughout this Command would indicate a decline in the sale of pull tickets ranging from 15 to 35 percent. This we believe to be because our members are frequenting premises where video lottery terminals are available.

Period, full stop, end of quotation.

Now, it can hardly be said that I invented that. The members seem to think that it's fashionable, somehow, to rely on points of order to merely interrupt a member, and it certainly isn't the case.

Mr. Chairman, I'd go on to explain the position of this side of the House. If it is the government's intent to pocket all the money from the VLT terminals and then put it out in some fashion or other, however that's decided – it seems to be one minister – then this side of the House suggests that the best way of doing that is by the communities themselves. I can't see any better way of disseminating funds throughout the province that are raised in this manner than the way it was done by the former government in this House, under the community recreation/cultural grant program. It worked very, very well. It certainly was not as efficient as a minister willy-nilly throwing a dart and saying, "Hey, that one there deserves it," or however the reason is arrived at. We have no idea. There will never be any reporting to the House, either on this side or for the other benchers on that side other than the minister. You will never, ever know how this or that occurred.

Now, turning to another very, very important part of the VLTs, and it's clearly indicated in documents filed with the minister's office and I believe with AADAC and the minister responsible for AADAC as well as the Minister of Justice. At the time, it was a different ministry. It's a group called the Alberta Council on Problem Gambling. Granted, right now they're not a substantive group. They're don't have a vast membership, but they do have a concern. They have a concern and have gathered statistics all across the United States, particularly the southwestern United States where gambling has been in fact lawful for quite some time and therefore statistics are able to be gathered. I quote from a document from the California Council on Compulsive Gambling. These people are clearly convinced, there are a number of studies, that for each and every problem gambler, there are between 10 and 17 people that become innocent victims of that gambling disease to a greater or lesser extent – you take it with a grain of salt, and I tend to do it, as I'm sure the government shall too – including the spouse and the children and the relatives and the business associates of that particular member of society, all of those and more.

5:00

This government to date on repeated questions has totally and completely ignored the plight. Totally and completely. AADAC should take some of these funds that are garnered from that age-old profession of marketing alcohol product, which the province loves to be in and is rightly so the position of the government, and put some of those funds into assisting people that do have that

affliction. Now, I rest assured that virtually everyone in this House, whether they know a person that has these difficulties or not, will be able to find in their friendships one person that is partly afflicted with this. There is absolutely no position. AADAC washes their hands of it. They say it's not within our mandate. Mr. Minister, one of the questions that I'd pointedly ask: is it in your mandate, then, to gather these funds, is it in someone else's, or is it that it just falls between the cracks, one of those proverbs that nobody can really get their finger on? Well, I say to you and this side of the House says: it must be done.

Moving on ever so rapidly, as the attention of the House seems to be waning a little. There's the proposition that gaming and those that can control the VLTs – and it's been said to me, and I'd like to ask the minister. There are some 35 millions to 45 millions of dollars put into the capital assets of the corporation that owns the VLTs – it's run by a separate appointed board – and these funds have been generated through the gaming activity. Instead of reporting them as we have here where we have merely a net figure, they've taken that capital cost, purchased these machines so they needn't be written off in a number of years, which a normal business would – they're written off early – to keep the current income way down, which is reported this year to be net \$142 million. That's this fiscal year. I suspect by the time we get to estimates in the spring it'll be much, much, much greater than that. What is the true figure? In fact, can we have filed in this House an actual financial statement that will show the capital assets of the board, so we can really tell what the magnitude of the earnings of this corporation is? Can we also have a filing in this House of an audited statement as to the disposition of these funds insofar as expenses for board members, expenses for traveling and other related expenses of board and staff? I'm thinking particularly of an annual trip to Las Vegas. It may be legit; I can't tell. It's the gambling capital of the world, and maybe in fact it should be, but just to file the extent of the cost of those things.

Mr. Speaker – Mr. Chairman, I keep confusing you, sir, for that other chap in the black outfit.

AN HON. MEMBER: A point of order.

MR. WHITE: A point of order, yeah. Another one. You'd stand up on anything on a point of order. Murray, you must have one by now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Murray. That's a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Addressing the member by first name.

MR. WHITE: I'm deeply sorry, Mr. Chairman. I had not intended to point any fun at the rules of order in this House. Certainly, we've had enough of that today.

Mr. Chairman, there are areas of expenditure that need to be questioned, and it's darned difficult to do that when all you have is a lump sum and the reasons for these lump sums are things like the Alberta Science Foundation losing money. We can't tell what those are for. The member didn't file them today but certainly mentioned them on all those annual statements. They're all well and good. We don't have a great deal of difficulty most times with how the money is disseminated. It's the ones that haven't been, the ones that have been totally and completely ignored. Those are the ones we're most concerned about. If we could ever have a full and complete filing in this House of applications for these funds, then we might be able to say: yes, the government is doing their job properly. On the other hand, of course, we may

be able to say . . . But we are not able to tell at all, because certainly we don't have any knowledge of those that aren't filed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### Chairman's Ruling Member's Apology

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, hon. member.

Before I call on the hon. minister, if I could just have your attention for 30 seconds. Earlier in committee I used an unfortunate choice of words. I certainly didn't mean any disrespect to anyone, and I would like to withdraw my expression on the point of order by the Member for Calgary-Shaw.

Hon. minister.

### Debate Continued

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, there have been some interesting questions addressed in the last hour or so, and perhaps I'll have an opportunity to respond to a few of them.

[Mr. Tannas in the Chair]

The Member for Edmonton-McClung referred to a number of reports. I'm sure *Hansard* now shows me as having said this a minimum of at least 12 times in the last four years in constant questions that come, saying: what are the answers to these questions? I have said publicly time and time and time again that all of the information hon. members would wish to obtain is filed in annual reports.

This is the annual report of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, which is a public report made available to anyone that wants to access it. They can obtain it from the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, or they can obtain it from Alberta Lotteries here in the province of Alberta. It lists everything associated with the operation of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, here is a copy of Alberta Lotteries' 1992-93 annual report. It's dated June 14, 1993. It has the complete balance sheet with respect to all income and all expenditures, and in fact it even includes direct expenses, a statement of video lottery operations, terminals and systems equipment purchases, retail commissions. Salaries and benefits all identified. It even talks about the statement of administrative marketing program and services expenses. It even talks about travel.

Mr. Chairman, this material is available, it is public, freely accessed. The Liberal caucus gets nearly – what? – \$2 million a year for research. I've been saying this for something like four years. Maybe the \$2 million isn't enough. Maybe they need four or five or six; I don't know. It doesn't strike me as being very difficult for one person to say, "Can I have a copy of the report?" and get it, so we can save 20 minutes in this House every time they raise the questions about this secretive fund that is clearly available. I don't know if the hon. member himself in his previous life, when he was an alderman for the city of Edmonton, may have also been on the board of directors of Edmonton Northlands. I can't recall one way or the other. If he was, then he surely knows – and if he wasn't, he surely knows as well – that in fact Northlands is one of the participants on the Alberta Lotteries board of directors. So, please, one day hopefully this business about secretive, secretive, secretive will sort of wither away in some element of honesty that we might be able to deal with.

Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago the member's researcher was down trying to get information with respect to compulsive gambling at AADAC. I'm glad he raised it in the House, a lot of

research again. A few minutes during the estimates of this minister they start their research.

5:10

I have repeated again and again and again, and it's on the public record. We have consulted with gaming-affected people in the province of Alberta, whether or not it be Gambling Anonymous, Gamanon, other organizations. We have gone forward in the spring of 1993 and commissioned a report on compulsive gaming, a report that we announced on March 26, 1993. It's due to be presented to the government by the last day of October of 1993. It was publicly advertised throughout the province of Alberta in all the major newspapers. All Albertans and others were asked to participate and get involved if they wished. That report will come back to me. Basically it asks the state of so-called compulsiveness or addiction in the province of Alberta and all the segments of gaming that we have in the province of Alberta and, further then, what proactive things should we do.

I have said publicly and this government has said publicly and all members of this government have said publicly for years now: bring us a specific recommendation, and we are prepared to take dollars and put those dollars against treatment for addiction. There's a debate going on whether or not there are certain numbers of people that would be eligible in the province of Alberta to have a program in Alberta or would it be cheaper to ask people to go to the United States to get a certain kind of counseling and protection with respect that. That's part of where we're at.

Every specific suggestion provided to us involving the gaming area from any of these anonymous groups, whether or not it was clear identification or a clear point about restriction, we've implemented every one of them to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman. We have said that we would, and we have done it. I sometimes get to be rather confused when people stand up and say that we're not interested, because in fact we are. The people that are involved are very interested, and this government is very interested.

I met with the Red Deer legion. I also met with the provincial command of the Royal Canadian Legion. I know what they told me, and I know what they said to my colleagues, and I know what they said to us all at the meeting. The hon. member was not present at the meeting. The hon. member may have a gist only partially of what took place at the meeting. I know what both the Red Deer branch and the provincial command of the Royal Canadian Legion has said to us, and I'm quite confident the position of my colleagues and this government is the correct one with respect to that matter, Mr. Chairman. We can deal with it in that manner.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Calgary-Bow raised some very pertinent questions with respect to one particular issue, and that is funding for the Glenbow Foundation institute. We have agreed on the licence and allocation under the Alberta lottery fund to provide \$3.2 million in fiscal 1993-94 to the Glenbow-Alberta Institute. The way the revenue comes in under the lottery fund is on a weekly, monthly basis. You have a program. You sell tickets. You have a 6/49 thing. You have an anniversary thing. Sales may go up, profits may go up, your cash flow comes in, and it allows you to progress. You may have a good week in VLTs, or you may have a bad week in VLTs. You have no guarantee that in a particular week in a particular month the cash flow will be there to honour your commitments. But in this area it seems that over a 12-month period in essence the dollars flow, so you can honour your commitments at some time during those 12 months.

I would make a commitment to the hon. member that I would look at this matter to see whether or not our cash flow will in fact

allow us to allocate that particular allocation that we agreed to in one lump sum early in the fiscal year so that the local group can maximize the interest on that. However, the hon. member and I'm sure all hon. members will realize that if the province were to do that, then the province itself would then lose that interest, and the province is in a deficit position. Basically it's just moving the dollars from one taxpayer to the other. We're all in it together, so I guess who gets the interest is really the basic question, if it comes in, and that's something we'll have to take a look at.

The western heritage centre in Cochrane. The Member for Calgary-North West has been a very, very active critic of that project in recent years in this particular Assembly, has risen up on numerous occasions and has criticized the government for being involved with these volunteers in the Calgary and the Cochrane area with respect to this project. Members will remember that this is to be a tribute museum to the cowboy and will commemorate ranching in central Alberta. Some progress has been done with respect to the particular project. If you were to go to Cochrane, Alberta, you will see some level of construction that has been done. The volunteer people that are involved in this project, I think, perhaps may have not reached the fund-raising level that they have wanted to get with respect to this project, but we're honouring the commitments that we've made to the group. I toured the facility last fall with the MLA for the area, the Minister of Environmental Protection, and spent a good afternoon with some of the people being brought up to date with respect to that.

I very much appreciate the Member for Calgary-Bow's questions with respect to lotteries. In fact, in the past she has been a very active participant in helping us in dealing with some of the parameters under the Wild Rose Foundation and dealing with some of the needy groups in the province of Alberta. It may very well be that in November the member may be asked in her position as chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission to be in fact more actively involved through AADAC in the addiction side, if the reports conclusively say that there is need for additional work in that regard. I know that her co-operation would be there with respect to that matter.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the most interesting question that was raised after the ones from Calgary-Bow was one question from the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, who said: what is this advantage that you keep talking about; what is this advantage that you have in Alberta that's so different? After she made the plea to make sure that the government would provide loans, grants, and guarantees to businesses, which of course we sort of reject, she then said: well, how do you define this Alberta Advantage?

The document put out by the Provincial Treasurer here just a little while ago has a very interesting graph in it. If you live in Canada, one of the most basic things that you have as a citizen is the right to make some dollars if you can, and then you have a responsibility to pay taxes, particularly income tax. If you live in Alberta, your basic rate of federal income tax is 45.5 percent. Now, in response to the question "What is the Alberta advantage?" If you pay 45.5 percent in the province of Alberta and if you happen to live in New Brunswick, where you pay 64 percent of your basic tax to the federal government, then it seems to me that if you live in Alberta you have nearly a one-third advantage. Now, in Nova Scotia that same figure is 59.5 percent. In P.E.I. that's 59.5 percent, and in Newfoundland that's 69 percent. Just coincidentally, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., and Newfoundland are all Liberal governments. In Alberta we pay 45.5 percent as our basic tax, but in these four Liberal governments the minimum is 59.5 to 69 percent, Mr. Chairman. So when you start off with basic advantages, they're pretty significant.

You might also take a look at the retail sales tax that exists across the country. I think that in Newfoundland they just upped

it again. They're up to 12 percent. P.E.I. is 10. Nova Scotia is 10. New Brunswick is 10. Again, Mr. Chairman, I don't think it's just coincidental that all four of those happen to be Liberal governments. In Alberta our sales tax is zero percent.

You can go on, Mr. Chairman, and look at the gasoline tax and the differential. You can look at the small business rate. Now, this was really kind of interesting. The Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie said: well, what are you doing in this area of small business? It's really very interesting to see what our small business tax is in the province of Alberta and compare it with what it is in other provinces. You will see quite a significant swing.

Then you can look at other graphs that talk about taxes of other forms, payroll taxes. Newfoundland, a good old Liberal government, has a 2 percent payroll tax, Mr. Chairman. That means that they add a tax to the payroll. Now, Quebec, that's a Liberal government too. Their payroll tax is 3.75 percent.

So, Mr. Chairman, when we talk about the Alberta Advantage, we're talking first of all about how many dollars are being left in the pockets of the citizens of Alberta as opposed to how many dollars are being left in the pockets of citizens living in other provinces. That's only one aspect and one part of this whole discussion about Alberta Advantage.

Mr. Chairman, I have talked previously in the House and responded to questions previously on our foreign offices, and it seems to me that the hon. member just gave the same question she gave several weeks ago. I think I responded to that.

The area of trade disputes is a very important one. While Canada is a signatory along with America and Mexico to the North American free trade agreement, it is imperative that within the boundaries of Canada all provinces get away from their interjurisdictional problems. I find it of interest that two Liberal governments, interestingly enough, New Brunswick and Quebec, just recently went to war about who's going to buy one product from the other province or which province is not going to allow a product from another province to go into its jurisdiction. I'm flabbergasted by that, because the position the Alberta government, the business community in Alberta, and the manufacturing community in the province of Alberta have always taken is that Albertans can compete not only in Alberta, but they can compete in western Canada and Canada and North America and the world. All they have to do is make sure the playing ground is level. We're very aggressively involved in this.

#### 5:20

I know that there were scurrilous statements made about the integrity of the former Deputy Premier of the province of Alberta, the hon. Jim Horsman, whose name I can name because he's not an MLA. Mr. Horsman is working seven and eight days a week in an attempt to assist this province and deal with . . . [interjection] Yes, indeed, seven and eight days a week, hon. member. The question was asked: how many days a week does Mr. Horsman work? I know that all hon. members of the government caucus work a minimum of seven to eight days per week with the hours they keep, current ones and past ones. It was very deliberately done.

Our intent is by mid-1994 to try and get a disputes resolution mechanism in this country aggressively in place. I fear, however, Mr. Chairman, I fear gravely that when Canadians wake up on the morning of October 26, 1993, they may wake up with an incredible headache. If Canada on the morning of October 26, 1993, elects a minority government with the power in that minority government held by the Bloc Québécois, then in fact Canada as a country will be in a very difficult situation. We may find difficulty dealing with trade disputes. We may find difficulty

in finding co-operation among provinces across this country. It's only with co-operation across these provinces that we're going to be able to deal with trade disputes.

Mr. Chairman, economic development in this province, assistance for small business, and involvement in small business, part of what has been raised here this afternoon, is dependent on stability in Canada. In the last week I've had the privilege of meeting with three ambassadors of three foreign countries, and I've met with dozens of Alberta entrepreneurs who are international entrepreneurs. The discussion has focused on what will happen to the image of Canada on October 26 if there is a minority government in this country and if that minority government is driven by the Bloc Québécois. The response coming back to Alberta investors and other investors who've recently returned from various parts of the world is that European money markets are very nervous, very nervous indeed; east Asian money markets are very nervous, very nervous indeed. That's a real problem for economic development in the province of Alberta. If the world wakes up on October 26 and asks the question, "What has happened to Canada; has Canada become the new Italy?" and if they do not understand that they have to open the door of Canada and look inside all of the rooms in this Canada to see that there are different regions and different provinces, if they do not do that, if they only focus on Ottawa, then this region of Canada, western Canada and Alberta, will be hurt.

What we have to aggressively do – and we must do it now, and our Premier must begin very shortly when he leads a mission to southeast Asia – is be there front and centre pointing out the Alberta Advantage. All members of this Assembly, in fact, will be asked to participate in this mission. I repeat again: the message coming back is that Canada will be looked on as a poor place for investment if we wake up with a minority government led by the Bloc Québécois on October 26. Mr. Chairman, that is not just musing by me. That is reality in terms of the marketplace, and that is reality in terms of the economy of Canada and the economy of Alberta. That will affect procurement that's been talked about, trade disputes that we talked about, and everything else.

Now, I know the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie wants grants; she advocated grants to small businesses. She said that we need assistance of that form to small business. That seems to be in contradiction of the position taken by her leader, and I'll just raise that today. I'll have an opportunity I'm sure in the future to talk to her leader as to why one of his members now is standing up and publicly contradicting him. It's in *Hansard* that the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie is saying: we want to give grants to businesses. You know, the leader of the Liberal Party has said: no, that isn't so. We've heard that publicly. But then again they're Liberals, and I'm not sure from day to day or who it is. The only consistency is the inconsistency.

I was hurt, Mr. Chairman, when the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie said: you don't like rural Alberta. Let the member come with me, please, to any one of the 350 communities in the province of Alberta. I don't care if it's Manyberries in southern Alberta or High Level in northern Alberta or Fort Chipewyan or down to the Crowsnest Pass or any one of the 350; the urban and the rural municipalities and the infrastructure that has happened and the commitment and the fighting that this government has done for rural Alberta. This government believes in balanced growth, believes in diversification, believes in an opportunity for all citizens to be a part of the province and the mosaic and the fabric and the vitality of this province. No government, period, not only in the history of Alberta but in the history of Canada, no government in North America, has ever done more for its rural areas than this one. This is one of the few jurisdictions anywhere

that has maintained a balance of opportunity for all of its citizens to make sure that young men and women anywhere in this province have access to quality education, quality health services, and the like. That really got me. I was listening to the hon. member until she got to that point, and then I dismissed most of what was said as just simply Liberal rhetoric. No member, not that member, can stand up and say that about this government, because no government, period, has ever done better.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think it's time to vote on these estimates and get them behind us. I would move that that happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Edmonton-Roper.

MR. CHADI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make it perfectly clear to the hon. minister that the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie made no reference whatsoever to grants. She did, though, say "assistance." So all your grandstanding, hon. minister, and your filibustering isn't going to change the fact that that's recorded in *Hansard*. I know that she's correct.

I tell you, I just want to put a plug in here for small business counseling. I think that's what she was referring to when she was talking about assistance to small business. Years ago we had a program called MAP, management assistance program. I think perhaps that's the type of program we should have brought back into this government so that we can assist our small businesspeople in the rural parts of this province that so desperately need it.

It's not only needed for small business, but it's also needed in terms of tourism. Perhaps we could have used some of those consultants, and they could have assisted the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs when he decided to privatize the ALCB. It would appear that the hon. minister could have used some help in that regard.

If the hon. minister is listening, Mr. Chairman, I really do want to put that plug in for the management assistance program. I hope that he would bring that back.

Now, in light of the hour, I would move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. TANNAS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion by the hon. member, all those in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, please say no. Carried.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Assembly now adjourn pursuant to Government Motion 16, passed by the Assembly earlier this afternoon.

[At 5:30 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.]