

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

**Title:** Thursday, February 29, 1996 1:30 p.m.  
Date: 96/02/29  
[The Speaker in the Chair]

head: **Prayers**

THE SPEAKER: Let us pray.

Our divine Father, as we conclude for this week our work in this Assembly, we renew our thanks and ask that we may continue our work under Your guidance.

Amen.

Please be seated.

head: **Introduction of Bills**

### Bill 8 Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Statutes Amendment Act, 1996

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 8, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Statutes Amendment Act, 1996. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this Bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill establishes the EUB's authority to employ staff and changes the EUB's authority to obtain funding from companies it regulates, as contemplated in the ministry's 1996 to 1999 business plan.

[Leave granted; Bill 8 read a first time]

head: **Tabling Returns and Reports**

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore.

MR. ZWOZDESKY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a partial list of film and television projects that have been canceled or are leaving Alberta due to the province's sudden withdrawal of support for the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation. This includes 325 lost jobs and an estimated loss of over \$20 million in terms of economic activity to our province. Four copies for the House and one for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DICKSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table this afternoon copies of a report entitled Handbook for Action against Prostitution of Youth in Calgary. This results from fine committee work done by a committee in Calgary chaired by Alderman Bev Longstaff and Dr. Sue McIntyre.

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table the Safety Codes Council 1994 annual report, six copies.

head: **Introduction of Guests**

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. THURBER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me to introduce to you today and to this Assembly 51 visitors from Drayton Valley from the Evergreen school. These young, bright students are accompanied here today by group leaders and teachers and helpers. They have with them Ms Karen Janzen,

Mrs. T. Stafford, Mrs. Roberta Parsons, Mrs. Loretta Thorson, Mrs. Janice Koss, and Mrs. Christel Durham. They are seated in the members' gallery, and I'd ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of this House.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

DR. NICOL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every now and again a person has an opportunity to meet someone who really makes a difference in people's lives. I'd like to take this opportunity this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to the people of the Legislature a person from Lethbridge, Susan Giffen. She works in my office, and she makes an awful difference to an awful lot of people in Lethbridge.

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly two gentlemen who are visiting the Assembly, I believe in question period for their first time. They are from Calgary. They are both with the chartered accountant firm of Connor Hind & Lim. They are seated in the members' gallery. I'd ask Gary Connor and Lawrence Lim to stand and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to the Assembly some 13 grade 6 students from the Darwell school. They're here to look at democracy in action, and I've committed myself to visit them at their school in the next week or two. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Slade and parents Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hennig, and Mrs. Hennig. They're seated in the members' gallery, and I'd ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair would like to bring to the members' attention that seated in the members' gallery this afternoon are a group of young ladies from the Drumheller Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada. They are accompanied by their two leaders Leanne Craig and Karen Harries. It is my pleasure to introduce them to the members of the Legislature, and I would ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly.

head: **Ministerial Statements**

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

### Agriculture Week

MR. PASZKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a honour for me today to announce Agriculture Week '96 in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Agriculture Week takes place between March 3 and March 9, and the event is a special way to highlight the importance of the agriculture and food industry in the province of Alberta. This year's theme is adding value, and it's clear how the agriculture and food industry adds value to Alberta. After all, one out of every three jobs in the province is directly or indirectly related to agriculture.

Agriculture is a success story, and it begins with the 57,000 farms that we have that cover some 51.4 million acres of farmland in the province of Alberta. The success is obvious, because for the first nine months of 1995 Alberta was the leading province in Canada in farm cash receipts. It is the men and women who work this land raising crops and livestock that people the first chapter

of this story. But the story doesn't end there. It doesn't end at the farm gate. Primary agricultural production accounts for only part of the value of the agricultural and food activity in the province. The slightly greater portion comes from the tremendous activity in the value-added and processing sectors of the industry.

Alberta food and beverage shipments reached \$5.6 billion in 1994, more than 25 percent of the total manufacturing shipments in the entire province. Over 350 companies employed more than 16,000 people, or over 15 percent of Alberta's manufacturing sector. Farming is highly visible: we see the crops and we see the livestock in the field. But much of the value-added activity is not so open to view, so we can sometimes forget just how significant this chapter of the agricultural success story can be. In Alberta we see the opportunity for a fourfold increase in our value-added production over the next 10 years. Such an increase could build a \$20 billion value-added industry in the province. It would also drive the primary production sector to double in value to \$10 billion.

**1:40**

We have a lot of room to grow and develop our value-added processing potential. However, the goal of 2 to 1 value-added over primary production is certainly one that is readily achievable. But this goal can only be achieved if Alberta can make the most of its marketing opportunities, and that is why we're reviewing and reducing the regulations that impede our producers. That is why we're striving to achieve a dual marketing system for our wheat and our barley, and that is why we're encouraging investment to develop our value-added processing industry in the province to enhance the Alberta advantage.

Now you see why I say agriculture is growing more than food; it's growing Alberta. I encourage you to look at how the agriculture and food industry is contributing to your community, either on the farm, through a home business, or through a factory. Agriculture Week is one of the ways in which we say thank you to the many men and women who work so hard to make this industry so successful. We look forward to an even more prosperous future for this industry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

**DR. NICOL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to stand up and respond to the minister's statement on Agriculture Week. You know, March 3 to 9 is a week set aside to reflect on the agriculture sector, but really the agriculture sector in Alberta is important every week of the year. It's important every day of the year. It basically was the second industry in Alberta, I guess, after beaver trapping, but it really got started in support of the development. It's provided us with the settlement base for the province, and now we're focusing on new initiatives where we're trying to make agriculture into a much more important, value-added part of our economy.

The minister has made reference to a couple of important issues in terms of the way this is going to be done, in terms of the idea that the marketing options that are provided to farmers have to be expanded. We have to be able to let both the producers and the value-added part of the agriculture sector really expand and take advantage of their competitive advantage position by being in Alberta, where we have the natural resources, the initiative, the people, and we can get the industry put together. We've got to do away with those kinds of regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just congratulate all the participants in

the agriculture sector for what they've done for our province. This includes the farmers. It includes the researchers who have developed the technologies. It includes also the support services. These are the people who distribute the ideas to the farmers and also get involved in marketing the products for us.

Especially, I'd like to recognize the people in Alberta Agriculture. They've done an extremely great job over the last almost 100 years now in making sure that Alberta farmers, Alberta agriculture, and the whole agriculture sector have been able to keep up and take its place as one of the most important industries in our province and get us recognized as one of the most important agricultural communities, one of the most important agricultural geographic areas in the world.

We've got to look at this in terms of how we go about achieving this success, and the producers in Alberta have really taken the initiative in a lot of their own areas. They've created the support services, the infrastructure that's needed to get them their inputs through their United Farmers of Alberta co-op for their input supplies. They've also got together and worked as a unit in facilitating their marketing through a number of the pool structures: the Alberta Wheat Pool, the dairy marketing co-ops that they've put in place. The producers in this province have really taken an initiative, and we saw that again last year as they expressed their view for more freedoms with the plebiscite.

I'd just like to congratulate the minister on his statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** Before proceeding to the next item on the Routine, the Chair begs leave to revert to Introduction of Guests.

**HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Opposed?

Well, thank you, hon. members.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** The Chair would like to bring to the hon. members' attention that seated in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon are seven interns from the Ontario Legislative Assembly. They are here to meet with elected representatives and to observe Alberta's parliament in operation. These people are Jennifer Alexopoulos, Melodie Barnett, Lisa Clements, Jess Dutton, Elizabeth Keller, Rose Sottile, Jill Zelmanovits. I would ask these fine young people to rise and to receive the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

**head: Oral Question Period**

**THE SPEAKER:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora.

**Deputy Minister of Health**

**MR. SAPERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Albertans want to know answers about the credentials of Deputy Health Minister Jane Fulton. The hiring of the deputy minister was a decision of the cabinet, based upon a recommendation of the Minister of Health. My first question today is to the Acting Premier, I guess. What specific instructions did the Public Service Commission give the firm of Ernst & Young regarding the recruitment of Jane Fulton?

**MRS. McCLELLAN:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we answered the questions around this matter yesterday. I will repeat again for the

hon. member's benefit that these are disturbing allegations that have been put forward in a newspaper article. We have asked the Public Service Commissioner to review this matter with the deputy minister. We have asked the Public Service Commissioner to expedite that review as quickly as possible. There will be no further comment on issues around this item until that review is completed.

MR. SAPERS: Mr. Speaker, they can't avoid ministerial responsibility. It was a cabinet decision; it was an order in council.

To the Minister of Health: did the minister at least take the time to determine whether or not Jane Fulton's references were checked before the minister signed her employment contract?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my earlier answer, as we indicated yesterday, this entire matter has been asked to be reviewed by the Public Service Commissioner. I think it would be entirely inappropriate to respond to questions surrounding this matter until that review is completed. Again, we have asked that this to be done as quickly as possible so that this whole matter can be put to rest. There will be no further comments around this issue until that review is completed.

MR. SAPERS: Mr. Speaker, maybe the minister responsible for freedom of information can take his responsibility seriously in this Assembly and answer the question. Why, Mr. Minister, is my request under the access to information laws of this province dated September 29, 1995, for a copy of the CV, of the résumé, attached to Jane Fulton's Public Service Commission file not been dealt with and is still in your pending file?

MR. FISCHER: Mr. Speaker, the member knows that there is a process for freedom of information. He knows the time lines. Certainly we will deal with it in due course, and we will deal with it fairly and honestly.

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

#### Multi-Corp Inc.

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP are now conducting an investigation into the Multi-Corp deal. *Martin's Annual Criminal Code* – I refer to section 121 – creates a number of offences relating to frauds upon government and is aimed in part at what is known as influence peddling. Offences are created to catch both government officials and the person offering the bribe. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Since the RCMP is now conducting an investigation, why didn't his department conduct such an investigation?

1:50

MR. EVANS: First of all, Mr. Speaker, in answer to the second part of that question, I think the hon. member is obviously aware that we have police forces in the province. They conduct criminal investigations, not the Department of Justice.

However, that said, the hon. member opposite has taken a real quantum leap in saying that the police are investigating. I think he may be a little bit misinformed. I pulled three articles from this morning's media, Mr. Speaker, and this is as much as I know about what this so-called investigation is all about. We have an RCMP inspector who is quoted in the *Calgary Herald*. His name is Inspector Don Schleckler, who says

There is a difference between being nosy . . .

This is his comment.

. . . and pursuing an active investigation . . . It is called being prepared, but I am not pursuing an active investigation.

This is the police officer.

Then in the *Calgary Sun*, again a comment from the same officer, an inspector:

There is no official investigation . . .

The bottom line is that I am a police officer and it's my job to be nosy and to go out and ask questions – should an investigation arise, then we'll be prepared.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, let me ask the direct question. Was the Department of Justice asked to do an investigation under section 121 of the Criminal Code? Was your department asked to?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we get people . . .

MRS. SOETAERT: Yes or no.

THE SPEAKER: Order. Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-St. Albert, you have absolutely no right to be making the comments you are making. Now, be quiet for the rest of this question period for a change.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we have over 3,900 employees in the Department of Justice. There are people who come in contact with our people in the Department of Justice every day. I don't know what all of the conversations are with all of the aspects of my department. I do know, however, that there have been private citizens who have made certain comments and have asked certain things. If the hon. member wants to ask me about a specific incident, I will do my best to get him the information and supply it to this House as to whether or not we received a specific request and how it was dealt with.

MR. BRUSEKER: That's what I just asked. I'll try one different then.

Will the minister confirm that he will co-operate and his department will co-operate with the investigation by the RCMP and turn over all information and all documents, including the missing 20 pages from the Premier's itinerary on the 1994 trip to China?

MR. EVANS: The hon. member across the way is having a real difficult time keeping things straight here, a really difficult time. Mr. Speaker, investigations that are done under the Criminal Code are done by the police. If the police were to come to our department and ask for assistance, obviously we would assist them. To the best of my knowledge and belief, there's been no such request. Again, I would just allude to the stated comments of an officer in Calgary who supposedly knows what's going on here, who says that there is no official investigation.

#### Gambling on Native Reserves

MR. N. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that aboriginal bands in Ontario do not have the right to have casinos on their reserves. The Premier of Alberta said on February 5 that we will recognize Indian nations as a form of government, although that's only a resolution. This is to the Minister of Transportation and Utilities responsible for lotteries. Since the minister himself also said on January 31 that breaching the Criminal Code is not an aboriginal right and knowing the wish that some aboriginal people have to obtain gambling revenues,

will the minister support native bands who wish to set up casinos on their reserves?

DR. WEST: Mr. Speaker, we are at the present time studying and working on a policy as it relates to the gaming issues on aboriginal lands. At the present time we do not have a policy in the province of Alberta that would allow independent casino development and licensing on reserves.

MR. N. TAYLOR: A supplemental, Mr. Speaker. This time it's to the Minister of Justice, who is getting a little action for his long weekend. As Alberta native bands are covered by treaties 6, 7, and 8, which do not apply in Ontario, will he tell the House whether the Alberta bands are governed by the same decision of the Supreme Court of Ontario as ours are.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member opposite is asking me for a legal opinion based on a decision from the Supreme Court of Canada, as I believe it was. It appears from a quick review of the information that I've received on that case that it may be restricted to the two individuals who are before the court and as to whether or not they had applied for and been granted a licence to set up a casino or a bingo. I'm not even sure whether it is one or the other. We are trying to get the case back to Alberta, get an analysis done of what that case actually said, how broad or how narrow its application is. We'll do that as quickly as we can.

MR. N. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, then back to the minister responsible for lotteries. As there's a kind of hiatus going on here, will the minister agree to give the aboriginal people in this province a fair share or set percentage of all gambling revenues and thereby prevent casinos and large-scale gambling taking place on the reserves and then spreading into the nonreserve areas?

DR. WEST: Mr. Speaker, no, I won't agree to that at this time. I said we are studying the policy as it relates to that, and we will have to determine what that policy grants in the future. Just so it's clear here today after that question: no, we are not doing that at the present time. The aboriginal people and Métis colonies and others have rights and access to lottery dollars right now under certain grant programs, whether it be in the sporting areas or whether it be CFEP, community facility enhancement programs – I don't want to go on here with a list – that have already been delivered to the various reserves. They have access now to lottery dollars, as all Albertans do, and I wouldn't want to treat them any differently than any other Albertans.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

#### **AIDS and HIV**

DR. L. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last July the committee to review HIV and hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses submitted its report. In this report they offered nine recommendations. My questions are to the Minister of Health, and they deal with some of these recommendations. As Alberta is one of the only provinces that does not include HIV as a notifiable disease, when will the minister take the recommendation of the committee and add HIV to the communicable disease regulation as a notifiable disease?

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to assure my

colleague and indeed all colleagues and Albertans that we are acting on that committee's recommendation and in fact have developed a draft of a new regulation. I also want to say that in the interim, while this regulation is being finalized, there is a very effective process in place today to ensure that there is no undue risk to public health. I think that's the concern. Although this is not reportable formally in Alberta, we do receive a list of all positive tests and test results from the two labs that do that testing. Each case is followed up with the physician, and the importance of appropriate follow-up is stressed. So we are in the final stages, have drafted that regulation, and in the interim are in fact almost mirroring what the committee recommendation was.

DR. L. TAYLOR: When will the minister establish a provincial expert review panel as one of the recommendations suggested?

**2:00**

MRS. McCLELLAN: I certainly share the hon. member's concern and all members' concern that the public is protected from any undue risk in this area. We have an expert panel in place. In fact, it's been in place for several years – I'm not just sure the year it was there – to deal with concerns about HI-infected health care workers. That committee was formed jointly, Mr. Speaker, with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Alberta Medical Association, and the Alberta Dental Association. The committee's recommendations are available to all health professionals. So the existing committee, I believe, has dealt very sensitively and effectively with the situation that did surround a health worker in this province in the last year.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there's a need for the principle of delegated self-regulation in this area. I believe that that committee can and has shown that it can work very effectively, and I believe that it's our responsibility to make sure that we have standards in place to deal with specific concerns and a mechanism for that.

DR. L. TAYLOR: When will a review be conducted on publicly funded community agencies that provide counseling in AIDS? As recently as today I've heard concerns about a program that was presented last night in Calgary by a publicly funded agency in relation to AIDS education.

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, we do have an ongoing review process, and we do have linkages to the community agencies that are already in place. The staff of the provincial AIDS program meet regularly with Alberta Community Council on AIDS, which is an umbrella group of all the major stakeholders. The question, though, of an external review is one that I intend to discuss with the Advisory Committee on AIDS, chaired by Madam Justice Marguerite Trussler, and I will be meeting with Madam Justice in the next week or the week after, I believe. I will certainly discuss with her the need for an external review committee, and if that appears to be necessary, we will put it in place.

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

#### **Women's Shelters**

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For several months women's shelters and the Liberal caucus have repeatedly warned this government that ramming the shelters under the new

children's authorities will do little to meet the needs of abused women, especially the many abused women without children. Even the government's own drafter of the enabling legislation warned that the legislation does not address single abused women. My questions are to the Minister of Family and Social Services. How can the minister continue to suggest that this move will be good for shelters when your own legislative writer felt compelled to put the warning in the draft legislation?

MR. CARDINAL: Mr. Speaker, of course, when various drafts are done in any department, those are drafts, and in most cases we allow our department of officials to lay out the plan on paper. I notice the paper she's holding is only a draft document. It is not a final document.

The issue of women's shelters will work under the new plan. We are spending a lot more dollars now in the very high-needs area.

In relation to the women's shelters, the communities like Edmonton and the area around will be able to determine better what the needs are locally and include shelters and will have also the opportunity to determine the time lines of facilities that are required.

I'd just like to advise the hon. member that there is at this time a vacancy rate in the shelters of 26 percent, second stage housing is at 60 percent, and rural centres are at 50 percent. So we do have spaces out there, and we also have backup plans to assist individuals that are needy. We have the human resources, we have the financial resources that we've never had in the past to deal with high needs. We have them now, and we will utilize them properly with the proper plan.

THE SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question: how could you consider such a move without talking to the very people you are going to affect, the women and the shelters? This is the last thing they want.

MR. CARDINAL: Mr. Speaker, the whole redesign of the welfare reforms involves clientele, frontline workers, administrators, managers, the public, the aboriginal groups. That's how this plan was designed. For once the communities are involved in designing a plan as to how we provide services to the most high-needs area of our population in Alberta. Recently the Liberals released their report after two or three years of consulting with Albertans. There's nothing in this report. Nothing. They identify issues; they identify problems. We know what the problems are. I'd like to see your report and your plan that shows what your solutions are so that I can incorporate them.

Mr. Speaker, we just announced the program of children's services. It's just a start. If the Liberals have a plan that we can incorporate in here, I challenge them right now.

THE SPEAKER: Final supplemental.

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our plan would be to put shelters under their own mandate, and that's where you . . . [interjections]

THE SPEAKER: Order. [interjections] Order.

MRS. SOETAERT: Will you stop this harmful move and leave

shelters under their own independent mandate? That's what we'd do.

MR. CARDINAL: Mr. Speaker, the Liberals would prefer more shelters and more welfare. That's what they'd do. We are putting in processes that will allow communities, including the clientele, to design their own programs. When does that happen? We're doing it now with this new plan. The clientele out there, the interest groups, the opposition can help design the program. That's never happened before. That is why the program will work.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

### Youth Gangs

MRS. FORSYTH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose and I are concerned that there is criminal youth gang involvement in schools and communities in Calgary. A youth gang is considered as a group of young people under the age of 18 who are engaged in criminal activities. The concerns regarding youth gangs in Calgary I'm sure are shared by the Calgary Police Service. It is particularly important that schools are aware of gang activities within schools to ensure that schools remain safe places and that gang recruitment does not occur within them. My questions today are to the Minister of Justice. Will the Minister of Justice direct that information regarding youths known to be involved or associating with youth gangs be shared with law enforcement agencies, youth correctional staff, and local school administrative officials?

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the positive changes in the Young Offenders Act – and there are many more that we should be making – that came into effect on December 1 of last year was a change that would allow information to be transferred from law enforcement agencies to responsible school officials. The intent there was that we would ensure that there was compliance with a youth court order and that we would protect other students, staff, and others – and that's a very broad category: others – from individuals who may create a potential problem in that classroom or in the school vicinity. So what we have now as a result of that change to the Young Offenders Act is an opportunity. People from my department are working with the Department of Education to work out a protocol to ensure that we transfer that information effectively and efficiently so that we can have safer environments in our schools throughout Alberta.

2:10

THE SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MRS. FORSYTH: Thank you. My second question is: as the minister responsible for both the youth justice system and public safety, is the minister prepared to take the lead in conducting a study into the issue of youth gangs in Alberta and specifically in Calgary?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, this must be a collaborative process. I have met with Chief of Police Silverberg in Calgary to talk about this issue. We're going to continue to talk about it. We have representation on a federal/provincial/territorial youth

justice task force that is trying to deal with this issue of youth gangs. It's not unique to Alberta. It's all over the country, I'm afraid to say. I am pleased to try to take a proactive role in this, and as a start I can advise the hon. member that I'll ask that federal/provincial/territorial task force to look specifically at the issue she's raised.

THE SPEAKER: Final supplemental.

MRS. FORSYTH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on his answer, then, will the Minister of Justice initiate a co-ordinated approach to addressing the problem and, in doing so, develop an intervention strategy in collaboration with the Calgary Police Service, the Calgary school boards, and the Multicultural Commission in Calgary?

MR. EVANS: As I think I mentioned before, we are working to set up a protocol between Justice and Education that will assist in this regard. We obviously have to involve the police, and now the hon. member has said that the Multicultural Commission should be involved, and I think that's a very good suggestion as well. I'd like to sit down with the hon. member and get some more input from her on this issue. It's an important one, and we'll do everything we can within our budget to proactively deal with this matter and keep these matters out of Alberta.

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

#### **Occupational Health and Safety**

MS LEIBOVICI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fifteen workers at Kawneer are experiencing health problems such as internal bleeding, dizziness, and severe headaches. They believe that the health problems are due to poor ventilation. I'd like to table copies that substantiate these claims. One is a list of nine employees of Kawneer in Lethbridge and the symptoms they're experiencing, another is excerpts from minutes of the safety committee in which ventilation problems have been brought to that committee for over two years, and the third is the copy of a 1992 occupational health and safety report that recommends that improvements be made. Last week three employees, including a member of the occupational health and safety committee, were suspended for 20 days as a result of their refusal to work in those life-threatening conditions. My questions are to the minister responsible for the Occupational Health and Safety Council. Why has occupational health and safety not ensured that the recommendations made almost three years ago were followed up?

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, I can assure that you occupational health and safety was aware of this situation and various situations occurring at the site three years ago. Recommendations were made, follow-up was done, and items were addressed. I can also assure the member, as I know that the Member for Lethbridge-West has similar concerns for his constituents, that occupational health and safety is also very actively involved at the present time with the workers in this situation.

THE SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MS LEIBOVICI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 28.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act allows the council to rescind the disciplinary action taken against the worker. Will the minister ensure that the actions are taken to ensure that the workers' suspensions are reviewed by the council?

MR. DAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact that's already happening. The member has correctly cited the section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that deals with that. In fact, in the not too distant past there have been a number of similar situations where workers in fact have reported this, and the Occupational Health and Safety Council, which has the mandate to review it, has looked at it, addressed the appeal, and in fact there were situations recently where workers were reinstated.

The process is being applied. As soon as the occupational health and safety officers received that complaint, they began the investigation with both sides, and we're looking towards a satisfactory resolution.

THE SPEAKER: Final supplemental.

MS LEIBOVICI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister ensure, so that this is not an ongoing problem, that a board of inquiry is appointed under section 29 of the Act to look into the situation?

MR. DAY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that a successful resolution is always the goal, and if that can be done by bringing both sides together, as is the process right now, that is certainly the process that'll take place. If, as does happen sometimes, suggestions and regulations, et cetera, are not followed and that's deemed to be a negligence and a willfulness not to follow, then certainly those officers have the ability to write those orders regarding a company's response, and they will not be hesitant to do so. Again, our goal is to see this successfully resolved.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

#### **Municipal Road Restrictions**

MR. HLADY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of my constituents and other Calgaryans have approached me regarding the recent actions of the municipal district of Rocky View. It seems the MD would like to restrict bicycles from a number of local roads in the Springbank area between Bragg Creek and Cochrane, west of the city of Calgary. The roads through Springbank are heavily used by people commuting to work daily on bicycles and by many cycling clubs and individuals year-round. My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Utilities. What authority does the MD have to do this?

DR. WEST: Mr. Speaker, I guess I can understand the sensitivity that the hon. member has to this, but in Canada there are three levels of government, and each level of government confers on the next one certain powers. We right now, of course, are saying that the federal government has gone beyond their jurisdiction, and we would like them to hand down some of those that were spelled out in the British North America Act, and I'd . . .

MR. DECORE: Ah, that's not true, Steve.

DR. WEST: Yes. I can see that the Liberals are still as solid as they were back in the Pierre Elliott Trudeau days. I suppose that was one of your mentors.

Getting back to the member's question, you can see how sensitive it is at each level of government and what happens when there's any crossover of authority. Well, we convey certain powers to the municipalities, and under section 16 of the Highway Traffic Act we gave the right to the municipalities to have

governance over these roads. If in the spring they want to set certain bans on those roads to protect them, they can do that. They can also look at certain configurations of vehicles, whether they want gravel trucks with pups or not, and they can also determine whether the usage of that road, whether it be bicycles or otherwise, is safe in their jurisdiction.

MR. HLADY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the MD of Rocky View received a '95-96 road grant from the province of \$486,000 and proposed allocations for '96-97 of \$477,000. To the same minister: as the taxpayers of Alberta are contributing funds to these roads, isn't it reasonable to expect them to be treated as public roads with multiple uses?

DR. WEST: Well, again, I mean, that's always brought up. It's always brought up, you know: we gave them money, so should we have jurisdiction? As I said, we've conferred that jurisdiction on them. Remember, there is only one taxpayer, so when you say that we took money and we gave it, that municipality has a right to those dollars we cost share with them to make sure that there's accountability. I think that's the biggest reason why we confer grants on a percentage bases; in this case, 75-25. As a result, we still believe that they're the best body, after giving the money to them, to have jurisdiction over these roads on a day-to-day basis.

2:20

MR. HLADY: Mr. Speaker, to the same minister again: what recourse or options do my constituents and other Calgarians have to get some changes on that or make sure it doesn't happen?

DR. WEST: The question is one that I'm sure the hon. member can direct, but for his constituents and that, the principle of democracy is strong in this country, just as this Assembly is represented here by choices that Albertans made. We have Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and I rest heavily on that.

People in the MD of Rocky View vote every three years, and they have a body of people who aren't there arbitrarily. They are accountable, and they've been elected by due process just like I've been elected, and you should instruct them to go and represent themselves to those people, bring forth the pros and cons of what they believe they are doing, and see if they can find a middle ground as a solution to this.

The answer to your question is: exercise your right, and more people should in the democratic process. Go to the people that you put in place to do that.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

### Regulatory Reform

MR. DICKSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year 70,000 Calgarians contacted their Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board when they needed information or they needed assistance. Yet when this government announced plans a year ago to eliminate the advisory board and create a brand-new bureaucracy, it held only two public hearings, both poorly advertised and, not surprisingly, poorly attended. My question is to the MLA for Peace River, chairman of the government's deregulation task force. Has your deregulation task force reviewed this specific proposal, which will create a new bureaucracy with more red tape, more delays, and more costs?

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Peace River.

MR. FRIEDEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [interjections]

THE SPEAKER: Order. [interjections] Order please. Hon. members, the Chair has recognized the hon. Member for Peace River. Would you kindly give him the courtesy of being heard.

The hon. member.

MR. FRIEDEL: I presume, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Calgary-Buffalo is referring to the controversy he was trying to raise earlier in the year by having this reviewed through a very clumsy committee process and the dispute that we went through at the time as to the amount of time and the lack of progress that would be made under that system. I'd invite him to come to my office anytime. I'll share with him the information as to what the task force has done: the inventory work we have done on the existing regulations, the plans that each department has put together to review each of its regulations in the next three-year period, and the detailed schedules that are going to be available almost immediately for the 1996 portion of the review.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. member, supplemental.

MR. DICKSON: Thank you, sir. My question – and I'll try to rephrase it – is: has the government's deregulation task force specifically assessed the recommendation, that's now a year old, from the Minister of Municipal Affairs to scrap the Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board access to small claims court and replace it with a cumbersome, expensive, brand-new bureaucracy?

MR. FRIEDEL: Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what he is talking about in terms of creating . . . [interjections]

THE SPEAKER: Order please. [interjections] Order. It seems to the Chair that the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo is really asking the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs as to whether he's changed his mind.

MR. FRIEDEL: Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Calgary-Buffalo or any member of the opposition cared to look at how the review process would work, they've been invited to do this a number of times. They have on a number of occasions complained about the process, but not one of them has bothered to contact me personally or my office to find out how this process works. [interjections]

### Speaker's Ruling Anticipation

THE SPEAKER: Order. [interjections] Order. The Chair has had the opportunity during the course of this sitting so far to learn that the Department of Municipal Affairs estimates are up in Committee of Supply this afternoon. No doubt the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo in pursuit . . . [interjections] Order. [interjections] Order. The Chair begs the forgiveness of the Assembly for failing to . . . [interjections] Order.

Nevertheless, hon. members, we all know that the latitude for debate in Committee of Supply is very wide and the minister responsible for that area is required to answer questions in that area.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, final supplemental.

### Regulatory Reform (continued)

MR. DICKSON: I appreciate the direction, Mr. Speaker, and I'll

try to ask my second supplementary in a fashion that avoids any reference to budget at all. My question would be to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. Since it's apparent that the minister hasn't got input from his own deregulation task force and he's refused to meet with representatives of the Calgary Apartment Association, which represents over 55,000 units, I'd like to know what happened to his promise of three months ago that he wanted input on his new plan and promised discussions that would be, quote, full and open.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. THURBER: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There've been some negotiations and consultations take place on two separate occasions in Calgary and in the province where the Calgary Apartment Association and other people, any other interested stakeholders, had the opportunity to bring forward suggestions as to how they could set up their own organization and govern their own landlord/tenancy problems. That was the idea of that consultation.

We have since decided to pull that Bill from the schedule for this spring until further consultations take place. We'll find out how we can do this in a reasonable manner. The process that we went through: we asked the landlords and tenants in this province to come up with a system and a process where they could govern their own businesses and deal with their own landlord complaints as opposed to having my department do a big majority of them. That process will continue, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

### Gun Control Legislation

MS CALAHASEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Albertans Aiming for Truth recently surveyed a number of recreational firearms holders on the level of compliance expected after the implementation of Bill C-68. Of the 1,100 people questioned, 41 percent stated they would not fully comply with the registration provisions of this Act. Many of my constituents have strong views regarding noncompliance and the impact this Bill will have on their constitutional rights. Can the Minister of Justice provide an update and outline the progress of discussions between Alberta, other jurisdictions, and the government of Canada on this legislation?

THE SPEAKER: The Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

MR. EVANS: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. As I think probably all members of this House are aware, Bill C-68 has now been proclaimed. It's received Royal Assent. It's the law of the country.

That notwithstanding, there is a constitutional issue here as to whether all of the provisions in that legislation are correctly categorized as criminal law. The province of Alberta is reviewing along with the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories whether there is a constitutional argument that would be supportable were we to challenge those provisions in the legislation that do not deal with criminal law but in our opinion deal with regulation and licensing, which could be called regulatory.

2:30

Now, in terms of the federal government, the federal government is very much aware of the concerns that we have for the licensing and the registration provisions. I must say that they haven't been very quick in moving ahead with regulations under

the licensing and registration provisions, and in point of fact in their own schedule there would be no requirement for registration until the beginning of 1998 and no penalties until the year 2003. There's a lot of time between now and 2003 for more Canadians to get their views across to the federal government on some of the provisions in that Act.

THE SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MS CALAHASEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that representatives from Treaty 8 have indicated that their constitutionally recognized rights are being threatened by this legislation, can the minister indicate whether or not he has examined this issue as a basis for a future court challenge?

MR. EVANS: Well, one of the issues that we are looking at is the inherent rights of our aboriginal First Nations. We have met with representatives from the aboriginal First Nations throughout Canada, and we will continue to do so.

MS CALAHASEN: Mr. Speaker, then will the minister collaborate with representatives from Treaty 8 to discuss the shared goal of many Albertans in challenging the validity of this legislation?

MR. EVANS: I have had some meetings in northern Alberta with Treaty 8 representatives, Mr. Speaker. I've certainly indicated that the door is open for further meetings. I've also met with the grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and, you know, we will continue to work with our aboriginal leaders. I would point out to the hon. member – I think she's probably aware – that Stephen Kakfwi, who is the Minister of Justice for the Northwest Territories, is an aboriginal, and he has been very forthright and very articulate in promoting the issues that are of particular note and particular concern to the aboriginal First Nations of Canada.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

### Marda Loop Housing Society

MRS. HEWES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 15 years the Marda Loop Housing Society has been trying to acquire a unique government-owned parcel of land in southwest Calgary on which the society had planned to build a seniors' housing complex. This government had an agreement to sell the parcel of land to the society at a certain price but then sold the parcel to a private developer. The developer has said that they may include some seniors' housing, but they are under no legal obligation to do so. My questions are to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. As this was a sincere community-based effort to provide needed seniors' housing, why did the government allow the option with the society to expire?

MR. THURBER: Well, Mr. Speaker, this goes back a long ways on this particular deal with the Marda Loop housing association down there. They did have options on this land from time to time, and they were extended from time to time. At the last point it became apparent that they were not going to take up the option or weren't able to take it up, so we put the land on the market and took the next bid.

MRS. HEWES: That's not really an answer. Mr. Speaker, I'm



sorry about that.

My supplementary to the minister is: why was a caveat not placed on this property, as requested back in 1993, to ensure that the property would be used for sorely needed seniors' housing? Why didn't you place the caveat there?

MR. THURBER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's been the policy of this government when we surplus land and decide to put it on the market that we try and get the best market value for that land. With certain caveats on it it wouldn't fit the marketplace; we wouldn't be able to determine what the market value was on a reasonably open market. We say that the market value is something that's arrived at by a willing seller and a willing buyer. So we don't have that caveat on there.

MRS. HEWES: Now we know where the priorities are. Fifteen years in a community organization saving money, finding money to build necessary housing, and it's thrown away.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister: what part did the Alberta Social Housing Corporation play in this deal?

MR. THURBER: Mr. Speaker, the Social Housing Corporation is an organization that takes into account and under their wing a lot of different housing projects in this province. As I said before about this particular land deal, they had the option to buy it if they could have come up with the money. As the hon. member says, maybe they were saving for 15 years, but they also had options on it for a long time. They weren't able to meet the price, so it was sold on the open market.

head: **Members' Statements**

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury.

#### **Michener Centre**

MR. BRASSARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For well over 50 years Michener Centre in Red Deer has provided a safe and stable environment for people with developmental disabilities. I've never visited the centre when I haven't come away with an increased respect for the staff, who continue to provide an extremely high level of compassion and understanding to the care of the approximate 600 residents.

Michener Centre was originally designed for a much larger population and in the late 1960s was home to over 2,200 individuals. Over the ensuing years many of the residents opted to move directly into the community. This continues to be an option of choice for many. As the population at Michener declines, resources will be allocated to the community to ensure that the required supports and services will be provided. This will also allow for more employment opportunities as communities take on the responsibility of providing these services. Not all residents will choose to leave Michener Centre, however, and may well exercise their personal choice to remain at the centre.

I applaud the minister's intention to place this facility under the direction of an independent board operating at arm's length from the government. This is long overdue and will bring an even greater sense of community to Michener and thereby further enhance the freedom of choice for persons with developmental disabilities.

People with special needs in Alberta have come a long way, particularly in the past 10 years, Mr. Speaker, and this move brings us that much closer to the day when we will no longer

speak of people with disabilities but simply of people.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

#### **Alberta Hospital Edmonton**

MR. SEKULIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta Hospital Edmonton is situated in my constituency, and the effect of the government's health reforms on the hospital's patients and staff are of great concern to me. Although the challenge of reforming Alberta's mental health system is significant, it must be addressed objectively. In the absence of any definitive cures we must not abdicate our responsibility to those suffering from mental illness. We must ensure that an appropriate level of care is always provided. Each citizen at the very least has a right to a dignified existence.

The current trend towards deinstitutionalization has been dangerously accelerated with few if any safeguards to ensure successful transition. Deinstitutionalization is being promoted as a recent revolution in care, yet it has been a common and successful practice at Alberta Hospital Edmonton for the past 40 years. I believe that this government was irresponsible to force or even allow bed closures prior to ensuring that the community was able to receive people as the hospitals discharged them. It was the government's responsibility to ensure full funding for required community services. It was the government's responsibility to provide a sufficient time period for putting such services in place. Most importantly, though, it was the government's responsibility to ensure that standards for community care were set, in place, monitored, and enforced. The government has failed in each of its responsibilities.

People leaving institutions require more than merely lodging. A proper environment is crucial for dealing with potential symptoms or irregular behaviours and, most importantly, for serving as a progression of care which prevents or minimizes the need for readmission. Day programming must be available and accessible. One can easily be as isolated in the community as they can be in an institution. Returning to the community should always be stepping forward, never backward.

Change motivated purely by physical targets totally disregards people, and I worry that many Albertans suffering from mental illness are being disregarded by this government. The cost for such disregard is high, and unfortunately it is hidden from the public, at least for the present time.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Lethbridge-West.

2:40

#### **Labour Unions**

MR. DUNFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't suppose it should be surprising to anyone that I might be disturbed about some of the current union activities that are taking place, but I'd like to look deeper through that and look at a bit of history. When unions first developed, they developed in the natural resource area coming out of the mines. Then as unions began to form within the manufacturing sector, there was quite a crisis because we had basically two different types of philosophy taking place. No one, I think, would deny the fact that unions were needed at that particular point in time, and I think they can be credited with providing for a standard of living in the middle class in North America that became second to none.

Then in the mid-70s, as the private sector started to grasp with

the energy crunch and costs going through the roof, there were many craft and industrial unions that went to the employers and said, "Look; we understand that you're in difficulty, but we want you to understand that our basic criteria for being a union is having members, so we want to work with you in order to ensure that."

Now, what we're seeing today, I believe, is another conflict between industrial unions and public-sector unions. The UFCW, the iron workers, many of these major national unions are working with not only their employers but with their own members in trying to develop new skills so that they will be able to accommodate the transition that we're going through in industry today.

What I'm seeing in the public sector is a sad lack of that. We still seem to have union leaders who are stuck on wages and benefits, and I would think there should be a call to arms to the union movement not only in Alberta but across the country to get outside, get on board, and let's find a way to keep people working in our country.

#### head: **Projected Government Business**

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition House Leader may I ask the Government House Leader: what is the projected business for next week?

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Government House Leader.

MR. DAY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, following some discussion with the Opposition House Leader, I'd like to now inform the Assembly that Monday, March 4, in the afternoon Committee of Supply will be in the subcommittees: the Executive Council and science and technology. In the evening: Government Bills and Orders, the three that are on the Order Paper now, 6, 7, and 9. If there's time, depending on how the debate goes on those, then we move to Committee of the Whole on the Bills that are presently in committee, being numerical order 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Again, that's given the time and the progress made on the second readings.

On Tuesday, March 5, that same process will be followed in the afternoon for the one hour, and then the evening will find us in Committee of Supply with advanced education and the Department of Justice, Attorney General. Also, there will be the usual return to third reading at that point of Bill 10, which is the Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 1996.

On Wednesday evening in Committee of Supply: Energy and Community Development and the second reading of Bill 11, another appropriation Bill, the Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 1996.

Then Thursday afternoon: Committee of Supply with the departments of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Community Development. Also, again the usual process with the Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, Bill 11.

MRS. HEWES: Community Development both Wednesday and Thursday?

MR. DAY: Yes, that's correct. It's coming twice.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to deal with a couple of matters out of last night's business, but before doing that, perhaps the hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert could deal with her point of order.

#### **Point of Order Imputing Motives**

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under 23(i). The Minister of Family and Social Services is implying that I do not understand the reality of women's shelters and the numbers there. The fact is that there are some small centres with empty rural beds, but in reality there were 5,797 women and children who could not get into a shelter when they needed to last year. If you're in a room and there are three beds and a crib . . . [interjections] I want to explain the numbers and how the minister is explaining them.

If the crib is empty, that's considered a vacancy. [interjections]

THE SPEAKER: Order, hon. members. The hon. member should come to her point of order quite succinctly. It sounds to the Chair like there's a disagreement over facts between the hon. members.

MRS. SOETAERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will clarify that the numbers represented by the minister are very misleading, because vacancies can be one crib in a room when there are three other people or four other people. So when he says there's a 23 percent vacancy rate, he's misleading Albertans. [interjections]

THE SPEAKER: Order. Order please. This sounds like a matter of debate to the Chair and not a point of order.

#### **Privilege Freedom of Speech**

THE SPEAKER: Hon. members, last night we had a very late, long evening, and the Chair wants to deal with a couple of things, as indicated, about last night's business. First of all, the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo raised a question of privilege in the Assembly about the motion passed in the Committee of Supply to establish subcommittees. The hon. member attempted to distinguish his question of privilege from that raised by the Leader of the Opposition on the evening of February 26. Both applications dealt with the issue of two subcommittees meeting at the same time.

The Chair's ruling on February 26 expressly addressed the issue of a member's privilege of freedom of speech. The Chair ruled that there was no prima facie question of privilege, and that should have ended the matter. Not only is the question of privilege raised by the Member for Calgary-Buffalo indistinguishable from the previous question of privilege; it is inconceivable to the Chair how the member could say that this was raised at the earliest opportunity, when the motion was introduced in committee on Monday night. If the member had something to contribute, he should have contributed it on Monday night. [interjection] The question of passing has nothing whatever to do with it.

Questions of privilege are the most serious matters an Assembly can address. They should not be raised frivolously. The hon. member knew his question was virtually identical to his leader's yet chose to take up the time of the House at a very late hour last night. There is no prima facie case of privilege, and the matter was not raised at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair also received written notice from the hon. Member for Fort McMurray under Standing Order 15(2) of a purported question of privilege. That arrived today. The essence of his question concerns two subcommittees meeting at the same time. I'm wondering whether there's an echo in here. The same

principles are involved as in the other two purported questions of privilege. The principles were addressed in the Chair's ruling of February 26. The member indicated that he sits on two subcommittees that are scheduled to meet at the same time. The actual membership of the subcommittees is a matter for the Committee of Supply. The matter mirrors the other two questions of privilege.

**2:50**

The Chair will not entertain any more debate on that purported question of privilege or other questions of privilege that are the same or virtually the same as the two already raised.

### **Speaker's Ruling Lottery Fund Estimates**

THE SPEAKER: Now, there's one other matter that has arisen. It has been brought to the Chair's attention that yesterday when the Committee of Supply was considering the estimates for the Department of Transportation and Utilities, it also began considering the lottery fund estimates. The Chair advises all members of the Assembly that any consideration of lottery fund estimates yesterday was not in order. Lottery fund estimates are not part of the main estimates and cannot be considered with the main estimates. Standing Order 58(2.1) reads, "The Committee of Supply shall be called to consider the estimates of the Alberta Lottery Fund on not more than 2 sitting days."

The Chair understands that the government will be presenting a motion to the Legislative Assembly to refer the lottery fund estimates to the Committee of Supply for its consideration. Although this may be viewed as a matter to be determined in the Committee of Supply, the Chair finds that the lottery fund estimates have not been referred to the Committee of Supply, and they reside with the Assembly until they are.

head: **Orders of the Day**  
head: **Committee of Supply**  
head: **Main Estimates 1996-97**

[Mr. Tannas in the Chair]

THE CHAIRMAN: Members are reminded that pursuant to Standing Order 57 and the vote on the motion of last evening, we are now dividing into two subcommittees. Subcommittee D will meet in room 512 in five minutes from now to consider the estimates of the Department of Labour. Subcommittee C will meet in this Chamber in five minutes from now to consider the estimates of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

[The Committee of Supply adjourned from 2:53 p.m. to 4:57 p.m.]

THE CHAIRMAN: I'd call the committee to order.

### **Point of Order Clarification**

MR. COLLINGWOOD: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I believe we need 10 minutes to allow the members to come into the Chamber after the first bell.

THE CHAIRMAN: It's not a division. For a division you need that. This was just a courtesy to members at the request of some

of your colleagues to draw attention that we're supposed to be here once you adjourn in the other areas. [interjections] Only one person speaks.

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the agreement was that the bell would ring to recall Assembly. If there are members of the Assembly from both sides of the House who are in the Annex, they will have no understanding that we are back here and will need the required 10 minutes so that we can come back into Assembly out of Committee of Supply. My understanding on the ringing of the division bell is that we would then have a 10-minute period for other members to attend so that we are all in our places.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Government House Leader on the issue of how long before we convene the Committee of Supply.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, in fact there's no requirement in Standing Orders for a bell to be rung at any time. However, it's something that might get some consideration, and I'd like to talk to the Opposition House Leader about that. The instructions were clear both when we left here and for those who are upstairs that in returning there would be approximately five minutes allowed for members to move back and forth between the two. I hear the concern about a bell. A bell was rung out of courtesy to alert members, and that's something that's worthy to explore. In fact there's no point of order; there's no Standing Order being violated at this particular time. But I will give a commitment to immediately discuss this with the Opposition House Leader for upcoming days so we can use that bell in a significant way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

The hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

MR. COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one comment. There are members of the Assembly who are not part of the committees who will have a more appreciative understanding of what the arrangement is. There may be members of this Assembly who are in their offices either in this building or in the Legislature Annex who will not have that understanding because they were not part of the committees. So my suggestion was that as a courtesy to those members, not necessarily to members of the subcommittees of supply that were sitting this afternoon but as a courtesy to those members, because we will now be going into debate in Assembly, the time should be allotted to them to arrive.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would indicate that the Chair had no understanding that there would be a 10-minute delay. It was a decision that was made almost a few moments before we rang the bell, that a warning bell to let people know would be appreciated. Right on. So we pushed the bell with the idea – and we put the one-minute timer on – that in one minute we would reconvene.

**5:00**

The Chair also understood that we were going to be reconvening sometime following adjournment of the subcommittees at 4:45 p.m. I think that if we want to make arrangements for some other determination on the bells, well and good. I don't have a problem with that, but I don't think we ought to belabour this issue right now. It is something that the hon. Government House Leader has indicated a willingness to deal with, and I certainly appreciate the hon. Member for Sherwood Park's point of view that it may be

inconvenient for some members. However, if they just stayed away for that period of time, that is in a sense their problem.

### Debate Continued

THE CHAIRMAN: We are now in Committee of Supply, and the Chair will call the hon. Member for Dunvegan to report.

MR. CLEGG: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Subcommittee D of the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Labour, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to table copies of documents tabled during the subcommittee of supply meeting this date for the official records of the Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the committee concur in this report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 5:02 p.m.]

[Ten minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

For the motion:

Amery	Fritz	McFarland
Beniuk	Haley	Mirosh
Black	Havelock	Oberg
Brassard	Herard	Renner
Burgener	Hierath	Rostad
Calahasen	Hlady	Severtson
Clegg	Jacques	Thurber
Coutts	Laing	Trynchy
Day	Lund	Woloshyn
Dunford	Magnus	Yankowsky
Forsyth		

Against the motion:

Abdurahman	Leibovici	Soetaert
Bracko	Massey	Taylor, N.
Collingwood	Sapers	Vasseur
Dickson	Sekulic	Wickman
Hewes		

Total: For - 31 Against - 13

[Motion carried]

MR. BRASSARD: Mr. Chairman, subcommittee C of the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Municipal Affairs, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury has moved that the subcommittee report and begs leave to sit again. All those in support of this motion, please say aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, please say no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Carried.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

DR. MASSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Opposition House Leader I propose the following changes to the subcommittees of supply: one, on subcommittee A, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Zariwny to be removed from the list and replaced by Mr. Van Binsbergen and Mr. Chadi; two, on subcommittee D, Mr. Chadi be removed from the list and replaced by Mr. N. Taylor. Both House leaders have discussed this and agreed on those changes.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll distribute those.

The question is called before we see it. We have before you, then, an amendment as proposed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods on behalf of Calgary-North West. All those in support of this amendment, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, please say no. Carried.

MR. DICKSON: With that, I assume that we're dealing with Bill 10. Is that accurate, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: We're in committee, hon. member.

MR. DICKSON: Very well. Okay.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee now rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[The Speaker in the Chair]

THE SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Dunvegan.

MR. CLEGG: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions for the Department of Labour and the Department of Municipal Affairs, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table copies of the documents tabled during Committee of Supply on this day for the official records of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies of a resolution agreed to in Committee of Supply on this day for the official records of the Assembly.

THE SPEAKER: Does the Assembly concur with the report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE SPEAKER: Opposed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

THE SPEAKER: So ordered.

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, as we move to adjournment, I see that the Member for Calgary-Buffalo had risen and then taken his seat. It's required by Standing Orders that if Bill 10 comes on Thursday afternoon, it has to be called by 5:15. That's why it won't be able to be called. We will, however, be doing that and altering the projected business for that.

**5:20**

Traditionally in estimates on a Thursday afternoon we would suspend estimates near the end of the time and call Bill 10 so that there would be a few minutes at least. With moving now between subcommittees, that does shorten the time that we can be in estimates. If we hadn't had Bill 10 today on the Order Paper, we could have actually still been in estimates. So I've given a consideration to the Whip that I will talk to the Opposition House Leader. Those appropriation Bills we'll put into an evening session, where that's at all possible, so that we don't abbreviate the estimates time on a Thursday afternoon.

[At 5:21 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

