

Standing Committee on Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act

Friday, September 10, 1982

Chairman: Dr. Reid

9:08 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Perhaps the committee can come to order.

To refresh people's memories, on the last occasion that the Minister of the Environment was here we adjourned because some members indicated that they had further questions to ask, and we had to get to the Treasury Department for the visit to the investment area. There was no spare time to finish off any questions. So the minister and his staff have agreed to come back, and they're here this morning if any members have any questions they wish to ask the minister.

For the benefit of the Member for Spirit River-Fairview, who couldn't be here that day, the minister did make some initial remarks, and we talked about several subjects under his purview. We had gotten well through the questions and answers. At least I think we were well through the answers. I'm never sure with some of the minister's answers.

Perhaps if there are any further questions for him, we can go to them right now. The member who had the two questions isn't here this morning, but perhaps he'll arrive before we finish.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, because the question was asked and there was quite a bit of discussion about advance information, perhaps I should put on the record that Motion for a Return No. 146, which deals with capital projects, was asked for in the Legislature and was accepted by the Provincial Treasurer. That was accepted in May, subject to an amendment, which is on the record.

The motion for a return dealt with the original estimated cost of heritage trust projects under Environment, the annual operating cost, the estimated annual operating costs for '81-82, '82-83, '83-84 of the various capital projects. That question was accepted, subject to an amendment. It will be tabled whenever the Legislature reconvenes and will deal with those matters. I think that will help to resolve some of the problems that one of the members was asking last day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think that was the question we were actually at when we had to adjourn. I don't have second sight, so I don't know what the other questions the Member for Olds-Didsbury was going to ask were. So we can't go into them at the moment.

MR. COOKSON: He wanted to know when the next election was.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps. He isn't here to ask the question, so I won't ask on his behalf.

Are there further items that the members of the committee would like to bring up with the minister or ask him at this time?

MR. NOTLEY: Perhaps this was raised last time, but where do things now stand on the Fish Creek Provincial Park, in terms of the difficulties over the legal questions there, the Mannix properties?

MR. COOKSON: I'm not sure whether the question was asked, Mr. Chairman, but maybe I can respond. Of course the big issue -- there were three properties that eventually had to be expropriated. Of course the one we're all most familiar with is the Mannix expropriation. The court proceedings went through this summer, and I think upwards of 20 days were spent in dialogue on both sides of the question. That now is sitting in the hands of the judge involved, and a ruling will come down when the judge is prepared to hand it down. Something tells me that it probably won't be until January 1, 1983. That's essentially where it's at.

MR. NOTLEY: So whatever the award is would be an automatic draw on the fund then?

MR. COOKSON: Yes, unless there is some appeal procedure. I think what may happen as a result of the judgment is speculative.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any more questions for the minister? It looks like that's it then. Well, it was a very brief appearance, Mr. Minister. I presume it's going to be your last in front of the committee. Thank you for coming and for the good humor as well.

We have scheduled the Minister of Tourism and Small Business for 10 a.m. Perhaps we could take a 10-minute adjournment and see if he's available at this time. We'll check back with you in about 10 minutes and let you know whether or not it's going to be 10 o'clock.

*The meeting recessed at 9:12 a.m.*