

[Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[1 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this organizational meeting of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act.

At the outset, could I make a comment about the membership of the committee. During the winter of 1983-84, one member came off the committee — that's Mr. Dennis Anderson — and he was replaced by Mr. Bud Zip, MLA for Calgary Mountain View. During the concluding days of the spring session, two additional members were added to the select standing committee, and I would like to welcome them: Mr. Rollie Cook, MLA for Edmonton Glengarry, and Mr. Harry Alger, MLA for Highwood. To Mr. Zip, Mr. Cook, and Mr. Alger: welcome aboard.

At the outset, I would also like to advise all members of the committee that this is probably the last opportunity we're going to have to meet with our secretary, Mrs. Peggy Davidson. She is slated to depart from our employ sometime in the month of July, and I doubt very much if we'll have another meeting of this committee until the first part of August. Peggy, on behalf of everyone on the committee, I want to express sincere appreciation and thanks for the excellent work you provided last year and for your assistance in getting us organized this year.

MRS. DAVIDSON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Peggy is departing for central Canada. Her husband is with the armed forces and is, as I recall, being transferred. We tried diligently to ensure that she would remain an Albertan, but I guess one should not interfere in the matrimonial affairs of consenting adults. I lost.

MRS. DAVIDSON: Thanks for trying anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sure the Clerk's office will have a replacement for Mrs. Davidson sometime in the month of July. I know that all members would like to join me in saying thank you very much, Peggy. [applause]

This meeting today is essentially set up as an organizational meeting. You have binders in front of you, and I would like to draw your attention to those binders. You'll recall that in the month of May, I conveyed two memos to all members of the committee. The first one outlined a number of dates, and the second was a reamplification of those dates. If you'll flip over your pages, what you have in the first section, under tab number one, is an index of this whole binder, which should simply be an agenda binder more than anything else.

If you flip over to tabulation number two, you'll see that the dates we talked about before are essentially the dates we were quite successful in getting various ministers to sign up for. Not counting today, we have 23 days set aside in the months of August, September, and October for the committee meetings. All meeting times are scheduled Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from the hour of 2 o'clock to 4:30. On Thursday the times are 10 a.m. to noon. There is only one exception to this and one change from this schedule and the previous one. In

retrospect, it would probably be very advisable if you just ripped up all previous paper you got with respect to schedules, so there's no confusion. The only time change — and I'll draw it to your attention now — is on Tuesday, October 2, 1984, and the tabloid is in fact wrong where it has the time frame 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Because of a scheduling problem, we've agreed to let the gentleman scheduled for that time go from 10 in the morning to noon.

MR. THOMPSON: On October 4?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tuesday, October 2, 10 a.m. to noon. That's the only change from the previous schedule.

The same list of ministers we invited last year have been invited this year. There is one addition to the list that we had appear before us last year, and you'll find that addition on Thursday, September 6. This year for the first time we had the triennial report of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the \$300 million endowment that comes out of the heritage fund. Members last year expressed an interest in having an opportunity to talk to the chairman of that foundation, Mr. E.A. Geddes, and the chief administrator, Dr. McLeod. We've invited them, and they've consented to the time frame of Thursday, September 6, and are slated in there.

The Provincial Treasurer advises me that the 1983-84 annual report of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund will be released in mid-July. It will be released to the public and circulated to all members of the Legislative Assembly in the manner which is prescribed under the Act; that is, it will be circulated to the Clerk, and the Clerk in turn will circulate it to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. MARTIN: Mid-July?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mid-July is what Mr. Hyndman told me. That basically follows the same time frame as last year.

Following that, as an aftermath to the information you gave me on the dates, in the last month we wrote to all ministers, and you'll see that they have confirmed. There's one addition to the list you have, because we confirmed this only a few minutes ago. On Tuesday, August 21, add the Hon. LeRoy Fjordbotten.

I'd like to take about three minutes to go through the agenda we have. We start on August 7 with Peter Trynchy; August 8, Larry Shaben; August 9 is open at the moment; August 13, Bill Payne; August 14, Marvin Moore; August 21, LeRoy Fjordbotten; August 22, Bill Diachuk; August 23, David Russell; Tuesday, August 28, is currently open; Wednesday, August 29, we have the Hon. Dick Johnston; August 30, Fred Bradley; September 5, Mr. Rogers, the Auditor General; September 6, Mr. Geddes and Dr. McLeod; September 10, Hon. Al Adair; September 11, Hon. John Zaozirny. Following a similar format to what we had last year, I've set aside Wednesday, September 12, for consideration of recommendations. In essence that would be the time frame in which we might want to have a first look at recommendations committee members would like to

make. The following week, September 24, Hon. Don Sparrow; Tuesday, September 25, the first day that might be set aside for discussion of recommendations; September 26, Hugh Planche; September 27, Lou Hyndman; October 2, Peter Loughheed; Wednesday, October 3, and Thursday, October 4, discussion of recommendations, plus the annual report.

I've already indicated that there are a couple of days left open, and I need some advice from all members of the committee. I ask you to refer to the information you have under tab 28, the last tab in the booklet, and refer you to page 21. What you have is the report we wrote last fall. Recommendation No. 5, Witnesses Before Committee:

That the Committee request that all Members of the Legislative Assembly who sit on the corporate boards of Syncrude and other such Fund supported joint ventures as government representatives should annually appear as witnesses before the Committee.

Remember that that recommendation was before the committee, and we agreed to it.

In reading through the annual report and trying to ascertain who the government representatives are on these various agencies and boards funded under the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, the best I can understand is that they are three in number. One is the chairman of this committee, who is the government's representative on the Syncrude board of directors; Mr. Bud Miller sits on the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority; and Dr. Elliott sits on the Farming for the Future board. Mr. Musgreave, is the Alberta Research Council funded under the Heritage Savings Trust Fund?

MR. MUSGREAVE: No. Executive Council.

MR. HYLAND: We have some projects under the trust fund.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Just Farming for the Future.

MR. HYLAND: And the new one that was just passed.

MR. MUSGREAVE: You mean the electronics centre.

MR. HYLAND: I suppose you can't say anything about ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I basically want to do is highlight that I need some guidance and direction from committee members as to how we should deal with those three individuals. In going through the whole report from last year and trying to figure out who sits on what board, agency, or commission, I really don't think there's anybody else. There are really the three of them.

The first question is basically — and I would like confirmation by committee members — do you want me to extend an invitation to those three individuals to appear as witnesses before this committee? If so, the second question is, how would we deal with them? In association with the minister, who might come in at the same time, or set aside some special time for them?

MRS. CRIPPS: You only have a couple of days that are scheduled and not already committed. If I remember correctly, the trust fund committee was interested in looking at Kananaskis. I would prefer to do that on one of those days, not as opposed to this but I would like to work that in also. That's not answering your question, but it is one of the things we raised last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else want to make some comments with respect to this? As an example, when Mr. Zaozirny comes with Energy and Natural Resources, if you wanted the government's representative on Syncrude and Mr. Miller to be there, it would just be a continuous flow of the basic discussion at the same time. So we wouldn't need to have a special day for it.

MRS. CRIPPS: I agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Presumably Dr. Elliott could come when Mr. Fjordbotten comes, because it's an agriculture-related matter.

MR. MARTIN: I think we should ask them. At one time we must have thought it was important to have them. If we make our own recommendation and don't invite them, I think it's a little suspect. I think they could be involved. I remember that many of the meetings didn't go the full time, so I think they could be involved with the appropriate ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the general consensus that we deal with it that way? So I should invite myself, Mr. Miller, and Dr. Elliott.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MARTIN: You can come too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The last item I have on the agenda — I really appreciate the co-operation here when I can talk and nobody else interrupts.

MR. HYLAND: One question. Can anybody else think of any others?

MR. MARTIN: You mean that are involved with the heritage fund?

MR. HYLAND: I don't think there are; I think he's got them all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that's right.

The last item I have dealing with schedule is a question in terms of visitations to fund-supported projects. You will recall that when we concluded our discussions last fall, there was an interest among members to visit some of the fund-supported projects in the province of Alberta. When I as chairman tried to get some understanding of where people wanted to go and, more important, tried to figure out dates, I threw up my arms and decided to pull out my hair and say, to heck with it. Everybody was so busy doing so many different things that nothing was scheduled. I never got any complaints from anybody, so I presume that was okay. But this year is a bit different. I don't know what your various schedules are. Mrs. Cripps has already indicated that she would like to

visit Kananaskis.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the two major projects that need to be examined are Kananaskis and the Prince Rupert terminal. A lot of money is going into those.

MRS. CRIPPS: And maybe forestry is the other one. Isn't that all heritage trust fund money?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. COOK: I think it's going to be increasingly important as well.

MRS. CRIPPS: We have three days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two open days.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think it's a little premature to make a decision today. I would prefer waiting and hearing some of these people who come before the committee. We may change our priorities. As long as we leave the caveat that if we find there's an area we would be interested in going to that would take precedence over Kananaskis, say the forestry — as long as we're allowed to change our priorities, fine. But I would hate to set down today a list of places we're going to and then feel that we have to go there. Not that I mind going to Kananaskis, or Prince Rupert as far as that goes, but we may find something we feel is more . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I talked to Dr. Horner because he sits on the consortia board with respect to Prince Rupert. His advice was that perhaps the best time to visit Prince Rupert would be during its initial start-up phase, which would be in the fall. That would be after we conclude our discussions, and that's no problem at all. This is a committee that sits the year round anyway, so we could really time it to go in late November or early December, if we wanted to do it then. The thing would be functional, at least on a trial-run basis. That would probably be the best time to go. If we're going to go to Kananaskis, I think we'd have to go . . .

MR. HYLAND: In the summer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right.

MR. THOMPSON: Already checked the snow level in February.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd rather check the density of the sand granules.

Any other thoughts or comments about this? If you have ideas in the next several weeks about places you'd like to visit, why don't you drop a note to me, and then I can do some preliminary work about trying to find out how detailed — if you wanted to go to Smoky Lake for the forestry thing, we could go in a day from Edmonton; that's no problem at all. It's a very easy thing to arrange, and it's within a 12-, 14-, 16-hour time frame. Kananaskis would probably involve two days for some people, because they would have to travel from either the far north or the deep south. We could lay it on any way you want. That's no problem.

I know that this meeting with respect to the organizational thing could have gone on for four or five hours, but I think most of the work has been done. I just need your concurrence, or your displeasure, with what has happened so far.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MARTIN: Keep up the fair work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last fall it was good work.

MRS. CRIPPS: We're assuming that the three places that have been mentioned are on your list now, and we don't have to write about them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prince Rupert, Kananaskis, and Smoky Lake.

MR. NELSON: May I just ask one question? You were going through this report of the select committee last fall. Was there some question as to whether we should pursue these pieces of discussion that are here, or are we going to follow that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The recommendations, you mean?

MR. NELSON: These items of pages 22, 23, and 24.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the ministers come back — when Mr. Hyndman and the Premier come back — I think all members will have a very, very fine opportunity to say, what has happened with respect to these recommendations?

MR. NELSON: I got the idea you were suggesting that there was some reason we were going to renege on these things. Mr. Martin indicated that he thinks we shouldn't, and I tend to agree with that. I just wanted to be clear in my mind that we were going to keep going with this straight schedule we developed last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else? Is everybody happy with what we have so far? I won't get any nuts and bolts, kicks in the face, in the next couple of weeks saying, why did you do this on a certain date, or anything like that.

MR. MUSGREAVE: You may see a headline in a paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My intent is basically that at approximately the time Mr. Hyndman makes his committee report available, I will put out a communication to everybody in the province of Alberta saying: this is what the schedule is for the Select Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. It would be advertised that way and made known at that time. It would be in about one month's time.

MR. NELSON: Are we sticking fairly close to that memorandum you sent out with regard to dates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The one you have in your book? Yes.

MR. NELSON: That's the same one we got?

MR. MARTIN: Except for one change.

MR. THOMPSON: Stan came a little late. I'll show you, Stan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's only a time change.

I also note from the feedback I got from you that it will be almost impossible to have all members of the committee attend each one of these meetings, but I think everybody has always understood that.

If there's anything you want to draw to my attention, kindly do so between now and the next date on which we meet. We'll reconvene at 2 o'clock on Tuesday, August 7, 1984. Thank you very much for your excellent co-operation. I'm really pleased with the co-operation I've received from members of the committee and members of Executive Council in terms of the schedule. I think we're nearly three weeks ahead of where we were last year.

We'll adjourn, and if anybody wants to fill in these administrative forms that Mrs. Davidson has, kindly do so now. I'll sign them, and away you go.

[The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.]