

[Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[9 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 9 o'clock. The meeting was scheduled for 9 a.m. on this day of March 1986. There is only one item on the agenda, and that deals with the final review of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act with respect to the report of our activities in 1985.

All members will know that during 1985 we spent a great deal of time — in fact, 416 pages worth of Hansard — looking at all of the activities that we have under our responsibility. The draft of the report is before you. It has been gone through about 35 times by a combination of myself, Mr. Bubba, and Miss Conroy. At the outset I would like to thank both Mr. Bubba and Miss Conroy for their excellent work on behalf of the committee in association with me with respect to all of the activities that we undertook in 1985.

The draft report you see in front of you is, in fact, ready to go. When I sent out a memo, dated March 7, 1986, I had one statement in it, and I would like to quote it:

If you have any concerns about the text of the report, would you kindly contact me as soon as possible.

I've had no contacts to 9 o'clock this morning with respect to the text of the report. Be that as it may, however, there may very well be some concerns or considerations that committee members would like to have raised this morning.

All in all, the report will come out in printed form rather than just simply xeroxed form, a different format than in previous years simply because there was a lot of reaction from committee members and other people who said, "Well, really, this is an important committee of the Legislature, and surely we can have a report that at least looks a little better than simply a foolscap approach." That's sort of insignificant, because what's really important is what the report contains or does not contain. That's more important than the basic physical appearance of the document itself. In essence, it will be 31 or 32 pages in length. The only thing additional will be a page that will have the pictures of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act.

Having said that, I will now throw the meeting open in order to see if there are any

comments or concerns that individual committee members have with respect to the report. Then I would like to get a motion passed and approved from the committee saying that this is fine, so we can send it to the printers. I'll explain to you then what will happen after that.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, just a question on the makeup, where we have — whatever page it's going to be — Keith Alexander. Should there be a notation there "resigned" or something like that, and the date? By the time this report comes out, we'll be so-called sitting with two Members for Edmonton Whitemud under two different names, not necessarily on the committee but the list of the Legislature would show.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I suppose it's a fair point. Mr. Alexander did serve as a member of the committee during the time in which all of our meetings were held. It has been several months, of course, and a few events have transpired since then. We can put an asterisk in there. It would seem to me it would just simply be a . . .

MR. HYLAND: The day of resignation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't even know if it's important.

MR. HYLAND: I'm not hung up. I just asked the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will recall in a previous year when the late Mr. Notley passed on, we did not do an asterisk to indicate that he'd served just from a certain period of time.

MRS. CRIPPS: Dangerous committee.

MR. THOMPSON: It's kind of losing its members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would committee members feel that there is need to make an identifiable notation with respect to Mr. Alexander?

MR. THOMPSON: I don't particularly think so. As far as our report is concerned, Keith was the responsible member at the time and, from my

point of view, should accept full responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would there be additional concerns or items?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, one further comment. I would just like to commend the chairman on his introduction and the background he put into this report. For us on the committee it's not essential, but for people who are not on the committee and who read this report, I think this information really is a good thing to have in it. On that point I would like commend the chairman for the introduction and background material that he's put in it.

I've gone over it. As far as I can see, it's accurate. Without further ado, I would move that we accept the report for printing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would there be a seconder to that motion?

MR. NELSON: I second that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would there be any discussion or debate with respect to it? All committee members in favour? It's unanimous.

Thank you very much. You'll note that there's one date missing from it; it simply says 1986. I think the date we'll select will probably be April 3, the date on which the House will reconvene. As per the tradition, the report has to be tabled prior to the second reading by the Provincial Treasurer of those appropriation Bills dealing with the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. So the report itself, I suppose, could be tabled any time between April 3 and perhaps June. I don't know how long we're going to be here. I don't know when the date is that the Provincial Treasurer will introduce the appropriation Bills. But when they go to second reading, as long as we have the report tabled before then, it would be appropriate.

Next item is that we basically have asked for 1,000 copies of the report to be printed. They will be circulated to all of the people who participated before the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, leaders of course, and will be made available to the media and those agencies and departments of government which would be impacted or affected by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. If committee members want copies for leaders in their community, you might just check with Ann to make sure that the

appropriate number will be provided to you. When it's tabled in the House, it will simply be tabled with a very, very short statement from me, and I would be available to answer any questions that anybody would have with respect to it.

Having said that, the last order of business -- and it's not a very major order of business, because it's already been approved. You'll recall that the last time we had a meeting, I indicated that it may very well be that I would have to spend 12, 13, or 14 days putting together this report since the last time we met, which was September 26. I asked the approval of the committee to ensure that they would approve whatever expenses were incurred by the chairman in putting this together. You all agreed to approve it at that time. I take it that nobody has a sense of change or anything with respect to it. The chairman always has to come on bent knees and everything else.

MRS. CRIPPS: This is fun.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was a motion to approve that, so I take it that there are no negatives with respect to it. That will be done, and I will file it appropriately.

Having said that, I want to thank all committee members for what I think was an outstanding job in 1985, serving on the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. You'll recall that we had some very unique events occur before us with the first -- well, I guess there were several precedents created. For the first time in the history of the standing committee, one witness -- in this case, the Provincial Treasurer -- was asked to reappear on two additional occasions. There were three occasions on which he appeared before the committee. Very positive discussions and very co-operative. I had absolute co-operation from all the people whom we requested to appear before the committee. The attendance of committee members, in my view, was very, very good.

One other thing that was unique last year as well was that it was a last opportunity for Mr. William Rogers, the Auditor General, to appear before our committee. It was also the last opportunity for the former Premier of Alberta to appear before this committee in his capacity as the Premier of Alberta. So in many ways it was historic.

I suspect that as we move on this committee in 1986, there may very well be new directions and new ventures. It would be my anticipation that over the next three or four months, with the activities and the responsibilities of the Legislature before us, committee members would not have an availability in their schedules to partake of any field trips. I would suspect that you would not want me to spend too much time booking such things over the next several months, because I anticipate that the Legislature would be the most important responsibility we would have.

Having said that, I want to thank you very, very much. We will not have another meeting until this thing is tabled. Then if committee members want to have another meeting, they should just contact me and we will arrange for such.

Thank you very much.

MRS. CRIPPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NELSON: I move the meeting adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. It's been moved and resolved.

[The committee adjourned at 9:10 a.m.]

