

[Chairman: Mr. Bogle]

[10:09 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I declare the meeting open. Bob is going to review for us what we have lined up today. He's had some difficulty with scheduling Judge Dixon. He very much wants to appear before our committee but is in B.C. at this time, so we'll have to find a later date.

Bob, why don't you quickly lead us through what we'll be doing today in terms of meetings, and then we'll concentrate on other matters on the agenda. I thought we'd give a recap of the Regina/Winnipeg meetings, discuss our first hearings scheduled for High Level, Peace River, and Grande Prairie, talk about the schedule through until mid-December when we break, and deal with the news releases, including whether or not we have radio ads. We've got to address association meetings. We decided that we would attempt to appear before the AUMA, the MDs and Cs, school trustees, and the hospital association - and there's a process we need to go through for that - and then finally, finalize the letter we want to get out to interested parties re the process and the hearings and so on.

So that's the agenda we've got set up for today, and it's flexible, if there are other matters that you want raised. We need to deal as well, of course, with the Victoria trip, and I hope, Pam, you're able to go out by train.

MS BARRETT: I think I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would be terrific, because we found . . . Well, I won't get into the Regina/Winnipeg meeting yet, but you need to be there meeting the people to get the real feeling.

Anything else you can think of that should go on as a major item for today? All right. Give us an overview, then, if you would, Bob, as to who we're going to be meeting with today and any of the nuances with it, and then we'll go back to the meetings.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. I've been meeting with Bill Gano and a couple of people regarding the setup of a computer system so that we can do some analyses of populations and demographics. A couple of people here have mentioned the possibility of some sort of formula that might be used or incorporated or considered when looking at boundaries. One of the people I met with who seems to be very hands-on and has done a lot of work with the lands division is coming in at some time this morning, and he's going to give us a demonstration of some of the things that can be done with a computer program he has. His name is Tomislav Milinusic, and his agency is Axion Spatial Imaging. He'll set things up for us. He had another commitment this morning, so he's working ours in when he can. So, as I said, as soon as he gets here, we'll go out and see his demonstrations. It will just be at Karen's desk; he'll set it up on our computer there. He'll be able to answer any of your questions and show how he can bring the things up in different areas, how he has access to the federal statistics and also provincial statistics that can be blended, and do overlays on maps and all those sorts of things on boundaries.

This afternoon we're having a fellow named Doug Lessard coming from AGT. He's going to do a presentation for us on how we might set up video communication. This was fallout from Tevie Miller's presentation, that we could have meetings here and meetings in Calgary and hook the two areas together by video. He's going to tell us how we might utilize some of those devices. Also, he's going to talk a bit about new communication devices which may be of value to MLAs in their constituencies and perhaps have a bearing on boundaries in that it may make communication easier between MLAs and their constituencies if some of the new technology is utilized in the future, things that we even have today, like fax, which make a

big difference in communication. So his presentation will probably be about an hour this afternoon.

Those are basically our guests for today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob, can you review with us who we're hoping to get in to see in addition to Judge Dixon?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. There's a tentative list. I keep forgetting his name. The fellow from the University of Lethbridge - I think his name is Peter McCormick. We have tentatively scheduled to meet with him. Peter Owen from the company of Field & Field, who are the lawyers who did an opinion for the province . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dave Elton.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, right. Thank you. David Elton from Canada West Foundation, who's tentatively scheduled to come and speak to us before December 12.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then we ask whether there were one or two others whom members thought we should be hearing from because they may have varying opinions.

MR. PRITCHARD: Or else I think we discussed looking at a second legal opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. PRITCHARD: I think that something we need to explore is hiring somebody to give us a second legal opinion.

MR. SIGURDSON: Just on that point, by chance I happened to have lunch with Sheila Greckol the other day, and we talked about her involvement in this committee. It was interesting in that she said that her firm is considering launching a suit on the same principles as that that was launched in British Columbia. It'd be interesting to have perhaps somebody from their firm.

MR. PRITCHARD: What was the name of that firm?

MR. SIGURDSON: It's Chivers and Greckol.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay.

MR. SIGURDSON: So they've already got some interesting political process in the plans. Okay?

MR. PRITCHARD: Sure. I'll contact them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else upcoming on our schedule of meetings today or upcoming visitors?

MS BARRETT: I should tell you that I'm only here for the morning. You knew that I had to leave? You've still got a quorum, don't you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

Okay. Well then, can we shift back to a recap of the Regina and Winnipeg meetings? I wonder if Tom would give a recap of the Regina meeting and Frank of Winnipeg.

MR. SIGURDSON: There are two points that really stuck in my mind about the Regina meeting. First off is the difference in constituencies between the two northern constituencies and the remainder of the province, the second point being the makeup of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

If I can just deal with the first point, the nature of the constituencies. They instructed the commission to establish

boundaries that would allow for a variance of 25 percent throughout the province, except that for the two northern constituencies in the province they established, because of the lack of population, that the variance could go to 50 percent, and indeed it has. It's allowed the northern part of the province, which is just huge and vast, to have representation of two members of the Legislature and not feeling too guilty about it, knowing that there were problems in trying to represent the area and have the members serve the area properly. I think that's important, especially given the fact that Frank will deal with the size of northern constituencies in Manitoba. I think their judgment is far more prudent than what went on in the Manitoba commission.

The other area that stuck in my mind was that the makeup of their commission did not have sitting members of the Legislature, whereas previous commissions in Alberta have had, I believe, four members of the Legislature. This commission in Saskatchewan is made up of the Chief Electoral Officer and two judges. The one judge, of course, that chaired the commission was a former Liberal member of the Legislature going back to the 1940s, I believe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From '35 to '46.

MR. SIGURDSON: So he had some experience.

MR. BRUSEKER: A rural member.

MR. SIGURDSON: A rural member, so he had some experience of what it was like to be a rural MLA, but it had been some number of years since serving as an MLA that he took on the task of chairing the commission.

So I quite appreciated the fact that there were no sitting members of the Legislature. I think it removes any question of political interference in drawing up boundaries, and certainly the composition of the commission – having two judges and the Chief Electoral Officer, they're not going to compromise their reputation by drawing political lines. I think it was a good makeup for the commission and one we might want to look at at some point in future meetings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Tom.
You had a question, Pam?

MS BARRETT: I've got three. How long ago did they establish the commission? Then the seat realignment: was there seat realignment itself? And has anybody posed a Charter challenge as a result of their decisions?

MR. SIGURDSON: The commission was established, I believe, in '87; the boundaries were redrawn in 1988. The second question?

MS BARRETT: There were changes to seats? Were there any reductions or increases in the number of seats?

MR. SIGURDSON: I can't recall that there were. Yes, there were.

MR. BRUSEKER: I thought they increased.

MR. SIGURDSON: There were changes. I believe there were two additions in the number of seats in Regina and Saskatoon.

MS BARRETT: Okay, so urban seats.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No rural seats disappeared.

MS BARRETT: No rural seats disappeared?

MR. SIGURDSON: With respect to a challenge, no Charter challenge as of yet, and the judge on the commission felt there would not be a Charter challenge.

MS BARRETT: Okay. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

MR. CARDINAL: Saskatchewan also, I believe, had the two northern constituencies set regardless. They called for two, or is it only Manitoba that had that?

MR. SIGURDSON: No, they called for two.

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah, that's what I figured.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're just recapping the trip. Anything else on the Regina meetings?

Frank, then, on Winnipeg.

MR. BRUSEKER: Okay. In Winnipeg we met with the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer. In Manitoba they chose to go with a 10 percent variation as opposed to a 25 percent variation. They have a very strict adherence to the 10 percent variation. In fact, I don't think we saw any variation greater than about 7 percent, and there were very few that were even that high. The majority were very close to within 3 or 4 percent plus or minus. A little editorializing on my part: the comment I'd make about that is that they didn't allow for any growth. They used census data as opposed to enumeration data, and they didn't allow for growth. Their commission meets every 10 years to look at it and re-evaluate. So they just basically arranged a provincial quotient and said, "We'll not vary by more than 10 percent plus or minus." That's right across the province, even including the northern constituencies.

The result in the north is that one constituency – I believe it was called Rupertsland – is now some thousand miles by 250 miles, which is mind-boggling. It, too, adheres to the 10 percent. It is very close, within a couple of percentage points plus or minus. I don't have the exact figure, but it's very close to the provincial average, which I think is a concern. They have a three-person commission: the Chief Electoral Officer, the president of the University of Manitoba, and a judge. I believe it's usually the chief justice, is it not?

A weakness that we heard mentioned from the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer regarding the makeup of the commission is that because Manitoba is primarily a one-city province, what you're talking about is three people from the city of Winnipeg, and there was no representation on the commission from someone outside the city of Winnipeg, which is a concern for the people who live in the rural areas. It was felt that perhaps an amendment should be made to the commission, although that was just sort of speculation, I think. It was a suggestion being made but nothing really specifically being looked at there.

Manitoba has 57 seats. It's had 57 seats for the last 30 years. If they don't change it, it's 57 seats. So the general trend has been a decrease in the number of rural seats over the last 30 years and an increase in the number of urban seats. For urban you can read Winnipeg because Winnipeg is primarily the urban centre. So Winnipeg now, by itself, represents more than 50 percent of the population and therefore 50 percent of the seats in Manitoba.

Again, as Tom mentioned, there are no politicians involved. Although the appointments of these individuals is in a sense political, there are no politicians involved. I think that's the gist of what happens in Manitoba.

MS BARRETT: Well, I have a comment to make, and Tom filled me in after your meetings. I couldn't go. It wasn't the

flying issue this time; it was that I couldn't go. Tom did fill me in on this, and my observation is that the description of what I got from Rupertsland strikes me as so bizarre that the only way I could go along with something like that is if we're offering somebody helicopters.

MR. SIGURDSON: And a life insurance policy.

MS BARRETT: And a life insurance policy. Because you can't do that.

MR. BRUSEKER: When we chatted with the individual who represents the smaller Rupertsland and the fellow who is going to contest the larger Rupertsland in the next election, both of them did express concerns even about the amount of time and dollars it will take. Neither of those individuals has a special allowance that they felt was adequate to cover the cost of traveling.

MS BARRETT: It's just nuts.

MR. CARDINAL: They don't have their own network, either, in those isolated areas. Actually, they mentioned only one road.

MS BARRETT: We still don't in some areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other comments or questions? Two points that I'd like to emphasize: the greatest plus that I saw in Regina was the fact, as Tom has mentioned, that the retired chief judge who chaired their commission had served as a rural MLA at one point in his career and, therefore, had the experience of what it is like to be an MLA. So even though there were no active politicians on the committee, the political presence was certainly felt on the commission.

The greatest weakness in Manitoba, as pointed out by Frank, was the fact that all three of the commissioners were from the city of Winnipeg, and we believe there was quite a lack of understanding and appreciation for the rural area, because we were advised that from the time of the interim report until the final report, a lot of revisions were made in boundaries because they had not taken into account municipal boundaries and natural boundaries and so on. Now, they didn't change their opinion on the number of seats or give any special consideration to the northern, isolated ridings, but they did make a number of changes in the actual boundaries between constituencies. So overall the trip was very worth while.

Anything else on the Regina/Winnipeg trip?

MR. SIGURDSON: Just one point, and that was that the difference between our Act and the Acts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba is that our Act calls for a commission to be established after every second election. Their Acts call for, in the case of Saskatchewan, a commission to be established after every eight years and in Manitoba after every 10 years. Both have some problems to them. I don't know if we have the mandate to make a recommendation with respect to this: that maybe we ought to look at a combination of the two. If we had a minority government situation such as is currently going on in Manitoba, you could have, as they had, a general election three or four years ago, a minority government that probably will go into an election within a year or two, and if that were the case here, they would have to establish another commission. Perhaps there ought to be some rolling together of the two, if that's a possibility, to make sure we don't have a commission established every few years, but to make sure that we review it with some degree of regularity as well.

MR. DAY: I think I'd just echo that as a concern I saw, just in the same tone. Not that we'd ever want to see it on the

Canadian scene or the Alberta scene, but a series of minority elections could really skew that whole process unnecessarily.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good. I wonder at this point if we might go right on to the planned trip to Victoria. As you know, it's November 23 and 24. Thursday the 23rd is the day we go out, so members would go out late afternoon or the evening. Bob has been working through a Craig James, who is the Clerk of Committees and Second Clerk Assistant for the Legislature in Victoria. I assume some members have already made travel plans. We should firm that up fairly soon.

MR. PRITCHARD: The meetings will be held in the Parliament Buildings, and Karen's getting a list of hotels that are close by. You might want to use those hotels. I'll probably give those to you today while you're here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else on the Victoria trip?

MS BARRETT: I'm uncertain yet as to if I can go. I am booked heavily the day before, and I'll just see if I can get out of it.

MR. DAY: Are you going to fly with us?

MS BARRETT: I'm going to have to if I'm going.

MR. DAY: Put me across the aisle, would you, Bob?

MR. SIGURDSON: We could put you on the other end of the flight.

MR. PRITCHARD: Is it that bad?

MS BARRETT: You can't smoke on those flights.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Moving on then, Bob, would you give us an update on the first set of hearings scheduled?

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. I'll just pass this around. This is an outline of what we'll be doing on Thursday, November 2, and Friday the 3rd with our meetings in High Level, Peace River, and Grande Prairie. In fact, you might want to just have a look at this schedule. If you've got any questions or comments . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: Where's the government aircraft hangar these days? Has it moved?

MR. PRITCHARD: No, it's still behind NAIT.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we have a meeting scheduled from 2 to 4:30 in High Level, and it's in the Provincial Building. We then depart for Peace River, and our meeting there is from 7 to 10, again in the Provincial Building. Then we overnight in Grande Prairie, and the next morning we're meeting between 10 and 1 in Grande Prairie at the Public Library. So we're back in Edmonton by approximately 2:30 that afternoon.

MR. PRITCHARD: These rooms that we've arranged for hold about 50 people; that's probably optimistic from some of the things we've heard. We'll also provide some coffee and juice.

MS BARRETT: When does the advertising start to let people know that we'll be having the hearings?

MR. PRITCHARD: I was going to come to the ads, but I can do those right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. Why don't we do that?

MR. PRITCHARD: The first ads will be out this week. What this is that I'm handing you – I don't have the specific ads that are going in because that's all sort of last minute, but this is a general sort of ad that is going in first. When we discussed advertising earlier, we talked about one ad before each meeting, but because of time and because we haven't sent out any of our letters, which we'll be discussing later in this meeting, two I think are more effective so that we can generate some interest. So we're putting in one that's a general ad, and this again has to do with time, because we knew the 17 places where we were going, but we didn't have the details and meeting rooms set up.

The first ad will be like this one that you're holding. It'll be much smaller; this is blown up. The second ad is specific to the place, giving the actual room and the time. These general ads are only being circulated through newspapers that are up in that upper left quadrant of the map, and for the specific hearings the detail is the same. These ads are going in the paper this week. The specific ads are going in next week, and they'll get into weeklies. Some of the weeklies are on Tuesday and some are on Wednesday.

It'll be interesting to see what the turnout is. We'll also need to discuss radio ads this morning, too, because I was going to bring those back. But we'll do that in a little bit.

MS BARRETT: Okay. This ad's fine, but I take it that what you're doing is running an ad in that quadrant that specifies the dates and locations, et cetera.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's the second ad, yes, with specific detail of the three meetings.

MS BARRETT: Does that start tomorrow, did you say? Wednesday?

MR. PRITCHARD: No, that's next week.

MS BARRETT: Yeah, I guess that's early enough. Can people just show up? They don't have to tell us, right? They just show up.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, absolutely. I hope that's clear. There's no need to phone ahead or do a written submission first or anything. It's just a show-up thing.

MR. SIGURDSON: Have letters been sent out? I know they were going to discuss letters as well. Will they be out in time to players in the areas?

MR. PRITCHARD: What we're going to do, assuming the letter that we show you today is fine, is start sending the letters up in that area first. We'll go out and do it on word processing – thank God for word processing – and start sending them up into those areas first.

MR. SIGURDSON: Good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Plus, if we decide to do some radio ads, it would concentrate in the area just prior to the visit into that area.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't we look at the radio ad? You've worked this out with . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: With John Edmunds and the company of Smith and Smith. They're doing the actual work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you used radio ads in the last commission.

MR. PRITCHARD: This is a sample of an ad copy that they'll give as a radio announcement. Assuming we go ahead with radio ads, there is time to make some changes to this. This is the budget to do radio ads. The decision that needs to be made is . . . There are two decisions: one, if you want to have radio ads, and two, the type that you want to have. The lists of the costs for the radio ads go through everything: Calgary, Edmonton, et cetera, et cetera. Obviously we're not going to be doing these first meetings using Edmonton radio. We're only going to use the stations that are specific, again, to that area. So you're looking at costs of probably \$300, \$400 per station in an area.

The decision that really needs to be made is between using what's called AAA radio slots and AA radio slots. AAA is prime time; that's morning, driving to work; noon hour, perhaps when there are rural or farm reports on; and evening driving home times. Another plan that can be used is one called TAP, but it's really not recommended. That's where you buy the spots and then they just stick them in during the day at times at their discretion. They usually don't turn out very well, and the savings aren't that significant. Public Affairs definitely recommends doing the Triple A spots.

MR. SIGURDSON: Do you want a motion? Well, then, I would move we go with – the general advertising, then, is the recommendation of Public Affairs?

MR. PRITCHARD: It's the Triple A.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, I would move, then, that we advertise using the Triple A recommendation.

MR. BRUSEKER: Before you go on that, I have a couple of questions. I'm just not quite sure. First of all, if we go to the very last page, there's a figure of \$6,800 and so forth. Is that \$6,800 total using always Triple A slots and adding them together, or how was that figure reached?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, it was. It was kind of crazy to do it that way because obviously we're not going to put an ad on the radio and blanket the province sort of thing. But, yes, they did add it up to come up with that.

MR. BRUSEKER: Okay. Does that total of \$6,800 include those mid and p.m. slots, the Double A and Single A slots, as well?

MR. PRITCHARD: No.

MR. BRUSEKER: Or is it just Triple A slots?

MR. PRITCHARD: That should be just the Triple A slots.

MR. BRUSEKER: So, for example, if we look at Calgary, being the first one, we would look simply at two ads at \$147 each for two days, a total of four ads, radio spots. Is that what we're talking about?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's right.

MR. BRUSEKER: Four radio spots for Calgary, four for Edmonton, and so on.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MS BARRETT: I have some questions too. I understand why the radio stations in the smaller cities would be chosen, but why CFCN in Calgary and why CHQT in Edmonton?

MR. PRITCHARD: I think they were just chosen at random.

Public Affairs usually does a lot of work. Probably they've found those are the most effective stations, perhaps because they do surveys on listeners and those sorts of things. They've found for our government work that perhaps those are the most effective stations, but any stations could be used.

MR. BRUSEKER: I'd have to wonder about CFCN in Calgary.

MS BARRETT: The other thing is that I'm quite certain CBC AM here is the most listened to in the mornings, if I'm not mistaken, and I know that they will take government . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I'm wondering if we have a motion we can approve - and we agree it's a motion in principle - and let Bob work, because I think you are on very valid points. I think rather than limiting ourselves to the specific dollars and the times, give some flexibility, because we may wish to add some stations.

MR. PRITCHARD: What I can do is get some information on why they have selected special stations and why they don't use others in their rationale. Maybe I'll even have John Edmunds come back for a bit or something and talk to us about it. I certainly will talk to him about it and find out why those stations are used or why we don't use others, or which are the best.

MR. BRUSEKER: Or even how many radio stations.

MR. SIGURDSON: Sorry, Bob. You answered Frank's question, but I did a quick addition and I thought the total amount in general advertising, \$6,882, covered a.m., p.m., mid, Triple A, Double A, and A, including the number of days, not just the Triple A. If it's only the Triple A, then I think the budget's an awful lot lower. So I suppose what I'm saying is that everything in the first column is as we see it, with the total coming up to the \$6,882.50.

MR. BRUSEKER: So for Calgary you'd be adding the \$1,290, plus for Edmonton the \$1,120, and so forth.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's right. Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I'd hope that it's more slots. We'd have the flexibility to mention CBC, and there is a radio station in the Crownsnest Pass that we should tie in to Stand Off and Pincher Creek, for instance, and it's not affiliated with CHEC or CKTA. It's CJOC.

MS BARRETT: Oh, really.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, you're right, it is. You do have to have that.

MR. SIGURDSON: So we are getting a few more advertisements for the dollar.

MR. PRITCHARD: Than it seems, yes.

MS BARRETT: Is your motion basically to approve an expenditure for radio advertising, coming to something just under \$7,000?

MR. PRITCHARD: Right.

MS BARRETT: Let's leave it in that form then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to leave it a little more flexible re the dollars, so that we can add?

MR. SIGURDSON: Certainly.

MR. PRITCHARD: I think for right now if we could even have it that we're going to go ahead and do the ads for this area, it's probably going to cost under \$1,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's do that so we can get working.

MR. PRITCHARD: This was thrown together very quickly by Smith and Smith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The key now is to get into High Level/Peace River.

MS BARRETT: Hear, hear. Well, let's approve this one motion to do radio advertising first, and then give Bob the authority to get on with the northwest quadrant.

MR. PRITCHARD: We can get those done, and I'll get a lot more detail on radio stations and costs for the rest of the province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Frank, did you have another point?

MR. BRUSEKER: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

MR. CARDINAL: I have a question on the ad itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, let's deal with the motion, because the motion's in principle. The motion deals with approval to go ahead. We're authorizing Bob to do more detailed work on stations and amounts, but we certainly can go ahead and get the ads in on the CKYL Peace River station now.

MS BARRETT: Hear, hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ready for the question? All in favour? Opposed? Carried unanimously.

Now, we're ready to go. Mike, you wanted to . . .

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah, just basically on the ad itself, especially for the northern areas of the province, I think we should make it a bit simpler possibly where you have "solicit opinions and review various aspects of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Act." I would recommend we change that.

MS BARRETT: It's legalese.

MR. CARDINAL: "Seek your opinion" or hear them out and ask for their recommendations.

MR. BRUSEKER: Maybe a proposed suggestion would be in this last line where it says "Bring your suggestions." Maybe we could say, "We invite you to bring your suggestions."

MS BARRETT: Well, I think generally what both of you are getting at is, you know, use plain language. This is real legalese. It really is. We can get along with it, but the general public . . . "And the rules by which it will operate." You know, they don't think we . . .

MR. CARDINAL: If you use plain language over the radio, it comes across a lot better, because you have no second chance to read it again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sounds good.

MR. PRITCHARD: I'll ask them to simplify it considerably. Are you okay that I'll get it simplified as much as possible and get on with it, because it would make some . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: But I think clearly we want to make it an invitation for people to show up, and I don't really see that here, that you're welcome to come. It says, "Your views are valuable."

MR. CHAIRMAN: "We welcome you" or something like that.

MS BARRETT: Well, this is written in passive language as well, and it needs to be personalized.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. I'll get them to personalize it, to change it into the form of an invitation, to talk about welcoming, ask for ideas, and make it simple.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah. Good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move on to the schedule up to December 12, Bob. We've juggled a number of dates, as you know.

MS BARRETT: Sorry. What are we doing now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're looking at our schedule.

MR. PRITCHARD: Maybe we should talk about the association meetings first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because it ties in. All right.

Bob has been working at our request with the executive of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the executive of Alberta municipal districts and counties, the Alberta School Trustees' Association, and the Alberta Hospitals Association with the idea that we would be allowed to have a delegation of our committee meet and explain what our committee's doing and generate some interest. I think we've all agreed that it's a direct one-on-one opportunity to explain to decision-makers at the local government level the importance of our work and that we do invite input from them.

With the exception of the School Trustees' Association, who have already booked us into their full convention, the Urban Municipalities Association, the MDs and Cs, would like a delegation to meet with their executive first so they in turn can determine whether or not this is of significant interest and importance to their full membership. A tentative meeting has been set up for next Thursday and Friday, Thursday with the MDs and Cs executive and Friday with the Urban Municipalities Association.

So what we will require are up to three members from our committee to go and meet with the executives. Now, I know there are some meetings that different members are locked into on those particular dates, but on the 26th for the MDs and Cs . . . Do we have a proposed time for that, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: That one, yes. It's 11 a.m. on October 26.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're proposing 11 a.m.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. And it's 45th Avenue and 101st Street, so it would probably take about half an hour to drive.

MR. DAY: That's here in Edmonton?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. I just jotted some names down, and they're for full consideration. But I wondered on the MDs and Cs - Mike, you're an obvious natural for that because of your former involvement in a rural municipality, and I thought

possibly Pam and Pat. I haven't had a chance to speak with either Pam or Pat in advance, so I don't know your schedules.

MS BARRETT: Have you known about this one?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 26th, MDs and Cs?

MS BARRETT: I've got it as the 27th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. I'm sorry. That was typed before. The date's been changed to the 26th because we had another one on the 27th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And on the 27th the Urban Municipalities Association. I thought three of our urban members - Frank, possibly Stockwell. I had originally put Tom down, but Tom's not able to be here that day.

MR. BRUSEKER: And that would be at 11 a.m. on the 27th in Edmonton.

MR. PRITCHARD: It's 11 o'clock, too, on the 27th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're both 11.

MS BARRETT: Okay. Bob, I can do both. I just need clarification here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure you need to do both.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's a possibility. I mean you can . . . I just thought one of the things we should do is ensure that when we're making a presentation before the executives, we want them to see this as a balanced approach and that we believe it's of significant importance to their members.

MS BARRETT: The clarification I was asking for was the 26th. Is it also from 11 to 12 noon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. PRITCHARD: It's actually 11 to 11:30. It's the sort of idea with a quarter of an hour for a presentation and a quarter of an hour for questions and answers.

MS BARRETT: Okay. And that's with the . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties on the 26th.

MS BARRETT: It's AAMDC executive. Good. Okay. Got it.

MR. DAY: So 11 to 11:30 is actually the schedule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When we look at travel time, we're probably . . .

MR. DAY: Yeah. I'm just thinking of the meeting itself.

MS BARRETT: That's fine. I can do that. Then the 27th is from 11 to noon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 27th is 11 to noon.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, again it would be the same thing, 11

to 11:30.

MS BARRETT: Okay. Excellent. Yeah, I can do both.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pam can be at both. Frank, you said you could be at the one on the 27?

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, I have nothing scheduled in there. My hesitation is just that it seems kind of redundant or a waste of time in a sense to come up to Edmonton just for a half-hour meeting. Since I will be in Edmonton on the Wednesday to stay over one night to the Thursday, perhaps it might be a better use of my time to go to the MDs and Cs, although I'm certainly not directly related to that as much as the other. But just for expediency's sake . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I can see your point.

MR. BRUSEKER: Otherwise I'd be going home to Calgary probably on Thursday night and coming up to Edmonton just for a half-hour meeting, and that's a lot of expense, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Well, Mike, I know you've got a commitment on the 26th, but do you think you could slip away for a short time to be at the MDs and Cs?

MR. BRUSEKER: Is there any possibility of meeting with the AUMA on Thursday, or will they not be available?

MR. PRITCHARD: They're only meeting on Friday, but the MDs and Cs are meeting both Thursday and Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, if Mike can attend on the 26th, we'd have Mike and Pam and Frank, the MDs and Cs. On the Urban Municipalities Association: Stock, do you think you'd be able to slip away?

MR. DAY: No, I won't be able to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. DAY: I'm wondering: is it beyond reason to wonder if the MDs and Cs would be willing to meet on Friday with the AUMA delegation and our committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Combine the two into one.

MR. DAY: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're in different buildings, aren't they?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. They're both on the south side, but they're quite far apart. One's on 45th Avenue and one's on Saskatchewan Drive.

MR. CARDINAL: That would be best, I think, in terms of time.

MR. DAY: You know, that would be pushing them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's our problem.

MR. BRUSEKER: Is there a possibility, then, of changing the times so they could both be met on the Friday, perhaps one at 10 and one at 11? Is that a possibility?

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, we could probably do something like that.

MR. BRUSEKER: I mean, if we're meeting with both groups on the Friday, then I'll make a point of coming up. But as I say, to meet with one group for a half an hour, it seems . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed. Well, I moved you over to the MDs and Cs on the Thursday if we have to stay with the Thursday.

MR. PRITCHARD: The only thing with running them back to back might be that if you do go to one and, say, there are a lot of questions and you stay over the time limit – they're really interested or something – then you're late for the next one.

MR. DAY: Okay. Then it appears that we're stuck with the two separate days, unless one group wanted to meet for breakfast or something on the Friday.

MS BARRETT: That's the only way I could do it, because I've got a 1:30 I can't get out of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On which day?

MS BARRETT: On Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pat's not here. I'm going to tentatively put her down for the Friday – see if she could fit into that slot with the AUMA. Pam's indicated she can go at that particular time, so we'd need . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: What if just two went? It is a group of 17 people that you'll be meeting with. These are both small. These are both their executives.

MR. DAY: And they'll be sent some kind of briefing material prior to their committee members getting there?

MR. PRITCHARD: We can do that.

MS BARRETT: That'd be smart in view of how short a hearing with this committee.

MR. PRITCHARD: Also, the letter that we're going to discuss later might be a vehicle we can get out to them.

MR. DAY: Sure.

MR. PRITCHARD: If just Pam and Pat went on the 27th and Pam, Mike, and Frank went on the 26th, how would that be?

MR. DAY: I'm not sure if Mike . . .

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah, the 26th, if I can slip away from our meeting. I sure don't want to slip away too long, because I . . .

MR. DAY: Sure. If we sent Mike the one day and Pat the second, that would probably be good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then on November 17 we have a request from the school trustees for a meeting with their executive. Then on the 27th we're in Calgary, and it was our intent to slip over. Again we'd have, say, three members. My thought, subject to the feelings of the committee, was that we could have three members present for the presentation to the delegates and a brief presentation, sharp and crisp, and then a short question and answer session. If other members wish to be present, that's fine. Does that format sound reasonable?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sure.

MR. BRUSEKER: Bob, on November 17 it says 10 p.m., and you said that was in Calgary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Excuse me. The 17th is with the executive.

MR. PRITCHARD: It's with the executive, but it's in Calgary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is in Calgary?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MR. BRUSEKER: So this is November 17. We would be meeting here in Edmonton at 10 a.m. presumably. Is that correct? Like, I'm wondering why it says 10 p.m.

MS BARRETT: It's got to be a typo.

MR. DAY: It's a dedicated bunch meeting at 10 o'clock Friday night.

MR. PRITCHARD: Those are typos.

MR. BRUSEKER: So it's 10 a.m. Our committee will meet here in Edmonton. And the delegation to meet with the school trustees is in the evening in Calgary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's got to be in the morning as well. So 10 a.m.?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, that's 10 a.m. on the 17th.

MR. BRUSEKER: I guess my question is: when and where is the meeting with the school trustees?

MR. PRITCHARD: The meetings with the school trustees are both in Calgary. The one on the 17th is in Calgary, and there isn't a time set yet. It's with 17 people. And the 27th, with 1,700 people, is also in Calgary. Except that on the 27th, 28th, or 29th we have our choice.

MR. DAY: So the 16th, Bob, is in Edmonton or Calgary?

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, that's something I'm not sure about. No, I'm sorry. I am sure. November 15, 16, and 17 are Edmonton meetings. Because these are in Calgary somebody, or one or two or three people or whatever, would have to either leave this meeting and go to Calgary?

MS BARRETT: I doubt.

MR. PRITCHARD: But the later one on the 28th and 29th - we're already in Calgary, and with the size of the group, 1,700 people, I thought you might even want the whole committee to go.

MS BARRETT: Seventeen hundred.

MR. DAY: All of the trustees.

MS BARRETT: Oh, my God, a convention of them.

MR. BRUSEKER: Karen walks in and somebody says, "Oh, my God."

MS HUDSON: Close but not quite.

MR. PRITCHARD: Wrong sex but a good reaction.

MR. DAY: Depends what church you're in, Bob.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, on November 17, then, if there is a requirement for a delegation to meet with school trustees in Calgary, it would seem that Pat Black and myself would be two obvious members to be there since we're Calgary representatives.

MS BARRETT: Hear, hear. You could go?

MR. BRUSEKER: Sure, I can go.

MS BARRETT: Yeah. Great. Yahoo.

MR. SIGURDSON: What time is that at, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: I knew a little while ago.

MR. BRUSEKER: I've got a 1 o'clock meeting, but I can get there.

MR. PRITCHARD: It's in the morning. I think it's 10 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I've got Frank, Pat, and Tom to make the presentation both to the executive and to the full gathering.

MR. BRUSEKER: So it would be on the 28th as well you're talking about?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 27th, isn't it?

MR. PRITCHARD: Their meeting is on the 27th, 28th, or 29th. We're down in Calgary starting at 1 p.m. on the 27th and the 28th, so I presume we'd probably want it on the 28th. That would be the best.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, we're having the ASTA luncheon on the 28th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, that's on the 28th.

MR. BRUSEKER: At noon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It'd be nice if it was just before the luncheon when the rest of us are there, and then you've got table talk as well.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think that would be one all of us could be at if we're going to be in Calgary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We intended to do that. And I think we should be encouraged to attend the AUMA and the MDs and Cs as well. Even though we're not on the panel, we can be there.

MR. PRITCHARD: So let me just get that straight. Tom, Frank, and Pat are going to present both on the 17th and on the 28th. On the 28th we're assuming there'll be 10 o'clock as well. The rest of the committee will be in the audience, so to speak. Then following that, some people have a lunch they have to go to on the 28th. Right?

MR. SIGURDSON: I take it that on the 17th the executive of the ASTA will give us some of the guidelines for the meeting of the 28th as well.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. Also, Dr. Ferguson thought it would be a good chance to get the 17 people on the executive a bit excited or challenged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else on the AUMA, MDs and Cs, or school trustees? Okay.

Moving on, then, to the Hospital Association, at this point in time we do not have a commitment to meet with the executive let alone the full delegate body. Are any of you former hospital trustees? I don't think Pat is. Pam, you're not a former hospital trustee?

MS BARRETT: No. Why? Does that disqualify me for something?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, then, what I'll do is call the current chairman of the association, speak with him, and we'll see if we can put something together in terms of a presentation to their executive. Obviously we don't have a time or anything yet, and we'll just try to get some members who are able to go.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's a fellow named Doug Wood. I don't know if anybody knows him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is the executive director.

MR. PRITCHARD: Right. They'd all have to be convinced on this. I talked to Don Macgregor. I think Don Macgregor is the president, and he was the one that put me on to Doug Wood.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I see what he's done. Okay. Because Macgregor is the president of the association.

All right. Anything else on the association meetings?

MR. BRUSEKER: Could we just briefly talk about November 15 and 16?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we're going to come back to that.

MR. BRUSEKER: We kind of skipped over those two dates. I'd just like to find out what's happening there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, we're going to come back to the full hearings and meetings of the committee.

MR. CARDINAL: Bob, just one comment. The MDs and Cs - the Alberta Association of Improvement Districts also has meetings sometime this fall in Edmonton or early in the new year. Perhaps we should check also the possibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. PRITCHARD: Sorry, what was that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Improvement districts.

MR. CARDINAL: Association of Alberta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're separate from the MDs and Cs.

MR. CARDINAL: They have a large membership.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good point.

All right, we go back, then, to the dates for meetings and/or hearings. We've already dealt with . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: We've done October 26 and done the 27th with the two associations. We've done November 2 and 3 with the public hearings. Now we've got November 15, 16, and 17, which should read 4 p.m., 10 a.m., and 10 a.m., with the meeting on the 17th with the school trustees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we able to try to fit in some of these

people?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's what we've been trying to do. If everybody's satisfied with that, that's all the three people we mentioned: David Elton, Peter Owen . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because we really need to get ourselves in a position so that we can focus on the hearings.

MR. PRITCHARD: Does anybody have anybody else they'd like us to include?

MS BARRETT: We mentioned Sheila Greckol, right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. We've got that name. We'll leave it at that for now, but you do have that name to add to the list. All right.

MR. PRITCHARD: The 24th is the trip to Victoria. Karen has just given me a breakdown of the hotels. The fellow phoned this morning and gave us an outline of the meetings that he set up. I haven't read this yet myself, so I'll just take a look at it.

MR. DAY: It looks like a good, heavy day of meetings there. Could I make a recommendation that we look at all of us staying in the same hotel so we can communicate before and after?

MS BARRETT: Good idea.

MR. DAY: If the Grand Pacific is, as it says, a new hotel, it seems to have the best rate.

MR. BRUSEKER: And it's right next to the Legislature.

MR. SIGURDSON: Can Karen just book a block of rooms then, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, we can do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The other thing we should see if we can do is have dinner together the evening before when we arrive. Now, I know we've been fairly flexible on flights out because people are departing from different spots. Does anyone know offhand how late they're getting in?

MR. SIGURDSON: About 5:30 British Columbia time. That's my flight.

MR. DAY: Is this getting there on Thursday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. I was thinking if we can all rendezvous about 7. See if we can work that out, Bob.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. We can arrange a dinner at 7.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have dinner right in the hotel where we're staying so we can review what we're doing the next day and any alterations. It's tight.

MR. SIGURDSON: Just so we don't get confused with the changeover, is that 7 p.m. British Columbia time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: British Columbia time. Yeah.

MR. BRUSEKER: Where would you want to meet? In the Hotel Grand Pacific dining room?

MR. PRITCHARD: Do you want to just have it in the dining room, or do you want to ask for a separate room?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is a separate eating area. Sometimes there are.

MR. PRITCHARD: Some sort of separate room, because it might not be as good sitting in the dining room.

MR. DAY: They've obviously moved the Empress Hotel, because in my recollection it's about a 45-second walk to the Legislature.

MS BARRETT: No, I don't think it was that close.

MR. DAY: Oh, yeah, it is. It's literally a stone's throw.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, you just come out the door and cross there.

MR. DAY: That's just interesting to see, a 10-minute walk.

MR. SIGURDSON: That's if you're real slow.

MS BARRETT: That's if you're the usual inhabitant of the Empress Hotel; that's what I remember about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Geriatric.

MS BARRETT: That's right. The place you go for high tea, dollink.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else on the schedule?

MR. PRITCHARD: That November 27 meeting's in Calgary, and we have now scheduled a meeting on the 28th; I forget who it is.

MR. BRUSEKER: That would be the school trustees.

MR. PRITCHARD: Thank you; right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On December 11 and 12 we'd agreed to be in Calgary with the idea of having some of the day meetings in communities within driving distance of Calgary and then evening meetings in Calgary for hearings.

MS BARRETT: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS BARRETT: So are we going to set that up then? Is that what we're going to do?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, and it's a good time to take a look.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have that map to pull down, Bob, with the meeting locations?

Okay. We've got Vulcan – that's obvious – and Hanna. I was speaking with Shirley McClellan last evening, and she asked if there were any plans to come into her area for the obvious interest that's there re the effects of redistribution.

MR. DAY: Especially given the history of a number of years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. And she's requested that we not come in until after the new year. Apparently she's very booked in late November and early December. She obviously wants to be present and involved. We certainly should be able to work in Vulcan; it's easy driving distance.

MR. SIGURDSON: What about a flight out to Medicine Hat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just take Time Air down to Medicine Hat, and it's only about . . . We'll see about that, Bob. Vulcan and Medicine Hat.

MR. PRITCHARD: See, on the 11th we have, tentatively, Judge Dixon coming in, so we're not starting to book one on the 11th. Let's not . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's just deal with communities now and come back. We could also look at the possibility of Lethbridge, and then when we come down to do our overnight, we could do Pincher Creek and Stand Off together. Let's give some flexibility to Bob and see what he can plan out. But we want to utilize the time we're in Calgary for those meetings.

MR. PRITCHARD: The reason we were going to Calgary, I think, originally – isn't there somebody else going to a meeting?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there was a reason we were in Calgary in December.

MR. SIGURDSON: We have caucus on the Thursday and the Friday, but I thought that we had originally scheduled the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in December.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which are what days?

MR. SIGURDSON: December 11, 12, and 13.

MR. BRUSEKER: I don't think we're booked the 13th.

MR. SIGURDSON: No? Okay; it matters not.

MS BARRETT: We've got caucus.

MR. SIGURDSON: On Wednesday?

MS BARRETT: Yup.

MR. SIGURDSON: Okay.

MR. PRITCHARD: So then that'll work in good for you, the 11th to the 13th?

MS BARRETT: It sure will.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay; so that's basically why we're there. So we've got the day on the 12th, and I'll see what we can do with Vulcan, Medicine Hat. Do you want to look at Lethbridge, too, or some combination, or one or the other?

AN HON. MEMBER: Possibly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on the schedule?

MS BARRETT: Are we assuming that we are leaving the Edmonton and Calgary public hearings to the end? Is that . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: We're doing them in the evening.

MR. BRUSEKER: We've kind of glossed over the 15th and 16th there again. Are we just going to be meeting in Edmonton and getting representation [inaudible] of November?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope we're into evening meetings here on November 15 and 16.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, we can do public hearings in Edmonton.

MR. BRUSEKER: I guess sort of what I'm getting at there is that we had also talked about while we were in Edmonton, we'd try to do those outreach things to Edson, St. Paul, Viking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good point. On the 15th can we do St. Paul in the afternoon and Edmonton in the evening, and the 16th out to Edson?

MR. BRUSEKER: Wait a minute. Wait a minute. On the 15th we'd be meeting at 4 o'clock?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. Originally, on the 15th we were scheduled . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: So I think that day has to be just basically Edmonton meetings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're right.

MR. BRUSEKER: But on the 16th, clearly, we could deal with . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We could do St. Paul and Edmonton.

MR. BRUSEKER: St. Paul and Edmonton or whatever and Viking.

MS BARRETT: Sure. Yeah, that's a good idea. I mean, if we're going to hit the road, we might as well . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, what we talked about before, and we can change it, was driving out, doing a rural community in the afternoon, driving back to Edmonton, and doing an evening meeting in the city. So we're in the city at night, and we're not driving after a 10 o'clock meeting back into Edmonton.

MS BARRETT: Oh, good point. Good point.

MR. BRUSEKER: Would it be possible to do St. Paul at, say, 11 o'clock in the morning and Vermilion-Viking in the afternoon and Edmonton in the evening, or is that pushing it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the one problem we've got – and we're making an exception up in the Peace country – is that it's hard to get people out to morning meetings. We're even pushing it a bit with afternoon meetings because of those who work in the towns. We're assuming that farmers are able to come in because of the time of year, but I'm really concerned that if we start fitting in morning meetings, our attendance will drop quite significantly.

MS BARRETT: I agree with you. That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you see the problem on the 17th is that that's the day three of our members have to come down and meet with the school trustees, so we can't have a meeting with three members.

MR. BRUSEKER: What about having a meeting on . . . We're having a meeting in Edmonton on the evening of the 15th. What would be the possibility of then on the 16th heading out to Edson?

MR. DAY: The 16th of . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Of November.

MR. SIGURDSON: That way we've cleared off that western part of the province and the northwestern area. Because then what would happen, I think, later on is that if we were to charter perhaps a small van or something, we could do Viking, St. Paul, McMurray in one sweep, but that's something to be considered later on. It's just that Edson seems to fit in there better at this time.

MR. BRUSEKER: You're not considering driving to Fort McMurray, are you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. SIGURDSON: You don't have to. Sometimes by the time you get back to Edmonton from St. Paul, sitting in the airport waiting for the flight up you've just about accomplished the drive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. If we can come back to it, on the 15th we do Edmonton in the evening . . .

MS BARRETT: That's good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . and on the 16th we'd do Edson in the afternoon. Have a meeting here in the morning, and in the afternoon do Edson and in the evening do Edmonton.

MR. PRITCHARD: So on November 15, 4 o'clock, we're going to have our meeting here in this room. Then on the 16th we're going to go to Edson, so we have a meeting in the afternoon at 2, you're saying.

MR. DAY: That's in Edson.

MR. PRITCHARD: In Edson. Then in the evening a meeting in Edmonton, say at 7.

MS BARRETT: So we'll have two public hearings in Edmonton then?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. PRITCHARD: When was the other one?

MR. SIGURDSON: The night of the 15th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, okay.

MR. DAY: Edson's at 2, and then back here for another meeting in the evening on the 16th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. So on the 15th, instead of having a 4 o'clock here in this room, we're going to have a hearing at, say, 7 o'clock in Edmonton, then an Edson meeting the following day at 2 p.m., and that evening an Edmonton meeting at 7?

MS BARRETT: Can I suggest something here? I mean, I don't know if this works, but if we were going to go in a van, we could sort of have our meeting en route to Edson, couldn't we? Like, do you want to have a meeting and then go to Edson and come back?

MR. PRITCHARD: For what this is worth, I don't know, but Oscar Lacombe advised me it's not good for groups to travel in vans, in case of accidents. It's better to split up and be in two cars.

MR. BRUSEKER: Planes are okay?

MR. PRITCHARD: Actually, he said planes are not all right either. Groups and committees should be split up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I thought on the morning of the 16th we'd come here at 10. How long does it take to drive out to Edson?

MR. DAY: Two hours at least.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A couple of hours?

MR. BRUSEKER: It depends who's driving, Bob.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know. I like the idea of having a meeting in a room like this. There are seven of us.

MR. BRUSEKER: I would prefer to do that rather than en route.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even if we meet for an hour and then get on the road and stop partway out and have a quick bite to eat and then continue. Okay. And then on the 17th there's a presentation of the school trustees' executive in Calgary.

MR. BRUSEKER: I guess what I'm wondering is: is there anything that we can do in that morning? Perhaps have a regular meeting here in the morning and then . . . Pat and Tom, I don't know what your plans are, but since I'll be going home in the afternoon anyway, if we could schedule it a little later in the day, say at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in Calgary, maybe we can achieve something here in the morning in Edmonton and still hold some kind of a hearing, and then we can go there. Because I don't think the presentation will take more than an hour, so if we schedule something for, say, 3 o'clock or whatever jibes with the airbus schedule, then maybe we can get two things done in that day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would be nice.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, I should be able to change that to later in the afternoon.

MR. BRUSEKER: If it could be changed to a p.m. meeting . . .

MR. DAY: And which day is that we're talking about?

MR. PRITCHARD: November 17.

MS BARRETT: That would block you out though.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, I've got a 1 o'clock meeting that I might be able to bump up to noon.

MR. DAY: Now, when you say a p.m. meeting, you're talking afternoon?

MR. BRUSEKER: Afternoon, yes.

MR. PRITCHARD: So you want it, like, at 3 o'clock. Go to the school trustees, say, at about 3 o'clock.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah. Well, something along that line.

MR. DAY: In Edmonton.

MS BARRETT: Calgary. You're not going. Don't worry about it.

MR. DAY: Yeah. Okay.

MR. BRUSEKER: This would just be the three of us. It would be Pat and myself and . . . For Pat and me it's convenient; it's a bit of an inconvenience for Tom.

MS BARRETT: It might not be though.

MR. SIGURDSON: Maybe we could just get Karen to phone down and find out what the executive agenda is for that Friday. They may be breaking earlier in the day to allow their executive to fly back or drive back.

MR. PRITCHARD: We'll give them a call and see what we can do about 3 o'clock.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm just tossing out the idea right now anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's come back to that today before we leave so we know whether we can do that or not. Okay?

I was looking at the map. We should be able to tie Red Deer and Hanna into an afternoon, evening, and then if we tie in either Pincher and Lethbridge or Pincher and Stand Off in a day . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: You're talking about this down the road?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, down the road. We're into February with that.

MR. SIGURDSON: Do we want to block some time in February now? I know that we're still a good chunk away, but I think we ought to start looking at some dates in February.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can do that this afternoon, and I'll bring my calendar and my book down as well. I didn't bring it with me this morning. And I'd like to have Pat here; she's in heritage fund meetings right now.

MS BARRETT: I'm open in February. I deliberately left it that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think most of us have tried to keep it that way.

MR. PRITCHARD: Frank, it's the one on the 17th with the school trustees that we want to try and change to 3, isn't it?

MR. BRUSEKER: Yes, if that's possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I actually think we'll be doing it in late January. It will free up more time in February, and we've been trying to fit a time in.

MS BARRETT: Scheduling meetings with busy people is . . . I mean, look at how long it's taken to do this. It's just nuts.

[The committee recessed from 11:25 a.m. to 11:36 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll reconvene the meeting now and, Bob, turn it over to you.

MR. PRITCHARD: Good. You've all met Tomislav and Bill Gano. Bill is one of two people that we've asked to come in and give us an overview and make a submission on some work that we need done with computers that I think will help us in some of the work we're currently doing. Tomislav has a program, and he's going to show us the things he can do with a map regarding overlays and boundaries, extraction of demographic information, and also looking at . . . What do you call

those small units?

MR. MILINUSIC: Enumeration areas.

MR. PRITCHARD: . . . enumeration areas so that he can bring out data and information that we might like to look at over the course of our review.

Tomislav, if you'd just like to demonstrate your tape. People, feel free to ask questions. Right?

MR. MILINUSIC: Absolutely. I should mention the genesis of this particular program, which has a lot of things that I believe would be useful in your endeavours here.

Whenever the Alberta Bureau of Statistics got requests such as, "Please tell us what is the age group between 11 and 14, 30 miles east of Red Deer or 30 miles around Red Deer," they would go into a lot of manual work to extract that data. I came up with a solution that is a graphic gateway, a geographic gateway to that huge set of data. Alberta Bureau of Statistics maintains data at the lowest level, which is the enumeration area. An enumeration area is equivalent to about 200 families, for which there is full census-type information on about 360 variables such as reading habits, how many fridges per household they have, whether TV is colour or black and white, or any statistical data that cannot be attributed to one particular person, so you cannot say who it is. This data is in the public domain, and it is the basis for everything that is sort of statistical. So I devised this particular system whereby they can extract this data based on several types of boundaries and search criteria. Some of them are rectangular, such as they would like 20 miles by 30 miles around any particular location in the province, and they would obtain the information regarding any one of those variables that they had that sort of request for. That is a rectangular search.

There is a circular search as well, which allows you to define - you put a centre point and you say, "Please give me everything that I know the data set contains regarding working habits or television viewing for this particular area." It would basically extract the EAs. The EA numbers would go into the mainframe where all this data is stored, it would return it back to the computer, it would aggregate it, and they would get the results. It's a fairly sort of straightforward process. It's basically a gateway, but it has a graphic component.

The third type of search is polygonal. Polygonal simply means any shape you wish. As always, it is enclosed.

What we have here is the user interface. Essentially, we have the census divisions for the province, and superimposed in white dots are the EAs. There are about 4,655 EAs at the last census. So you can roughly estimate the population of Alberta by multiplying by 200 times - the family, I think, is about 4.5 people, et cetera. So you can estimate very roughly, but you want, of course, to estimate exactly. Now, this user interface has a zooming-in, zooming-out capability so you can actually go as detailed as you wish. Let's say we zoom in here so we're looking now at the Edmonton region, with the Calgary region being here. This is census division I think 11, and Calgary is 6. And you see just the population concentration. This is probably one of the very few graphic sort of views of Alberta that is accurate, that shows actual population density. So what you see here, for instance, is also a concentration of people, and here a concentration of people - I mean, quite a visual concentration of people - but this, as you can see, is St. Albert, et cetera, and the few towns around it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The corridor between Edmonton and Calgary.

MR. MILINUSIC: Right. Now, along with this is the census division, but we have more sorts of breakdowns. This is the user

interface, for which I won't go into too much detail except to say that it is a very simple, powerful "point and shoot." You practically never use the keyboard. These are, let's say, Indian reserves and smaller areas that are not exactly part of the provincial jurisdiction necessarily. Let's go into detail in this area where you see these . . . For instance, this is an Indian reserve, I believe, and there may be some other ones that belong to other jurisdictions.

We will have a look now at the census subdivision, which is also another way of looking at data by Alberta Bureau of Statistics and Stats Canada. Here you see the boundary of a particular river that crosses. We have census division, which is the main one, which is the gross mode. It's a bit hard to see the colouring. But, essentially, by extension we can have your data, which is the electoral boundaries, done in the same fashion. That's why I thought this particular system would be fairly easy to - we'd just add another layer to the data.

Furthermore, here we are in Edmonton. I have in this data set metropolitan census divisions, which are very specialized sorts of divisions again relating to larger metropolitan areas. Lethbridge, Red Deer, Calgary, and Edmonton are the ones that are current on this system. What they are are simply the boundaries of about four or five EAs that make sense to the statisticians in Ottawa in terms of, you know, the EAs' having very similar characteristics. So if they break them down, that is one level.

Then there is the ultimate level, which is the actual boundary for an enumeration area, which is fairly detailed. So it goes down to the street level. A building like this one - if it was sort of populated by residents, it would have a boundary around it. We will have a look at these.

One of the other features of the system is, again, the ability to do rectangular, circular, polygonal, and key-word searches of areas, and we will check this in a second. We'll find a less busy spot.

We have, for instance, the Edmonton CMA. Now, it is loading it from memory because it's a huge data base. It's bigger than anything we have seen currently. We will display it. We can zoom in here. It's very busy at this point, but you see the river valley, and you see that this collection of EAs represents a particular sort of set of data for Stats Canada's purposes. In your case, you just do your own breakdown according to a particular formula or approach that you wish to take. This is where we are, I guess, the downtown core. We can then look at a more detailed set of information relating to each census - each enumeration area is enclosed by a polygon - and we could do that now. Okay. So that's called an EA. The EA is fairly detailed. It may bomb on us, depending on the computer's configuration, which we didn't quite check, but it's just giving you an idea.

By the way, what we have here is 15 kilometres from here to here and 13 kilometres, so you have always that ability to know the distances. You also have, when the cursor comes back, 1.8 kilometres by 1.6 kilometres distances, so that assists you. Also we could put the exact UTM code in it; in other words, the exact location on earth. UTM is a word for universal transverse mercator. It's simply like latitude and longitude; it's similar in concept.

So, I will go and try and do this detailed one. Here we are; it didn't bomb. The detailed enumeration area - and the data is currently available with the Alberta Bureau of Statistics and it can be, you know, obtained. Statistics Canada, as well, has this data. This data, by the way, changes from census to census, so we could maintain all three census' particular distribution and graphics. Just to show you how fast it goes if we go into detail - the access is very fast because of the design, but as you see, in Ottawa when they did do the river, they didn't do such a perfect job on the shape of it. But it's nevertheless there, and each one of these is an enumeration area. Now, we can name them; we can go to the number. So this number, 13204, is a

unique number. This number, behind it, contains 360 variables of all sorts. So if you wish to find out what is the sum total of people who have two television sets, people who smoke or don't smoke, or whatever you wish in this area, you can find it, because these numbers that you see on the screen go outside into the data base, which you will have as well – it will be on your computer; it won't be on the mainframe – and extract the particular variable that you wish and sum it for you and create a report.

You can do hatching as well. Hatching is simply a technique of shading a particular area. Let's say, you would like five levels of distribution – you know, from zero to five, six to 10 of any particular variable, percentage or otherwise – you should be able to colour code this and send it to a laser printer. Is that a fax or a laser printer?

MR. PRITCHARD: The laser printer's on the right.

MR. MILINUSIC: A laser printer, yes. And you could obtain a report instantly on whatever the variable was. So it is a tool that is currently used at Alberta Bureau of Statistics in this fashion to help answer some of their questions.

But the way it would work in the context of boundary situation is that you would be able to, by pointing at the object – let me show you an example; it, of course, is simply the way I perceive it at the moment. Let's go here. By pointing at this object, you could change the boundary. It would remain there until you redigitized. So the change of the boundary from here to here would automatically recalculate how many people were in the adjacent boundaries that were affected by that change. That is only possible because of the topology of the data. It's the way the data exists. So for redistribution, if that was one of the things that interested you, you could conceivably up this line further up or down and so on dynamically and still obtain information on that particular distribution, mainly of people, the number of people involved.

Let me do a simple polygonal search here in terms of . . . Let's go here, which is an empty area. We want to find out who these people are. We could do EA names. We have Mayerthorpe and Sangudo. But these are not names, because they are too small. They are just small hamlets and so on. You could conceivably have a name for every one of them if you wish. In this case we don't have that. But what we want to do is simply do a rectangular search. We know that there are 19 items here. It's hard to see, but there are actually 19 enumeration areas in this 48 by 42 kilometre area. However, so far we have just included four of them: one, two, three, four – and five, six. Now, in your case, as you are doing this, it would tell you how many people are involved or any other variable that you wanted to extract, in real terms. So you could say "Well, let me see; at this point how many school children under 10 exist?" Just by playing with this, you can instantly have that information because it accesses the data base that exists in this. You could even start a second one and a third one, and save these, incidentally, so that in future you don't have to recreate them. Let's say it's a boundary that you like and so on and so forth.

Basically, this system is intended to be – here is another one – sort of circular searches, and then there is a polygonal. You can digitize, basically, on this system. The intent behind all this is extraction.

MR. GANO: Could you maybe explain digitizing?

MR. MILINUSIC: Oh, to digitize: yes. Okay, I'll show you a digitizing one. We can do a polygonal. Digitizing is a term meaning to draw a map electronically for computers to be able to read and display. I'm going to do a simple digitizing, not using a digitizer, which is the proper way to do it, but using the mouse. It's a very rough way. This is digitizing. It tells you

here what the keys are. This means both keys pressed. This one is "new" and this is "create," so it's sort of here. I'm just creating a new boundary. Incidentally, in real time it tells you all the details on that: how many people live there, et cetera, et cetera. So here I've included this fellow. Now, it'll be the sixth – no, seventh, because I missed one here somewhere. So this is the digitizing process. You can do your own boundary; you can play with it until you get it right.

This whole system is a tool that requires two things. It requires a data base, and the data base is essentially all the 4,642 – whatever – enumeration areas, a data base that is current. It requires the graphic interface, which you have here, and it requires some analytical capabilities and analytical tools. Now, these tools are very dependent on what the omission is: if you want to, you know, make boundaries equal in terms of access to the polling station, et cetera, et cetera. I have a whole set of programs that I can write. They're standard geographic information sort of tools, programs, such as the proximity, the centre of gravity of a particular area, for instance. I could easily tell you that if you want to place a polling station. Well, some of it is obvious, but it would probably be here, based on what is enclosed in this area. So it calculates the one that is closest.

Now, there are other restrictions such as distance to travel from A to B. It's not necessarily as the crow flies but as the car goes. So all these are standard techniques and they can be sort of incorporated.

Now, that is really the only variable in the system. It depends on discussions about what you wish to have. But the first two items, a database, which is a must for your sort of system, and a graphic interface are the two components that definitely have to be as part of the tool.

There are many other things I haven't shown you here, but the most important one is this ability to get at a moment's notice any data you wish on any of the hundreds of variables that exist without having to phone and wait three weeks or whatever to get a reply.

MR. DAY: So you can scratch out any area like that.

MR. MILINUSIC: Right.

MR. DAY: Pin it up, and that'll give us, first of all, population in the area you've scratched out.

MR. MILINUSIC: Not only that but anything else.

MR. DAY: It'll give you ages, voter ages, gender.

MR. MILINUSIC: Absolutely. Oh yeah, definitely. Any number of the 364. Actually, there is more than that, but this is the standard.

MR. DAY: Economic breakdown of the people?

MR. MILINUSIC: Economic, what income distribution is, et cetera, et cetera.

MR. DAY: Oiler fans, Flames fans.

MR. MILINUSIC: Yeah, you could. Mother tongue, for instance, which is important, et cetera, et cetera. So if you wanted to, you could have a view of, let's say, a particular district colour coded by mother tongue so that you can say, "Hmm, these are . . ."

MR. DAY: That's how they speak.

MR. MILINUSIC: Yeah. I mentioned yesterday the word "circuitous," and that is what this system is good at. It shows you

things that are not sort of at the same level, that are skewed towards one sort of pull or the other.

MR. DAY: You have a list, Tomislav, of the 360 items of . . .

MR. MILINUSIC: Yeah, sure. Now, that list, fortunately, I think, you can easily negotiate – not the list but obtain the data from ABS so you don't have to buy it again from Statistics Canada, and for me to put it here is not a problem. We didn't do it initially because that was developed over a period of several years, and they preferred to access their mainframe, which had tons of things that they needed, while really it should be put on the PC. And it doesn't take too much space. You know, people think that demographics requires tons. It's not so. A few megabytes is all that is required, the way I do it anyway.

MR. DAY: So are you selling your services with the information or the information?

MR. MILINUSIC: No. We can do it either way, but I would like to give you the tools so that you would handle it. It's basically the software and the tools to update this from year to year. You do your own things, because you'll be doing using this, I'm hoping, quite extensively as opposed to just calling once every few months, "Could you do a sort of a . . ." I think you'll be using it quite a bit for other uses.

MR. GANO: Tomislav would put in place the tools, this mapping type of thing, and he'd put in the ability for us to get the information from Stats Canada or wherever, and we would go ahead and get that information whenever we needed it and put it in.

MR. PRITCHARD: And you mentioned that that would be in a package that would be available to keep for years in the future.

MR. MILINUSIC: Yeah. Basically, I've written this several times, so I will be doing a system that is really just for your particular needs. Because it is a bit different, you know. Like, there are several things that this system doesn't have; that is, the modification of your boundaries and their replication in real time. They don't need that over there because it's stable. The other thing we need to purchase, and it would be \$1,000 or so, is the electoral boundaries that exist not only currently but in the last few years. So we're going from the first principle, which is the enumeration area. Once we have that, it's easier to do aggregation. By the way, you also will be able to input your own data regarding voter preference and whatever you may have either at the polling station level or, if you have it, at the enumeration area. It's open, really, to what . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Tomislav, one of the things we talked a little bit about yesterday was that I was asking if there was a formula or a mathematical equation or a way you knew of that boundaries could be set that took in factors like rivers and highways and mountains.

MR. MILINUSIC: Yes. There certainly are quite a few studies on that issue. In geography this is all they do, the computer geographers. These are tools that are fairly standard as well. You may not be aware of them, but at universities that's one of first things they learn, the effect of, let's say, roads and rivers and so on on access to a market area. Let's say they study a market in Guatemala up in the mountains. This is a classical example: how long does it take for them to reach that market, and why do they go to this market as opposed to another market, et cetera, et cetera? There is quite a large literature in this field, and I can certainly give you a few theories that could

be implemented.

I know there is a paper that the Australian government has done. A geographer – I forget now the name – has done a study on access to polling stations. There's lots of literature on that, so I can easily program this if the theory meets with your concepts. You could also have several theories, so you can play with it, you know. It doesn't have to be the same approach as the one that . . .

MR. DAY: Do you have in that a capability to do projected growth?

MR. MILINUSIC: Well, that's forecasting. Definitely, because multiple regression is one of the things that would have to exist for your statistical tools, and multiple regression – the way you do projection anyway is by forecasting and the past trends and so on. There is some data, I think, that Municipal Affairs keeps on a yearly basis as opposed to every census, and projections exist in the ABS data as well, so you can do interpolation. All these are minor modules that one can add. It's all dependent on what you wish.

But I think having the data base is very critical. You should have a data base that you maintain here regardless of whether you have a graphic interface or not. I think it makes sense. Then, of course, a graphic interface is a gateway to that data base. There are many things that . . .

MR. DAY: How did we exist without it?

MR. MILINUSIC: I think this tool is really good for marketers, to exploit a market. Let's say you want to put a new barber shop in Edmonton. Well, you already know your clientele and the price range you wish to charge. You go through this system by finding the particular income group that would be in that range.

Furthermore, something that I totally forgot to mention and is very important is the postal code. The postal code can be linked to this, and that is a whole different game. It's a very powerful tool. If you have the postal code of your electorate, then you can do an enormous amount of research just based on that. Because, fortunately, in Canada and in the US the postal code has a geographic value. In other words, it has a location. It is linked to an EA. As I mentioned, this is a very sophisticated thing, but you may wish to consider the postal code approach. We're simply doubling the size and the scope of the current project if you do include postal codes, mainly because there is really a lot of work there. Nobody in the industry has perfected this interface, but it is possible to do.

MR. DAY: When you do a cutout or a geographic look at something and you want to look at, let's say, people over 65, how many in an area, does it have the colour coding capability to give you a graphic snapshot so you could look and see that oh, they're all up in that corner up there? It'll do that?

MR. MILINUSIC: This is the range that I mentioned in terms of hatching. Either you do it by EA or you do it by census subdivision. What it will do is: let's say 10 percent of the population is over 65, so it would have it coloured light blue; 20 percent, darker blue; et cetera, et cetera, for the whole province if you wished. These are basic statistical techniques. Then you print it. Yeah, that's one of the first things that would be done on this system. That is a standard sort of reporting that you should have.

MR. DAY: It would show it graphically too, as you looked at the screen?

MR. MILINUSIC: On the screen as well it would show the

colour shading. It would give you a bar effect. I have a bar here somewhere that I took out a couple of months ago. But it would be a 16-colour, because you have a 16-colour range, and when it prints it, it hatches it, because you can't print colour on the laser printer.

MR. BRUSEKER: Tomislav, with respect to the mapping capability of this, does it already have or would you have to create the detailed mapping in terms of, say, particular streets? I'm thinking about, for example, the city of Edmonton. An electoral boundary might be right down the middle of a street.

MR. MILINUSIC: No. Fortunately, all these exist in various locations. The one that you probably should look at, because Stats Canada has it actually broken down - in fact, you saw it earlier, but it isn't down to the level of every street in the city. To do that you have to go to the city of Edmonton, that has this file. It's an intergraph file, GBIS, and you can superimpose. You can superimpose anything with anything. It's much more accurate than Statistics Canada's data. So if you wish to include detailed mapping of streets and so on, that can easily be done. But it will be a bigger time frame, because you have to take the intergraph files and convert them into what everybody uses currently.

There are other things. Again, I don't think, if this was . . . Well, it is VGA. You see, the detail here is quite a bit less detailed than the next layer. This noise is from Stats Canada. In fact, their data is not topological. It should be. It's repeated here and there, and so it doesn't close every time. But generally it works.

We will go to the more detailed one, which is this one. So, you see, at this level it's pretty good. You don't really need to go down to the street level, because that file that the city of Edmonton maintains is huge, and I don't know if you necessarily need that.

MR. BRUSEKER: As a candidate you'd have to know exactly.

MR. MILINUSIC: Well, this gives you enough to know what streets these are, you see. This is the Riverbend area, and you can tell if you were to match it against an actual map of the city what are the boundaries. These are set by the government of Canada, but they do have electoral boundaries maps which are different from this. This is strictly enumeration area maps, which you may not need or you could use. When we go into detail, one can sort out the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?
Thanks very much, Tomislav.

MR. MILINUSIC: A pleasure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll take a short break. I understand lunch is coming at 12:30, and gentlemen, you are going to join us. So let's take a 15-minute break.

[The committee recessed from 12:12 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we'll reconvene. We were going to look at February for meeting times, and while we don't know for certain when the House may go back, there is some speculation that it could be around February 22, 23. So why don't we concentrate on the first half of the month?

MR. CARDINAL: And the last half of January, no?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; we had previously agreed to leave January because of winter holidays of various members. But I think we were thinking we might come back as early as February

1 and 2.

MR. BRUSEKER: Oh, I thought we'd said after the first weekend. The 3rd and 4th is the first weekend, so I had tentatively planned to be away the first and second. After that everything's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right; then let's come back to the first full week of February.

MR. CARDINAL: I'm open.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, let's look at the tasks we've got and see what our . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: Good suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have Red Deer and Hanna.

MR. BRUSEKER: And we have Slave Lake and Fort McMurray to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And Slave Lake and Fort McMurray.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think January is just an ideal time to visit Fort McMurray.

MR. SIGURDSON: Don't talk about airline tires blowing up.

MR. BRUSEKER: At least not when Pam's around.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well. What a time to bring the subject up. We're just taking off. His timing is lousy. Anyway . . . If you noticed a slight vibration in the plane while we were taking off, it had nothing to do with the engines, it was Tom laughing at my comment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yeah, I remember that now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We've also got something down in that south corner: Pincher Creek, Stand Off.

AN HON. MEMBER: Pincher Creek, Stand Off, Lethbridge.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We were hoping we might fit Lethbridge in. Well, that was Lethbridge or Medicine Hat, wasn't it, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we've got Lethbridge too, and Vermilion.

MR. BRUSEKER: Viking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We discussed St. Paul, but I don't think we had Viking, did we? We hadn't set it up.

MR. BRUSEKER: In fact, are we going out to St. Paul?

MR. PRITCHARD: I think we changed St. Paul to do Edson, so we've still got St. Paul.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, you're right. Oh my goodness. St. Paul as well.

MR. BRUSEKER: We're not covering a whole lot of territory so far. Looking at the bottom part here, Vulcan-Lethbridge, from ease of communication, is easy to do together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we've already plugged in Vulcan and Calgary and doing that in December.

MR. BRUSEKER: Oh, on the 11th and 12th?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Somewhere in there. Because we're in Calgary anyway. The other trip we were talking about was possibly going out to Medicine Hat and coming back.

MR. PRITCHARD: I think that's the one I'll set up for then, and then we can leave Lethbridge to discuss on this list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So if we wanted to take Monday, February 5, and do Hanna in the afternoon and Red Deer in the evening?

MR. SIGURDSON: We're going to have quite a lengthy break between our last meeting and . . . I'm just thinking that we might want to have a few hours to refresh ourselves at the first meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good point. We need that.

MR. SIGURDSON: We might want to start that on, say, a Monday afternoon and schedule a Tuesday afternoon in Chinook. Start a meeting on Monday in Red Deer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Red Deer.

MR. SIGURDSON: Tuesday afternoon in Hanna, Tuesday evening back in Red Deer for the Red Deer public meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How would it be if we did the Red Deer public meeting on Monday?

MR. SIGURDSON: Absolutely. Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And then after Hanna we'll drive either back to Edmonton or wherever.

MR. BRUSEKER: Basically what we're saying is let's block out the 5th and 6th for meetings?

MR. PRITCHARD: So Monday, February 5, 7 p.m. in Red Deer, and Tuesday, February 6, 2 p.m. in Hanna.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. CARDINAL: February 5 is what time?

MR. PRITCHARD: February 5 at 7 p.m. To leave Hanna, then, how long is it going to take to drive to Calgary and then fly back to Edmonton?

MR. BRUSEKER: Or members may have their own vehicles.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm wondering if we want to consider really hitting this week. Earlier we had said that we should leave a week's space between meetings, but we can't finish. Do we either break on the Tuesday and come back the following week, or do we continue on through the week?

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, I think we'll still run into problems Wednesdays, cabinet and caucus. You have your caucus meetings on Wednesdays also, don't you, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: No, we schedule them without having set times. In fact, February is wide open for us.

Well, in order to accommodate caucus meetings and cabinet

meetings, why don't we still keep that week, then, and look at Thursday and Friday in Lethbridge and doing the outreach? Would that be all right, Frank, with you? It gives me a night home.

MR. BRUSEKER: On February 9 we're having our policy convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What time do you start?

MR. BRUSEKER: I think it'll probably start in the evening. Probably the daytime is fine.

MR. SIGURDSON: So you'd be able to fly in from Lethbridge.

MR. BRUSEKER: It's probably easier to drive.

If we're going to cover Vulcan sort of out of Calgary, I'm wondering if it might not be a feasible thing with respect to Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Stand Off, and Pincher Creek if we went to one in the evening; say, for example, to Medicine Hat one evening and stayed in Medicine Hat and then did the other three sort of in a day. Is that going to be - I'm thinking of making that [inaudible], thinking about Time Air flight . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Weren't we looking at doing Medicine Hat back in December?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's Medicine Hat in December.

MR. BRUSEKER: Okay. So it's taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So that's taken care of. We're down to the three spots: Lethbridge, Stand Off, and Pincher.

MR. SIGURDSON: How about Stand Off Thursday afternoon?

MR. PRITCHARD: What date is that, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: That would be the 8th.

MR. PRITCHARD: The 8th. Okay. So Stand Off Thursday, February 8. When? In the evening?

MR. SIGURDSON: No, afternoon.

MR. PRITCHARD: Afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SIGURDSON: Thursday, the 8th in the evening, Lethbridge, and then on the 9th in the afternoon, Pincher Creek.

MR. PRITCHARD: One o'clock in Pincher Creek.

AN HON. MEMBER: How does that look?

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay, Thursday, February 8, 2 p.m. in Stand Off; 7 p.m. in Lethbridge, and on Friday, February 9, 2 p.m. in Pincher Creek.

MR. SIGURDSON: Yes. That would give you a lot of time to get back to Edmonton for your caucus meeting.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah. You know, I was just thinking, too, for that matter, that planning that far ahead, if we want to book something like - I don't know about cabinet day for Stockwell; but to miss a caucus for one day if we need the day . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where does that fit in?

MR. BRUSEKER: It's sort of a natural break anyway, the way

we've got it set up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. This is subject to – if one of our caucuses had a major caucus meeting, because we're coming up to a session, and we might want to do some . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: Maybe it's better to leave the 7th open anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe leave it open for now. Because that's a lot for one week.

MR. SIGURDSON: But then if we take the following week out, that's ample time for us to take a message back to our colleagues saying that we're going to have a major caucus meeting in February, scheduled for the week of the 12th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. The only thing is . . .

MR. CARDINAL: When is the holiday?

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, it's the third Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 19th.

AN HON. MEMBER: Isn't it the third Monday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. BRUSEKER: So it would be the 19th. Well, that's good. It ties in with Washington's birthday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But we're talking about if the House goes in as early as the 22nd. You know what it's like a few days leading up to that. We're all going to be busy in our respective caucuses, so I don't think we should plan anything that week. The question is whether we try to put something else in the week of the 12th to the 16th.

AN HON. MEMBER: What's left?

MR. CHAIRMAN: A lot. Fort McMurray, Slave Lake, St. Paul, Viking.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, we had originally planned, when we kicked it about, Slave Lake/Fort McMurray as one day and St. Paul/Viking as one day. So why not do the 12th and 13th?

MR. SIGURDSON: It would be a government aircraft?

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, you'd need a government aircraft, I think, for the Slave Lake/McMurray one. I think we could probably drive the other one.

MR. SIGURDSON: You're going to have to come back at some point from McMurray. You might as well stop in St. Paul.

MR. CARDINAL: You could do St. Paul and Fort McMurray, stay over at Slave Lake, and do it in the morning and be out.

MR. SIGURDSON: Sure.

MR. BRUSEKER: I was thinking two days. Slave Lake/McMurray is one day, and St. Paul/Viking is the next day. You could just make a big loop if you get the plane for two days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you think you'd need the plane for Viking and St. Paul?

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, no, I don't.

MR. SIGURDSON: So what Mike is proposing, then, is Slave Lake in the morning . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: What I suggest is Slave Lake in an afternoon, say on a Monday afternoon; Fort McMurray in the evening; fly back to Edmonton; dump off the plane; maybe get a couple of vehicles or vans or whatever; drive out to St. Paul; hit St. Paul, say, Tuesday afternoon; Viking in the evening; and Viking into Edmonton is only – what? – about an hour's drive?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. BRUSEKER: So if we wrapped up at, say, 9 o'clock in Viking, we'd be back in Edmonton by 10:30 or so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. So you're proposing on Monday we do Slave Lake in the afternoon and Fort McMurray in the evening?

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Probably it'd be better at Fort McMurray.

MR. CARDINAL: Fort McMurray's a larger centre, so I would give it the prime slot.

MR. PRITCHARD: What date is that? Is that February 12, then?

MR. CARDINAL: Monday, February 12.

MR. PRITCHARD: Slave Lake at 2 p.m. and Fort McMurray at 7.

MR. BRUSEKER: And I would say the same for St. Paul. How long will it take us to drive from St. Paul to – it's about an hour out to St. Paul and maybe an hour between those two and an hour back?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We're flying back into Edmonton on the Monday evening.

MR. BRUSEKER: That's what I would recommend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we would then go out to St. Paul the next afternoon at 2 o'clock.

MR. BRUSEKER: Tuesday afternoon. If we were in St. Paul Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and met there from 2 until . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Five.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four-thirty.

MR. BRUSEKER: . . . whatever – somewhere in there – and then drove to Viking: Viking from 7 until 9. So to be fair, I suppose we should say 2 till 4 in St. Paul, 7 till 9 in Viking.

MR. PRITCHARD: And what date was that, Frank?

MR. BRUSEKER: Tuesday, the 13th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Thanks.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think that hits them all, doesn't it?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's one thing I was going to ask you.

These meetings that we've scheduled this time are two and a half and three hours long. Do you think that's too long? Do you want them to be two-hour meetings, or . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: I guess we really won't know that until we've hit the first areas.

MR. PRITCHARD: The initial ones may seem a little long, but I thought . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: I think it's better to . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: You know I'm not sure that we need three hours in Peace River, quite frankly, but then again we don't want to slight anybody.

MR. PRITCHARD: Since we're there, I thought the extra hour was - to start off, anyway, and see what happens. But I did notice you were mentioning two-hour ones for these.

MR. SIGURDSON: Two hours isn't all that long . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: No, it's not.

MR. SIGURDSON: . . . if you have four people wanting to make a presentation.

MR. BRUSEKER: I recognize it is pushing it a bit, but then again we're running short of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, maybe on the St. Paul run we could schedule it for 1:30 or even 1 o'clock.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think the scheduling can be juggled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But what was the concern between St. Paul and Viking?

MR. SIGURDSON: Travel, the distance between.

MR. BRUSEKER: It's about an hour's drive, I would think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A little more. And you've got Highway 36; we're on a paved route the whole way.

MR. BRUSEKER: I'm just thinking, you know, somewhere in there we might want to eat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, do you know what time we're planning to finish in St. Paul? Around 4:30?

MR. PRITCHARD: Two to 4:00 when we head down there. Unless we change that to 1:30 till 3:30 or 1 to 3:30.

MR. BRUSEKER: I was going to say if you want three-hour meetings, you could go from 1:30 till 4:30 . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Then you've got even less time to go out to Viking.

MR. BRUSEKER: . . . and then 6:30 till 9:30 in Viking. That gives you two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think 6:30's a little too early for people to come.

MR. BRUSEKER: No. I'm just thinking about us coming back to Edmonton before it gets really confusing also, though.

MR. SIGURDSON: It'll be a long stretch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At least it's not a difficult drive in from Viking.

MR. BRUSEKER: No. That's true. Highway 14 all the way in. It's going to be a hectic week and a half.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm wondering if we want to schedule a meeting for it. Tom very astutely suggested we meet on Monday the 5th ourselves prior to getting on the road again, and if we want to reserve some time on the Friday morning, we're overnighing in Lethbridge. We have a public meeting there the night before. If we book the time now . . . If we don't need it, we can let it go, but if we book it, we've got it in the event we want to spend some time as a committee.

MR. BRUSEKER: What date are you looking at here, Bob?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Friday, February 9. We're meeting that afternoon out in Pincher Creek. We obviously want to leave early enough, but we should save an hour, hour and a half, on the Friday morning for a committee meeting.

MR. BRUSEKER: Oh, yeah. That's no problem.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm just booking off the entire days.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah. I'm not writing down any particular schedule here; I'm just saying boundaries committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, good. That would allow us to finish the hearings portion. I think we'd earlier decided that in the worst case scenario we'd begin to write our recommendations once the House reconvenes, so we just have to find time around our schedules to do that.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm just wondering, if I may. There are two committees that meet on Wednesday mornings. I'm wondering if we can't schedule a morning session for ourselves and try and stick with that morning through the life of the Legislature and through the life of this committee.

MR. BRUSEKER: Mind you, we were to report before the end of the sitting.

MR. SIGURDSON: So we may have to have meetings outside, but if we can schedule mornings . . . Wednesdays are bad for you. Tuesdays are bad for me.

MR. CARDINAL: Thursdays are bad for us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know what you're saying. If you've got the consistency, if you book out a block of time, you stay with it.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah, I'm on the Public Accounts Committee, which has been meeting on Wednesday mornings.

MR. PRITCHARD: What are they doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We added on a meeting Friday morning, February 9, in Lethbridge for the committee.

MR. BRUSEKER: Bob Pritchard, you'll send us all a typed up list of when and where, eh?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MR. BRUSEKER: I've just been blocking out days.

MR. PRITCHARD: No, we'll send this out to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we're talking about blocking some time when the House is sitting so we can get together and write a report. Maybe rather than dealing with that today, we need everybody here and our calendars. But the idea is to find a time slot, whether it's Monday over the supper hour or Wednesday morning or whatever.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm just wondering. In the event that the House isn't called for the 22nd, should we tentatively book off another couple of days in February without having plans? Obviously we don't have to travel out to any other areas, but it might be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The only concern I've got is that we've booked ourselves up in the first part of February, and we've all got constituency obligations and obligations to our respective caucuses when the House is in. My own view is that we've been wiser in taking the time we've taken - you see, we've got six days in the first two weeks - and then leave that following week so that we can get right back at it the week of the 26th. Shouldn't we try to find two times per week when we do get back together so we don't have the hiatus of a full week between meetings? Let's do it while everything is fresh in our minds and try to get it done. Because the earlier we can get our report in, the better for all the caucuses.

MR. BRUSEKER: Now, for our report, Bob - I know this is a long ways down the road - are we going to be sitting down with copies of the current legislation regarding electoral boundaries and recommending changes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. BRUSEKER: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Our formal report will recommend specific changes to the Act; for instance, whether the makeup of the commission should be varied from what it has been in the past, what formula is used, if we want to specify the number of seats - based on Manitoba's experience, I certainly favour that. In other words, giving the commission the terms of reference but not a blank cheque.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, whatever our recommendations are to the commission, there could also be, I would think, possibly some implications for the Members' Services Committee as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. SIGURDSON: So it would have to be done with that in mind as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Our recommendations might affect one or two pieces of legislation and the Members' Services Committee and its operations.

MR. PRITCHARD: Just to go back, what's the meeting on February 9 in Lethbridge at 9 a.m.? What's that about?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't know. We're holding the time so that if we feel . . . We're going to get together in Red Deer for a meeting of the committee on the 5th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, I didn't hear that one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a meeting that afternoon, and that's a review to bring everybody up to date. We've been apart for a month and a half so it's to get everyone back on track. Then we have our public meetings in Red Deer that evening; Hanna the next afternoon.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, I've got those.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Stand Off and Lethbridge on the 8th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then a meeting of the committee slotted for Friday morning, the 9th. We may find we don't need it, but if we book the time, then we've got it.

MR. PRITCHARD: I've got it. Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pincher Creek that afternoon. Then we've got the following week. Then we've identified each of the communities and assigned a time slot. Okay. Anything else on scheduling?

Is the gentleman here from AGT?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, there are two people here, Mr. Bogle. Here are their cards. They're also going to give a demonstration, and it'll be easier if we go up to the eighth floor, because they have a piece of equipment up there, rather than coming down. It won't be necessary to move the *Hansard* stuff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. PRITCHARD: Do you want to do the letter? They're actually setting up. It might take them five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, Stock's not back.

MR. PRITCHARD: He's still not here. So you don't want to start the letter? Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we'd better wait for Stock.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. We can just take five minutes then, and we'll meet on the eighth floor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can spend a minute looking at the letter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can do that while we've got time. Now, this is just a draft, so nothing's etched in stone.

MR. PRITCHARD: A minor change in plans. They're going to do the first half here. We'll stay, and then we'll go upstairs for the second half. It'll just take two minutes to photocopy a few things.

MR. SIGURDSON: Are we still in session? I was just going to ask about the reception you had in arranging the meeting at Stand Off. Good reception from the band council or . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, I haven't started it yet.

MR. SIGURDSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We were just beginning to look at the letter, Stock.

MR. DAY: "Dear Someone . . ." Oh, thanks. Cheryl went through that before coffee. Thanks, Bob. When's the video coming out on this stuff?

MR. PRITCHARD: It's really in demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Maybe a couple of comments at the beginning. Page 1 is very straightforward. It merely repeats the terms of reference as indicated in the Act. I think the key is the top of page 2. I'm not totally comfortable with the way we've worded the first option, which is the current situation, because of Charter implications, and Bob has struggled trying to come up with something that we'd be comfortable with. Why don't we talk about the letter in a general sense first and then come back to what I consider to be the really important part, and if you can think of a clearer way to say it, let's look at that. Stock.

MR. DAY: I think, Mr. Chairman, the letter is basically good. I think we could strain at gnats in terms of semantics, no matter how many different groups of people you get to sit down and look at the letter. But I'm certainly willing to hear what other people think.

I'm looking at the first page, and again, I began to sort of strain at the semantics of the last sentence there: ". . . a basis on which Members of the Legislative Assembly practically and effectively represent their constituents." I wonder, because I had some questions about that particular sentence - but to avoid the whole breakdown of semantics, do we need that sentence? Can we not just say: The Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries will consider but may not be limited to . . . and (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and then straight into the next page or whatever variation of the next page? Because to me it seems to broaden it and not bring into question things like constitutional requirements of representation, et cetera. Rather than get into that whole thing, why don't we just leave that off, that last sentence?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Others?

MR. BRUSEKER: I like it the way it is.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, I'm just making a couple of notes here.

MR. DAY: I think these other points - I'm saying generally - are very clear and talk about a pretty broad mandate, but still being specific.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. I wonder, would this be helpful if we have a general discussion on it now, set it aside, hear a presentation from AGT, then come back? Because it's just too important to rush.

HON. MEMBERS: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Did you have any comments, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, yeah. I think that you are correct to identify that the really important area of the letter is on the top of the second page, and I'm just wondering again about structure. If that is the important content that we want to get out, it should, I think, probably be on the first page, moving that which was on an Order Paper and is really somewhat legalese and technical to the second page. That's just a matter of changing the order. In terms of not again wanting to argue a lot of semantics, I don't mind as an introduction to that which is on the top of the second page that last sentence on the first page, with a slight change: the overall purpose of the Select Special

Committee on Electoral Boundaries is to establish a basis on which Members of the Legislative Assembly might best represent their constituents; deleting "practically and effectively." Maybe I am straining at gnats. Instead of using the word "options," use "considerations" on the second page.

MR. DAY: What about just flipping it all over?

Again, if this discussion gets too protracted, gentlemen, just cut us off.

We're making this look like it's for us when in fact it's for the people of Alberta. How would it be: the overall purpose of the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries is to establish a basis on which the citizens of Alberta may best be represented by their MLAs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Uh huh. How does that sound to you, Frank? Sounds good.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yeah, I agree.

MR. DAY: That would be all right?

MR. BRUSEKER: Yes.

MR. DAY: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The citizens of Alberta may best be represented by their MLAs.

We'll come back to that question of whether we move the (a) to (g) portion to page 2. I think it's a valid point in terms of how long you keep one's attention in a two-page letter.

Okay. Anything else on page 1? Top of page 2.

MR. SIGURDSON: Changing the word "option." There are a lot of options out there. Some of them we haven't even considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And you said "considerations"?

MR. BRUSEKER: Where is this you're changing this?

MR. SIGURDSON: At the top. The last word of the first sentence.

MR. DAY: A variety of considerations, you're saying? To include considerations or . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: Will consider a variety of considerations? Possibilities?

MR. SIGURDSON: Will lead up to the development of the boundaries.

May include a variety of considerations, rather than "consideration of . . . options."

MR. DAY: Right. May include . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: . . . a variety of considerations.

MR. DAY: I don't have a problem with that.

And then it goes on to read: one such consideration?

MR. SIGURDSON: One consideration or one such consideration may be . . .

MR. DAY: So it doesn't look like we're ramming these out.

MR. SIGURDSON: Yeah, it's not just limited to two options.

MR. DAY: Sure.

MR. SIGURDSON: Then you could add a third line or a third area that said: or any other consideration that you may wish to offer.

MR. BRUSEKER: I like the idea of keeping options in there and then have a third one saying: any others that are proposed by . . . Because "considerations" doesn't seem to really specify what it is you're trying to do. I think the word "option" is very clear, and people will understand the word "option" rather than "consideration," which is a little bit vague. I think if you leave it as it is but then add simply a third, which is: any other options that may be presented by or that may come forward as a result of representations made by the committee – just leave it wide open and say to the people, "If you've got a brainchild of an idea, let us know about it, and we'll consider it." So rather than change "options" to "considerations," I think we just add the third rider that says: if you've got a great idea, let us know about it.

MR. SIGURDSON: You know, in order to invite people, I like the lack of structure; I like the vagueness, I guess, that's implied with the word "consideration." But I'm not worried about it. As long as there's that third rider and that it says . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: As long as we don't scare people off by being too legalistic, too formal.

MR. DAY: I'm happy with either, so I'll let you guys work it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll work on that a little more.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think we're both saying that we need the third thing, which says: any other option, any other ideas you come up with, that's great.

MR. SIGURDSON: Any other considered option.

MR. PRITCHARD: For sure the third thing, and we'll still talk about consideration or option.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mike?

MR. CARDINAL: I'm okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The two options listed?

MR. DAY: Considerations, you mean?

MR. BRUSEKER: Let's consider the two options?

MR. DAY: We can opt for any of these considerations.

MR. BRUSEKER: Maybe in the wording of the first one where it says that one option would be to maintain – because that's sort of what's implied there, isn't it, but I don't think it really says it – would be something to the effect of: maintain what we have currently, the status quo. Then a second option would be this particular route, and a third option is whatever else. But one option would be to maintain the current legislation and historic Alberta practice, blah, blah, blah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Looking at it a second time, where we're giving the second option, we say, "43 constituencies would not fall within the parameters and would require boundary revisions." I wonder if we should add "or elimination" and in some cases "possible elimination."

MR. PRITCHARD: Actually, "change or elimination" is in the paragraph just following.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know it is. That's where I got the idea. I'm wondering . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: You'd rather have it up there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I'm not trying to use a scare tactic, but we want to get people's attention. I guess the difficulty with using "elimination" in that sentence: 43 constituencies would not disappear. Maybe we're better to leave it as is, recognizing that the following sentence does make reference to "possible constituency change or elimination."

Do we need to make any reference to the recent court decisions re the Charter of Rights? Now, it's mentioned in the terms of reference. We make reference to "the implications of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for electoral boundaries."

MR. BRUSEKER: Also, Bob, if you look at point (d), it says "any legislation, legal decisions, and historic and current practices of Alberta or other Canadian jurisdictions." So I think the implication is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fair enough.

MR. BRUSEKER: I think if we make it much longer, we'll start to lose people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Maybe if we just take a moment and look at the attachment, there's the "Summary of Results by Electoral Division." We should put a date there probably.

MR. BRUSEKER: Is that actually results or is that voters?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's voters.

MR. BRUSEKER: By the title it seems electors. Maybe it should say list of electors in each electoral division or something along that line, because that's what it means, but summary of results suggests that that's the number of people that voted.

MRS. BLACK: How about: eligible voters?

MR. PRITCHARD: Eligible voters. Nice and simple.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Eligible voters. You came in at the right time, Pat.

In addition, we would have a map of Alberta showing the electoral divisions plus the four cities that have more than one riding. So there would be Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge. The thought was to colour those areas that are going to be affected. Why not use two different shades: one for those that fall below and one for those that are above? I think everything on the rural falls below, and I'm sure everything on the urban that's not out of sync . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: Not necessarily. Because I believe that if you look at . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, here, let's look at the list: 23. Oh, you're right. Edmonton-Centre is 20. So there'd be some . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: I think it's the urban ones that are over.

MR. SIGURDSON: I was just thinking that Edmonton-Highlands and Edmonton-Norwood are very low, but they're under the variance that's allowed within the existing legislation.

MR. BRUSEKER: Is Bob going to have enough time to colour all those maps before you . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: If I have enough crayons, I can probably do it.

There'll be maps for Edmonton and Calgary, for the cities, breaking down into constituencies. We can either do it with colours - there'll be quite a cost, actually - or we can do it by shading. Shading isn't as effective, but shading is a lot more economical.

MR. DAY: Showing which ones are beyond.

MR. PRITCHARD: We can do above and below. We can do shading, with lines going over for one and then dots or something for the other. But it's not as effective as the colour, nor is it as dramatic as the colour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The map is just as important as the letter in communicating a message. Do you have any idea of the difference in cost, Bob?

MR. PRITCHARD: We want to get a batch of letters out before we go to visit, so I know we're going to have to probably go down to a company like Quick Print that will do them - like a coloured photocopier. They can run around 90 cents or 80 cents a page. Later if we do a bigger set, we can get a much better price.

MRS. BLACK: Canon copiers can be colour copied by the supplier, and the Xerox people have colour copiers and could probably do them for you - photocopies.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, that's where they charge about 80 cents apiece.

MRS. BLACK: But in bulk they probably don't.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, we'd get the best price we could, but it's still going to be pretty high for the first batch that go out, to do them quickly. The ones that we get printed later, if we got them printed by somebody like Quick Print - that takes a bit longer. It might be two weeks, but they can do it for a much better price than that, probably 15 cents a piece.

MRS. BLACK: A Quick Print place would take two weeks?

MR. PRITCHARD: No, not at Quick Print. To get them done, like, in two days, that's where we would go, and we'd spend about 80 cents, 90 cents a page.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first priority is to get the northwest . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: So we can get it sent out to the northwest. To do the thousands we're going to do for all the lists of people we're sending them to, we'd get a better price when we went to some kind of a printer and had them printed. We'd probably get it down to 15 cents or 20 cents a page. At least that's about what it used to cost in Social Services. I might get it a bit better through here; I don't know.

MR. SIGURDSON: Bob, I'm just wondering. You know, with all of the colour printers that are now available on the market, somewhere in the Legislative Assembly is there nothing . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: I've asked Bill Gano if he'll look for me to see if there's one somewhere in here. He doesn't know of any, but he thinks there might be one somewhere in government, like through PWSS.

MR. SIGURDSON: The machine they've got on the eighth floor is large and seemingly able to do many tasks. I'm just surprised it wouldn't be able to also produce some colour.

MR. PRITCHARD: Bill will find out. Certainly if there's a colour copier somewhere in government, we'll do it the cheapest way we can find to do it. But I just mentioned that as a cost. I think probably colour is much more effective.

MR. CARDINAL: Just a quick comment, and I think it's probably off the agenda a bit, but looking at these populations and the variances, one of the things we failed to mention, just for our records - *Hansard* - is that when we talked to the Winnipeg group, they arrived at their average using the provincial population. Here in Alberta we use, and Saskatchewan also used, the voting populations. That's one thing we want to use in our records, because it's a good consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pat, our strategy is to leave this item. We've got a presentation coming from AGT. Once that's completed, we'll come back and finalize the letter and material.

MRS. BLACK: I'm sorry I was late, Mr. Chairman. I had another committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We understand. Heritage fund. Are you through for the day?

MRS. BLACK: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We were firming up the dates for the Victoria trip, 23rd and 24th. The 23rd is a Thursday. The idea of getting together for dinner at about 7 and some question about spouses joining us: my thought was it was a good idea. It gives them an opportunity to meet one another, and some of them may wish to spend some time on the Friday morning or early afternoon.

MR. PRITCHARD: We're pleased to have Betty Ann and Doug here today from AGT. They're going to give us a presentation and tell us a bit about communication. We were asking particularly about how we might have meetings in Calgary and Edmonton with the Calgary members down there and the Edmonton members here and by way of video have our meetings together. As well, they were going to give us a bit of an overview on some newer communication devices that are available that will probably make it easier for MLAs to work with constituents and constituents with MLAs in the future and may have an effect on the size of some of the constituencies if communication is, perhaps, easier or simpler.

I believe you were going to give us a bit of a presentation for about half an hour here and then we were going to go upstairs. Something's set up on the video on the eighth floor.

MR. LESSARD: Yes. I'll pass the packages out here. There should be enough. Okay.

I'd originally set this up, of course, for an overhead, so I guess communication is the key here. What more can we say, right?

What I want to do is just basically go over a couple of the services, and as you mentioned, Bob, I'm going to go through. The first half of this is just an outline of it, the first half on teleconferencing. I have about a six-minute videotape here on videoconferencing which I'll show you at the end. At that point we'll go through the electronic mail services, specifically Envoy 100, which Betty Ann will cover. Okay?

From that we'll go into teleconferencing. Essentially what we're talking about here for teleconferencing, and that encompasses a bunch of different areas: we say it's a meeting between three or more people in two or more locations. It can be as

much as a speaker phone in an office at this end with three or four people and the same at the other end. That's the basic definition of teleconferencing, which includes audio, video, and various other ways to do it, with maybe concurrent overheads, that type of thing.

Teleconferencing benefits – this is in general again: more productive meetings; you're able to convene meetings without having to have people travel; typically, because you've got it set over a phone and at a specific time, they tend to be shorter, so you get a lot of the other discussion out of the way that maybe a face-to-face would have, all the formalities, and you go into the meeting and finish it quicker; of course, with the meetings sometimes you can make decisions faster and better because you can get all of the players involved; essentially it improves overall communications; it goes without saying that it helps avoid inconvenient travel in that you can get the people to the meeting without necessarily having them travel when it's inconvenient for them; and it saves time.

With that we'll go into one of the specific services we're talking about called VideoForum. What is VideoForum? It's a fully interactive videoconferencing service, interactive meaning that both people can talk or show pictures that can be seen at the same time. You can sit in the studio and look at a screen of someone at the other end and hear their voice and see their hand motions, whatever they present, and of course they also see yours. It's fully interactive in both ways. It's an effective, efficient way to hold a face-to-face meeting at a distance without the cost of travel. As you indicated, of course, to Calgary/Edmonton: two studios, one in each city. We also have locations across Canada, the U.S., and we can make conferences around the world. We have looked at setting one up to Japan from here.

MR. CARDINAL: In this system you have to go to a specific place to . . .

MR. LESSARD: A specific studio, okay? There are a couple of things you can do. One is, and that really leads into the next one, you can go point to point, which we call it, which is from Edmonton to a specific other city. The other thing you can do is we have a service called multipoint, which allows studios in more than two locations to connect within Canada. You can have, say, Winnipeg, Toronto, Vancouver, and Edmonton on at the same time. What it does is that whoever's talking, everyone will see their picture. So if you have someone presenting for a couple of minutes or asking questions, everybody sees theirs. Then the next person that talks, it automatically switches to the studio that they are talking from and everybody sees their picture. We can either have what we call point to point or multipoint. So if you have people in more than two cities, you can still have a video conference.

MR. SIGURDSON: Is that network set up only for Calgary and Edmonton? Do you have a studio, or can the system be utilized, say, at Lethbridge or Grande Prairie?

MR. LESSARD: Currently we have studios in Calgary and Edmonton. They are looking at expansion in the future, but it's a supply and demand type of situation at this point. That's where we get into private . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: That's only on the multipoint.

MR. LESSARD: No, point to point and multipoint. There are only studios in Edmonton and Calgary at this point, public studios. Now, that also goes anywhere in Canada. There is Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Vancouver, et cetera, and of course we can go into many cities in the U.S. There are probably 35 or 40 places in the U.S. you can go to public

studios, and of course around the world there are studios in major cities.

We get into private studios. It's a little more popular in Ontario than it is here. I know a lot of people are looking at it. You can also have a private studio that can hook into the network, so rather than go to the public studio that's located in the AGT Building, if a customer has their own private studio and sets it up, has it all equipped and everything, they could then use our network, make arrangements and reserve on it, to wherever they want, to a public studio at the other end, and use their own private studio at this end.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks. Anything else, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: So then you could use a private studio in Lethbridge or Lloydminster.

MR. LESSARD: If there was a private studio there, yes.

MR. SIGURDSON: Just out of curiosity, if you were to use a private studio for transmission or reception – and broadcasting, I suppose – would it eliminate that private studio for a period of time from being able to broadcast other [inaudible] programming?

MR. LESSARD: This network is not compatible with the television broadcast network. So in other words, you wouldn't go up to, say, the Lloydminster TV station and use their studio. This is a private digital network TV studio. Okay?

MR. SIGURDSON: Totally and completely separate.

MR. LESSARD: Yeah, completely separate. They have their own network, and we have a totally separate network. So the two aren't interfaceable. I should have made that point earlier. I apologize.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mike?

MR. CARDINAL: As you go on with the presentation, would you bring up the costs of such a network, because that's what we are trying to put across here. Can we use some of that stuff in rural Alberta, for an example?

MR. LESSARD: I think there are a couple of things here. One we talked about, of course, is the conferencing within this group and potentially Edmonton/Calgary. The other one is making it more accessible to people in rural Alberta. I think we'll get into some of that when we get into the TeleForum product and the meetings. This is essentially a method in which to communicate for meetings, okay? VideoForum is really meant for convening meetings of people as opposed to day-to-day conversation between two people.

VideoForum benefits. We talked about them a little bit in the beginning, but essentially it's face to face, essential when travel is difficult, inconvenient, or costly. Participants are motivated to be prepared, because typically you book a time slot of an hour. You know that it's only going to go an hour, as opposed to a meeting you may have in a boardroom where really we've got it for the afternoon, so if it goes on . . . People tend to be more prepared. They know they've got an hour slot to do it in. It increases flexibility and frequency in timing of business communications. You may not be able to travel but you need to have the meeting today: you do it this way. It allows all the key people to attend, not just one or two, and again that relates to travel costs. Can you afford to send a half dozen people to Calgary that really should be in the meeting and have input, for a one-hour meeting?

There are costs involved – and, of course, time costs as well

as travel costs. You know, they spend half a morning for a one-hour meeting. It's easily booked through our VideoForum studio. The number is there, so if you want to book a service, you phone up, they tell you when it's available. If it's available at the time you want, then they book all the studios for you. So essentially it's very easy for you to make the arrangements and the timing of the meetings. Okay?

Now, you talked about rates, and I believe there's a package in here on rates. I'll just go very quickly into it without . . . I'm sorry; I don't have it in here. We have the package here with some stuff, so if I can just find my rate sheet here that I had . . . Okay, Betty, where did you put it? Murphy's Law says that it's not going to be there when you want it, right? There it is.

Now, essentially these are Canadian rates, and what we are looking at are the studios at each end. Basically, VideoForum is made up of two rates. One is the rate for the room rentals at each end – if you have your own private room, of course, there is no rental at the one end – and the network cost, the cost to connect the two. So we are looking at \$50 a half hour in Edmonton and Calgary for the rooms. The rest of the Canadian are \$75. The network, depending on where you are going – it's distance sensitive, but, say, Edmonton to Calgary is \$60 a half hour, billed in increments of a half an hour. So if you go Edmonton to Toronto, we're talking \$475 a half hour for the network plus the room costs.

In Alberta we only have to Edmonton and Calgary at this point. We are looking at others, but right now we haven't got the demand to put them in other areas. Grande Prairie is one that comes to mind. Lethbridge they've talked about, but at this point there isn't, I guess, the need or the demand, but we are certainly hoping to . . . Anybody that has the volume of meetings requirements. Okay?

MR. SIGURDSON: In order to establish a room outside of the AGT Tower, what would the start-up costs be if we wanted to have a room in this building? Would we have to purchase the communication equipment, or is that on a rental basis?

MR. LESSARD: The equipment itself is somewhat flexible on whether it's a purchase or a lease through AGT. Capital cost of a room outside of the renovations to the building, which are beyond our control – if you have a building somewhat ready, then it's fairly inexpensive. A fully equipped room is probably \$130,000 to \$170,000, with all of the video equipment complete, with the cameras, a couple of monitors, the control equipment that allows you to connect to the network. That's the kind of range we are talking about for an equipped studio. If you were to want to put one into a building, that would be the kind of cost you would be looking at. Again, that's somewhat flexible because it depends on what equipment you need: if you need any additional tie-ins to, say, special video equipment that you want to be able to use to present information on the network, that type of thing. But that's kind of a ballpark range.

MR. PRITCHARD: You say these are easily booked through the VideoForum studio. Is there a waiting list, or is it easy to get in?

MR. LESSARD: It's pretty good at this point. Right now we're running about 15 to 20 hours a month of usage in the studio, and we're looking at having that by the end of next year to about 25 to 30 hours a month. So that's about – what? – 25 percent of the time it will be booked, and we hope to have it grow beyond that. So you're hitting right now at about . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Seventy-five percent.

MR. SIGURDSON: Who's using it?

MR. LESSARD: Who's using it right now? The Law Society is using it. Edmonton Power uses it for Edmonton/Calgary meetings. The federal courts use it to file appeals. They usually need about 15 minutes, but it's a long time to get there, so what they do is schedule that, come in and make their 15-minute presentation on VideoForum, get their answer, whatever it is, and then they can carry on without having to travel to Ottawa. Those are some of the customers. Some private-industry meetings. Imperial Oil may book from Calgary to Toronto to have a meeting with some of their executives.

In actual fact, within AGT we use it a tremendous amount. When I say 13 to 15 hours a month, that's external customers. It's probably booked 80 percent of the time totally, but the rest of them are AGT meetings, and we're building our own separate studios because it's full now. At this point that's not a problem for customers because we delay our meetings if a customer wants the service. So essentially if you want a meeting on a particular day and it happens to be an AGT meeting, we'll reschedule our meeting to try and meet your needs. Any other questions?

All right. TeleForum is an audio product, audio conferencing basically from your phone. The applications: of course it saves time; it increases efficiency; it's available throughout the world. Essentially wherever there's a phone, you can use the service, and it's a complement to travel, to be able to attend meetings. I'll get a little bit into what it is there.

TeleForum is really a new enhancement, or a modern technology application, to what we've had for a long time called Conference 100. I don't know if you're familiar with it. There used to be ads that said, "Dial zero and ask for your conference operator." What we've done is that we've found that the demand for that is fairly high, and the technology we were using was around for a long time, so it wasn't really giving all the benefits that we felt should be for the customers there. So we've upgraded it to a new digital technology and all the things that go with it. I'll get into a couple of the additions we have to it, but essentially in Alberta we can have 92 separate participants in an audio conference, up to 92 or as few as two or three. Now, what you do to book it is dial zero and ask for your TeleForum operator. There will be ads coming out in a short time frame. We just installed this on August 1, turned it out. Conference 100 has been up for four or five years, and on August 1 we turned up TeleForum, which is the newest technology to do that. It allowed us better sound quality, a larger number of meetings without degradation of sound so everyone can hear well. You can handle the meetings, where before, under the old system, you had to have an AGT operator add or delete parties. I'll get into that a little bit later.

MR. PRITCHARD: Is it more expensive or about the same as the Conference 100?

MR. LESSARD: It's running about the same. It depends on the type of meeting. I'd say it's probably in the neighbourhood of about 25 percent more expensive at this point. But essentially it's got automatic control for volumes of people. If you've got somebody who's got a phone with a very low level on it, it'll bring it up so everybody can hear them. Of course, with the older service, if you had 20 or 30 people connected at the same time, everybody had a low volume, so you really had to make sure people were speaking clearly or it wasn't heard by everybody. This looks after that with the new technology. We're very pleased with the couple of months we've had it in. The customers that have used Conference 100 and are going to it are very, very pleased with it. I'll get into some rates on it in a few minutes here. Okay? So that's TeleForum.

TeleForum setup options. This is where we get into the biggest difference obvious to you as a customer. Under the old Conference 100 we had Operator Handled. That was the only way. You phoned up the operator; she set up the complete

meeting for you. Under TeleForum we have three ways to set up. We have the traditional Operator Handled. You set up, you tell them all the people you're going to contact, and they set up the meeting for you. We have two more now. We have one called Meet Me – which I'll get into in another thing here – and we have Customer Handled, which you then set up yourself if you're familiar with the service. And there are benefits to each of these too.

I'm going fairly quickly here. If anybody's got any questions, feel free to back me up here. Okay?

Operator Handled. You reserve so many ports and so many conferees. At the time the operator contacts each person and brings them on and says, "Go ahead with the meeting, Mr. Chairperson," essentially you carry on your meeting.

The next one, which is a new one with TeleForum, is Meet Me. You reserve a number of ports – maybe you've got a meeting of 15 or 20 or three or 92 – and at conference time the operator gives you a pre-assigned number. You give this phone number out to all the people you want on the conference, and at the pre-assigned time they phone in to that number and are connected to the conference. So essentially around this table everybody would have that number. They dial that number, it automatically connects them, and you carry on with your meeting. So that's Meet Me, and I'll get into it because I've got a bit on . . .

MR. CARDINAL: That is in place now.

MR. LESSARD: That is in place today. Typically what we're finding is that until you get familiar with it, maybe you don't want a Meet Me, because you don't want to necessarily run the conference yourself and make sure everybody's in and connect all the people. So what people are typically doing is running a couple of Operator Handled till they get familiar with running the meeting over audio conferencing, and then they'll say, "Okay, why don't I try the next level in which I will arrange it and have people call me." Okay?

The next one is Customer Handled. That's where you would again reserve the number of ports, and at conference time the chairperson uses the bridge and they call out to the people. The difference shows up in the costs of the conference to you, more so than whether you call out or they call in.

MR. DAY: What's the difference between Meet Me and Customer Handled?

MR. LESSARD: Meet Me and Customer Handled? Meet Me is when you give everybody the number and they phone in.

MR. DAY: No, in costs.

MR. LESSARD: In costs? Okay. I'll get into that just in a minute.

MR. SIGURDSON: I just have one question. Maybe I've missed it along the way. Is the number of ports the number of incoming . . .

MR. LESSARD: Number of people that are connecting to it.

MR. SIGURDSON: Okay. So if all of us have that particular number and somebody else should dial it by accident, that person that's dialed by accident isn't going to be interrupting our meeting, are they?

MR. LESSARD: Okay. I didn't bring a list, but there's a list of . . . You'll know when somebody comes on, because it gives you tones. You confer as the meeting chairman. Okay, who is it who just entered? You get their name and if it's some-

body . . . You can use a touchtone phone and exclude them from the meeting. So if somebody does get on now . . . It's not a published number; it's a number the operator will give you each time you book a conference.

MR. SIGURDSON: Okay.

MR. LESSARD: All right. So for security purposes you can say, "Okay, who's on here?" You'll know how many people are on because you can ask the system to count. It will tell you that there are eight people on. You'll say, "Okay, I know I'm supposed to have eight; I'll call the eight names," and they'll all answer. Now, at this point I can lock it out so that nobody else comes on. If you've got nine, you say, "Okay, who's the ninth one?" Right? So there are some security ways to be able to handle it so that type of thing doesn't happen, or if it does, you can control it and exclude them from the conference. Okay? So use the touchtone. Again, the difference between Meet Me is call-in versus you setting it up and calling out. There's probably more security on the Customer Handled, because you designate who you contact because you actually phone out to them. Okay?

Now, we'll just go quickly into the rating on this. Customer Handled rating is 42 cents per port, which is per phone call in, from the time the first conferee is connected to the time the last one is disconnected. That's within Alberta. I have some rate sheets in here for other configurations, which would be out of Alberta versus in Alberta only. Toll charges incurred from the bridge – in other words, if there's any toll cost, it'll come back to your conference. So you booked it and you dial out. If there's any long distance, you'll get the long-distance costs on top of the 42 cents. So you would control the costs of it. The chairperson incurs all the charges. Whoever has booked the meeting will pay all the long distance charges. Okay?

Meet Me again is 42 cents per minute for the use of the conference facility, but if people dial in long distance, they pay for the long distance. In some companies they'd rather have the people calling in and paying their own charges within their own area, as it says that conferees incur their tolls to the service.

MR. DAY: For a meeting within the city, let's say, of Edmonton, how do the charges work?

MR. LESSARD: No toll charges; 42 cents a minute per port for the use of the service.

MR. DAY: So outside it's 42 cents a minute per port and pay your own toll charges.

MR. LESSARD: Yeah. Any questions?

On the Operator Handled, which is the one where the operator does all of it, sets it up for you, they have basically flat rates for it. You pay them where the links are, where they go. So rather than try and calculate the toll rates to each of the areas, it's been worked out on, I suspect, an averaging basis. Okay?

MR. DAY: So that one isn't done per port?

MR. LESSARD: Sorry?

MR. DAY: This one is not done per port?

MR. LESSARD: Yes. It should say "port" in the claim; 85 cents within Alberta. Anywhere within Canada outside of Alberta it's \$1.50, and from Alberta to the U.S. it's \$1.50 per link per minute. Again, the chairperson incurs all the costs.

A benefit of TeleForum is flexibility. They can join from anywhere in the world, basically. You could have a group of half a dozen people around Alberta, and you could have

someone calling in from essentially anywhere in to your conference or you could call out to them and add them on. So you could have a guest. You know, if you have somebody that wants to make a presentation for 10 or 15 minutes, you put them on to the bridge for the 15 minutes. They go off and then you carry on with the rest of your meeting.

The control. The chairperson is offered more control via the touchtone phone, the touchtone pad they call it. That's why I talked earlier about security, about counting how many people are actually on, excluding people, locking it so no one else can come on. They provide you with that information in a really quite straightforward booklet on how to do it if you want to run your own. If you want to let the operator do it, they'll do it all for you. They'll do the roll calls and help you out with it.

Security: you can lock the bridge; you can disconnect invading conferees, which we talked about already. Cost savings: Meet Me is less expensive than the Operator Handled. Of course, if you want, evening discounts can be taken advantage of. If you have a meeting in the evening, then the toll charges are evening rates. Again, the efficiencies of being able to get people to a meeting without having to travel; business decisions, because meetings can be called much easier. Personalized service: of course, the operator will work with you to set up your meetings, that type of thing.

Basically that's teleconferencing as we have it. To facilitate these, what we're finding is a lot of interest with companies that will have regular meetings of a group such as this, and what they'll do is - we have services, we have conferencing equipment you would put in a boardroom that would allow you to connect up to the phone so a group of six or eight people would be able to sit here and conference to another location. So rather than just having one phone and everybody sitting around and trying to pass it, if there are three or four of you in a location, you might have a room set up. We have equipment to do that, to add on to it. So a lot of people are equipping their boardroom with this service and with a phone set. They say, "Okay, we want to call in these other three people and run a meeting; let's just arrange the meeting, use this equipment here, and carry on."

MRS. BLACK: How many can you actually tie in to one set?

MR. LESSARD: Basically, in the service in a boardroom, of course you can tie in as big as the boardroom, probably anywhere from 30 to 50. Out at the other end you can have up to 92 different legs of it, 92 different phones or connections to it. That's a maximum at this point. Okay? If it came to the point where we actually had to have it longer than that - and that's in Alberta only because we have half in Edmonton and half in Calgary - we could connect the two. We could connect in a bridge from, say, Toronto and that type of thing if it was a special requirement. Or say you had a bunch of people in Ontario; they could conference in through theirs to ours. Under the old system we have had conferences upwards of 130 to 150 people connected together. Somebody's doing a presentation and they want to reach that many people at one time, so they do a one-hour or a half-hour presentation from their location to a hundred other places.

MR. DAY: Let's all in favour say aye.

MR. BRUSEKER: Raise your hands.

MR. SIGURDSON: How does the chair know if somebody wants to tune in? Is there some kind of signalling system?

MR. LESSARD: No, there isn't. What there is is a kind of protocol that you set up as the meeting chairman. You then would address the people and say, "Okay, at this point we'll have questions," or "Okay, let's wait until we get there." They do

their presentation and you say, "Okay, now questions." See, you have to set up a protocol. We've got some information on that to assist you in setting up the protocol for the meeting so it runs smoothly.

MR. DAY: It's the best way to have a meeting. It's short, it's to the point, nobody wastes time, and everybody has an opportunity to yea or nay. It's great. It just gets a little sore on the ear if it goes too long, but that helps the meeting move along.

MRS. BLACK: But you can use your speaker phone.

MR. DAY: Yeah. It's great.

MR. LESSARD: And if you've got a group like this, say if you had them set up with the conferencing facility, you would have good quality conference equipment here so everybody could be heard properly.

MRS. BLACK: I think the biggest thing is the cost of time. It is so critical to something like this. You don't, as you say, travel seven hours in a day to have a two-hour meeting. You can do it right in your own office. It's extremely effective.

MR. LESSARD: And if you want to let somebody else in, you can. You could say, "Okay, we've got a meeting of six or eight people and we want to ask one person something." You can. Through the Customer Handled you can dial out to one other person, have them on for five minutes for those couple of questions, drop them off, and carry on with the rest of your meeting.

MR. DAY: That Meet Me is a good way to go. I didn't know that was available. Because if you're handling it yourself, your secretary has to call all those people anyway and tell them to be in your office at 3 o'clock. This way she just says, "Hey, phone here at 3 o'clock." We've found sometimes in setting those up that something goes wrong. You can't get a person or it's going 'bhlup bhlup,' you know, and you're . . . Remember that one call we did and every 10 seconds it went 'bhlup bhlup'?

MR. SIGURDSON: So TeleForum can be accessed by any touch . . .

MR. LESSARD: Any regular touchtone phone.

MR. SIGURDSON: But not a rotary.

MR. LESSARD: You could dial out or they can dial in with a rotary, but they can't control it. The chairperson has to have a touchtone phone. Okay? But remotes do not have to have a touchtone phone, a normal phone set, because they don't have to actually do anything with the touchtone pad. It's like a normal phone conversation for them. The only one that should have a touchtone phone is the chairperson so they can activate it to either dial out or lock the bridge or that type of thing.

We went pretty quickly through VideoForum and that type of thing. Any questions back on that? Good enough. We're at the point where we can show you . . . I've got a little six-minute video on video conferencing. I guess if we have no more questions here, we'll have a look at that, and then we'll go on to the other half.

[The committee recessed from 2:34 p.m. to 2:43 p.m.]

MR. LESSARD: Basically, I'm glad you said you'd like to try it, because we have this campaign going at this point which says, "Book it for a one-hour meeting on us."

MRS. BLACK: Each one of us could book an hour?

MR. LESSARD: No. All right, if I can leave that with someone here.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. You can leave it.

MR. LESSARD: Bob? Okay. The phone number's in there to book the reservation. Just indicate to them that it's one of – the pop-up brochure campaign they call it. Book the meeting, Edmonton/Calgary. Or if you'd like to hold a meeting between anywhere else in Canada for an hour, let us know and give it a try.

MR. SIGURDSON: Sounds good.

MR. LESSARD: So that's basically it on teleconferencing. Any other questions? If not, I'll turn it over to Betty Ann for her side.

MRS. CICCHINO: Mine's short and sweet. What I'm going to go over is Envoy 100. That's our electronic messaging or electronic mail service.

Envoy 100 is a nationwide offering, and it's offered by all member companies of Telecom Canada. Essentially it's computer to computer messaging. All you require is a personal computer, a modem, some type of communication software, and a telephone line and you're ready to go.

The way Envoy 100 is set up is you're given a mailbox and that's where all your new and unread messages are sent. The nice thing about Envoy 100 is that your computer doesn't have to be on for someone to send you a message. What happens is that when that person is sending you a message, it just goes into your mailbox and is sitting there, so at your convenience you can just go into your mailbox and read your messages. Each account is set up with a unique identification name. Essentially that's your address to your mailbox. For example, if someone were going to message me, they would message BA.CICCHINO and that would go into my mailbox. You're also given a password. Actually the password is something you would develop on your own for security purposes.

The nice thing about Envoy 100 is that it's instant delivery. If you're typing up a message on your computer, you send it off and the individual you're sending it to is going to get it right away, so there are no time delays. You're not playing any telephone tag or anything like that.

Envoy 100 is a bilingual service, so you have your French and English. You can send to one individual or a group of individuals. The nice thing is that . . . Say that you wanted to message everybody in here with the same message. Instead of keying in everybody's identification name and going through that trouble, what you can do is set up a distribution list, type in the message once, and then it's delivered to each individual. So it's kind of nice and speedy.

There may be certain forms that you send on a regular basis, say to other departments, and you may be sending them via mail or by a courier. What we can do on this system is set up the form on-line. All you do is bring it up, fill in the blanks, and you can send it off to that individual.

Each message is time and date stamped. For example, when you go into your mailbox, it would list the messages that are there waiting for you; it would give the date and time they were sent, who it was from, the subject, and also the number of lines.

There's also an on-line directory. That helps you out, say, for . . . If you wanted to know if a certain individual was on the service or not, you could key in their name and it would bring up their identification name so you could message them. Or if you happened to forget their identification name, you could find it out that way.

The service is available to you 24 hours a day, so there are no delays. We also have training in Edmonton and in Calgary which is free of charge. There's also on-line assistance, so if you run into problems, there's on-line help. There's also a 1-800 number, which is our customer assistance centre. They're located in Ottawa and staffed with very capable people, so in case you had any questions . . .

Another service that you get with Envoy 100 is Envoy to fax. You may have an Envoy 100 account, but the individual you want to message doesn't. They may have a fax machine. So what you can do is key it up on your Envoy 100 account and then send it to their fax. Sending it that way, you get a nice, crisp copy because it's going from your electronic mail and just being printed out on their fax machine. You don't get any fuzzy copies. The other thing is that when you are sending via a fax machine, you may find that a lot of times there are delays, that the destination number is busy. Using Envoy 100, you type in your message and then from there the system carries it. So if the fax number happened to be busy, you don't have to worry about it, because Envoy 100 will keep trying until that fax number is free and send your message.

Also, you can send to a group of individuals. Using the fax machine, a lot of times you have to key in the number, send one copy through, then you have that same message you want to send to somebody else, so you have to key in their fax number. This way you can just do it in one transaction, using Envoy 100.

Envoy 100 also has Envoy post. What you would do there is type out your message or your letter and that letter is delivered to the nearest Canada Post electronic mail centre. There are two options. You have special letter mail, and that would be delivered next business day if you are sending it to a major centre within Canada. If it's outside a major centre in Canada, it would take a maximum of two days. Basic delivery is a maximum of two days. They would get the letter in two days. If it's outside a major centre in Canada, it would be between two and four days.

Envoy 100 helps eliminate telephone tag. It can also help cut down on your long distance charges because you are not being charged long distance. You are being charged an Envoy 100 charge. For example, you're being charged per kilocharacter. Now, kilocharacter is roughly 150 words, so to send a message of 150 words would cost you 38 cents. So it's relatively inexpensive to use. Also, the service can freeze you from any time zones. So it doesn't matter. Say you wanted to message someone down east and you know they are already gone. You can message them. It will be sitting in their mailbox for the next day when they check their mail.

You also have various options in sending your messages. You may have an urgent message you want to send to somebody. You can actually send it "urgent" and it will be the first message that gets seen when they go into their mailbox. You may also want to be notified that that person did read your message. You can send it "urgent receipt" and you will be sent back a message saying that, yes, that individual has read that message. So it's a sort of nice way to confirm that people did get your mail.

Again, it is Canada-wide. There are certain services that we do link up to the States, so if there is someone in the States that was, say, on Timenet or Telenet, you can message those individuals. Again, we have the free training.

The last page is just a sort of example of what it's like when you key on to Envoy 100. It is a simple service. What happens is that it will welcome you to Envoy 100, tell you the last time you accessed your service, and then it comes up with your command prompt. So if you wanted to compose a message, you just type in "compose." The next prompt would come up and say "two". So in the example I've given you, one is going to be faxed to Jane Smith and has her fax number. The other one is going to John Brown. That would be an identification name, so that's actually going to – he is an Envoy user. So you can send to

both a fax and an Envoy user at the same time.

The CC stands for courtesy copy. Say, for example, you wanted to retain a copy of that. You could put your own ID in there. Then you would just have a copy of that message in your mailbox, just for yourself. BCC is blank courtesy copy. For example, if you were sending a message to somebody and you wanted your manager to be copied in but you didn't want the person you were sending the message to to know that your manager was also going to see it. So that's a sort of extra feature.

Then you have the subject regarding whatever your message is, your text, the end. Once you are done typing your letter, you do a period and a carriage return. It asks, "Do you want to send it?" You go "Yes" and then you are done. So it's very easy once you are on this, much like typing a letter. The nice thing is that people get your messages right away. There are no delays.

MRS. BLACK: Is this compatible with other electronic equipment, or does it have to be Envoy to Envoy fax?

MRS. CICCHINO: Yeah, it would have to be Envoy to Envoy.

MR. LESSARD: Did you have something in mind?

MRS. BLACK: No, no. I've just worked on electronic mail machines before, and they are dandy. I just wondered if this was compatible with other equipment.

MRS. CICCHINO: When you say equipment, do you mean services? Because the services that I mentioned . . . In the States if a user were, say, on Telenet or Timenet, we can message back and forth. It's a service, not necessarily you're [inaudible] the equipment.

MRS. BLACK: Is there a particular type of PC that it has to be tied to?

MR. LESSARD: No. Basically not. Any PC that can communicate out over a phone line. And it doesn't have to be a PC. It can be a larger system, that type of thing. Some companies have connected . . . In fact, AGT is connected there. They're a very large internal office system, so that we can use it and go out and send to people outside of AGT through. Okay? But it's not to an IBM or an Apple. Essentially it's any computer that can communicate over a phone line that can connect to it.

MRS. BLACK: I have a mobile on-line now.

MR. LESSARD: On your PC mount. Yes.

MRS. CICCHINO: Then you shouldn't have a problem. Do a lot of you have PCs?

MR. SIGURDSON: We will, all of us, soon have PCs with modems.

MRS. CICCHINO: Do you do a lot of messaging? Does this sound like something that you could use?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. We have one in the office here, but we haven't used that. We have a fax machine, so we've been using that a fair bit. But this is something that we could use.

MRS. CICCHINO: Yeah, because you do have those extra options.

MR. SIGURDSON: What are the subscription costs, too, on the Envoy 100?

MRS. CICCHINO: You have a choice. You could sign up as a corporate account or an individual user. If you're going to sign up as an individual user, there's a one-time charge of \$27.50. Then you're charged \$3.30 for your identification. So no matter whether you use the service or not, you're going to be charged that \$3.30. Then from there it's per kilocharacter: the number of characters that you send. I'd mentioned you're charged 38 cents. It's approximately 150 words.

MR. LESSARD: Where you find it of benefit - if you've got some people who will have, say, either a PC in their office or they may have portable laptop PCs that they take and they travel and essentially it can use a phone, they can connect their PC to it and they can check their mail after hours or generate messages back to their office. Their secretary at the office has a mailbox, and she comes in, too, every morning and checks that. So you can leave all kinds of messages saying: "Do this; do that. Find this out about whatever." Find the information out and put it back in your mailbox, and whenever you're free, you take your PC, connect to it, read them off, do what you want with them - either forward them to somebody else or create a reply back or use the information for the next meeting you're going to, whichever. And you haven't had to communicate on real time. You may have done it in the evenings or out of the office or at lunch hour. Of course, the secretary may be out; you can still leave the message when it's convenient for you. So it leaves you flexibility. Regardless of where you're at, they can reach you. They can leave that message for you. So it's not so much as between two fixed offices - which is also very good; if you have an office, say, in your constituency or you have an office here in Edmonton, you could leave messages between the two. You could also be in the field somewhere and still be able to get messages and leave messages with it. That's the other advantage to it.

MRS. BLACK: The only downside I've ever found with the electronic mail is that you can access a directory editor who is on the system throughout the country, and boy, you can sure get your mailbox filled with information that you maybe don't want.

MR. LESSARD: Okay. We've had some questions about it, but it hasn't been a major . . . You're talking about junk mail, that type of thing?

MRS. BLACK: Yes. You get on a distribution list, and boy, you can just . . . I know at one point I just shut the thing right off because we were so . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: Too many characters in PCs. That has been a problem in the House for quite a while.

MRS. BLACK: I wasn't thinking of that.

MR. BRUSEKER: Oh, I'm sorry.

MRS. BLACK: I'm talking about the company that had one, that we got it from. Sales pitches from all over. We were obviously on somebody's list. It was just coming in and coming in. In between there would be an important message that you wanted, but you had to go through . . .

MR. BRUSEKER: Just like the regular mailbox at home.

MRS. BLACK: Yeah.

MR. LESSARD: That's right. Unfortunately, because it is a public service, they do have that ability. Of course, if nobody knows your ID, they have to go looking for it to find it, as opposed to publishing where you send in for a . . . You know,

you subscribe to a magazine and all of a sudden you've got a hundred people. They've sold their mailing list. We don't sell our list to anybody.

MRS. BLACK: No, but you even give your fax number. There's a fax directory that goes around where they can tap into your fax and just keep it coming.

MR. LESSARD: Sending faxes to you.

MRS. BLACK: Yeah. But it's a great way to get the word out, I'll tell you.

MR. LESSARD: But it is a quick way to communicate with messages, short notes, and again, you don't have to have that necessarily connect at the other end. And you can do distribution lists, as Betty Ann indicated. If you have a group of people, you create a list. It's one name, and you send it out to everyone there. We find within our group we use it for meeting minutes where typically you want to create the responses back to everyone and send out a copy. So it comes in very handy for that type of thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions of Betty Ann or Doug? Good. Well, thank you very much.

MR. LESSARD: Well, thank you very much for your time. And you've got our cards.

MRS. CICCHINO: And I'll leave this information package.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good.

MR. LESSARD: There was an indication that there were other concerns about phone communications with constituents, I believe, and being more accessible, and if you feel that over and above this you'd like some more information on maybe different ways in which to use the normal telephone system, we're certainly willing to talk to somebody off-line and to put together something for you at a later date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We may come back later . . .

MR. LESSARD: Sure. Feel free.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . once we've got a clearer idea.

MR. LESSARD: You bet.

MR. PRITCHARD: Thank you very much.

MR. LESSARD: We'll pass some of these out this way here.

[The committee recessed from 3:02 to 3:03 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was thinking we might try to find a time when we could book that conference, while the offer is on.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, you know what might be a convenient thing to do. You know, we did touch upon the subject of early February, having been out of touch to a certain extent, and going to Red Deer and having a meeting in Red Deer. Might we not use that time more effectively, perhaps, on the morning of February 5 to hold a meeting to refresh ourselves as to what had occurred up until December 12 or whatever our last meeting was, and then instead of holding a meeting in Red Deer, go directly to a hearing of some type, either in Red Deer or Hanna or wherever we decided to go.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we've got Red Deer scheduled for the evening, Monday the 5th.

MR. BRUSEKER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We were going to meet Monday afternoon in Red Deer for a meeting to give people time to get there. What we might do is just change that afternoon slot to a Calgary/Edmonton teleconference.

MR. BRUSEKER: That might not be a bad time to try to use it.

MR. SIGURDSON: The only problem is that Stock would then have to drive one way or the other.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's right.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, we'll just give him that satellite [inaudible].

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm just thinking of Stockwell. He'd have to drive one way or the other to get to the meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only to turn around and go back that evening. No, that's not fair.

MR. PRITCHARD: Why don't we save it for now? We've got it. I'll draw the schedule up, and then we'll have a look at it and keep it in the back of our minds.

MR. SIGURDSON: What about Justice Dixon? When's that?

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, that's December 11, although we're going to be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The difficulty is, I guess - for us to have a teleconference call meeting would be fine because we all know one another here.

AN HON. MEMBER: You're right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Frank and I were talking about it. Had we set this up for our meetings in Winnipeg and Regina, we would not have picked up nearly as much as we did. In other words, if you are meeting someone for the first time over the TV camera, you don't have the same kind of . . . You just don't cut the new ones as you do in a face-to-face meeting. Bob will work on it.

MR. SIGURDSON: Save it for a rainy day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Back to the letter.

MR. PRITCHARD: There may be a time, when we're into writing the report or something like that, that it will be very handy to use that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there a time deadline on that?

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, it doesn't say anything on here, and he didn't mention an actual time deadline. I'll phone and ask if there is a deadline.

MR. SIGURDSON: He gets a blank cheque, and away we go.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. On page one of the letter, we were going to revise the last sentence of the last paragraph.

MR. PRITCHARD: We were going to change the last sentence to say: the overall purpose of the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries is to establish a basis on which the citizens of Alberta may best be represented by their MLAs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we comfortable with that?

MRS. BLACK: Could we put instead of MLAs "by their members of the Legislature"?

MR. BRUSEKER: Oh yes. Sorry. I can spell it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And on top of page 2 – and this is where we are focusing, Pat, on the considerations.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. It was the discussion where using "options" or "considerations" is the word. The first line says:

The review process leading up to the development of rules to govern the setting of electoral boundaries will include consideration of a variety of options.

It was put forward that rather than using the word "options," to use the word "considerations," and to use: the considerations following. Where it says "One option," instead use "One consideration," and "Another option" is "Another consideration." And put in a third statement, which is: that any other option or consideration – whichever word we use – may come forward from presentations to the Committee.

MRS. BLACK: And we're debating whether to use the word "option"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. BRUSEKER: So I would ask you which you think is the best option, and Tom would ask for your deepest consideration here.

MRS. BLACK: Well, who's going to say: the following considerations. We have "consideration" before.

MR. SIGURDSON: Yeah, "consideration" is wide open, as you say. You say it's vague. I think it's wide open. "Option" is too defined.

MRS. BLACK: "Option" is too definitive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll find a way to go with "consideration" or "considerations."

AN HON. MEMBER: What did you say, Pat?

MRS. BLACK: . . . will include the following considerations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. PRITCHARD: And then to follow through, change "One option" to "One consideration."

MRS. BLACK: Or just take: (1) Current legislation and historical Alberta practice . . . (2) Consider a percentage factor . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: And (3) . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: Any other considerations.

MR. PRITCHARD: And (3) being: Any other considerations. Okay.

MRS. BLACK: Other factors.

MR. SIGURDSON: Which may be presented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other factors. Perfect.

AN HON. MEMBER: Which may be put forward as a result of the hearings.

MRS. BLACK: Other factors as they become pertinent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pat, in addition, there will be the attachments: a provincial map plus Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge maps, showing – we thought we'd use a different colour for those that fall below and those that fall above. Okay. Anything else on the letter?

MR. SIGURDSON: Just to get into structure, I think it's more important to take that which appeared on the Order Paper, which are the guidelines for us, (a) through (g), and throw that somewhere near the end, thus bumping up what is the last paragraph on page 1 and all subsequent paragraphs on page 2 to the second and subsequent paragraphs on page 1.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you slip it in ahead of "To facilitate this review . . ."?

MRS. BLACK: Yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes. Good place.

MRS. BLACK: We'd put it in two paragraphs from the bottom.

MR. PRITCHARD: Take paragraph 2 and put it in between paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, mail-out. We had spoken of sending it to all municipal councils, school boards, hospital boards, health units. Other groups you'd like to see it sent to? All registered parties?

MR. PRITCHARD: All registered parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So it would be covering constituency associations that are registered.

MR. BRUSEKER: So presumably 249 of them.

MR. SIGURDSON: Maybe defeated candidates as well as the registered parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, one thing I thought we might do. We've all got special interest groups that may not fall within whatever definition we establish. What if we provide each member of the Assembly with a number of copies, and you can use them. They wouldn't be personalized in that sense unless the member wishes to do so, but they're available for distribution. We want it to receive the widest possible distribution to those who have an interest in this area.

MR. PRITCHARD: So send each MLA actually a package.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, a bundle of . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Then tell them they can come back for more if they want more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll need to indicate to all of the MLAs who we're sending it to so that there is not a duplication, and they, in turn, can add to the list, either in their constituency or elsewhere. Then you can include individuals who have run in

the past or have a particular interest.

MR. SIGURDSON: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else who should be on our list in terms of mail-out? Pat, we're going to focus on the northwest corner of the province first, because that's where we go for our first set of hearings, and then do the blanket.

MR. PRITCHARD: We're going to start the coverage on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The mail-out and the advertising as soon as possible.

MR. PRITCHARD: Tomorrow or the next day?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. CARDINAL: What about the chambers of commerce? Is that too many?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What's your thought?

MR. BRUSEKER: Sure. The more people that know the better, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Economic development councils, chambers of commerce . . .

MR. CARDINAL: Regional economic development councils are very active, very interested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll get that list from the economic development department for regional councils and things.

MR. CARDINAL: All you have to do is send it to each region, and they'll distribute to their membership.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you suggesting that the economic development councils be taken care of by the MLAs? We're going to send a package of these.

MR. CARDINAL: No. You can do that.

MR. PRITCHARD: We should do that?

MR. CARDINAL: I think so.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay.

MR. SIGURDSON: Do you want to also, then, alert the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Alberta and Northwest Territories building trades councils?

MR. PRITCHARD: What was that again, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: Alberta and Northwest Territories building trades councils.

MR. BRUSEKER: Why?

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, they have certainly an awful lot of political action that they're concerned about.

MRS. BLACK: There's a network there.

MR. SIGURDSON: They would then be able to send it out to their locals rather than us trying to get a copy of their mailing list, which would number in the hundreds.

MR. PRITCHARD: I suppose when we send it out to some places like the municipal councils rather than just sending it to the mayor, we should probably send a package or send a few so they can distribute it. It's a few copies to send out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on the distribution list? If you think of anything in the next day or so, let Bob know. Okay? Good. That's for the letter.
Any other business for today?

MR. BRUSEKER: School boards?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have the school boards covered by the ATA.

MRS. BLACK: What about some of the service clubs in the smaller communities and in the rural areas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I'd rather let MLAs . . .

MRS. BLACK: You could offend one by not sending to all. It might be easier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think if we give a package to the MLAs plus a list of groups and organizations we've sent to . . .

MRS. BLACK: What about the Indian reservations, to the chiefs? Do we have a list of them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's a good point. The reserves and Metis settlements: they're a form of government.
Any other business today? Going, going . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Does that mean we can go home?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you can't. You've got to work. You've been playing around while we were working.

[The committee adjourned at 3:17 p.m.]