

[Chairman: Mr. Bogle]

[4:38 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't we go to item 2, Briefing re: High Level/Peace River/Grande Prairie Public Hearings?

MR. CARDINAL: Okay. Are we ready to commence? Just a brief overview of High Level, Peace River, and Grande Prairie meetings. I guess the first meeting that was held was in High Level in the early afternoon. We had the mayor attending and one other member, because the notice for the meeting was very short, and it didn't get around to too many people. So the attendance wasn't that great, but the issue that came out very strongly – their recommendation was to retain at least the existing representation we have now or improve it. Their concern was again very strongly that there are regional disparities that exist in Alberta. Basically, their concern, of course, being northern residents, is that the constituencies are so large, services are very limited, and the standard of living is considerably lower than the rest of Alberta.

That hearing was completed, and we moved on to Peace River and held our hearings there in the evening. A considerable number of more people showed up there. Although the mayor of Peace River didn't attend, he sent a person who did a presentation. His presentation echoed the presentation of the High Level mayor; their concerns were very similar to High Level's.

We moved on to Grande Prairie and the following day held public hearings in Grande Prairie, where the attendance was very good. A lot of people came. The presentations went well. The MLAs for that area joined us along with other people. A number of presentations I thought were very, very similar, along with some recommendations. Again their concern was regional disparities that exist in northern Alberta due to the size of the ridings and the distance from the major centres like Edmonton.

Bob, I don't know if you want to add any more to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much.
Tom.

MR. SIGURDSON: I think that's just about covered it all. I'm sorry I wasn't here at the very beginning. I don't know if you got onto the part about the problem that was addressed in all three locations – High Level, Peace River, and Grande Prairie – the shortage of time with the notifications. That seemed to be a major concern of everybody who attended the public hearings. But, again, the major concern that came out was indeed the problem that they saw with being so far removed from Edmonton. That's a big concern that certainly was expressed on a number of occasions. So I think those are the only two points that I would highlight, and they've already been addressed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Just to recap, there was a strong request that we come back. Apparently, one delegation that had planned to come in from the Smoky River constituency were unable to because of icy road conditions, and they had phoned in and expressed their views. So we will want to give some consideration to possibly one meeting someplace in the area.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, they were from McLennan, that group. McLennan isn't all that far from . . . Are we in Slave Lake or High Prairie?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're in Slave Lake.

MR. SIGURDSON: Slave Lake. It's almost an equal distance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They may be able to get in. It's something we said we'd seriously look at, because a number of them did include in their brief, "Come back and give us more time." Now, I don't think there was an expectation that we would meet at all three points, but if we could get back into the area once, that might be appreciated.

The other point that I think should be noted is that we had a good cross section of people at the meetings. All three political parties were represented. There was one individual from the chamber of commerce, we had several councillors, we had a returning officer, and we had citizens at large, so a good cross section, and all seemed to be expressing similar concerns. I think that part of the process went well.

Why don't we go directly on to item 3, the Edmonton/Edson Public Hearings, because it flows right from it? You'll note that we're meeting this evening in the Carillon Room. Bob, any other points you want to make on that?

MR. PRITCHARD: No, not this evening. I think the projector's there, the screen's there, so we can show slides. We're prepared for about 30, 35 people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we begin at 7 o'clock.

MS BARRETT: First come, first served. When did the advertising go out?

MR. PRITCHARD: There were two sets of advertising. The last one was a week ago, and the one before that was probably about four or five days before that.

MS BARRETT: Yes, I remember seeing one of those.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And tomorrow we depart at 10 o'clock for Edson.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's right.

MS BARRETT: Are we all going in one vehicle?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. There are not that many going, so there's one van, and we're having lunch at Mountain Steak and Pizza. The MLA from Edson is joining us. Sorry; I wrote his name down, and I can't recall what it is.

MS BARRETT: Jerry Doyle.

AN HON. MEMBER: I thought he was in Yellowknife.

MS BARRETT: Yeah; he's coming later. He dropped in and said: "Where are you going to eat lunch? I'll meet you."

MR. PRITCHARD: And then we'll be leaving there at 4 o'clock to get back to Edmonton. We're going to have dinner here, so we'll come up to 403, have dinner, and then the 7 o'clock public hearing in the Carillon again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And while we're going through the next day, we might mention Friday morning.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. Friday morning we're having our meeting. We're having two people come in and make presentations. It's not convenient for them to come to the public hearing. One is Jim Heron, and the other one is Gerry Wright. Gerry Wright - you may recall his name - used to be an Edmonton alderman. He's currently with the U of A.

MS BARRETT: Currently what?

MR. PRITCHARD: He's currently with the University of Alberta.

MS BARRETT: Oh, is he?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on the public hearings this week, or the meetings?

MS BARRETT: What are the calls regarding Sherwood Park, et cetera?

MR. PRITCHARD: I just put out that note on . . . We've had some calls from the media and some calls from individuals who have spoken about specific boundary lines, and sometimes there is a confusion between what this committee does and what a commission will do. It's interesting; we've had people talk about lines in Sherwood Park and problems in St. Albert with fields and people not being able to get to vote or not knowing where to go and vote, and the same in Mill Woods. So I just put those down there because I think they may come up tonight, because they were addressed by four or five people calling in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, one of the points that I believe Barry, the lawyer who met with us just before we went north, made - and it was reinforced when we were in Peace River - was that once a commission is struck, possibly their very first task should be to go out and hold hearings before sitting down and drawing lines and, you know, doing all those wonderful things. Go out and listen to people about where there are problems with existing boundaries. Then when they do their mapmaking, they can take that into account and they don't get caught up with pride of authorship later on when they're asked to make adjustments. So that was a good suggestion that came forward.

MR. PRITCHARD: You've received one of these before, but this is an updated agenda of what we're doing. There are a couple of adjustments marked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; let's just take a moment and look at that.

MR. PRITCHARD: I should have handed that out before we started this one.

MS BARRETT: Who all's going tomorrow to Edson?

MR. PRITCHARD: Frank Bruseker is going, but he's going down on his own, and *Hansard* staff are going on their own. So in the van are Mr. Bogle, Pam, Pat, and Tom.

MS BARRETT: Oh, really? Just four of us. Oh, well; Frank will meet us there.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, Frank will meet you there. He had

a commitment or a lunch, so he'll be down a little later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I guess under your item 5, Delegations, we'll deal with upcoming meetings, and possibly then, Pam, we can give a report on the AAMDC meeting yesterday.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, and I wanted to go back to this so we could ask a couple of questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there anything else, then, under hearings, or are we ready to move up to item 1 and go in camera?

MR. PRITCHARD: I think that would be fine with me.

MS BARRETT: Fine with me.

[The committee met in camera from 4:48 p.m. to 4:54 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, then. Moving back to the agenda, the Victoria trip. Bob, you have some material for us on that?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. I realize that I'd given everybody an agenda last time. It hasn't changed at all for Victoria from what Craig James set up for us. The only thing I wanted to mention was the dinner. That hotel is having an anniversary. It's their first anniversary of the opening of the restaurant, so it might be kind of noisy. We'll probably go to a restaurant other than the one in the Hotel Grand Pacific, but that's a detail, and we'll have that firmed up before we go.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll just go someplace close at hand.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's quieter and that we can just walk over to.

MS BARRETT: Are you with me?

MR. PRITCHARD: It's all on. And yes, Pam's not coming.

MS BARRETT: Oh, you can count on me. Let's be charitable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pam will be at the opera.

MS BARRETT: On Saturday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On Saturday. All right.

Moving on then: Delegations. Yesterday Pam and I met with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. Pam, would you like to give a brief overview of how you think it went?

MS BARRETT: I think it went quite well. After we explained the nature of the mission, they did not fall into that confusion that many do in assuming that we ourselves were the commission. So they didn't talk about specific boundaries or anything like that. In response to the presentation they talked about the Charter challenge. I don't believe they mentioned the nature of the commission at all. Again what we found, and I imagine we'll find this consistently, is that people from the northern part of the province argued that we should not be hasty in our decision, that we should keep in mind the large geography and accessibility to an MLA and vice versa. I think that about sum-

marizes their responses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pam's a bit modest. She gave a very good overview at the beginning to lead into the process, and then I handled the slide presentation portion. I sensed that while they didn't focus on the role of a commission, there needed to be some reassurance that we were not accepting *carte blanche* the McLachlin decision process. There was a feeling by some that, well, you've got to take other things into account too, and that made our task a little difficult. I would have been more comfortable had there been at least three of us there rather than just two.

MS BARRETT: I agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that's part of the unease I felt in that part of the process. That's why when we get to the Alberta School Trustees' Association, I'm going to ensure that there are at least - well, there are three of us scheduled to be there: Tom and Frank and myself. And then others will be there too. I think that spending a bit of time afterwards - I noticed you were talking to people . . .

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . and I did the same thing. That, I think, is good. You can respond to individuals who have concerns or questions or points they want to make, just being available and accessible.

Yes, Tom.

MR. SIGURDSON: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you want a bit of a report from the meeting that Stockwell and I attended with, I believe, the Association of Improvement Districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we certainly do.

MR. SIGURDSON: I just want to comment to Bob that I think Karen really went out of her way to try and find members of this committee to attend the executive meeting of the improvement districts. I know that she was in a great panic and managed to get Stockwell and I to go to the meeting last Friday at the Edmonton Inn.

MR. PRITCHARD: Good. Thank you for mentioning that.

MR. SIGURDSON: We met with them for about a half hour. I think when we first arrived, they didn't know what to make of us or the story that we were telling. Stockwell gave the presentation about the reason for the committee being struck and the problems that other provinces have experienced, particularly British Columbia with the McLachlin decision. I took everybody through the handout. We didn't have the slides with us, so we walked them through the handout, the letter that you had sent out to most everybody in the province, and gave them all of those details. They were well enough impressed with the presentation that we made to invite us to their working meeting. I'm talking about the meeting that we attended last Friday. They invited us to attend their meeting in Jasper. I think it's on Monday, November 20, out at Jasper Park Lodge. They would set aside a good period of time for us to make a presentation to the delegates attending their meeting. So I think it was a worthwhile effort on the part of Stockwell and I to attend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

Focusing, then, on the 20th, will we be able to have a group there?

MR. DAY: Even if we only have a couple of people to present there, Mr. Chairman - when they realized some of the implications of what's involved here, they were quite emphatic that if we could be there at all, they would like that. It would be good if we could check our calendars to see . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: It's at 11 o'clock, isn't it, Stock?

MR. DAY: I think that's when they wanted us. Yeah, at 11. It's at the Jasper Park Lodge on the Monday.

MS BARRETT: I can't. Absolutely not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Stock?

MR. DAY: It's tough for me. I've got two appointments here. I'd like to see if anyone else is available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mike?

MR. CARDINAL: November 20; that's next Monday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MS BARRETT: Let's ask Frank.

MR. CARDINAL: I couldn't do it unless I can get back to Athabasca by 2 o'clock from Jasper. It's impossible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we arrange an aircraft?

MR. CARDINAL: I would have to fly Monday morning to Jasper and then fly back. It's the only way I can go. Otherwise, I can't.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Well, we'll check on Frank's schedule. Unfortunately, I'm blocked out on Monday as well.

MR. DAY: I can't remember, Tom. Is that a one-day meeting they're having, or is it two days?

MR. SIGURDSON: Gosh, I can't recall. I'm sorry; I can't recall. I think it was two days.

MR. CARDINAL: It's got to be more than one day.

MR. SIGURDSON: I think it was three days: the 19th, 20th, and 21st.

MR. DAY: For some reason they seemed, even when we were there, to specify that that would be the slot, didn't they?

MR. SIGURDSON: Yeah.

MR. PRITCHARD: Sometimes they're fairly fixed on their agendas when . . .

MR. DAY: Yeah; I think this was the case.

MS BARRETT: Well, if they're not, if you want to check, I could go on either the 19th or the 21st, but just not on the 20th.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, would you like me to check and find out if there are other days and other times?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's do that.

MR. DAY: That's an important one to be at; that's for sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who's the president of the improvement districts?

MR. DAY: Their executive was all interim, as I remember.

MR. SIGURDSON: It was the first meeting of the new group.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's okay. We've got the name of whoever we made the arrangements with.

MR. SIGURDSON: It was the executive director, a woman.

MR. DAY: Yeah.

MR. SIGURDSON: Karen would have it.

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah, I know who it is, but I just can't recall the name.

MR. PRITCHARD: That's okay. As a matter of fact, I'm going to ask Karen if she'll do that right now, and maybe we can . . . Excuse me just a second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. While Bob is doing that, we've got the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association executive meeting, Thursday the 23rd, 12 till 1. Now, that's the full convention.

MR. DAY: Is that while lunch is going on?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think what Bob is suggesting is that we have a table in the foyer during registration and that it's more of an availability session, if we plug in a couple of hours. We weren't able to get a room, and if we wanted a booth, it cost \$600 for that. We can get a table in the foyer and it doesn't cost anything. [not recorded] When you came in, Pam and I were talking about the Municipal Districts and Counties convention, and the time we spent prior to the presentation and after the presentation mingling with people was very valuable in terms of discussing and responding to concerns. The 23rd is the day we go out to Victoria. I don't know who's planning to be in Edmonton, who might be available that afternoon.

MR. CARDINAL: I'll be in on the 23rd here.

MR. DAY: I'll be in on the 23rd too. I was planning to attend the luncheon at the Convention Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're talking about the AUMA and the table we want to set up in the foyer.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just looking to see if we have any volunteers. Stock.

MR. PRITCHARD: Did Stock volunteer?

MS BARRETT: For the table, you mean?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. DAY: What time were we thinking on that?

MS BARRETT: Probably shortly after the presentation would be smart.

MR. PRITCHARD: I had two times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We weren't able to get on their agenda.

MS BARRETT: Oh, that's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have two times?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. CARDINAL: Where is the convention at?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's the Convention Centre, it says in here.

MR. CARDINAL: Convention Inn south?

MR. PRITCHARD: No, Edmonton Convention Centre.

MR. CARDINAL: Oh. I have to leave for the International. That's when we're leaving for Victoria, on that day?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. CARDINAL: So I'm available until [inaudible].

MR. PRITCHARD: There are two times that they have available. We can go to both of them if we want. One is their registration time; it's at 1 o'clock on Wednesday, November 22, for an hour. That's when people are registering. The second opportunity is Thursday at 9:30 for an hour.

MR. DAY: I could probably cover that one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Thursday?

MR. DAY: Uh huh.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. Stock on Thursday.

MR. DAY: That would be for an hour?

MR. PRITCHARD: An hour, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to have an appropriate sign?

MR. PRITCHARD: We have a sign that we can put up. They'll also write on a board that the Electoral Boundaries

Committee representation is at the table. Also, the packages are in each of their handout folders they'll be getting at registration, our Dear Albertan letter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good.

MR. CARDINAL: I could be there that day too, and that's the only day, at 9:30 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, 9:30.

MR. DAY: So everything will be set up when we get there?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, it will.

MR. DAY: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we'd have Stock and Mike there for an hour on Thursday the 23rd.

MR. PRITCHARD: Did you want to do anything on the 22nd as well?

MR. CARDINAL: I won't be available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't hear anyone that was available. No, let's just do it . . .

MR. CARDINAL: Oh, wait a minute. I'd be available between noon and 2 o'clock.

MR. SIGURDSON: What was the time?

MR. PRITCHARD: It was at 1 o'clock on Wednesday the 22nd. Again it would be for an hour, between 1 and 2.

MRS. BLACK: Are we available then, Mike?

MR. CARDINAL: No, we have meetings from 10 till noon and then 2 till 4 p.m. that day.

MR. DAY: You could do the Pat and Mike show.

MRS. BLACK: They wanted us at what time on the 22nd?

MR. PRITCHARD: On the 22nd, 1 o'clock till 2 o'clock.

MR. CARDINAL: One till 1:45, we would easily be there.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes. If you stayed till 1:45 and jumped in a cab and came back, that's not a problem.

MRS. BLACK: I could, too, on the 22nd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So you think you could do it on the 22nd?

MRS. BLACK: Yeah, because we have to be back by 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. PRITCHARD: So that would be Pat and Mike.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we'd better make Frank aware of both of these as well, so that if he's able to come and wishes to, he's welcome.

MR. PRITCHARD: I should mention that we just got a message that Frank is unable to go to Jasper. Also, Karen just called, and they can't change the agenda time. Their agendas are already printed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the improvement districts?

MR. PRITCHARD: That's the improvement districts. I guess their agenda was quite tight anyhow, so they must have put it in as a special [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are back to the possibility of Mike flying in. Why don't we leave the item? Mike, you and Bob work on it further. If we can plug anybody else into that process, if we're going to get a government plane, it could pick someone up. I know it's expensive, but I don't know how else we can get . . . We really should have a presence at the improvement districts if at all possible.

MR. PRITCHARD: Is there anybody else that I could possibly work with around the lines of a government plane as well as Mike?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. DAY: You think you'll be able to do it, eh, Mike, if you can get a plane?

MR. CARDINAL: Uh huh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the next one is the Alberta Hospital Association.

MS BARRETT: That's for 9 o'clock, right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a 9 o'clock to 9:30 presentation to the executive. But are we planning to do something with the Hospital Association similar to the Urban Municipalities Association, have an availability session or a booth or table?

MR. PRITCHARD: No. We did the booth and table at the other one because we couldn't get onto the agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can't get onto this one either. This is the Hospital Association?

MR. PRITCHARD: This is the Hospital Association.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're meeting with the executive on the 23rd.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. I haven't inquired about a table there, but I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. That's a different date, Bob. We have a convention. Not on November 23 - there is a convention. Is this the convention date?

MR. PRITCHARD: No. I think this is just presenting to the

executive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's my understanding. But the convention must be shortly thereafter.

MRS. BLACK: Well, haven't we got a conflict here already?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When?

MRS. BLACK: On the 23rd? Haven't we got Stock going to Alberta Urban Municipalities at 9 o'clock in the morning?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nine-thirty.

MRS. BLACK: You can't have the Hospital Association and the Alberta municipalities at the same time.

MR. PRITCHARD: The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association on the 23rd is lunch with the delegates, 12 till 1. The Alberta Hospital Association on November 23 is from 9 till 9:30.

MR. SIGURDSON: But I think the point Pat was making was that Stockwell had agreed to staff the table between 9 and 10 on the 23rd at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was the 22nd.

MR. SIGURDSON: No, that's the 23rd.

MRS. BLACK: No. Mike and I are doing the 22nd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Sorry.

MR. DAY: I don't have the AHA thing down. Was I down for that?

MRS. BLACK: Uh huh.

MR. DAY: Oh, good. Well, split personality. I'll be at both. That's in the morning?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah. The thing was an add-on, and that's why there's confusion on Thursday the 23rd. That was an extra hour they gave us if we wanted to attend AUMA before we discussed going to the Alberta Hospital Association on Thursday.

MR. DAY: Well, Mike and I are slated for 9:30 for AUMA, right? I could go to hospitals and Mike could cover to the table at AUMA.

MR. CARDINAL: Sure. Right. No problem.

MR. DAY: Or vice versa. I don't mind, Mike, whichever you want.

MR. PRITCHARD: So you want to leave it that way? Stock will go to the Alberta Hospital Association, 9 to 9:30, and Mike will go to the AUMA.

MR. DAY: That's over on 108th Street?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, it is. I'll give you the address.

MS BARRETT: I've got it right here.

MR. DAY: It's 10009 - 108th Street.

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. DAY: And that's their offices, the AHA offices?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, it is.

MR. DAY: That's the one you and I were slated to do, wasn't it, and then it got moved?

MS BARRETT: Yeah, I think it did.

MR. DAY: So are you going to be at this one too?

MS BARRETT: Uh huh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And you'll check for us, Bob, on the Alberta Hospital Association convention, time and place, and whether or not we can have a presence there, a table or what have you.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah.

MR. CARDINAL: Bob, is it possible to be excused? I have another meeting. Or is it . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're able to come tonight to the hearing?

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah. I will definitely, at 7 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mentioned to me that you had another commitment this afternoon.

MR. CARDINAL: Thank you.

MR. DAY: Just on that point, Mr. Chairman. You're okay for the meeting tonight?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. DAY: Good. I'd indicated . . . I don't know if you got the message.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. DAY: If I could, I'd excuse myself.

MR. CARDINAL: Thank you very much.

MS BARRETT: See you later, Mike.

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah. We'll see you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on delegations?

MR. DAY: Just on tomorrow. I'm sorry, I came in late and I missed it. Leaving at 10: is that correct?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, that's right. Unless the weather's bad, and then . . .

MR. DAY: How many have you got slated for that? I'm just thinking of the AAMDC's meeting tomorrow at noon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The luncheon.

MR. DAY: Yeah.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, I understood from your secretary today that you weren't attending tomorrow in Edson.

MR. DAY: Oh. Okay. I just wanted to verify you have people for Edson.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, that's Pat Black.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You owe Pat one.

MR. DAY: She owes me High Level.

MRS. BLACK: We're even.

MS BARRETT: It's a good thing we've got the number on this committee that we do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right, because of the hearing this afternoon. It's inevitable that there'll be times when we've got problems scheduling.

MR. DAY: Okay. That's great.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on the delegation? Before you came in, we discussed tomorrow. Of course, we have the hearing in Edson in the afternoon and back in Edmonton in the evening, and Friday morning we're meeting at 10.

MR. PRITCHARD: At 10 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That won't be a long meeting. We do have a couple of individuals who can't come in for presentations this evening or tomorrow evening, and we've got some other paperwork to deal with, so I'm assuming we'll be out by noon.

MR. PRITCHARD: We'll provide some soup and sandwiches at noon.

MR. DAY: I'd indicated, Mr. Chairman, that I can be at the tomorrow evening one and Friday morning not until 11, but I can be there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. SIGURDSON: And I will not be at the Friday morning portion of the meeting.

MRS. BLACK: Tell her I won't be at the Friday morning meeting either, or tomorrow night.

MR. DAY: I'm covering Pat tomorrow night and Friday morning.

MS BARRETT: I will be at the Friday morning meeting, reluctantly, but I owe you one.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm flying out on Friday afternoon too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This sounds like the evening dinner table at our house. The kids are putting in all their pitches.

MS BARRETT: Are you still going to Calgary then?

MR. SIGURDSON: I'll go to Calgary, yeah.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. DAY: I think I sent you a memo on that, Bob.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, you did. Yes, thank you, Stock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything further on delegations or written submissions? Robert.

MR. PRITCHARD: I'm still thinking about delegations, I guess. We have a couple of written submissions in. One is anonymous, and one is from the Yellowhead School Division. I'll just pass those around.

MR. DAY: Do we have any kind of policy on anonymous ones?

MR. PRITCHARD: No. We just distribute them, I guess.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, subject to concurrence of the committee, any submissions we receive, we'll have recorded in *Hansard*.

MR. DAY: I just have a problem with anonymous ones, given it would be recorded in *Hansard*, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if anybody else does. That's because we don't know the source. Not that it's going to happen, but we wouldn't want the prospect of somebody sitting in a dark room somewhere churning out submissions. I don't know that you can honestly say this is coming from . . . Like, let's say we have 50 anonymous ones. Is it coming from one person? Is it really 50 individuals?

MS BARRETT: Oh, that's a little paranoid. I mean, I assume that you keep the original here. Right?

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, we have the original.

MS BARRETT: Yeah. I mean, if they're handwritten . . . If they look like they're all off the same computer, it causes one doubt, or if they use the same kind of language. I would say let's accept them otherwise. We're not going to get very many.

MR. SIGURDSON: It'll be noted that it's anonymous too. If you start to see that there is a group of them, then we can discount them. For the moment I . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: Maybe we could look and see what comes in. I could mention that the envelope on this didn't have a postmark. We're assuming it's from somewhere in the building actually, because it came in through our internal mail. Maybe it was somebody who just didn't want to identify themselves because they work somewhere in the Leg. Annex.

MR. DAY: Well, if we could just keep an eye on it, I guess, if we start to get any significant number. But the fact that this one came from within the building . . .

MR. PRITCHARD: I wrote that.

MS BARRETT: No, I'm computer literate. If I wanted to do one, first of all, that's not my language; my grammar is different. Secondly, I'm computer literate, and Karen wouldn't have had to retype it.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, actually this is a retype. The handwriting was kind of bad, so we retyped . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, it is a handwritten . . .

MR. SIGURDSON: It is handwritten, so you'd be able to check on it to see if . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think a valid point made, and let's monitor it.

All right. The Culliton letter.

MR. PRITCHARD: While we're on written submissions, I just want to mention that we were going to be extracting highlights out of the written submissions in *Hansard*, also from *Hansard* from the public meetings, and setting up a computer system so we can list items by date, who presented the item, what the topic was, and have it cross-referenced in the computer for easy access later when we're into writing the reports. Also, I thought maybe on the board we might put some of the highlighted points down from time to time just as a ready reference.

Okay. The Culliton letter was a . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Justice Culliton from Saskatchewan, who chaired their boundaries commission. He sent a letter of thank you and appreciation for the time he took to meet with us while we were there, and it's just a response. Well, I'll circulate it to everyone so they can see.

Bob, do you want to give us an update on media calls?

MR. PRITCHARD: The last item was just to mention that we've probably had 10 or 11 media calls. A lot of the people calling - there's a confusion, as I kind of alluded to earlier, with the boundary questions. There always seems to be a confusion between what this committee does and what a commission will do following or what commissions have done in the past. Most of the media calls have been generally very broad in nature, asking things like what our mandate is, and generally are fairly friendly and usually have said they're coming to the public hearings and are very interested.

MS BARRETT: Any attention from Edmonton media for tonight?

MR. PRITCHARD: There's been some from the *Sun*, and as a matter of fact, an *Edmonton Journal* reporter called and asked if I would call after the hearing was over to tell him how many attended and some of that detail.

Our chairman made a tape yesterday for the Camrose radio station, a taped interview. So we may all want to listen to . . . Is it CFCW in Camrose?

MR. DAY: Definitely. We'd like copies individually sent to our homes.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yes, that would be nice. Too bad they didn't have video as well.

MR. SIGURDSON: That's phase two.

My brother-in-law is staying with us. He gets up at some ungodly hour, about 5 o'clock in the morning, to go off to work and turns on CFCW. I heard your voice at 6:30, I think, this morning. I thought, no, this isn't . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not mine.

MR. SIGURDSON: What is that guy doing in my home? I have to tolerate him at the building, but not here.

MR. DAY: Early morning nightmare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else for the meeting? I have one matter to bring up, but I'll raise it once we adjourn.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, no. I haven't anything else, but Pat has.

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to talk about the media a little bit. I don't know whether this is the appropriate place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

MRS. BLACK: There have been a couple of articles that have shown up in the paper with comments that have come from our committee, and I think they've been misquoted or something, because they're comments to the effect of some of the results that will be coming out of our committee, which we're really not charged with.

I think we must be careful not to come to conclusions before we've even had public hearings, or be perceived to have come to any kind of conclusions before we've gone through the public hearing process. I think we also should keep in mind that we are not going to be making decisions as to what the boundaries in this province will be. That is not our mandate and should be left up to the commission itself. All we're really here for is to make recommendations and develop some form of guideline.

I think some distortion has come out. I know in Calgary it was not favourably accepted, and I was quite concerned about it. I really do think we should decide amongst ourselves, if we are in fact dealing with the press, that we either restrict ourselves to talking about the philosophy of our group or ask them to contact through our chairman or a written submission or something, because I think there can be some confusion. I don't want to hinder the future hearings that are coming up. I'm worried about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks.
Stock.

MR. DAY: Yeah, I'd concur with Pat. I was going to wait until Frank was here, but I think to maintain the integrity of the all-party committee, and also the fact that we're actually going out seeking opinions, we need to reserve our own individual bent, whatever that may be. Otherwise, we're going to colour the

whole process unnecessarily.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'd certainly concur. I think it had gone a step beyond the mandate of the committee. There were comments made about what possibly the commission might consider, but that was attributed to what the committee might be considering at the present time. So I was a little concerned to see what was there in the paper as well. I don't know if that was confusion on the part of the reporter or something that was given to him by a committee member.

MR. DAY: I think we understand the media and how it sometimes works. It's usually very co-operative, but on rare occasions it can happen that comments are taken out of perspective. I'll give the member the benefit of the doubt on that, but I think we all need to be advised on our comments.

MS BARRETT: I haven't seen the famous articles in question, although I've heard about them. When contacted by members of print media about our committee, I've been really consistent. I don't even know if I got quoted, but what I've said is that, you know, no formal motion is on the table yet; we don't want to predetermine the conclusions because then, I mean, why are we bothering with the exercise of public hearings? We know we've got a dilemma, we know the difficulties, and it occurs to me . . . I mean, we've all operated on that assumption. Maybe we should just make it clear. I don't think people should shy away from dealing with the media. I just told them the straight goods, that there is no motion on the table or anything else. I think we can all talk to them but just be straight up about that. That way the message is clear that we don't want to prejudge the

outcome.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think some excellent points have been made, and as long as we stick to the process of the committee and the fact that we are out to obtain information from Albertans on what they think . . . Tom, you recall when we were in Grande Prairie, I mentioned that as that was the third session we'd had in terms of public hearings, we had learned something new in each one of those sessions. There were points made, and while some of them were similar, there was a uniqueness to each one. So we're in a learning process. On one hand, when we are impressed with a recommendation that we should recommend that the commission go out and hold hearings before drawing preliminary boundaries, we in turn as a committee should go out and listen before making recommendations on what should be done. I'll raise that matter privately with Frank, who's not here at this time.

MS BARRETT: Fair enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One other, almost housekeeping matter. Any request by any member of the committee for information, either directly or through a staff member within your caucus, please direct through Bob, all right? We want to get as much information as possible. I think we should co-ordinate it through Bob.

Anything else to be raised before we break? Okay. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 5:27 p.m.]

