

[Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[11 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to another meeting of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. Today being October 30 should, I hope, require us to give final approval to the contents of this report this morning. I hope all committee members have brought their report with them. If not, you have a draft text that was circulated to you many, many weeks ago. We had asked for any comments that you had of a specific nature. At this point in time, we are looking at perhaps tabling this report on Thursday or Friday of this week, depending of course on what happens at this meeting we're having this morning.

You'll note that the text of this report essentially follows the same type of text we used in the previous year, except for one addition. This year I've included under section 7, page 27, the Provincial Treasurer's response to the report of last year's committee. There's a minor bit of editing that I'll have to do as soon as this meeting adjourns, but aside from that, this is the report that I recommend for your approval.

MRS. CRIPPS: I only have one comment on the report, and it is on page 16, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. I don't know whether you can do it now; it's probably too late. I thought the impact of the benefits could have been highlighted: that 80 new researchers have come to Alberta; that we are now, I think they said, in the top 10 medical research facilities in the world, certainly in North America. That is the only comment I think could be highlighted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we'll see if that's possible. Would there be other comments that committee members would like to make with respect to the format, content, or anything else of the report. You've had it now for nearly a month?

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the report as presented to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will formalize it this morning. Would there be a seconder to that?

MR. NELSON: I'll second it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All committee members in favour?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We'll make those final editing comments in the next couple of hours and hopefully get it to Quick Print. If we can have it back by Thursday, it will be tabled in the Legislature on Thursday; if not, it will go Friday.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, what date do you propose to have on the report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will be the last item that will go in, depending on the final confirmation from Quick Print today. It will either be Thursday's or Friday's date.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I have great confidence in how you'll do things. I want to raise the question about the late Grant Notley; how that should read in the report. I do think there should be something other than the . . . Someone reading the report would think that on October 31 Mr. Grant Notley was in fact living. I would ask that you consider that when you list his name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In fact I have considered that and have drafted an in-memoriam. I neglected to bring it with me. In essence, it says that Mr. Notley was an original member of the standing committee and served the committee through to 1984, with an additional comment about the positive involvement of the late Mr. Notley in this committee. The concluding paragraph contains an expression of sympathy to Mrs. Notley and her children on the passing of their husband and father. Would that be fine?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will include it in the format of the report, under the title "in memoriam".

The last item of business this morning will bring you up to date with respect to the plans we talked about before for the overview of the Prince Rupert grain terminal on Ridley Island. In the past I basically got an assurance from committee members that perhaps the dates December 4, 5, and 6, which are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, would be appropriate for such an overview. I have been dealing with the province of Alberta's representative on the Prince Rupert grain terminal board, Dr. Hugh Horner.

The proposal I'd like to make is that this in essence is the approach we try to take. This is all subject to one confirmation that unfortunately I had not received by five minutes to 11 today. We would board a Canadian National sleeper car from Edmonton to Prince Rupert. I have to finalize the time, and unfortunately I don't have it. It would be a 36-hour trip to Prince Rupert. We would stay in Prince Rupert for one day, which would include an overnight. That would be sufficient time to see everything that has to be seen with respect to the grain terminal. We would then fly from Prince Rupert to Vancouver by jet aircraft. In Vancouver the options for committee members would come in. We could either include an overview of the port of Vancouver and then back to Edmonton or Calgary, or when you arrive in Vancouver, if you wish to exempt yourself from the port of Vancouver overview, you can depart in any direction you wish.

In dealing with the availability of the car by CN, as of this morning there was still uncertainty about the availability of it on that day. I wonder if committee members might provide me with just a little bargaining flexibility to talk about December 4, 5, or 6 or December 5, 6, or 7, which is either Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. I believe that I can be in a position to have everything confirmed back to you by the end of this week. So that's where we are on timing.

MR. GOGO: Could we have the dates again?

MR. CHAIRMAN: December 4, 5, 6, which is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and, if you could just throw in there as a flexibility date, Friday the 7th.

MR. HYLAND: How about Monday the 3rd?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you committee members are prepared to provide me with that even greater amount of flexibility, that would certainly help.

AN HON. MEMBER: [Inaudible] earlier in the week than later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I'll try to deal with keeping it to midweek, the three days that everybody sort of agreed to. Once you get to Vancouver, it's really quite optional as to how you're going to be coming back to Edmonton. If you want to go to Vancouver or some other place for a day or two, the ticket will still be available to you. The difference of course is that you're on your own, and that's fair game.

MR. R. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I would say that we give that whole week as an option for you to work with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that. We'll do it the way we've always done it, in absolute consultation, being told "no, no, no, no, no", and eventually we'll come to a suitable conclusion.

I appreciate the response from committee members when I asked if it was okay if I spent some of my time working on this report. It amounted to four days, so I'll just file it with the Clerk.

MR. NELSON: I move that we adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MRS. CRIPPS: Did you say 36 hours to Prince Rupert?

MR. CHAIRMAN: My understanding is that it's 36 hours by rail.

MR. R. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You've heard the motion. It's adjourned.

[The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.]