

[Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[2 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to another meeting of the select committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. There are a number of administrative details I'd like to discuss with the committee, but perhaps it would be most appropriate to discuss them after the conclusion of our meeting we're having now. So I ask all members to please stay around for a few minutes so we can get those administrative details out of the way.

At this point in time I would like to welcome the Hon. Bill Diachuk, Minister responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation. If all committee members would look at the annual report of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, you'll note that on page 19 there is a section identified with reference to the subject titled Occupational Health and Safety Research and Education. The project is funded under the capital projects division. The 1984-85 fiscal year marked the fourth year of this eight-year program, and that's basically the subject matter we have for discussion and review this afternoon.

To you, Mr. Diachuk, welcome. Might we also thank you for the courtesy you provided to the members of the committee in having some documentation, a blue-covered document titled Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program, circulated to all members of the committee. In it is a document that looks at the specific grant programs that were allocated between April 1, 1984, and March 31, 1985.

It's always been your custom in appearing before this committee, Mr. Diachuk, to provide us with some information with respect to the operation of this particular portfolio in the past year. In welcoming you, I ask you as well to introduce those officials you have brought with you this afternoon.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cripps, and gentlemen, I want to first introduce my supporting staff. Dr. Lynn Hewitt, director of research and education, is on my left. On her left is Eileen Perfrement. She is the administrator of the grant program. On my right is the executive director of worksite services for occupational health and safety, Bill Rozel. On his right is Jenny Malanchuk, my

secretary.

I have some opening remarks I'd like to share with you. A copy of this will be distributed to you shortly, as soon as I complete them. I thought I would keep the copy until I make the remarks; that way you will look at me instead of reading them.

The occupational health and safety heritage grant program is now halfway through its eight-year mandate to provide funds for research, training, and education in worker health and safety. This \$10 million program began its granting activities in April 1981 with the objective of developing new strategies and programs for preventing injuries and ill health resulting from employment. Through the eight-year commitment of this grant program continuity of funding has been ensured for the conduct of significant research studies and the development of effective education programs which will contribute to occupational health and safety long after the funding period ends.

One example of a funded project which will have long-term impact is a major grant award to the University of Alberta to establish a Chair of occupational health. I highlighted the project last year because of the significant expertise in occupational health research, education, and consulting services which will be developed in Alberta. The project was also noteworthy in its co-operative funding arrangements with industry. Professor Tee Guidotti currently holds this Chair in occupational health. Over the past year Professor Guidotti has initiated and provided guidance on several research studies concerned with the occupational illness experienced by fire fighters, transit drivers, transit maintenance workers, and nurses. Professor Guidotti has also developed occupational health courses for medical students and health care professionals. He has provided clinical service to workers with occupational diseases. These workers have generally been referred by other doctors for diagnosis and treatment. It is clear that the establishment of this Chair in occupational health is beginning to have a significant impact on workers, employers, and health care professionals in the province.

Because this Chair in occupational health has been so successful, the grant program's staff together with senior division officials are pursuing the potential for establishing programs

in other faculties such as business and engineering. We have noted that the leaders in industry receive little or no safety training. By including occupational safety, we hope to accomplish the same kind of long-term impact on workers and employers as the Chair in occupational health. As projects like this are more costly and also because I anticipate more applications as a result of the increased promotional activities which I will describe in a few minutes, I will be requesting an increase in the program budget for 1986-87. This is in keeping with the funding projections to the end of the program. We are currently halfway through this program and have spent just 30 percent of the funds.

Last year this committee asked what we have done to ensure that the results of our projects do not sit on the shelf collecting dust. My grant program staff have arranged a number of seminars attended by safety officers, doctors, nurses, students, researchers, and other interested parties to hear grant recipients describe their projects and encourage use of the results. Final reports and completed project material, such as training material or booklets, are sent to potential users and to experts in the field. Completed project materials are also circulated to client groups through the occupational health and safety library and film services.

The division's Occupational Health & Safety magazine, which has a circulation of 66,000 employers and workers in the province, regularly describes the educational material and research studies which have been supported through the grant program. The magazine also describes how readers can obtain completed materials and final reports. In order to further increase awareness and use of our funded project results, my staff also distributes a listing of all ongoing and completed projects to occupational health and safety personnel in the government and the educational institutions as well as to interested workers and employers.

Last year I mentioned that grant program staff had initiated a number of meetings with safety professionals, educators, and researchers to encourage the development of both research and educational proposals designed to promote the health and well-being of Alberta workers. The program staff have continued to arrange such meetings but with a particular emphasis on encouraging researchers to make submissions in

areas of high research priority. Advertisements were recently placed in major Alberta newspapers and invited research applications in two areas of high priority. Our first research priority is to determine which prevention strategies are most effective in reducing job-related accidents and illness in high-risk situations, and our second priority is to assess the hazards of work procedures and work processes in high-risk situations.

In order to ensure that this program meets its long-term health and safety objectives, we will be undertaking an evaluation study this year to assess the program's progress. The terms of reference and design of the study have been developed, and an independent researcher will be hired to carry out the evaluation and make recommendations which would maximize the effectiveness of the program.

Last November I announced that four public members would be added to the grant steering committee, which reviews all applications requesting funding under this program. They're listed in your material. The four public members joined the grant steering committee in March and have been a welcome addition with their enthusiasm and new ideas. The four new members come from Edmonton, Calgary, and Grande Cache, with two representing labour and two representing industry. These individuals are also members of my Occupational Health and Safety Council, which ensures an active interest in occupational health and safety issues.

At this time I would like to refer you to the material which was distributed to you. This material highlights the program's operations and financial expenditures over the last four years. In addition, those projects funded over the past fiscal year have been described in order to demonstrate the broad application of the program to a variety of health and safety concerns in many sectors of industry.

Unless there are any immediate questions, I would like to ask Eileen Perfrement, the program administrator, to take us through the material you have before you. Should you have questions then, we would welcome them. Mr. Chairman, I'll also have my secretary, Jenny Malanchuk, distribute a copy of the presentation I just made to everyone. So if I may, I'll ask Eileen to lead us through the material that you have before you.

MS PERFREMENT: I'd like to refer in particular to this item in your information package. This highlights the program activities from April 1984 to March 1985. Within the package you'll notice that the introduction describes the heritage grant program, a \$10 million investment. I'd like to point out that the program was designed to complement services of the occupational health and safety division. In fact, the grant program works closely with division staff in identifying research priority areas and working on education programs which look at high-hazard areas.

The objectives of the grant program are to prevent accidents and ill health resulting from employment and to promote the health and well-being of Alberta workers through improved working conditions. We fund grant projects in three areas. In research we look at the understanding of occupational health and safety problems and ways or strategies to address these problems. In the education area we sponsor activities which look at innovative educational programs, new ways of looking at the causes of accidents, and in particular what workers can do. The education programs are related directly to workers and are aimed at the working group of people in the province. We also fund conference applications, and in that area we sponsor organizations which plan workshops and conferences on issues relating to health and safety on the job.

I'd like to refer to the second page now, the program operation. In the program operation we have a staff of three: myself and a research officer and secretary who assist with the grant program. There is also a steering committee that Mr. Diachuk referred to earlier. The chairman of the steering committee is now Bill Rozel. There was a change in the last year. We have also added the four public members to the steering committee, and we also involve six provincial government departments on that steering committee. We feel that there is very well-rounded and interesting input from the various individuals on the steering committee. We certainly appreciate the contribution that the public members, as well as the interdepartmental representatives, have been adding to the steering committee.

In the program activities, particularly April 1984 to March 1985, we have been focussing on the promotion of the grant program. While we

started some promotional activities last year, we received the usual number of applications by our September deadline, but we have since doubled the number of applications we received at our latest March deadline. So we feel encouraged that our promotional activities are in fact reaching a larger group of people, and we believe that's going to continue at our next September deadline. We anticipate a number of new applications then as well.

We've also been promoting the findings of completed projects. We've arranged seminars, and we circulate the completed educational materials, videotapes, and some of the handbook materials to workers who are in immediate need of training in the area. We make sure that all of the interested individuals have access to those materials.

On the last page, between April 1, 1984, and March 31, 1985, we received 63 grant applications. As I mentioned, most of them came by the March deadline, just prior to the end of the fiscal year. This represents a 15 percent increase in submissions over the previous fiscal year. So we are encouraged that our promotional activities are reaching the interested parties. We still have 30 grant applications remaining under review. There are some administrative loads that increase, of course, when you have additional applications. So at the end of March we still had 30 applications that were under review.

I'll point out the tables that are in your package. The first table indicates the number of applications that we've received. As I indicated, we received 63 in the '84-85 fiscal year. Nineteen of those have been approved, and we still have 30 remaining under review. Table II indicates the expenditures we have looked at over the last four years. In 1984-85 we expended \$700,000, for a total amount expended of \$3 million. In Table III, the last table of your package, you have a listing of all the projects which were approved in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

The last item in the package I'd like to call to your attention is the list of members on the grant steering committee. This year we have named each of the individuals who sit on the steering committee and their position in either the public sector or the Alberta government.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms Perfrement.

Mr. Diachuk, do you have more that you want to add?

MR. DIACHUK: We welcome any questions and representations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope that's the case. We'll now proceed to the questions from committee members in this order: Mr. Nelson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Hyland, Mr. Gogo, Mrs. Cripps, and Mr. Martin.

MR. NELSON: Thank you for the overview, Mr. Diachuk, from both yourself and your capable people. I notice in the documents provided, and you made a comment during your presentation, that you've expended some 30 percent of the moneys over 50 percent of the time frame that's been allotted in the eight-year program. Is there any reason that you're unable to expend these moneys on such an important area of research or development? If not, why not? Is there any possibility of these moneys being expended during the balance of that eight-year period?

MR. DIACHUK: I'll ask Bill to start off. Go ahead, Bill.

MR. ROZEL: Mr. Chairman, there are two major areas that limit the number of approvals the grant program can make and the amount of money it can spend. Those two limitations are the number of grant applications we receive and the quality of the grant applications. We can't, of course, approve grant applications that have no hope of providing the assistance to Alberta workers that is intended in the program. As mentioned by Eileen, we have taken steps to increase the numbers and, we hope, the quality of the applications. This has been done by advertisements in order to attract better or more applications. We've also taken steps to better interface with applicants before they get their applications in so the quality of those applications is better. So those are the major areas we're working on.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, if I can just add to Mr. Nelson's question, it is an area that I have had some concern about. I can only assure the committee that what we've done in the last year is offer to work with interested parties or organizations. That is the role Eileen and her

staff do by assisting them to better develop their proposal before it goes to the committee, rather than just have it rejected by the committee. It expedites it, and it's quite welcome. I think the fact that underexpending took place this last year, why we are below the budget, deserves an answer. Eileen, would you help us with that?

MS PERFREMENT: Yes, I have some additional information as well. The average request for '84-85 was, in fact, lower than the average request we had in '83-84 or that we're having in '85-86. In 1984-85 the median request was \$26,000, and in the previous year it was \$40,000. In the applications we've been looking at in '85-86, it's \$47,000. So we do have a bit of an anomaly in the 1984-85 fiscal year in that the requests were smaller. Several of the larger organizations, the large safety committees and large employer organizations such as the Alberta Construction Association, received their grants just prior to the end of the fiscal year in 1983-84.

MR. ROZEL: It depends on whether you're looking at Table I or Table II as to how well the program went. If you look at Table I, the double asterisk item, which would indicate the number of grants approved in this year, is not filled in, because we approved 19, which is almost as many as in the previous year, and we have 30 still to be looked at. If we approve anything like the average number of approvals out of those 30, this will be the most successful year ever in the program from that point of view. There's no question that the number of dollars expended is down, and Eileen mentioned that. The average size of the applications was considerably smaller, and we didn't have a single large grant such as the occupational health Chair at U of A, which was about a quarter of a million dollars in the previous year. That, of course, brought that up substantially. I think that when all the figures are in, '84-85 will have been a successful year.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, just a follow-up. In the area of objectives for the program -- and I'm not going to read this whole thing -- it states basically that this is "to support research, training and education activities" and then it has certain objectives. Why is it that we wait for applications to come in rather than go

out and promote programs to facilities such as SAIT, NAIT, or some types of colleges that train people for trades and other things? We might send out a person that is more safety-conscious rather than waiting for somebody to write up a piece of paper so we might have to ask again how you measure your success, whether it's by putting out reports or putting out the numbers of programs that are developed through the year, rather than identifying those particular areas where programs can be related to the educational activities of people that are going into trades or other types of activities where there's a safety net when they hit the work force.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Nelson. There have been numerous applications or grant projects approved over the last three years, particularly in the last year. I just want to indicate that there are several at some of the postsecondary institutions. As I indicated in my remarks, and as Eileen indicated, we advertise, but we don't go out there and write up the proposal for the people from that institution. Very early in the program the direction given to the grants committee was that all projects were to be done in Alberta, if at all possible, and by Alberta people. We've even had some postsecondary education people from outside the province wanting to get in on some of these programs. They were modified so that the research would be done in Alberta.

I now want to ask Eileen to cover Table III quickly. I'm looking at one of them that indicates Athabasca University, but which other facilities, such as Mr. Nelson is asking, were there?

MS PERFREMENT: We have funded an educational program at Grant MacEwan Community College. Also, I have met with officials at NAIT and SAIT, since you mentioned those in particular. I have met with individuals. They have not yet come in with their applications, but we are continuing with meetings at both those institutions. As well, we've met with a group of researchers at the University of Calgary, and we plan to meet with researchers at the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge. But we also are meeting with the other postsecondary institution officials.

MR. NELSON: Just to follow up with my next question, Chairman. In Table III there are certainly programs that have been offered, I assume through application, to postsecondary education facilities, mostly the universities, for people who sit behind a desk and write up nice brochures or pieces of material. Why are we not expending more energy in encouraging those facilities that are directly involved with the education of those people who will be out in the manual labour force to assist them in better understanding occupational health and safety and, if necessary, work with the Minister of Advanced Education to encourage his department and those facilities to have programs developed for use there, even, if necessary, at the expense of using moneys from this program rather than some programs that may not really be of much benefit to those people when they may never know about them?

MR. DIACHUK: Let me assure the committee, Mr. Chairman, that in the past several years several programs were completed that will respond to Mr. Nelson's request to aid the worker in the workplace, as you indicate. Also, we've had programs approved, and I can only indicate that -- was it in '83? -- the Alberta Federation of Labour and some other labour groups were approved for programs, plus the example of the Alberta Construction Association, which is an employer group, to respond to Mr. Nelson's request. But I really want to assure the committee that the majority of the programs that are approved and done through people at the postsecondary institutions eventually end up being applied and taught to students in those or other postsecondary institutions. I just want to give that assurance to the committee. As I indicated in my remarks, and so did Eileen, we keep promoting the completed material, making it available, making it known to all sectors, including a 66,000-employer mailing list.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, we had the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research here last Thursday, and I brought up the question of industrial disease. They seemed not to pay very much attention to the importance of it, so I will beat the drum again. But I see in the future -- we keep getting more and more new chemicals out there in industry. I hear that up to 2,000 new ones a year come on

stream. I wonder if there's anyone in Alberta, in your department, that is monitoring the possible increase of industrial disease.

MR. DIACHUK: I'll ask Bill Rozel. I can indicate that that is an ongoing challenge of occupational health and safety, and there is a program. Go ahead.

MR. ROZEL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, there are several programs involved in occupational disease carried out by our medical services branch. Now we're getting away from the grant program a little, but in the occupational health and safety division there's a program which monitors asbestosis, a program monitoring pneumoconiosis in the mining area, and programs involved in silicosis. So there are several.

As well as that, there's a good deal of work being done in the area of identification of chemicals, which I believe is part of the question as well. There's a national program that should be getting under way in the next year or so that will identify the chemical composition of materials being used on worksites. I think this area is of interest in the area of worker health.

As far as illness in the grant program itself, grants that are aimed at worker illness, there was a grant this past year associated with the mechanisms of worker exposure to ethylene oxide. There was another on the illness experience of fire fighters. Eileen or Lynn, do you have any others?

DR. HEWITT: In the past I think we funded an epidemiological study of carbon monoxide poisoning in the workplace. That came up with strategies for preventing worker exposure to carbon monoxide. We are also currently funding a study on the short-term adverse effects of exposure to hydrogen sulphide. That's quite an interesting study because most of our standards are based on health effects due to exposure to toxic gas under conditions of rest. This study is attempting to approximate or simulate work conditions, so individuals are actually under conditions of exercise as they're exposed to these low levels of hydrogen sulphide. It may be that individuals are more susceptible to the development of occupational disease under conditions of exercise when exposed to a toxic gas. So there are actually a number of studies

where we are directing attention to occupational disease.

Overall, the Workers' Compensation Board shows an increase in disease-related claims over the last 10 years. It has been a small increase, but gradually each year a few more claims are recognized and accepted in that area.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, my second question is this. Basically, I'm talking about potential disease, not silicosis and black lung and that type of thing that has been around for years and years. We have this research centre funded by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund right here in Edmonton, and I don't understand why there isn't more of an attempt by you people to get something started in this area with that medical research centre. I wouldn't start telling you what they are, but I think you work with second-rate researchers instead of first-rate researchers. I am sure that there should be some attempt made to get some interest developed in the centre over there. In fact, I'm going to make a recommendation to that effect.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, that would be welcome. I think Eileen has some information that may help Mr. Thompson with his concern.

MS PERFREMENT: Yes. In your discussions with them you may wish to mention the Chair in occupational health. I know that Dr. Tee Guidotti has in fact been talking with some of the people in the other program you mentioned, has been around for a year now, has made some contacts, is quite interested, and is starting to develop some research projects in conjunction with people in the program you were talking about. So that is one connection we have with that particular program.

MR. THOMPSON: But you aren't working directly to do it; you're working through this Chair at the university.

Anyway, my third question, Mr. Chairman, would have to do with your research project on page 8, Women Managers: Stress, Health and Coping. Why do you designate women especially and not just managers?

MR. DIACHUK: I'll let one of the ladies answer it. Go ahead, Lynn.

DR. HEWITT: As a matter of fact, the title is

somewhat misleading, because it is a study of male and female managers. The researchers wanted a special focus on female managers because they felt that perhaps they were subject to some extra stresses or pressures on the job that they could identify through their own review of the literature. They especially wanted to focus on that, but it includes both males and females.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, first, a little bit on the same line as Mr. Thompson. I remember some discussion we had last year with the Department of Agriculture when they appeared before us and also last year and this year with the medical research foundation, looking at how much of the research is just research for research's sake and how much of it is usable research. How much of it is created on the job? In the agriculture portion we have on-farm demonstrations to see what will work. What percentage of the research in this component is stuff that's done on the job or can be used on the job?

MS PERFREMENT: As far as the proportion of education grants, research grants, and conference grants, we have in fact spent the majority of our dollars on education grants which focus directly on training the worker. They are programs where workers are receiving instruction directly through the grant that has been received. That part of the grant program is quite easy to answer: yes, most of the education programs are directly related to workers.

As far as research grants go, some of the grants we fund are studies. We ask the researchers who have come up with the research report to put it in lay language and talk to interested working groups. For instance, there was a farm safety study done a few years ago. The researcher has put his information in a new format and is going to meet with farm groups such as Unifarm and farm groups at the four agricultural colleges, and has also been talking with some of the farm educators. So he has reformatted his research findings.

MR. ROZEL: Perhaps I can expand just a bit on that. One of the basic criteria for accepting research in this particular program is that it be applied research rather than pure. I'm unaware of any pure research project that we have

funded to date. There must be an application and a reasonably short-term payback on it. These are criteria the steering committee looks at when they look at a grant proposal.

MR. HYLAND: Perhaps the person who is doing that research should talk to actual farmers. You'll get a few at Unifarm, but the rest of them are not people who are actually working on the farm.

Also, extending what Mr. Thompson said relating to chemicals to agriculture and agricultural safety, I can remember that a number of years ago when I started farming, if you had three or four chemicals you could kill just about anything you had on the farm. Now the Department of Agriculture puts out a book that's about half an inch thick with one or two chemicals on each page, and it's growing. Has anybody put in any research projects that would tie in chemicals, i.e., that are used on the land, either separately or together with chemicals like Mr. Thompson is talking about in industry, for safety?

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I believe none. Eileen? No.

I assure you, Mr. Hyland, that from time to time the hygiene people of occupational health and safety respond to interested people, be they in agriculture or in some of the colleges, and work co-operatively with them. As far as research or educational projects in that area, Eileen indicates we have received no applications. It would be welcome because the committee would look at it very favourably. When that chemical you speak of is used by farmers, who are not under the Workers' Compensation Act, there are many workers in industries, as you know, be they in the colleges and others, who use those chemicals and would be just as interested to work with them to develop educational programs.

MR. HYLAND: Thank you. I was mainly thinking of educational programs that were tied into all levels to make sure that it was being done.

Lastly, just a comment. I'd to thank the minister and the staff for the support they gave out of the fund to the disabled farmers' conference this year in Edmonton. Being a board member of this sponsoring authority, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, it was very



helpful in the cost of putting that course on. Speaking to many of the people who were there, they found such a conference extremely useful. That is a good example of what I was aiming at, of an educational way or all the information being brought forward. The majority of the people attending that conference were involved in farming. That way it gets right into the industry immediately.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I want to accept the compliment from Mr. Hyland. I was pleased with my own participation at the conference. I want to assure Mr. Hyland that we had difficulty with that application. That grant was granted from the department directly, not from the heritage grant program. It was viewed as a rehabilitative program, not research and education. We saw the value in it and, therefore, joined Alberta Agriculture in providing some grant directly from occupational health and safety. Maybe that's an area that we should look at. We were limited with that application, and the steering committee rejected it, as you know, Mr. Hyland. But the value of the conference was such that I persuaded my officials to find, I believe, \$5,000.

MR. HYLAND: Six thousand dollars.

MR. DIACHUK: Six thousand dollars, yes.

I also appreciated the participation. That is why we had with me on the panel people from workers' compensation more than occupational health and safety, because the conference theme was more on rehabilitation.

MR. ROZEL: Maybe I could expand just a bit on this. Chairing the steering committee, I can assure you that it was with reluctance that they turned down that application, because it was obviously a very good program. But it was felt that it was rehabilitative in nature, and this program is limited to preventive research and education rather than rehabilitative. It's built into the program. There certainly was no reflection on the quality of the application.

MR. GOGO: Minister, I'm a very strong supporter of this program. I recognize that it's only one area of your responsibility as minister responsible for workers' health and safety. I think tremendous advances have been made in the past six years in the whole area of worker

health and safety. Now if you could only speed up those cheques to the claimants with workers' compensation, it might round out.

Minister, in looking over the applications that were approved, it brings to my mind a definite absence. I recall your department making a presentation just a week ago to that international congress on alcohol and addictions to the effect that one in three fatalities or serious accidents on the worksite involved either alcohol or drugs, which puzzles me when I look at the absence of applications that are approved here. Just dealing with drugs for a moment, the industry spends over \$200 million a year on colourful pictures and so on convincing doctors to prescribe them. I think it comes out to \$4,500 a doctor cross-country. Is it any wonder we've got a helluva problem on the worksite with drugs? Not street drugs -- we're talking about legitimate members of our medical profession with a loose pen on a prescription pad.

I'm very surprised at the absence of anything with those approved. That's certainly an applied type of research. The first question would be: were there any applications received along that line that were rejected? The applications rejected are not indicated here as to substance.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Eileen. I think the report also indicated that it was one out of three fatalities that were alcohol-related, not one out of three accidents. Lynn, have you got that?

MR. GOGO: Fatalities.

MR. DIACHUK: I'm sorry; I didn't hear. I thought you said accidents.

MR. GOGO: No. In many ways that's a better solution than the long-term illness that people experience, but fatalities.

DR. HEWITT: That study by the medical services branch just released some very preliminary findings, and it is an ongoing study. Those findings indicated that 4.7 percent of the industrial fatalities who actually were screened had blood-alcohol levels which exceeded the legal limit for driving a vehicle. That figure was similar to that obtained in other countries. While it's a concern to us, it



doesn't show that the problem is worse here than it is in other jurisdictions. In about 14 percent of those cases screened, the presence of drugs of some sort, including antihistamines and aspirin, was detected. We view that data as very preliminary, because it hasn't been related to the circumstances of the accidents. We don't know whether alcohol or drugs were in any way a contributing factor to those incidents.

Within the division we do review every industrial fatality we investigate to determine whether the investigator has evidence to believe that alcohol or drugs was a contributing factor. Again, we have estimated that in less than 5 percent of those fatalities alcohol or drugs play a contributing role. Maybe I can let Eileen address the issue of the specific projects we have funded that are devoted to or have a component addressing alcohol and drugs.

MS PERFREMENT: To answer your question, you asked if we had turned any down: no, we have not. We are presently working with AADAC in developing an employee assistance proposal through the Alberta Trucking Association. We expect that that application will be received for review in the September application round. So we will be looking at one very shortly.

We also have six projects which, while the the major focus is not on alcohol and drug abuse, have a component of alcohol and drug abuse within them. One of them is the stress and women managers. There is an extensive survey within that particular application looking at both male and female managers and their use of alcohol and drugs and the effect that may have on their performance on the job.

Also, we have several projects which are not on your list here but were previously funded which have developed videotapes. The Oilfield Contractors Association has a videotape which indicates the problems of coming to work in an impaired manner, the problems that can result from showing up at work in that sort of state. ACCESS, Filmwest, and Theatre Network have also produced videos on the effects of coming to work in an alcohol- or drug-abused state, and we have those available in our library.

DR. HEWITT: Just one more point. Two years ago we carried out a study to determine research priorities for funding in this grant program. We relied on the opinions of

individuals who had a comprehensive view of health and safety problems in this province in obtaining our findings in that study. The relationship between alcohol and industrial accidents was one of the areas they viewed as important for funding, but they didn't view it as important as a number of other issues. Out of 58 research areas that one was rated as number 38. It was behind a number of other areas which took a broader preventive focus. I think this is somewhat similar to the approach AADAC has taken in terms of its broad, positive, developmental approach in dealing with its concerns.

MR. GOGO: Minister, the impression I get in reading through this is that it tends to relate to the worksite either in mechanical terms or on the physical side. I think a significant problem lies in prevention in terms of either life-style or self-induced illness or that kind of thing.

Minister, I don't know whether the members are appointed by you or by order in council, but in looking at them -- I'm thinking of Mr. Hyland, for example, and also the medical profession -- we have labour and employer reps as public members and the rest are government. I see really only one I would view as a physician. I don't think the epidemiologist, Dr. Newman, would be viewed the same way.

I'll make a suggestion or a question. In view of the fact that the largest single number of industrial accidents in Alberta is on the farm and not in industry -- I think that's factual, regardless of the absence of workers' compensation -- has consideration been given to viewing the farmer as the employer and appointing a farmer and a member of the Alberta Medical Association or a physician to that board? Perhaps you could indicate if they are order in council appointments or indeed your appointments and, secondly, if you'd consider those suggestions.

MR. DIACHUK: These are not order in council appointments; they are ministerial appointments. Dr. Kalnas is a medical doctor; I know that for a fact. Your suggestion about a farmer or somebody with a farm background is welcome. We'll give that consideration because I can appreciate -- the only person I can see is a fairly active weekend farmer, Mr. Ewaski from the Alberta Building Materials Safety Council. He farms very actively most

weekends.

MR. GOGO: That's an indication that there must be some money in farming after all. Thank you.

MR. DIACHUK: No, he works full-time in the city and spends his earnings on the farm.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure that a debate on the economic portfolio of this gentleman is really in order or within the purview of this committee, so perhaps we might move on to Mrs. Cripps, to be followed by Mr. Martin.

MRS. CRIPPS: I would have been intrigued to have joined the debate.

To follow up on farm safety, one of the most lethal farm areas seems to be the manure pits. Over the last year seven people have died during the disposal of manure on Alberta farms. Has anything been done in the area of those lethal gases produced by either the silage or the manure pits?

MR. DIACHUK: My understanding is that we've had no representation, submission, or interest in any of those projects, Mrs. Cripps. It possibly deserves some consideration. I can assure you that I will ask my staff to get back to Alberta Agriculture to see if something can be developed, because I am aware and I doubt if there ... Are you getting help there, Mrs. Cripps?

MRS. CRIPPS: Yes, I'm getting help, and I'm trying to listen to you.

MR. DIACHUK: To the best of my knowledge, my staff has indicated that there haven't been any applications or submissions for projects to study that aspect.

MRS. CRIPPS: My other questions don't deal with the agricultural issue but more with the funding of the occupational health and safety program. You said the Chair at the university cost \$250,000 to set up, and that was the reason for the extensive increase in funding in 1983-84. What's the ongoing expense of that Chair?

MR. DIACHUK: That is the Chair that was first set up by a matching fund. Mr. Reimer, who served on the Occupational Health and

Safety Council, went out and got several industries and corporations interested. They funded \$250,000. This matching \$250,000 is now set up and the proceeds of that endowment are being used to operate the Chair. Am I right, Eileen?

MS PERFREMENT: That's correct. Also, the professor holding the Chair is submitting grant applications to our grant program and others for further support. The \$500,000 is the total amount of the Chair.

MRS. CRIPPS: So there is other funding being used for support.

MS PERFREMENT: Right. We're matching the industrial support that was gathered.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Minister, at the beginning you said that you were going to be requesting more funds for 1985-86. As I look at the funding, you have \$1.263 million unexpended over the last four years. I assume that in 1985-86 you would get another million dollars as you have in the past. Why would you be looking at additional funding?

MR. DIACHUK: A fair question, Mrs. Cripps. I'll ask Eileen to give more detail. What we have approached for this 1984-85 year is that rather than fund the full amount of the project as a three-year project, for example, we fund it over three years, as recommended by the Provincial Auditor. So really a portion of the amount of several projects in '84 was funded, whether it was a half or a third. That's why the amount is lower. Eileen, do you want to add ...

MS PERFREMENT: Yes. In fact, with the new funding arrangement we would have spent an additional \$300,000 if we had given the entire amount of the grant request to the approved projects in the 1984-85 fiscal year. But to hold the projects accountable for their progress in research and educational results, we have asked that it be reviewed on a yearly basis and that the funds therefore come out of '85-86 or '86-87 rather than the total amount of the project coming out of the '84-85 fiscal year.

MRS. CRIPPS: May I have a supplementary on the answer? Why then wouldn't you have in

your financial statement "committed"?

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Provincial Auditor doesn't permit us to do that.

MS. PERFREMENT: We didn't report the committed amount. We could have.

MR. DIACHUK: We could have reported the committed amount, but we can't expend that amount. That's why it's shown as \$701,000.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, to come back to some of the concerns that were expressed earlier, I think we would all agree that the overall objectives of the program are good. But of some concern is the delivery system and how best to co-ordinate, which is a very complicated area, let me tell you. Following that, my first question is: has there been any consideration by the minister's department — it would have to be a government decision, so it's to the minister — given to funding an occupational health and safety centre? I believe it's been proposed by the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Alberta committee on occupational health and safety. I'll follow up with that, but I wonder if there has been any consideration given to that proposal.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, do I understand, a centre similar to the Canadian centre in Hamilton?

MR. MARTIN: I was not thinking that so much; perhaps a better model might be the Manitoba one that we looked at.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Martin, you're asking whether we've given any consideration to funding a centre for workers to be examined, to get assistance with their disability, and to assess whether it's a work-related disability. No, we haven't. I believe that program in Manitoba is partially funded by workers' compensation and the Department of Labour, which would be equal to my portfolio. But we haven't given any consideration to that in this province.

MR. MARTIN: To follow up then, there may be some other centre to do this. It seems to me that a number of these grants are worth while. There's certainly no doubt about it. It's a very

complex society and is going to be more complex, as Mr. Thompson talked about, with more chemicals coming on. I don't know if you can ever give out enough grants to co-ordinate all this. I think there's a feeling that this is a tremendous grant and some good research is done but that people lose it. I know you attempt to get it out, but it's not that easy to do.

I'll just throw this out for consideration; I know you can't say yes or no. It seems to me that some of the research and other things that are being done here could be more efficiently managed by some sort of centre. I recognize what you're saying about Manitoba and the co-ordination that goes on with the research centre at Hamilton. I guess I'm looking at somewhere in between. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that we can lose a lot of these, that they can gather dust, if we don't have some central way to get this out to the workers in the field. If it's not the Manitoba centre, has there been any thought as to how we might better co-ordinate some of the work that's being done here?

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Martin, we have continuously strived to have our information at the libraries branch at Donsdale Place. We have had open house sessions. As I indicated, we've publicized in the publication the material that's available. I think the results of the number of employers and employee groups and employees coming searching the material ... Lynn, I believe you're more involved with it. Would you indicate the kind of results? We're now doing that directly from the occupational health and safety division of the department.

DR. HEWITT: I might add that division staff are certainly kept aware of all of the activities of the grant program, and they are the ones who have direct contact with the field throughout industry in the province. Where they see a need that could be met through the result of some funded project, they certainly attempt to bring that information to the worksite. So I think the division attempts to play a co-ordinating role right now. I think Eileen can probably add to this.

MS. PERFREMENT: Very specifically, a number of division staff act as reviewers for the educational and research materials when

they are developed. These individuals have direct contact, as Dr. Hewitt mentioned, with the workers in the field, and they talk about the results of our grant program with the workers directly. They are acting as co-ordinators in that role.

MR. MARTIN: To follow up, Mr. Chairman, I'm not being critical of the staff. I know what we're dealing with is complex information. It's very difficult when you put out hundreds of pamphlets. To use as an example this Legislature and the paper we get, how many people react to it or know what's there? The only point I'm trying to make is that perhaps we should be looking at ways to disseminate that information, that good work that's being done. My own feeling is that there may be merit in some sort of health and safety centre that co-ordinates research with the practicalities of dealing with workers, because it's going to be a more complex area. I'm making the case, because I strongly suggest . . . I know you're doing the follow-up, but I have a feeling -- and it's not critical of your department; it's true of any department, private or public -- that a lot of good research is not getting out there, no matter how you do the work. I'm asking if you see that a centre like this could be more effective in getting it where you want it to be? I know it's not an easy answer.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I see what Mr. Martin is on to as a challenge for us for the future. I agree with you. I believe the recommendation of the select committee to have safety associations of employers formed would be one avenue. During my addresses to many groups of employers and chambers of commerce I have encouraged them to get this in place, as the select committee recommended, because I see that that is one avenue to be able to disseminate some of the information.

One of the difficulties we would have by setting up a centre is similar to what we have now. We really have a centre at Donsdale Place which disseminates the information. We have a regular publication that I'm sure you've seen, the Occupational Health & Safety magazine. As Eileen pointed out, that is done in a style and also in language and format that is easily absorbed by workers and employers. Then they are able to come back. I'm advised, getting information from both workers and employers,

that interest is fairly high. The other advantage is that we are linked to the Canadian centre with a computer linkup and have access at Donsdale Place to all the information in Hamilton, the Canadian centre. That's where all this completed material is.

Possibly, Mr. Martin, sometime you can give my office -- I offer the challenge to the division to take a look at what you have in mind as a centre. I know the centre in Manitoba. You and I visited it. It is not to disseminate information; it is to aid Manitobans who want to get an opinion on whether they have a work-related disability or not. They're not disseminating information out of that centre, but they have access to it; that's the nice part.

MR. ROZEL: Mr. Minister, if I could expand a little on that. I think the role you're talking about, Mr. Martin, the dissemination of information, is a role that the Canadian centre takes over in this country. The Canadian centre, of course, is a tripartite organization involving governors from every part of Canada -- government, industry, and labour -- and has that role of disseminating research information from all parts of the country. With so many very small jurisdictions in this country that can't take on that role themselves, it would seem to me to be best to handle it through this kind of centre.

That's the dissemination of information. I believe you were speaking of other roles too that could very well be handled within the province, and we'd be very interested in discussing that kind of thing with you.

MR. ZIP: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I wish to commend the occupational health and safety research and education group for the work they're doing. As has been mentioned by other members, it is certainly of growing importance with the growing complexity of chemicals we have to contend with and more complex processes in manufacturing or forestry or mining. No matter what area of activity you look at, we're faced with the growing complexity of problems and machines. Therefore, this sort of preventative approach is certainly extremely important.

From my observations and conversations I notice that other countries across the world are facing the same problems and making approaches similar to what we're doing here in

Alberta. I'm wondering to what extent we are tapping that information, that knowledge that's being gathered on safety and preventative action to ensure the health and well-being of workers. I notice, for example, that the People's Republic of China has very extensive experience with hydrogen sulphide problems at their sour gas wells, because they've had some serious disasters. Other countries as well, of course: Finland with forestry, and you could go on and on. I feel that rather than our retracing somebody else's steps, we should establish a data bank to tap that knowledge and information when we need to and pass it on to employers for the benefit of Alberta workers.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Zip. That's exactly what the Canadian centre does. They have material from many countries, and we have access to it by a computer linkup. They do that. They translate it into English. There is material there in many languages, because that's the way they receive it in the exchange.

The worldwide challenges of occupational health and safety are also shared through conferences. I know that Bill, as executive director of worksite services, has attended international conferences where this kind of information is brought to the attention of the participants. Through the Canadian centre we have good access to international information, as good as any part of the world would have, and very much with the United States because of natural linkage and many inter-related corporations. So we do have that.

MR. ZIP: Thank you.

MR. GURNETT: Mr. Chairman, let me start by asking one more question about this whole area we've had a number of questions on, as far as what happens once the work is done, and so on. I wonder what is being done to monitor within the program. We've heard a lot about the ways the information is communicated or made available through the magazine, through things being sent through your mailing list. Have you been able to actually document that the information that's so widely disseminated is in fact having some kind of results?

MR. DIACHUK: I'm going to ask Dr. Hewitt of research and education to respond to that.

DR. HEWITT: I think your question may be in two parts: one, the monitoring of the projects to ensure there is quality to the project, and secondly, whether there is any evidence of impact of the project.

We evaluate individual projects and follow them up afterwards to see if there have been some additional consequences to the project; for example, numbers of people who have seen a videotape or a film or have requested the materials. In addition, in terms of the overall impact of these projects together, we feel that this program effectively complements other division programs. When we see employers and workers taking more initiative in health and safety than ever before, I think that through its funding directly to employers and workers, this program has directly contributed to that.

It's reflected in increased requests to the division for assistance in setting up safety programs at worksites and for information for their own accident experience information so they know where they stand relative to the rest of their industry. I think it's also reflected to some extent in the fact that right now we have the lowest lost-time accident claims rate that we've had in the last eight years. We now have the lowest fatality rate that we've had in the last eight years. We've maintained virtually the same level as was achieved in 1983. Overall we believe the program is having a measurable impact in several areas.

In terms of the quality assurance aspect of it, I think Eileen is in a better position to comment.

MS PERFREMENT: Once a particular project is approved, we generally have an advisory committee made up of workers, employers, and government officials to monitor the quality of the materials as they are produced. We also test the materials with workers so that we see how the workers will actually use the materials and if, in fact, they're doing what they set out to do, making sure that the results are appropriate to the materials and that the workers can understand them. So we make sure that as the materials are developed, they meet all those criteria.

When a project is completed, we again send the materials out to experts and to workers for review. I have some interesting statistics on a couple of projects that were completed this last year that might indicate how they have in fact

been used. At this time I can't make a statement that the materials have prevented any accidents, but they certainly have increased worker awareness of the hazards in the industries.

I'm referring particularly to the Alberta Federation of Labour. They have produced 100 of their binders on health and safety legislation, occupational ergonomics, radiation on the job, and chemical testing. They have circulated these to the United Steelworkers of America, the United Mine Workers of America, the Energy and Chemical Workers Union, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Those sets have been used. In fact, 170 copies of the ergonomics chapter have been extensively used by those workers.

The Oilfield Contractors' Association has also produced 150 sets of safety materials, of which 86 have been distributed to the major oil companies in Alberta. When the companies are laying pipelines in the province, the individual workers receive instruction. In fact, Esso will not hire workers who have not received this instruction.

So we believe there is quite a bit of talk among the workers about the materials, quite a bit of experience, but I can't say that the materials have directly prevented any accidents.

MR. GURNETT: It's encouraging, though, to see the priority on practical and applicable kinds of things.

When I was looking through the grants that had been approved in the materials we have, one of the things that struck me was that a high number of the grants are to educational institutions rather than to worker or employer groups. I wonder if we could have a little more information about that balance between those three groups. For example, is it that most of the applications come in from those institutions, or is it that applications and ideas for possible projects from labour or employer groups are not prepared in the right kind of way, which educational institutions are able to do? I guess behind it is at least a small concern about whether we couldn't have a better balance and, when we're concerned with workers' safety and health, if we shouldn't be looking at this summary in another year and seeing that a significant number of the projects

are being funded to employer or labour groups rather than to institutions.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, I want to supplement Eileen's earlier answer with respect to the information that's disseminated. I guess one of the problems and challenges we have is that when it is being provided, it's not provided as information that came out of this program. It's provided by the trade union or the employer as their information. So we seldom get the credit, but as long as it's disseminated, that's the main thing we're all interested in. That's why there's no recognition where this information was developed.

With respect to the concerns you have, Mr. Gurnett, it's just the opposite of what I think Mr. Nelson had. I appreciate that both of you will disagree, but I just want to raise it. His concern was that there wasn't enough at the postsecondary educational level. My understanding and my view is that, first of all, most of these projects have to be done by someone who is interested. Employers or labour groups are usually so busy in their other work that they have to go to somebody with this kind of background. Most of the research — Eileen, am I right? — is therefore identified through one of the postsecondary education facilities or institutions but definitely with emphasis to the worker, because those are the only kinds of projects we will approve. The steering committee looks at it to be sure that it is focusses on the health and safety educational research of workers. Bill?

MR. ROZEL: Yes, Mr. Minister. Just glancing through it, I must agree that if one adds it up it seems that a slight majority have gone to universities or research institutions of one kind or another. If one looks in bulk amounts, I think the first would go to research institutes or universities. In terms of amounts of money, I think the second would be the AFL. Would you agree, Eileen?

MS PERFREMENT: I actually have the breakdown of the 80 projects that have been approved in the grant program. The highest number have gone to the private sector; that is, employer groups, individuals, professional associations, and consulting groups. We have provided \$1,166,000 to that particular group. The second highest is to the educational

institutions. We have provided just slightly less, \$1,161,000, to educational institutions. We have provided \$500,000 to unions.

MR. ROZEL: That's interesting; that's not the way I would have added it, just instinctively. In looking at single organizations, I think the AFL and one of the large industrial associations would probably be one and two, as large organizations that have received large sums of money.

DR. HEWITT: I think it's important to distinguish between research projects and education projects in the funding. Certainly the bulk of the education project funding has gone directly to employer and worker groups, whereas very clearly the research funding has gone to people associated with universities, and that's purely because of the expertise there.

MR. GURNETT: Could I ask one last question, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Mr. Diachuk, you also talked about the fact that these priority areas are identified, and that you're actively seeking more projects in those priority areas. In passing, you mentioned some of the input in determining those. Could you share a little bit more with us about what's happening with regard to priority areas?

MR. DIACHUK: I'll ask Dr. Hewitt, but most of the priority areas are developed from the information we glean out of workers' compensation statistics.

DR. HEWITT: Our broadest funding priority areas were based on a study we carried out two years ago and relied on expert opinion in that case to set the broad areas, which I believe are included in the package. In addition, when people come in to talk to us about those areas, we can provide them with a lot of other information that our research branch normally provides to division staff and members of the public. This information is based on claims experience by different occupational or industrial groups, different types of accidents. We can show people what the high-risk areas are in terms of those groups. So we're able to help any inquirer to the program to direct his attention to those areas that we would consider to be of high significance.

As mentioned before, within the last month

we have promoted our areas of research priority through the public media for the first time, and we're receiving quite a lot of informal inquiries from that. We'll be assessing the impact of this general advertising on the program to see if it's something we should continue, to reach more groups to come to us for funding.

MR. GURNETT: If I could just follow up briefly on that. What I was hoping we might be able to hear a little bit about is what seems to have been identified as a developing area of priority. The ones that are mentioned here related to high-risk occupations are obviously where the priority is seen now. Is there a sense of things that may lie ahead as priorities that we need to start looking at more seriously?

DR. HEWITT: I think the shift of the labour force into service occupations is certainly something that we have to stay on top of. For example, many of the materials handling injuries, many of them involving lifting, have been on the increase the last several years, and I think this reflects the shift of people into the service sector, where considerable materials handling is going on. This past year we have funded a few projects concerned with that, but the whole area of back problems is something that will be receiving more attention.

MR. ROZEL: As has been mentioned by committee members, I think chemicals and long-term health effects are areas that are certain to grow over the next few years. In most of the bureaucratic organizations involved in this sort of thing we've tended in the past to look at traumatic injury and, to me, in the future that is going to take a second place to overall health problems.

MR. MARTIN: To follow up on that. Is there consideration to also looking in the future at what I suppose have not been considered hazardous jobs in the traditional sense? There's more and more speculation about computers: the effects of VDTs, eyestrain. I'm thinking of fumes from xerox machines and these sorts of things. No one would think of them as hazardous jobs, but there is more and more literature that they may be. I'm wondering if we're looking at that area.

MR. DIACHUK: Lynn.



DR. HEWITT: I think it's an area that we're becoming more and more aware of. When we receive proposals in the grant program, we send them out to reviewers who have some expertise to comment, and I think we're finding more emphasis being placed on the hazards experienced by clerical workers, people within offices, more information on tight building syndrome, and so on. So while we haven't yet funded anything directly on this issue that I can recall, I believe there is growing recognition among the committee and division staff that this is an area that requires attention.

MR. DIACHUK: It's a challenge.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee members, would there be additional questions forthcoming to Mr. Diachuk and his associates? If not, Mr. Diachuk, and to those with you, thank you very much for attending once again this year. Thank you again for the courtesy in providing committee members with information prior to the meeting. May I wish you the very best in the next year.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Chairman, if members of the standing committee would like to visit the centre and see the computer linkup with Hamilton, I would be most pleased to arrange it. I think it's in the interest of all members and would be worth while. I know that Mr. Martin and Mr. Thompson have, because they've served on the select committee, but if any other members would like to see it or see it again, we'd be pleased to accommodate and arrange it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine. If there's interest forthcoming from the committee, we'll arrange such. Thank you so much.

Committee members, five quick administrative details. First of all, later today or tomorrow, Miss Conroy will be circulating to all of your offices copies of transcripts covering the meetings of last week. I might just point out that if any committee member wishes to have additional copies of the transcripts, would you kindly get hold of Miss Conroy and she'll arrange for you to have delivered to you sometime in the future whatever numbers of transcripts of the various meetings you would like to have.

The second point deals with an accompanying

memo that went to you in the last several days about an unfortunate change in the schedule. On the second cut of the schedule we had Mr. Moore scheduled on Monday, August 19, 1985. Mr. Moore has now advised that it would be his preference to meet with the committee on Wednesday morning, August 21, and we have accommodated that request. So the schedule would now read: Monday, August 19, 1985, Discussion of Recommendations, and Wednesday, August 21, at 10 a.m., the Hon. Marvin Moore. That having been said and done, I raise with you the question of whether or not it's necessary to have the scheduled meeting on Monday, August 19, under the topic Discussion of Recommendations.

MR. MARTIN: Let me make the suggestion that, following our discussion this morning, I still think it's probably premature to bring in the whole group of us for an extra day at that particular time. I think the discussion times we have later on would be better. That's my feeling about it.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The recommendation I was going to make is that we simply cancel Monday, August 19, 1985.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Cancelled. Okay. Thank you.

The third point deals with the visitation to Syncrude Canada Ltd. that's scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 1985. I indicated earlier that I had asked all committee members to convey their interest in it to Miss Conroy. My understanding is that at this moment the following committee members have indicated their desire to be on that visit: Mr. Zip, Mrs. Cripps, Mr. Gurnett, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cook, Mr. Moore, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Gogo, Mr. Hyland, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Musgreave. In addition, you'll also remember that the overview memo I sent went out to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Seven Members of the Legislative Assembly have also indicated, so the group going to Fort McMurray will number 22. If there are no further changes, particularly from committee members, I'll ask Miss Conroy to make the necessary airplane

reservations for that.

We'll have a schedule for you when we reconvene next week on Tuesday. The general outline at the moment is that we will be taking the early morning, regularly scheduled Pacific Western Airlines flight. I think it departs Edmonton Municipal Airport at 7:40 or 7:50 in the morning. Once we land in Fort McMurray, Syncrude Canada Ltd. will arrange for a bus to pick us up at the airport. On the drive to Fort McMurray we will drop in for a brief period of time at the Oil Sands Interpretive Centre, which has just opened in Fort McMurray. Following that, we will return to our bus and go on a brief tour of residential and commercial areas of Fort McMurray and look at some of the subdivisions that have been funded under one of the programs originated by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

Following that, we will drive to Mildred Lake, which is approximately 20 miles north of Fort McMurray, where we will arrive at the Syncrude Canada site. We will have lunch there and will also receive a briefing from officials of Syncrude Canada Ltd. that will include a video overview of the plant. Then we will be brought up to date on Syncrude's most recent capital investment program, the one that has already been discussed and debated in the Legislative Assembly, its employment effects and issues of Alberta and Canadian content with respect to that capital investment program. Then there will be an opportunity for committee members to raise questions with senior officials of Syncrude Canada Ltd. We will then go on a tour of certain aspects of Syncrude Canada and probably depart the site at about 2:30 or quarter to three in the afternoon and be back in Fort McMurray at approximately quarter to four.

I'm hoping we will have an opportunity — and this is something I still have to work on — to be involved in a reception and an early evening dinner with officials from the city of Fort McMurray. Following that, we will drive from Fort McMurray to the airport and catch the regularly scheduled 7:30 PWA flight back to Edmonton. You will all be back in your automobiles driving away from the airport by approximately 8:30 in the evening. So it's a full day in the sense that it's about a 12- to 13-hour commitment.

It is my intent not to be very active as a tour guide but to have some information on Syncrude

Canada available to you prior to departure. I hope that all committee members will avail themselves of the opportunity that's being provided but don't expect a great deal of babysitting by the chairman of this committee with respect to specific times within the 12 to 13 hours.

Now, on August 23 we have in our schedule a visit to the Paddle River damsite. At this point in time I'm not sure how many committee members have indicated to Miss Conroy their interest in visiting the Paddle River damsite. On Friday, August 23, the official opening of the damsite will occur at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Some members have indicated that they would like to be back in Edmonton as early as possible so they can catch connecting flights back home, and the thought was that there are really two alternative ways of getting to the Paddle River site. It's approximately 75 to 80 miles from Edmonton, about an hour and a half maximum driving. The thought was that a van might be available. Suggestions were also made to me that committee members might wish to travel by car. Perhaps that's the most useful approach, a couple or three cars. Then you can perhaps participate in a tour of the Paddle River damsite prior to the official opening ceremonies and show the courtesy of being in attendance at the opening ceremonies and depart at approximately 3 o'clock so you may be back in Edmonton by 4:30. That would allow the maximum opportunity to catch a flight north or south from there at that time. You can think about that. We can tie in that detail next week.

MR. HYLAND: We wouldn't leave until about 11 o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We wouldn't have to leave Edmonton until approximately 11:30 in the morning.

MR. HYLAND: Will that get us out of listening to your speech?

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you making a speech, Ken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question of recommendations remains. If you look at your schedule for next week, we will reconvene here as a committee on Tuesday, August 20. There

are two sessions that day, one with the Hon. David Russell and in the afternoon with the Hon. John Zaozirny; on Wednesday, August 21, with the Hon. Marvin Moore in the morning and the Hon. Hugh Planche in the afternoon; Thursday, Fort McMurray; Friday, Paddle River; and Monday, August 26, Premier Peter Lougheed. So the next time we'll be coming back to discussion of recommendations is Tuesday, August 27. Perhaps that would be the most opportune time to deal with the discussion of recommendations.

The last item I would like your approval of is — you'll recall when we did the original schedule, we had Monday, August 12, 1985, with a regularly scheduled appearance. Because of the need to reschedule, members had already made commitments to be in Edmonton that day. I indicated at that time that I would view that as a reading day. If committee members agree, I ask that a motion be presented at this point to cover the necessary administrative detail with respect to that.

AN. HON. MEMBER: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed to by committee members? Okay.

One last little item I neglected to fulfill the other day deals with the activities of the chairman on two days, August 6 and 9, 1985.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Okay, committee members, if there's any other additional information you need with respect to transcripts . . . Just to repeat, we'll have the schedule for Syncrude for you on Tuesday, August 20. You needn't worry about any of the detail with respect to that day; it will all be taken care of for you.

MR. COOK: I move we adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gogo?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, with such a distinguished committee with the responsibility of being the watchdog on the size of that heritage fund, I think it would be most appropriate and I would recommend to the Chair that there be badges made for members of the select committee on the heritage fund so

that when they visit places such as McMurray and other sites, they're identified as being members of this select committee. And I don't think we should have paper badges. When I look at what we're able to have in the Premier's office and other places, I think we should have a kind of classy badge. I recommend that the logo of the heritage fund be on it. I wonder if you'd consider that.

MR. MARTIN: Maybe you could make that as a recommendation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We'll consider that, Mr. Gogo. Do we have a motion for . . .

MR. GOGO: Mr. Cook seems to be in an unusual hurry. I'm sure Mr. Getty can wait at least half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We've had a motion for adjournment. Everybody agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 3:36 p.m.]