

[Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[10 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to another meeting of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. It's our pleasure this morning to welcome the Hon. Fred Bradley, Minister of the Environment.

If I could refer all members to the Provincial Treasurer's annual report on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which was issued in July this year, you'll see on page 43, under the capital projects division investments, that the Minister of the Environment has ministerial portfolio responsibility for four specific areas. One is called irrigation headworks and main irrigation systems improvement, and we can see a cumulative figure of \$201,086,000 to March 31, 1985. The second item is the land reclamation project, which expended \$23,522,000 to March 31, 1985. A third item is the Lesser Slave Lake outlet. There were no expenditures made in the last fiscal year, but I'm sure the minister would want to report to us on the successful operation of that very important outflow of water from the Lesser Slave Lake that reduces the hazards along the lake, one of Alberta's best inland seas and probably the best kept secret.

Lesser Slave Lake, ladies and gentlemen, is really an outstanding lake. It's too bad that very few people in Alberta have ever bothered to go and take a look at it.

MRS. CRIPPS: Explain yourself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One of the most exciting projects, the Paddle River basin development project, with expenditure levels accumulating to \$40,362,000.

Mr. Minister, in welcoming you, you'll note that a number of members of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund select committee were at the damsite last Friday, where we all applauded with you the official opening of that very important drainage assistance project. The Paddle River has had a lot of negatives over the years, but it was certainly very positive on last Friday with the throngs of people, the smiling faces, and the great thank-yous.

At that point, I would sincerely like to say welcome to you, Mr. Minister. If you have an overview comment, would you kindly proceed?

If not, we'll go directly to questions from committee members.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the welcome to the committee. It's a pleasure to be back again.

There have been a number of important projects under the capital projects division in the Department of the Environment. I was very pleased with your opening comments, particularly with regard to the Paddle River basin development, which has come to completion. The opening last Friday was certainly a major event for the people in that area in terms of the benefits to the people. Some 25,000 acres of land will now be protected in terms of the flood control dam. I was really impressed. In my judgment, there were close to a thousand people at the opening and there was a great deal of enthusiasm for the project. Of course, Mr. Chairman, you were there as the MLA from the downstream constituency. Peter Trynchy, Al Hyland, Stan Nelson, John Gogo, and Shirley Cripps were also there, and the former MLA for Barrhead, Dr. Hugh Horner, who was a proponent of the project.

When you have these types of water management projects, they always seem to be fairly controversial in their fruition. When they're finally completed and opened and you see the number of people who have come out for the opening, who are complimentary to the project and the necessity for it, you know you've made the right decision. I daresay that that project, as Dr. Horner said, will stand for future generations of Albertans in terms of the benefits that will accrue to that area. It's a very important investment by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund in the agricultural future of that part of the province.

I'd like to make a few comments on the Lesser Slave Lake project, which was completed a couple of years back. It's now in operation, providing stabilization to the Lesser Slave Lake area. This project was originally contemplated to cost about \$7 million or \$8 million and was completed quite a bit under budget, because the works which were constructed there were not as elaborate as had been originally suggested. We are now in the phase of monitoring the work that has been done there to make sure it is achieving the results which were hoped for that project, and from reports I've heard to date, it's

been successful.

Under the land reclamation investment, we've done a lot of important work in land reclamation throughout the province in terms of reclaiming landfills, sewage lagoons, and activities related to coal mining, gravel pits, and other industrial activities. I think it's been very well accepted by the municipalities and citizens throughout the province that we've invested these types of funds to reclaim these eyesores and potential environmental problems which have existed throughout the province. Earlier this month I circulated to all members of the Assembly a report on the activities in their constituencies, outlining the work that has been done since 1975 with regard to reclamation work. As I said, I think it's been a very successful project, and I know the results in my own constituency have been worth while and appreciated.

I should say that as part of this program approximately \$24 million has been expended to date. About \$15.5 million of that has been in direct reclamation; another \$7.5 million to \$8 million has been spent on reclamation research in the foothills, mountain, plains, and oil sands areas, looking at how best we can reclaim industrial activities, focussing on coal mining and oil sands types of reclamation, very important projects.

Another project which I should report on today is the major project in terms of the irrigation headworks and main irrigation systems improvement. We've spent some \$201 million to the end of March on this program and anticipate continuing to spend some \$60 million a year in the next two fiscal years with regard to allocations of expenditures. There will be further expenditures in the future to complete it.

With regard to the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District's headworks system, we've spent some \$74 million to the end of March 1985 and have reconstructed some 22 of the 50 miles of the main canal in the Lethbridge Northern. We're anticipating spending some \$19 million in the next fiscal year. As part of this project, we've rehabilitated the diversion headworks on the Oldman River, which are located on the Peigan Indian Reserve. We've replaced the flume which crosses the Oldman River on the Peigan Indian Reserve. The Wolf Creek flume crossing has been replaced, and two siphons, at Rocky Coulee and Keenex

Coulee, were completed in the previous year.

What we are doing in terms of the actual main canal is upgrading it from a capacity of some 650 cubic feet per second to some 1,500 cfs. Work has started on the Keho Lake off-stream storage project. The east dikes and outlet works are essentially complete, and this year we'll be letting a contract on the peripheral roads. It's anticipated that the project will be completed in the next year. It will raise the level of the lake some six feet and increase the storage capacity from some 45,000 acre-feet to some 75,000 acre-feet. It's anticipated that the LNID project will be completed totally in the spring of 1989.

With regard to the St. Mary River Irrigation District main canal rehabilitation and enlargement, we have completed some 73 miles of the main canal and associated structures out of a total length of some 176 miles and have spent some \$66 million on the project to the end of March. This project is scheduled to be completed in 1989-90. Also this year, we have advanced the start on the Forty Mile Coulee reservoir project. Alan Hyland, the MLA, announced that in Bow Island on August 6, and this afternoon he and I will be going down there to officiate at the official sod-turning for the Forty Mile Coulee project. It's 70,000 acre-feet of offstream storage on the St. Mary's system. It was anticipated to cost some \$58 million in 1984 dollars. The tenders for the project in terms of the main work will be opened in the not too distant future. We've advanced construction by putting out some of the initial work on a request basis to a number of local contractors to get the pad laid so that the main contractor can start work as quickly as possible. The project will be completed a year earlier than we originally anticipated.

Also, this year we opened the Crawling Valley reservoir project in the Eastern Irrigation District. I believe it was officially opened in the first week of June of this year. That project provided a 90,000 acre-foot internal storage reservoir for the Eastern Irrigation District. It was completed in the last fiscal year and cost some \$5.7 million.

Another project which was completed last year was the Badger Lake reservoir in the Bow River Irrigation District. That provided 42,000 acre-feet of storage in the Bow River Irrigation District and cost some \$13 million. I anticipate that we'll be officially opening that project in

the not too distant future.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Just after the election is called, or before?

MR. BRADLEY: We'll be opening the project this fall, Ray. I'm not sure it has anything to do with other events.

Some of the other projects under this appropriation have been in the special areas. The Deadfish diversion project was basically completed in 1983-84. There was also a pipeline from the Red Deer River to the Sheerness project associated with this project. That has also been completed. Other work will be required on other headworks which has been in the planning and engineering stage which we phased in over the balance of this appropriation to the 1995 period. That gives you an update as to where we are today and what has basically been planned in the next few years.

The final new project, which was debated in the House this spring and an appropriation brought forward for, is the Oldman dam. The engineering work is currently in progress, and it is anticipated it will be completed toward the end of this year or early next year. We anticipate that we'll be able to begin construction next year on the Oldman dam project. Reasonable progress has been made to date in terms of acquisition of land. I've been advised this past week that we've had agreements with some more landowners with regard to purchase of land. We are now in a position of having acquired just under 50 percent of the land required for the project.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I welcome questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Bradley. We'll begin with questions from Mr. Hyland.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, my questions are related to drainage in the northern part of the province. I wonder if the minister could outline if anything is being done in drainage similar to the questions we had yesterday relating to the 86/14 formula, or do we have a program where we're considering drainage under the trust fund?

MR. BRADLEY: That's a very good question, Mr. Chairman. Of course, drainage has been a priority of the government for some period of

time. We have looked at enhancing what we are currently doing. It was identified as a very important area by the Water Resources Commission when it was first formed some three years ago. The commission has undertaken some very important studies with regard to drainage and where we should be doing it. The preliminary work will be completed by them some time later this year. Within the general revenue portion of the budget of my department, we also have some \$5 million which we are expending on an annual basis. Half of that has been based on a cost share with local authorities on a 75/25 basis. The other portion of that funding has been 100 percent provincial funding of major drainage works.

Last year I initiated a major review of our drainage program, which focussed on levels of expenditure and the question of cost-sharing formulas. We currently have this under consideration. There's been a great deal of support from MLAs in the northern part of the province for an enhanced program, and I appreciate the support I've received and the requests from MLAs in this part of the province. So we have this matter under active review and consideration at this time.

MR. HYLAND: Is the minister expecting any funding through the trust fund on an expanded drainage project at some point in the future? Once this initial study from the water commission is in, will more detailed work go on, or is that going to be the final report?

MR. BRADLEY: When you look at the requirements in the northern part of the province -- we initiated the northwestern erosion control program and the soil conservation assistance program earlier, after the Member for Lesser Slave Lake brought forward resolutions in this Legislature and changed cost-sharing formulas. A lot of work has been done; there's a lot of work that needs to be done. In particular, when you look at the scope of what has to be done, what I think the Water Resources Commission is identifying for us is that there's going to be a need for a lot of planning to make sure things are done in proper order and proper fashion: that the engineering is done, that we don't create problems by the action we take with regard to drainage. So an important part of a drainage program is going

to be to do the proper studies in engineering to ensure that when the work is put out for tender for construction, it is going to resolve the problems that are there. There's a lot of work that has to be done.

No specific funding source has been identified at this time for an enhanced program, but as I said, this matter is under review and consideration at this time.

MR. HYLAND: Thank you.

MR. R. MOORE: Mr. Minister, your department has an excellent program on reclamation of landfill sites, gravel pits, and so on. It's well received throughout the province. I see many examples of this program in the Lacombe constituency. There's one area I would like to know about. What level of research is being done on reclaimed sites to ensure that productivity of the soil is maximized? So often when we have these sites, it destroys the productivity, and I'd like to know what research we have in that field.

MR. BRADLEY: There's a lot of research taking place. I think I identified that under the trust fund allocation there is a component which is directly allocated for reclamation research. They do test plots and look at productivity, bringing back soils, in the reclamation process, looking particularly at coal mining and industrial areas and bringing this land back to productivity equivalent to what it was before or enhancing it. So research is focussing in that area.

There's also research done in the general revenue budget. The Alberta Research Council is involved. There's a reclamation research task group, which reviews the projects that should be funded, so there is a significant emphasis in that area.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to spend a little time on irrigation. Anyone who lived in southern Alberta in the last two years can't help but realize the importance of the irrigation system in that part of the province. It's been a godsend for the whole area, not only the people on the land but the people in the surrounding communities. Basically, I think we've been very fortunate to have started upgrading the capacity of the irrigation canals down there in the last few years. I use my

imagination and think of what it would have been like if Lethbridge Northern hadn't had anything done and they were still just pounding stakes down there or something like that. I've got to commend the Department of the Environment for starting this several years ago. There are a lot of people who, although they pay the water rates, have not used irrigation over the past years. Many people who never had water rights are clamouring to have water rights.

The Department of the Environment monitors the snowpack and the amount of water available. My question is: do you monitor the amount of water that goes to each irrigation district? Have you got a handle on that? I really feel that this year some districts have used what their allotment ordinarily would be and probably increased it.

MR. BRADLEY: Yes, the department monitors the flows to each of the irrigation districts. Each irrigation district is licensed to divert a maximum amount of water, and the flows which are directed from our main headworks structures are monitored in conjunction with the terms of those licences. It has not been brought to my attention that there's been an allocation greater than that which the licence requirements permit.

MR. THOMPSON: That's fine.

I'd like to get back to the capacity and the fact that we are increasing capacity to distribute water. Because of the situation in the last two years in southern Alberta, is there any anticipation that you will be accelerating the construction of the Oldman River dam? We have an example where we have accelerated construction of the Forty Mile reservoir off-site storage. I would like to know if there is any consideration being given to accelerating construction. I'm glad to hear what's happened already, but we need to save all the water we have down there. I would applaud the department if they would move quickly in this area.

MR. BRADLEY: When the Oldman dam project was initiated and announced last year, funds were allocated through special warrant in the last fiscal year to commence the project so that the engineering and initial design work could proceed in the last fiscal year. In the normal

process we would have waited until the budgetary process in the spring, and it would have been this year before the engineering would have been initiated. We initiated that process last year and initiated some purchase of land through special warrant.

The pace at which we can proceed depends on the engineering. We've had requests from communities and from people in southern Alberta who are involved in the irrigation business who have requested us to review where we're at with the start-up of the Oldman dam and to look at whether or not we can accelerate construction in terms of the schedule which has been looked at at this date. We are reviewing that to see whether or not it would be possible to proceed any quicker, but it will depend on the status of the engineering. At this point it's scheduled to be completed later this year or early next year. Once we have the engineering in in terms of the documents for tender, then we'll be able to proceed with the projects. We're reviewing that at this time.

MR. THOMPSON: My third question, Mr. Chairman, is to do with land reclamation, which the Member for Lacombe was alluding to. I notice we spent \$3 million in the last fiscal year. My question is: do the local governments have a real interest in this? Do they make application? Have we got more applications than we can handle in general, or is it basically the Department of the Environment monitoring and assessing the situation and trying to initiate these programs? What I'm really asking is how popular this land reclamation program is with local government.

MR. BRADLEY: It's an extremely popular program with the municipalities. The project requests come from them. There is sometimes some difficulty in terms of some of the larger projects in particular. We've allocated money, for example, for the reclamation of some industrial activities; coal mining in the Crownest Pass. There have been long-standing negotiations with the coal companies in terms of the work which we'd like to do. In terms of the other allocation of funds, basically the municipalities have come forward, and there is great interest in terms of the money which we have appropriated now and for the next years in terms of work that can be done. If there are projects which aren't proceeding, we attempt to

fill in with other projects which other municipalities identify in terms of the priority list we've developed. For obvious reasons municipalities welcome the program in terms of the reclamation of garbage dumps and sewage lagoons and those types of activities within the municipalities.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I'd like to echo the words of my colleague from Cardston relative to the rehabilitation program and the good effects it's had on the irrigation districts. Secondly, I'd say thank you from my constituents in terms of the Badger Lake project. It has proceeded and is completed and everybody is quite supportive of what has happened there and optimistic as to what can happen in expansion in the next few years.

The question that I'm sure the minister continues to raise and will balance and that we have to be responsive to in this committee is consideration with regard to drainage in northern Alberta. In my tours of northern Alberta I find the people in that area feel that irrigation has certainly received quite a number of dollars of support from government and that there isn't a complementary program or attention in northern Alberta. I think we as legislators should be aware of that concern and alleviate it in the best possible manner.

My questions relate to the Three Rivers project, Mr. Chairman, and most of them have been touched on and answered. I appreciate that the minister has said we are possibly going to accelerate the completion date of the Three Rivers site, but maybe I could ask some detailed questions relative to the engineering. Who is the engineering firm? Is a local firm doing the engineering, or is it a group of firms? I guess it didn't go out to tender; it was most likely a request to complete a proposal. In terms of the land acquisition, has the land been acquired for the site of the dam so that the necessary testing and so on can go on? Thirdly, in terms of land acquisition, I wonder if the minister could review the formula that's being used at the present time, or is it a matter of open negotiation and discussion with each landowner?

MR. BRADLEY: Is that the sum of your first question?

MR. R. SPEAKER: No, that's all three of them.

MR. BRADLEY: Okay.

MR. R. SPEAKER: I'll just need a supplementary.

MR. BRADLEY: I think I elaborated, in terms of the question from the Member for Cypress, on where we're at with drainage, the review that's taking place, and the priority that's been placed with the studies the Water Resources Commission has been doing the past number of years. This is one of the first areas they identified which required more work. I think I've gone through that. We have the whole question of our drainage programs under review, the funding and the cost-sharing formula.

I should emphasize that we have done work in the north since the Hon. Larry Shaben brought forward his resolution and the northwest erosion control program commenced. I had the privilege a week ago Monday of officially opening the Namepi-Kennedy drainage project, in the county of Thorhild. I was very impressed by the work done there. It was an eight-year project that was 100 percent funded by the province, some \$8.2 million. In that particular area, some 625 square miles is affected by this project and the improved drainage along some 40 miles, I would estimate, of both Namepi Creek and Kennedy Creek. So there is work being done.

The Paddle River project, of course, is another one in terms of drainage, which is important in flood control. As I said, we are reviewing it. We're placing a priority on it, and we'll be coming to some decisions at the appropriate time on where we'll be proceeding with enhancement or otherwise. We have that under active consideration.

I didn't say today that we were accelerating the completion of the Oldman dam project. I said that we had under review whether or not that would be possible in terms of where the engineering was.

With regard to the engineers for the Oldman dam project, we put out requests for a proposal last fall and advertised it publicly. I believe it was in October. We had a selection committee which reviewed the requests which came in. Underwood McLellan was awarded the project for the dam itself. We split it into two components. The reservoir-related works,

which are the roadworks in and around the reservoir itself, were awarded to Stanley Associates. They're both Alberta firms. There was substantial involvement in the proposals from both firms by a number of other consultants that operate in the province, so an emphasis was placed on spreading the work around amongst as many engineering firms as possible.

Basically, with regard to the land acquisition, we have purchased the land which is necessary in the area of the damsite itself, and lands have been acquired upstream in the reservoir area. As I said, I've been advised that agreements have been put in place with landowners, that we have somewhat less than 50 percent of the land required for the project at this time, with the agreements which have been signed in the last number of days.

Negotiations are proceeding on the basis of the same land acquisition principles that were used in the Dickson dam land acquisition. A list of principles has been circulated to landowners. We have proceeded with negotiations with landowners who have approached us at this point and wish to undertake negotiations. There are lands that we will require, but we aren't able to identify the actual amount of land we require until the engineering is completed and the detailed surveying is done. But any landowner who wanted to negotiate, not knowing where that final take-line would be, was looking at perhaps selling us land in excess of what we would actually require. We have undertaken those negotiations at the individual's request. We have stated to landowners that we were willing to negotiate on the basis of only the amount of land required for the project or on the basis of the nearest quarter line or, if the impact of the project was such that it had an undesirable impact on the landowner's entire operation, that we would negotiate to purchase the entire operation.

That's basically the basis under which negotiations are proceeding at this point. They are being conducted by the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I'll stop there. I unloaded all three on the first shot.

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask a few questions about the Lesser Slave Lake project

and the silting program. Has the minister considered doing any studies on whether or not we should be developing marginal northern soils, which are subject to erosion and which by their nature will probably require this kind of expenditure in the future? I realize that a study was filed by Dr. Bentley, recently of the University of Alberta, on the very delicate nature of northern soils, and he recommended that the government of Alberta not proceed with opening up further agricultural land in northern Alberta unless studies were undertaken to see what kinds of soil conservation techniques would be most suited to the area. Has the department considered that in light of its ultimate responsibility for constructing projects like the Lesser Slave Lake project?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty relating the question to the Lesser Slave Lake project.

MR. COOK: Why is that? As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, the Lesser Slave Lake project was designed to dredge some silt that had built up, preventing drainage into the lake. Is that not the case?

MR. BRADLEY: It was to stabilize the level of Lesser Slave in terms of the outflow and work which was being done there.

With regard to the second part of the question, the work which the Water Resources Commission is doing is looking specifically at the question of where drainage is needed and required. I've alluded to the fact that proceeding with drainage projects on a larger scale in northern Alberta requires a lot of planning to ensure that what is being done and the soils in which this is taking place are appropriate.

The whole question of opening up more land in the north is part of . . . As I understand it, perhaps the question should be more properly directed to the minister of Public Lands and Wildlife. He has a process, through the integrated management planning process, in his program where these questions on the impact of opening up new lands are looked at. Drainage is part of it. Our department and other departments are involved — Transportation — in identifying lands to be opened up and what the costs are and what the potential problems may be. So that is all considered in the overall

approach to this. As I've said, it will take a considerable amount of preplanning to initiate further programs in this area.

MR. COOK: Thank you.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a comment first, because I really do believe that water is our most important resource. I know you've indicated that some people are uptight before some of the projects are started but really appreciate the value of the project once it's developed. I am of the belief that some of the present generation who will have to be moved in the face of a project probably will never forgive us, but I also firmly believe that future generations would never forgive us if we didn't continue with the projects. I endorse the judicial examination and development of water control projects, especially effective utilization of the water in our province. Frankly, I don't think we emphasize the importance of water enough, and I'd like to see the minister become more vocal about the importance of it; i.e., generally, as opposed to being specific about dams. I think we take it for granted. The last two years have illustrated that lack of water is extremely crucial to this province.

A couple of questions on the Slave Lake project have been asked. I want to know about the number of acres. It's absolutely flat, beautiful land, as I remember, coming out in the water protection area that the outlet is supposedly preserving from flooding. How effective has that project been to date? Is there much more extensive use of the land downstream from that project now?

MR. BRADLEY: I think I alluded to the fact that we're monitoring the impact of the works. I haven't been appraised, other than in a preliminary way, in terms of the specific which you ask, but I could have that looked into and report back to you.

MRS. CRIPPS: Thank you.

MR. ZIP: Mr. Chairman, first of all, in a very general way I want to congratulate the work done by the hon. Minister of the Environment, not only with the heritage trust fund moneys but overall. In my longtime residency in Alberta I've seen a lot of improvements made. I have also greatly appreciated the increased

appreciation of the value of our water resources, the importance of water management, and the directions that are being taken, not only in the area of irrigation but also in flood control and water management.

Looking at land reclamation, we have problem areas in this respect, largely due to what has happened in the past, something that we're saddled with at the present time. How much of that \$24 million out of the heritage trust fund has been spent on land reclamation around Calgary?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, I circulated a report to all members which basically explained the projects in their constituencies. In terms of Calgary and Edmonton members I lumped the projects within the city boundaries as an aggregate total.

Within Calgary itself there has not been a great number of projects. Within a city you would not expect to have the types of projects initiated that you would have outside in the rural areas where there have been greater impacts in terms of development. There has been one project in Calgary for some \$195,000 out of a total of \$15.2 million for projects in land reclamation itself.

MR. ZIP: A further question. I raised the matter of Nose Creek valley when the hon. Minister of Recreation and Parks appeared before this committee. I wish to raise it again with respect to this valley's being a good candidate for land reclamation and beautification in order to enhance the appearance of this valley within Calgary, particularly as you get closer to the Bow River. Some of the areas are very, very unsightly. I'd like to have the minister's response to that.

MR. BRADLEY: In terms of this program, we're looking at municipally owned developments; say, a landfill or a municipally owned gravel pit, those types of things. We're prepared to assist municipalities in terms of those types of projects.

There is a cut-off date in this program. Basically, 1963 is the date which reclamation legislation came into place, and there were some updates in requirements in the early '70s. All industrial projects past those dates are responsible themselves for the reclamation

which would take place. What we're really dealing with is pre-1963 types of developments.

You specifically mentioned Nose Creek. I have to admit lack of knowledge of the specific impacts of Nose Creek and whether that is pre-1963 or what the nature of the developments are. Is it a gravel pit type of development?

MR. ZIP: What happened was that Nose Creek was ditched, what you would call gutted. The appearance has been left in a very, very unnatural state as a result of that ditching of Nose Creek, from a point somewhere around the northern city limits of Calgary going down toward the river.

MR. BRADLEY: I'd have to check on that specific item, note that you've raised it and see whether or not it would fit within the terms of our project guidelines. We have to consider who the landowners are, whether they wish to initiate a project, who was responsible for the initial ditching you've referred to, and see whether it's eligible or whether the city wishes to bring it forward as a project they'd like us to consider.

MR. ZIP: Thank you.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, my question is with regard to the report the minister is using in terms of constituency analysis. I don't see it in my book. I was just wondering, did all the members of the Legislature get it?

MR. BRADLEY: Yes, I forwarded them. I'm not sure when your office would have received them. I forwarded them August 23.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Maybe my secretary placed them it into my book.

MR. BRADLEY: I think they were forwarded to your office yesterday, Ray. I remember that I signed some of them and others I signed just lately. There should be a report on your constituency. We've spent some \$483,000 in Little Bow on some 15 projects.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. BRADLEY: Just for the information of the Member for Spirit River-Fairview, we've spent some \$295,000 on some 26 projects. There

should be a detailed report that was sent to you.

MR. GURNETT: Just one more question. I want to ask the minister about land reclamation, also. In view of its mandate and the pre-1963 projects you just explained, is there any picture at this point of how much more work there is to do in that area? Have the projects finished up most of the sites that exist in the province that date from that period, or is there going to be considerably more work done?

MR. BRADLEY: We are still receiving applications from municipalities, and pre-63 really deals with industrial types of developments where you can't identify an owner or where a company is no longer in existence or has transferred hands.

In terms of municipalities themselves, for example, we've had a regional sanitary landfill program. A number of municipalities are closing their smaller landfills or garbage dumps, and that activity is going on today. So a municipality may be abandoning a landfill this year, for example. Those types of projects would be acceptable under this program.

It seems there is an ongoing need for reclamation programs as municipalities close garbage dumps or open new sewage lagoon projects. They have been making use of this funding under the heritage fund to reclaim sewage lagoons, et cetera. As you know, over the last five years we've had a massive program to assist municipalities in upgrading their water and sewage works. We've reclaimed water reservoirs and things like that under this program too. It seems that there is an ongoing need for this type of assistance from the province.

MR. GURNETT: Just to follow up a bit then. Is there, though, any inventory of the industrial sites that date from before 1963? Do you have any picture of how many of these sites there are in the province?

MR. BRADLEY: I think most of those initiated by municipalities have come to our attention. I don't have a specific figure on those, but most of them deal with abandoned coal mine sites and that type of reclamation. We have a general list of those. As I recollect, when I was first elected in '75, we asked municipalities to

identify those. I have requests from the minister at that time to identify projects in my constituency, and municipalities were asked to identify projects. So that initial evaluation has been done. I can't give you a figure today as to how many have been done or how many outstanding requests there are.

In terms of industrial reclamation, the major one that I'm aware of is in my own constituency with the coal-mining developments. We've had outstanding negotiations on a particularly large coal pile which have not yet come to any conclusion, because of the difficulties associated with the wishes of the current owners of the piles, et cetera. It's been a difficult process. That's the major outstanding one I'm aware of. There are some larger gravel pits that we've negotiated on with some of the urban municipalities and which are ongoing too.

MR. GURNETT: So when you talk about negotiations on these land reclamation projects, is there an effort to identify some responsible party and do a cost-shared basis as you approach the land reclamation? Or does this program cover the entire cost regardless of whether you can identify who is responsible?

MR. BRADLEY: Since there was no legislation which required any reclamation prior to 1963, those past industrial activities would qualify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would there be additional questions forthcoming from committee members? Mr. Bradley, may we thank you very much for the overview this morning and the continued progress in the four major items under your portfolio management funded by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

MR. BRADLEY: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, when we met the other day, we indicated that if there were any interest, we might continue the discussion on recommendations this morning. Is there any further input?

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might abuse my rights to propose recommendations and propose one more, if that's in order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's certainly in order.

MR. COOK: I'd like to ask the committee to recommend the construction of low-cost research lab space to be made available to the private sector on a contract basis, modelled on a successful North Carolina research park, the Triangle research park, in Durham. Mr. Chairman, if I could just give members a quick idea of what that is, the state of North Carolina built research lab space which it lets out to companies on an at-cost or below-cost basis. They've succeeded in attracting to the state companies like General Electric, Northern Telecom, and a variety of biotech companies. In doing that, they've assembled a critical mass of research activity and scientists who can then go and form their own little independent companies and access lab space.

The Alberta Research Council had two small labs in the new research building that were surplus to its needs. They let out a request for proposals to the private sector for use of those labs. They were inundated with requests for lab space. It's very difficult to set up a high-quality research lab. The long and short of it is that there are a lot of little inventors and companies in Alberta who badly need access to these kinds of facilities. There are existing models in other states that show that this is a successful kind of role to kick-start the research community, and we have the people here who would take advantage of it. So I'd like to suggest that we fund low-cost research lab space on a contract basis to the private sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's now been read into the record for the first time. Any comments to Mr. Cook at this point in time? Would there be additional recommendations forthcoming?

MRS. CRIPPS: Given that the urban parks program is drawing to a close and this is for most of them the final year of the program, I would like to recommend that the committee endorse the use of moneys from the trust fund for the creation of an urban parks program for towns and villages of Alberta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's an additional recommendation. Would there be additional recommendations forthcoming at this point in time?

MR. ZIP: With regard to the recommendation of the hon. Member for Drayton Valley, would

"villages" also include summer villages? I don't know what the status is of Chestermere Lake, for example, whether it's a summer village or what. There are people living there all the time.

MR. HYLAND: It's a village.

MR. NELSON: It's not a summer village; it's a village.

MR. ZIP: That's a matter of clarification.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't thinking in terms of summer villages. Most of them are basically recreational areas, and that's the purpose of their establishment. I believe the benefits of the program would be well used in towns and villages throughout the province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any additional comments?

I think it's really important that those members of the committee who have made suggestions with respect to recommendations take the ideas of the recommendation and formalize them into a statement that all members can deal with. Perhaps when we reconvene on Wednesday, September 4 -- we'll be meeting with Mr. Johnston at 10 o'clock in the morning -- you might formally read into the record the recommendation you want to make. The other day and again this morning individual members talked about ideas, but in order to bring it to a formative debate within the context of the committee, I think the statements should begin and end, so all members will know exactly what they can debate with. I'll leave it with you to work out the wording of your individual recommendations. If you would be prepared to come back, then I think it would be much easier to deal with it rather than with just an idea.

Would there be additional items for the committee to consider this morning?

MR. R. MOORE: I move that we adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion for adjournment. We'll accept that. We'll reconvene on Wednesday, September 4. We'll have Mr. Johnston in the morning. We have a scheduled meeting in the afternoon at 2 o'clock. The subject is discussion of recommendations. Next Thursday, September

5, we have the Hon. Larry Shaben, Minister of Housing, appearing before the committee.

Thank you very much for the excellent work this week. It's been a long week. May you have a good weekend.

[The committee adjourned at 10:58 a.m.]

