

Standing Committee on Private Bills

8:36 a.m.

[Chairman: Mr. Renner]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm going to call this meeting to order. This is the Private Bills Committee. Has everyone got their material? If so, I would like a motion to approve the agenda.

MRS. LAING: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? All in favour?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carried.

We also have distributed to you copies of the minutes from our last meeting, the meeting of Tuesday, September 28. If everyone has had a chance to review those minutes, I'd like a motion to adopt those minutes. Mr. Sekulic.

Are there any errors or omissions, corrections? If not, then I'll ask for the vote. All in favour? Carried.

This morning we'll be dealing with three Bills. All of them are in the field of adult adoptions. You'll remember that at our last meeting we had a motion to vary the order that we deal with these Bills. The order that you see on the agenda is the order we'll be dealing with them today: Bill Pr. 14, Benaning Osi Adoption Act; Bill Pr. 7, Gerald Edwin Crabbe Adoption Act; and Bill Pr. 8, Michael Caleborn Rothery Adoption Act.

With your permission, then, I will ask Mrs. Marston to bring our first set of petitioners in. This will be Bill Pr. 14.

[Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Well, good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. We met earlier, and I discussed a little bit about the procedure, but I'll just go through it for the record. You have petitioned the Legislative Assembly to enact legislation on your behalf regarding an adult adoption. The procedure that we go through is that you have an opportunity to come before this committee and explain the reason why you're asking the Legislature to pass this legislation. The committee has an opportunity to question you, and then the committee will be making a recommendation to the Legislature whether or not your Bill should proceed.

So with that, I think I would like to have everyone on the committee introduce themselves. We have an all-party committee from right across the province. I'll start with Ms Leibovici.

MS LEIBOVICI: Hi. Karen Leibovici, Edmonton-Meadowlark. Welcome.

MR. JACQUES: Good morning. Wayne Jacques, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

DR. L. TAYLOR: Lorne Taylor, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

MR. HERARD: Good morning. Denis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MRS. LAING: Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MRS. SOETAERT: Hi. Colleen Soetaert, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MR. SEKULIC: Good morning. Peter Sekulic, Edmonton-Manning.

MRS. FRITZ: Hi. Yvonne Fritz, Calgary-Cross.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My name is Rob Renner. I'm the MLA for Medicine Hat.

All right. If we could get started then. Whoever wants to speak first, go ahead. If you wouldn't mind just introducing yourselves and giving us a little bit of a general rundown on what it is that you would like us to do and some of your reasons for doing so.

MR. JACKSON: My name's Fred Jackson. It's nice to meet each of you. It's nice to be here this morning.

Our relationship with Benaning goes back to 1980. We were in the Philippines for a short time. I was there as a consultant. Out of that experience, of course, we met Benaning, and our relationship has grown through those years. Hilary was the first person to meet Benaning and can probably give you a good history, going back to the very beginning.

MRS. JACKSON: I went down to a very isolated area to help the Salvation Army open up a medical clinic with the T'boli tribe. During those two weeks a lot of children followed me everywhere I went, but somehow Benaning and I -- something special happened between us.

There were three orphaned little girls, and she was the oldest of the three girls. We made arrangements to take them up to the city, into Manila. The three girls were there before we left to come back to Canada. While I was there, I asked the tribe if I could, in fact, take Benaning back to Canada and adopt her, and they had a tribal meeting and said that, yes, I could do that. We got back to Canada and lived in London, Ontario, at that time, went through the Ontario children's aid process, and adoption was granted. We went through immigration, and everything looked okay there. Then the Philippine government wouldn't let her come without her sisters. Although we could understand that, of course it was very disappointing for us.

So the three girls were raised in the orphanage, and we financially sponsored Benaning and corresponded regularly. She graduated from high school and chose to take a nursing course, and we continued to sponsor her. Then she became ill and had to go back down to her village to recuperate. Last year she went back up to Manila and is now working.

The child adoption, of course, could never materialize. It was just a few months ago that someone told me that you could adopt an adult. I didn't know that. So we began the process. I don't know that it will make any difference to her future. I have no idea what will happen, whether it would mean anything in practical terms or not, but we are fulfilling a promise that we made 13 years ago. We've always considered her our daughter, and she calls us mom and dad. Our three sons, who are married now, have always thought of her as a sister, and they called her Banana. Practically it won't make any difference, but I think it will make a difference to her. It seems very important to her that she has that connection.

I brought her letters with me. I have over a hundred. I probably haven't kept them all, but in one letter she said that she was being teased because she was telling people that she had a Canadian mom

and dad, and they said she didn't. She said: "I do, don't I?" So I wrote back and said, "Yes, indeed you do."

When we heard that you could in fact adopt an adult, we felt we owed it to her to go through the process so that she is really legally our daughter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Does anyone on the committee have any questions? Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: Thank you very much. You said that she is the oldest of three girls? What's happened to the other two?

MRS. JACKSON: They're both working now. Benaning is now 23, and her sisters would be 21 and 19. They are on their own and working and self-supporting.

MR. HERARD: Do you know if they're in proximity to each other? Do they behave like sisters?

MRS. JACKSON: Yes, they do. They're still very close, yes.

MR. HERARD: What's your feeling with respect to what would happen if Benaning was to come to Canada?

MRS. JACKSON: Well, we're arranging for her to come on a visitor's visa in March. We had hoped she could come on a student's visa, but she didn't pass the TOEFL exam, so she can't. She'll come on a visitor's visa, and we hope she can get a six-month visa. I don't know how that works, really, but she's going through the process now. She'll be with us for that period of time, and then of course she'll have to go back. We will have a better idea of what both of us want. She may feel that she wants to go back to the Philippines and she's not interested in staying in Canada. If she is, then of course we would have to look into the future. I don't know how you get a . . .

MR. HERARD: I guess the gist of my question was: do the other two depend on her for anything?

8:46

MRS. JACKSON: No. All three are living separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. Yankowsky.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Yes. I think the questions that Mr. Herard asked answered some of my questions. I'm just wondering, and I don't know the Canadian citizenship laws, but can a person from outside the country indeed be adopted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think Parliamentary Counsel would have to answer that question.

MR. REYNOLDS: We'd perhaps ask the Jacksons if they've done any investigation in this regard.

MRS. JACKSON: My understanding of the adult adoption was that it was an Alberta legislative decision, and I really don't know how far beyond that it goes.

MR. JACKSON: We really don't know whether or not under Canadian law a person outside of Canada can be adopted. Personally, we don't know.

MRS. JACKSON: When we adopted her as a child, it was the Canadian law, so we had no problem with that, but it was just that the Philippine government said -- if we could take all three, we could have adopted all three, but we just couldn't do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we did have some brief discussion on that subject yesterday. Although we cannot find any precedents in law, the feeling was that the adoption would be recognized in Alberta, but the statutes of Alberta probably would not apply in the Philippines. So while the adoption would apply in the laws of Alberta, beyond Alberta we really don't know how they would be applied. That would be up to the local jurisdiction, should it come up.

Mrs. Laing, you had a question.

MRS. LAING: Yes, thank you. With regards to the time you tried to adopt her when she was a child, could not her uncle have given permission? Did it have to go through the government at that time? You say the government refused it.

MR. JACKSON: The Philippine government was very strict at that time with regard to children being adopted, and they saw the opportunity for the other two as well to be looked after.

MRS. LAING: Okay. Would this adoption make her one of your legal heirs as well, then, as you see it?

MR. JACKSON: Yes.

MRS. LAING: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?
Ms Leibovici.

MS LEIBOVICI: Just in terms of future plans. You indicated that she was going to be coming here on a student visa, stay for six months, and then try and decide whether or not she will immigrate, I guess, to Canada. Is that what the ultimate goal is?

MRS. JACKSON: It will be a visitor's visa, not a student.

MS LEIBOVICI: A visitor's visa; okay.

MRS. JACKSON: We just felt that we'd go from there, once she'd spent some time with us, whether she was comfortable with us and what she wanted for the future.

MS LEIBOVICI: Does she realize that our legal opinion has been that she won't be getting any preferential treatment because of the adoption?

MRS. JACKSON: Yeah, we told her that.

MS LEIBOVICI: She also indicates in the letters that she's looking at coming to the U.S. as well. Is that part of the trip?

MRS. JACKSON: Well, we're going to take her to Ontario. That's where our home is and our parents are, and we just thought that if she can get a U.S. visa, we would go one way and come back the other.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the prerogative of the chair to ask some questions, and I have a couple. A couple of my concerns have already been addressed. I was wanting to ask you about this trip and her intention of whether or not she wishes to apply for citizenship.

The other thing is just out of curiosity more than anything else. I read through the letters that you had sent us copies of. I'm no handwriting expert, but those letters all appear to be written by someone else. The handwriting is very different on every one of them.

MRS. JACKSON: Right. As a child, her house mother would have translated her letters for her because she didn't write English, and I just picked those at random. I have many, many letters here that are in her own handwriting. I don't know when she would have started, perhaps at about age -- you see, she didn't start to go to school until she was 10. She had no birth certificate when I was with her. We got her a birth certificate. We tried to decide how old she was. She went up to the city, didn't speak the language, was living a very primitive life, so she started grade 1 I suppose when she was about 10. Until she was about 15, the house mother was writing the letters for her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Even the last two letters appear quite different. There was one, the very first one -- these are all sort of part letters that we got.

MRS. JACKSON: Yes. I just made quick copies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. This one here: "I received your letter yesterday asking me if I would like to be legally adult adopted." That one would seem to be fairly recent.

MRS. JACKSON: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then the last one that we got was dated August 31, 1993. Even those two don't look very similar.

MRS. JACKSON: You're welcome to look at all the letters I have here. Perhaps it might give some continuity to her handwriting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That was the only thing. I guess my main concern was what her intentions are regarding immigration.

MR. JACKSON: At this point in time it's to see what she wants and, in terms of her coming on a visitor's visa, to see whether or not she wants to return to the Philippines, to get to know her in a better way during that six-month period. I would think the choice is hers in terms of what she would like to do in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms Leibovici.

MS LEIBOVICI: I just have one more question in terms of your methods of correspondence. Do you speak to her on the telephone, or have you been back to the Philippines in the last 10 years?

MRS. JACKSON: No. We have tried a couple of times to get her on the phone, and it has never worked out. We saw her on a video two years ago, which was really special because that is the first time we had seen her since we left. So it has been by letter, most of it.

MR. JACKSON: And pictures.

MS LEIBOVICI: And pictures.

MRS. JACKSON: Yeah, photographs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Soetaert.

MRS. SOETAERT: Do you live in Alberta right now?

MRS. JACKSON: Yes.

MRS. SOETAERT: Okay. You said you were going back home to Ontario.

MRS. JACKSON: Oh, no. Sorry.

MRS. SOETAERT: You live here now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions? Did you have something?

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, just to pick up on a point that Ms Leibovici and the chairman raised. Is it your understanding, because I think it's our understanding, that if, hypothetically, the adult adoption were approved by this committee and by the Legislature, this would not have an impact upon her immigration status because she is not a child? Is that also your understanding?

MR. JACKSON: It's our understanding that the process with the immigration to Canada would be a separate issue altogether. It has nothing to do with this side of things.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, because with respect to the Immigration Act, if someone is adopted as a child, it's my understanding that then that would relate to the ability to get in in a family group, class, or whatever. But it's our understanding that an adult adoptee would have no special rights.

MR. JACKSON: Yes, that's our understanding as well.

8:56

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any further discussion? Fine.

If not, then the committee will take your petition under consideration. We'll be making a recommendation to the Legislature, and we'll advise you of our decision. Thank you very much.

MRS. JACKSON: Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thanks very much for allowing us to be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; we'll call the meeting back to order again. I'm going to have Mrs. Marston bring our next witnesses in.

[Mr. Fedechko, Mrs. Crabbe, and Mr. Crabbe were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. You've all been sworn in by Parliamentary Counsel. Just before we get started, a little bit of background information. I'd like to tell you a little bit about the process we're going through and also introduce the committee to you.

You have petitioned the Legislature to pass an Act, an adoption Act. In so doing, the Act has had first reading in the Legislature. It's then been referred to this committee, and this committee has an opportunity to speak with you. You have the opportunity to explain your position to our committee. The committee members will ask you a few questions regarding your intention, and then this committee will make a recommendation to the Legislature whether or not the Act should proceed. So that's basically the process.

The committee itself is an all-party committee. We have members of both the government and the opposition on this committee. At this time, I think just to give you a bit of an understanding of where

we're all from, I'll ask the committee to introduce themselves, and then we can get started.

We'll start with Mr. Jacques.

MR. JACQUES: Good morning. Wayne Jacques, and I'm from Grande Prairie.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Morning. Duco Van Binsbergen, Hinton.

DR. L. TAYLOR: Morning. Lorne Taylor, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

MR. HERARD: Morning. Denis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MR. AMERY: Morning. Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

MRS. LAING: Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MRS. SOETAERT: Hi. I'm Colleen Soetaert, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MR. SEKULIC: Good morning. Peter Sekulic, Edmonton-Manning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My name's Rob Renner, and I'm from Medicine Hat.

I'd also like to introduce the other two people at the table here. You've probably met both of them before. Florence Marston is assistant to our committee, and Parliamentary Counsel is Rob Reynolds.

So I think we'll get started. We all have a copy of this. It's Bill Pr. 7, in case anyone hasn't found it.

If you would just give us a brief background on the reasons why you're asking that this adoption proceed, and then the committee can maybe ask you a few questions. Whoever speaks first -- it doesn't matter -- if you wouldn't mind introducing the other two people as well. You don't have to stand up; you can sit down.

9:06

MRS. CRABBE: I'm Shirley Crabbe, Gerald's mother. I've lived with Dmytro Fedechko for 28 years, since Gerald was a baby. I'm separated from his father, never received any support from him, and Gerald and Dan thought it would be rather nice to make him a legal son. He's the only father he's ever known.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Great. Thank you.

Anyone else have any other opening comments they'd like to make?

MR. FEDECHKO: My name is Dmytro Fedechko, Dan for short. I've known Gerry since he was six months old. I brought him up till now. Now he wants to carry my name, and I'm proud of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Well, we're on a roll. Gerald, would you like to comment?

MR. CRABBE: Well, I can't add much more to it other than he has been my dad for 28 years. I consider him my father, and I'd just like to make it legal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Does anyone on the committee have any questions? Mrs. Laing.

MRS. LAING: I'd just like to ask: do you have any other children then?

MRS. CRABBE: Yes, I have a daughter who is a year older. She has gone back to British Columbia where her real father is.

MRS. LAING: You didn't have any children together other than Gerald?

MRS. CRABBE: No, we didn't.

MRS. LAING: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Did you make any attempts to adopt Gerald when he was a lot younger than now?

MR. FEDECHKO: No, for the simple reason that I didn't have the money to go to court or whatever it takes, and then his father could have put a stop to whatever it is. I've never met the other man. I don't know him at all. Now Gerald's of age, and he knows what he's doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Van Binsbergen.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Actually, that was my question too. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions from the committee? Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: One more question, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Are Mr. Fedechko and Mrs. Crabbe legally married?

MRS. CRABBE: No, I have never gotten a divorce, because I guess I'm too pigheaded to pay for something that he wants. He wants me to get the divorce so he can do his thing, and I won't. At first I didn't because he had walked out on me and two tiny babies, and I didn't want him to have any part of the children. He hasn't supported them. He's never given 5 cents towards them. I just didn't want any big hassle by him trying to cause problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? Mr. Reynolds.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes. I was just wondering if the natural father of Gerald knows about this proceeding.

MRS. CRABBE: He probably does, because his daughter does. So he probably does.

MR. REYNOLDS: You haven't received any letters or anything from him?

MRS. CRABBE: No.

MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

The other thing was that you mentioned about names. You understand that this Act doesn't operate as a name change.

MR. CRABBE: Yes, we know that. We were just going to carry that on a little later, changing names.

MR. REYNOLDS: There's a whole procedure. It's something called the Change of Name Act. You can call the director over at I think it's vital statistics, who should give you the information on that.

Those are my questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Mr. Van Binsbergen.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Rob, actually, for counsel. Is there anything that Gerald's natural father could do to impede this in any way, shape, or form?

MR. REYNOLDS: You mean impede this Act?

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Yes.

MR. REYNOLDS: Well, that's the purpose of advertising. It's been advertised in a local newspaper, it's been advertised in the *Alberta Gazette*, and it's been introduced in the Alberta Legislature. The point of that, it's my understanding, is to provide notice to those who might have an objection. In all adult adoptions you are affecting the rights conceivably. If one looked at it, you're affecting if not the rights then certainly perhaps the emotions between a child and his or her natural or adoptive parents. So during this procedure, apart from objecting to this, there's really not much the father could do that I can see.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: He could have come here, in other words, to plead his case.

MR. REYNOLDS: Precisely. Yes, or he could have sent a letter. I inquired as to whether they had received any correspondence, and they indicated that they had not received any objections from the father.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Okay. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Any further questions at all? Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: Again it's to do with notice. I know that we advertise in the province, but the whereabouts of the natural father is known. Does that mean that you have to advertise in that community as well?

MR. REYNOLDS: That's not the way the standing order reads.

MR. HERARD: Okay. Thank you.

MRS. CRABBE: Personally, I don't think it mattered to him, because he's never attempted to contact him in almost 29 years. He walked out to look for work, and I guess he's still looking, because he isn't home yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you very much. The committee will take your petition under advisement, and we'll be making our decision as quickly as possible. We'll be making a recommendation to the Legislative Assembly, and you will be advised of our decision as soon as we have made it. We appreciate your taking the time to come, and we thank you all for coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll bring the meeting back to order. I'd like to welcome you, gentlemen. Before we get started, Mr. Reynolds will swear you into the proceedings.

[Mr. Michael Rothery and Mr. Allan Rothery were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Just before we get started, I'll run through the procedure with you so you have a good understanding what we are going through here today. You have petitioned the Legislature to pass an Act on your behalf. That Act has had first reading in the Legislature, and the Legislature has referred the Act to this committee for further examination. In so doing, we ask that you come to present your side of the story: the reasons, the explanations on why you wish this Act to take place. It also gives the committee an opportunity to ask you some questions. The committee will then take the information from today under advisement and make recommendations whether or not the Act should proceed in the Legislature.

This is an all-party committee. For the information of the people in the gallery, this is the Private Bills Committee. We are discussing today a number of private Bills. These are Bills that have been brought to our Legislature by individuals in the province of Alberta. Our committee will be hearing the details of those Bills and making recommendations to the Legislature.

This is an all-party committee. We have people from all across the province representing both opposition and government members. I would like everyone to introduce themselves just so you have an idea who is here today. So with that, we'll start with Mr. Jacques.

MR. JACQUES: Good morning. Wayne Jacques from Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Good morning. Duco Van Binsbergen, West Yellowhead.

MR. KIRKLAND: Good morning. Terry Kirkland, Leduc.

DR. L. TAYLOR: Lorne Taylor, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

MR. HERARD: Good morning. Dennis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MR. AMERY: Good morning. Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

MRS. LAING: I'm Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MRS. SOETAERT: Hi. Colleen Soetaert, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MR. SEKULIC: Hello. Peter Sekulic, Edmonton-Manning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My name is Rob Renner, and I'm from Medicine Hat. You've already met, I expect, the other two people at the table, but our assistant to the committee is Florence Marston and Parliamentary Counsel is Rob Reynolds.

So with that, if you would like to open the meeting this morning. Whoever wants to speak first -- it doesn't matter -- give us a little bit of background information, the reason why you are asking that this adoption take place. If you wouldn't mind introducing yourself and the other person when you speak.

MR. A. ROTHERY: Good morning. My name is Allan Rothery. This is my son Michael. We're both from Calgary. I am Michael's biological father. We are here today to ask the committee to finalize the adoption proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Michael, do you have anything that you would like to . . .

MR. M. ROTHERY: I would just like to say that it's very important to me and to my father, I think, that this adoption go through. We were kept apart for many years of my life and my father's life, and I think that this is just a finalization of something that is important to both of us. It's a bond that we were not able to have due to various circumstances. I hope that the committee will see fit to recommend that this adoption go through.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much.

Just before I turn the questions over to the committee, it is the prerogative of the chair to ask some questions, and I just have one question. I've read the background, the history, and I'm a little bit confused as to why you both have the same last name at this point.

MR. M. ROTHERY: Approximately three years ago I took the initiative to have my name changed from what it was at the time to Rothery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So you have legally changed your name?

MR. M. ROTHERY: I have legally changed my name of my own accord.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Any questions from the committee? Mr. Van Binsbergen.

MR. VAN BINSBERGEN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask Michael, perhaps, if I could: were you then brought up by the person who adopted you? John Clayton I think is the name.

MR. M. ROTHERY: I was born in Calgary. I was raised in Calgary until the time I was two years old. At that time my mother was married to a man named Wayne Inkster. When I was two, we moved out to the Okanagan. At approximately the time of my fifth birthday there was a breakdown in the marriage. My mother and I moved back to Calgary. Wayne Inkster remained in the Okanagan, where he still is. They were divorced. My mother was remarried to John Clayton. At that time I was approximately seven years old. He adopted me, changed my name to that of his, Clayton. After approximately five or six years of their marriage, they had a breakdown in their marriage. John, yes, had raised me from the time I was seven till I was 12. Beyond that point, he saw fit to move to eastern Canada and continued his life down there. I've had very limited contact with him since that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee, the line of questioning we may get into could be somewhat personal. I wonder if we might have some thought for the petitioners and if a motion to go in camera might be in order so we're not broadcasting all over the building.

Mr. Jacques.

MR. JACQUES: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favour?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carried.
We'll now go in camera.

[The committee met in camera from 9:24 a.m. to 9:57 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We've been discussing Bill Pr. 14, the Benaning Osi Adoption Act. Could I please have a motion regarding the committee's recommendation?

DR. L. TAYLOR: Whatever the required motion is, I make it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are moving that the Act proceed?

DR. L. TAYLOR: Proceed. That's right.

MS MARSTON: Moved by Dr. Lorne Taylor
that the Standing Committee on Private Bills has approved and recommends to the Legislative Assembly that Bill Pr. 14, the Benaning Osi Adoption Act, proceed.

DR. L. TAYLOR: That's correct. I make that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Is there any further discussion to that motion? Seeing none, I'll put the question. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

DR. L. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we probably should have another motion to go back in camera to discuss the other two.

MR. JACQUES: I don't know if there's really any need to. Can I test the waters here and move that we accept it and proceed with recommendations to the Legislature?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can do that. We're on Bill Pr. 7, Gerald Edwin Crabbe Adoption Act. Your motion, then, sir.

MS MARSTON: Did you want to read it?

MR. JACQUES: I would move
that the Standing Committee on Private Bills approve and recommend to the Legislative Assembly that Bill Pr. 7, the Gerald Edwin Crabbe Adoption Act, proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion to that motion? All in favour? Opposed? None opposed. Carried.

We move on, then, to Bill Pr. 8, Michael Caleborn Rothery Adoption Act. A motion, please. Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: I would move that
we recommend that Bill Pr. 8, the Michael Caleborn Rothery Adoption Act, be recommended to the Legislature to proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Any discussion to that motion? Seeing none, then I'll put the question. All in favour? Opposed? None opposed. The motion is carried.

Thank you very much, committee. I'd like to refer you back to our agenda. We have a couple of other items of business that I would like to discuss. First of all, could we have an update from Parliamentary Counsel regarding Bill Pr. 2, The Youth Emergency Services Foundation Amendment Act?

MR. REYNOLDS: I spoke with Mr. Bowker, the solicitor for the Youth Emergency Services Foundation, and apparently there's some difficulty in locating the motion that the committee had asked him to obtain. He will be getting back to me when he locates the appropriate motion. Apparently some people were out of town. As soon as I hear anything more from Mr. Bowker, I'll certainly inform the chairman and the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

I would also like to advise the committee that in my discussions with Parliamentary Counsel yesterday, I asked that he proceed with the paperwork to get some of the Acts that we have already dealt with proceeding through the Legislature. So once those are under way, then I will work with the respective people involved, with the government and the opposition House leaders, to have those Bills put onto the Order Paper. Any of you who are sponsoring the Bills that we have already dealt with will be introducing those in the Legislature. It's necessary for me to report on our findings to the Legislature, and then those Bills will come up for second and third reading. That'll be happening in the next week or so.

I also wanted to advise this committee -- and it's a little bit difficult in that we have to wait for the Legislature to make a recommendation first, and it's somewhat presumptuous of us to predict what the Legislature is going to do -- with regard to our meeting next week. It is tradition that the Legislature would not sit on the Tuesday following a long weekend. However, that has to be passed through the Legislature, and as I said, it's rather presumptuous of us to make a decision based upon something that hasn't taken place yet. So I would like to advise the committee that if the Legislature does not sit on Tuesday, this committee will meet at 2 in the afternoon. If the Legislature does sit on Tuesday, this committee will meet at our normal time of 8:30. You'll be advised accordingly later on this week.

I have no further business to deal with.

Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: On the private Bills that we would consider next Tuesday, have all of the petitioners been advised of this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. HERARD: There's no problem in their schedules?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. HERARD: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rationale is that if we meet at 8:30, that means everyone has to travel to Edmonton on Monday night. They may have family commitments, and we try to accommodate as much as possible.

MRS. SOETAERT: So 2 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Any other questions, comments?

MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. Herard, when I spoke to the petitioners who would be coming up from Calgary, they were quite happy that it would be scheduled for 2 o'clock.

MR. HERARD: Maybe I can get a ride with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there's nothing else, then I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

MRS. SOETAERT: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favour?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carried.

[The committee adjourned at 10:04 a.m.]

