

8:31 a.m.

[Ms Graham in the chair]

THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. I'll now call this regular meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills to order.

I would seek a motion approving the form of the agenda this morning. Mr. Strang, you so move? All in favour, please say aye.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All against, please say no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried, and the agenda is approved.

Moving on to the committee meeting minutes of March 31, 1998. You've all had those circulated to you. Is anyone prepared to move the adoption of those minutes?

MR. THURBER: So moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thurber so moves. All in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All against, please say no. The committee meeting minutes of March 31, 1998, are adopted as circulated.

All right. Moving on to our main business of the day, we are going to deliberate today on Bill Pr. 3, Alberta Wheat Pool Amendment Act, 1998. In order to facilitate discussion on this matter, is anyone prepared to make a motion relative to this bill? You will have had circulated to you the proposed form of motion.

Mr. McFarland.

MR. McFARLAND: Yes, ma'am.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your motion?

MR. McFARLAND: I'm prepared to move the required motion to proceed with Bill Pr. 3, Alberta Wheat Pool Amendment Act, 1998, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would that be with the proposed amendment?

MR. McFARLAND: That would be with the proposed section 2.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to read that into the record?

MR. McFARLAND: Certainly. To proceed with the following amendment A,

that section 2 is amended in the proposed section 40.1(8) by striking out "The Lieutenant Governor in Council" and substituting "If authorized by resolution passed by at least 3/5 of the delegates, the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. McFarland.

Before entering into any discussion on this matter, I'm going to ask Parliamentary Counsel, Ms Dean, to give us an update, a supplementary report.

MS DEAN: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I just wanted to point out for the committee members that the proposed amendment that the petitioner presented at last week's hearing was circulated to the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development by letter dated April 1, which committee members should have received, does indicate that the department supports the proposed amendment. As of this morning, I have not received any written response from the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Just to follow up on Mr. Mack's discussion with respect to the form of the amendment circulated this morning to committee members, I have a copy of sections 103 and 104 of the Certified Management Accountants Act, and there is an example in that act which is similar to the proposed amendment that the Wheat Pool has brought forward. I'd just like to draw your attention to section 103(2), which does indicate that a regulation under section 103 does not come into force unless it is approved by a majority of certified management accountants. The other thing I'd like to point out is that that provision is also found in two other pieces of legislation, the Certified General Accountants Act and the Chartered Accountants Act.

That completes my comments. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Ms Dean.

Is there any discussion on the motion now before us?

Yes, Mr. Tannas.

MR. TANNAS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I wonder if counsel could explain why we're using a fraction instead of a percentage, three-fifths of the delegates as opposed to 60 percent?

MS DEAN: A fraction is used throughout the act. Three-fifths is what the reference is throughout the Alberta Wheat Pool Act.

MR. TANNAS: Throughout the act, right. Because we all went to school when fractions were part of the curriculum forever, it seemed, and now they're virtually gone except as ratios. So it's interesting.

THE CHAIRMAN: This was an old act. I think it was first passed in 1929, when things were done differently, so that's probably how that came about.

Mr. Thurber.

MR. THURBER: Thanks, Madam Chairman. I just hope that at some point in time we can move forward with this type of act and have them under some other act, whether it be federal or whatever, so that they don't have to keep coming back here every year or two for amendments to basically keep up with the times that are happening in other provinces or on the federal level. I don't know what we can do as a committee to expedite that. I've been here nine years now and a little better, and it's been back here a couple of times. We continue to have to deal with their individual act. I hope at some point in time that we can move forward from that and have them govern their own business and us get out of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, should this particular amendment act be adopted, then I think that very goal would be attained, because of course this bill reads that the Alberta Wheat Pool would no longer be governed by this act if it continues under another statute.

MR. THURBER: I'm hoping at some point in time that we can

just repeal this act, get out of their business, and let them go ahead and do their thing. Just a comment.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's a fair comment, I think.

MR. THURBER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

There being no other discussion, I'll now call for the vote. All in favour of the motion, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, please say no. The motion is carried.

Is there any other business that any member would like to raise at this time?

I can advise you that I'm not aware of any need for us to have a further meeting of the committee this session, so the scheduled meeting for April 21 will not be proceeding.

MR. McFARLAND: Would it be appropriate, if you're not going to have the meeting on April 21, to move that we meet a week from now, on the 14th?

THE CHAIRMAN: I doubt that you'll find much support for that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Burgener.

MRS. BURGNER: Yes, Madam Chairman. Is there any consideration for the comments that were raised by colleagues with respect to how we deal with adoptions? Are we looking at a committee to make a recommendation to the Leg. Assembly about that issue?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, you may recall that at the conclusion of last session that matter, the termination of adoption by an adult,

was raised. In fact, as chairman on behalf of the committee I did write to the Minister of Family and Social Services, who did respond to our request that that matter be looked into, and the position was at that time that it was not something the department was prepared to address.

MRS. BURGNER: So it's on record that we have asked for its consideration?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is on record coming from this committee.

MRS. BURGNER: As long as it doesn't get lost.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks for raising that.
Yes, Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: Well, Madam Chairman, if this is going to be our last meeting this session, I certainly want to single out the great work we've had from our administrative assistant and from our Parliamentary Counsels and from you as well, Madam Chairman. I think we've had a very productive session.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you, Mr. Herard. I certainly second your motion that our staff has been just excellent, both last session and this session. I thank all of you for your co-operation in these meetings as well.

MR. LANGEVIN: I certainly applaud Mr. Herard's comments, but also I'd like to move that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, say no. This meeting is adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 8:41 a.m.]