

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Wednesday, March 22nd, 1972

(The House met at 2:30 pm.)

PRAYERS

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. Last night while I was attempting to recover from a rather difficult case of the flu, one of the members of the Assembly made a number of remarks, which although not of a major nature, did reflect to some extent on my character and especially my integrity. I can excuse the rookie member for Calgary Buffalo for his inexperience and zealousness, however, I believe that this House has had a tradition of good manners and common decency which I am certain the Premier would wish his side of the House to continue. While in no way wishing to stifle freedom of speech, I would suggest that members, and especially new members on both sides of the House, remember that debating ideas is our key responsibility and not a member's character, his motives, or his illnesses. There will no doubt be times when members will find it necessary to be absent. I would hope that such absences would be primarily of a constituency nature. However, the members' activities and actions here or in the broader perspective of representation, I believe, should be left to the judgment of his constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

With regard to the matter of illness I wonder if the House would bear with any delays there may be in the page service because, as a result of illness, we're down from six to four.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. STROMBERG:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill being The Alberta Environmental Research Trust Amendment Act 1972. Mr. Speaker, this act is being revised to permit an equal division of grants between private and public enterprises and to stagger the terms of office of the Board of Directors.

[The bill was read a first time.]

MR. YURKO:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Edmonton Parkallen that Bill No. 13, The Alberta Environmental Research Trust Amendment Act be placed on the order paper under government bills and orders.

[The motion was carried without debate or dissent.]

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MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Provincial General Hospitals Amendment Act, 1972. This is an amendment which is important, although small. At the present time Section 3, Sub-section 1 of the Act reads that the Lieutenant Governor and council may, by order in council, establish a Provincial General Hospital in Calgary, and a Provincial General Hospital in Edmonton. The Act itself was assented to in 1959, originally with the objective of providing general hospital facilities for active and chronic treatment in any area of the province where the general area could be served from such a facility.

The Foothills Hospital in Calgary became a provincial hospital and was designed to provide services in several areas of expertise for the citizens of southern Alberta.

The second Provincial General Hospital was established at the Glenrose Hospital in Edmonton, and hon. members will see, having said that and having read the sub-section as it was from the previous legislation, that that makes two provincial general hospitals in the province and the legislation allowed for only the two. The experience at the Glenrose Hospital in Edmonton, in regard to service to multiple handicapped children, has been such that the government now feels that it would be useful and indeed important to provide a similar service for children in southern Alberta.

As the Alberta Children's Hospital has become available to the province for this type of service, the amendment would allow more than one hospital in either community and would open the way for acquisition of that hospital and the development of a program for multiple handicapped children in the southern part of the province.

[Leave being granted, the bill was read a first time.]

MR. LEE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Teaching Profession Amendment Act. This bill involves three amendments relating to the internal administration of the Alberta Teachers' Association which were requested by that association. This is in the areas of the granting of associate and life memberships, in the granting of voting rights to active and associate members, and also allows for concurrent notice of appeal to the Association as it is given to the Department of Education from the decision of the Association's Discipline Committee.

[Leave being granted, the bill was read a first time.]

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, that Bill No. 16, The Teaching Profession Amendment Act, be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

(The motion was carried without debate or dissent.)

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being an act to amend The Election Act. The two principal aspects of this bill, Mr. Speaker, are: (1) the limitation on the amount of expenditures that any candidate or political party can make, and (2) the disclosure of all sources of revenue, whether from individuals, from businesses, from trade unions, or allied organizations.

[Leave being granted, the bill was read a first time.]

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INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure for me today to introduce to you and through you to all Members of the Assembly, a very well-known and distinguished Canadian parliamentarian, who is in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. I refer to the hon. Marcel Lambert, member of parliament for Edmonton West. I would ask that he rise and be recognized by the House at this time.

MR. ANDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you, a prominent and successful business man from Lethbridge, seated in the Speaker's gallery. I would ask Mr. Sven Ericksen to please stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Assembly, the Mayor and members of the Town Council of Sundre. The Mayor His Worship Neil Vanderswan and the members of the Town Council are seated in your gallery, Sir. And I would ask that they rise at this time and be greeted by this Assembly.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I'm also pleased to be able to enthusiastically introduce 100 students from Grade IX at Laurier Heights School in my riding. They are with their teacher, Mr. Gibson, and a number of parents. I think the House would like to show that it is delighted that they are here, and recognize them. I would ask that they rise; they are in the member's gallery, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the Members of this Assembly, the students from Grade IV and V from the Argyll School. They are accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Cuthiell, and Mrs. Sonnenberg, and are sitting in the public gallery. I would like them now to rise and be recognized.

MR. TRYNCHY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce to you and through you, to the whole Assembly, 37 Grade IX students from the Sangudo School in my constituency. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Ken Vandenberg, and their driver, Mr. Keller. They are seated in the public gallery. I ask that they rise and be recognized.

FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

MR. YURKO:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the annual report of the Saskatchewan-Nelson Basin Board for the year 1971.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Catering in Government Buildings

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MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. The policy was established by the last government to give preference to catering for food and restaurant services in government buildings to the CNIB under the CaterPlan. I would like to ask the hon. minister if you could advise us whether this policy will be continued.

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, this is generally our policy. In certain conditions in government buildings, mainly because of the request of the clients involved, there have been requests for other caterers to serve them. And in these cases, the matter has been put out for tendering. But it is indeed our general policy to have the CNIB, through CaterPlan, do the catering.

MR. LUDWIG:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the hon. minister tell us whether he will give the CNIB CaterPlan an opportunity to provide catering services in the new Court House, Edmonton?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, this is a decision that as yet has not been made. It will certainly be made, and the hon. member will be informed when it is.

MR. LUDWIG:

Further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. minister advise us whether he has received any correspondence concerning the catering in the new Court House, and if so, would he table the correspondence.

DR. BACKUS:

Yes, and I'd be happy to.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Foreign Enrolments in Alberta Universities

MR. NOTLEY:

I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Education. Will the minister tell the House whether he feels that a university department should be able to unilaterally limit its enrolment of foreign students? For the minister's information, I am referring to the resolution passed by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta which would limit foreign students on student visas to 20% of total undergraduate enrolment.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. Member from Spirit River-Fairview has raised a very timely, interesting, and difficult question, currently before not only the University of Alberta, but I think other universities in western Canada, and probably a matter which will come before the assemblies of other legislatures.

I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that I am in a position to express my personal opinion about what a department of the university should do; this is something which is surely within their own jurisdiction. However, Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to avoid the issue or the problem. It is something which I have discussed with ministers from

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Saskatchewan and Manitoba as the matter of the complexion of students in western Canada is concerned. It is something that the minister from the Province of Manitoba will be discussing with the federal government.

In this sense Mr. Speaker, I think the House appreciates that the students who are registered as foreign students in our universities come here on student visas and are admitted to our universities because they have landed immigrant status. Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to go further than to say that the matter of foreign student involvement and the numbers of foreign students, and the courses and programs in which they are registered and the percentage of numbers that should register, is a very detailed and complex question. If the hon. member would like to put a detailed question on the Order Paper I would be quite happy to answer it in some detail but it is not something I think I can debate or discuss in just a few minutes in the House at this time.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question. I will be putting this on the Order Paper in a more detailed form, but what I would like to get at, if I can, is whether this government has any plan to limit foreign students at the university. You suggested that you don't want to interfere with the university. What is the government going to do about it?

MR. FOSTER:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I was clear when I said that this matter should go on the Order Paper and I think it will stay at that except for one further comment. That is, that I have no plans to recommend, Mr. Speaker, to this government that we should limit the enrolment of foreign students at our universities. I am operating at the present time on rather skimpy information. I would like to get a good deal more information than I presently have and look forward to doing so. I will be quite happy to share my thoughts at that time, Mr. Speaker, with the entire House if they are interested.

Howse Pass Route

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs? Has the government made any representations to the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia in connection with the construction of a highway or a road through Howse Pass to connect with the highway through Rocky Mountain House?

MR. GETTY:

Mr. Speaker, no, not through my department. I don't know whether in informal discussions anything has gone on with the hon. Minister of Highways. Perhaps if he has something to add he could do it at this time.

MR. COPITHORNE:

There is nothing at this time to be recorded from my department.

Equalization Payments

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Premier. What is the position of the Alberta Government with respect to new federal

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legislation which will distribute an additional half billion dollars through equalization payments to the have-not provinces?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, the whole subject of equalization payments is something that I would prefer to deal with during the course of debate. The general position that we have taken is attached to the budget address as Appendix B, and I think that sets out our view fairly clearly in regard to equalization payments.

One of the major concerns that we do have, and I believe this is similar to the view held by the previous administration, is the fact that, included within the present calculation of the form of equalization payments, is the amount of natural resource revenue which establishes the formula in a way that we feel is to the prejudice of the Province of Alberta and its government. But I think that 'B' sets forth that position generally, and I intend to deal with the matter during the course of debate.

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question: I don't know if the hon. Premier would like to answer it now or not. Has the government considered challenging this legislation in the courts?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, at the moment the answer to that is no. We are aware of the statement of the government of British Columbia with regard to that. I have asked my colleagues the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Attorney General, to keep a close touch on the follow-up action that occurs, and to be in contact with the government of British Columbia on that matter. But as far as this government is concerned at the present time, the answer to the question is no.

Timber Harvesting

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Has there been any policy change regarding timber harvesting in the yellow zones of the province?

DR. WARRACK:

I think I would rather react more in terms of general timber harvesting policy, Mr. Speaker, because I am not sure whether I can define it exactly -- green zone versus yellow zone. But there have indeed been some changes in the policy over the winter as a part of the priority employment program carried forward by this government in an effort to augment the employment opportunities available in rural areas of Alberta. This involves setting aside the survey of the timber resource, and perusing on an urgency basis some dispositions of timber that could be made to people who want to take advantage of the high lumber prices now, and to do this at a time when employment is badly needed. We did also, Mr. Speaker, cut back a considerable percentage of the amount of royalty fees from timber harvesting of small round wood, in order to separate them from lumber where the round wood would not be usable for the normal saw log lumber purposes.

MR. RUSTE:

One supplementary question. Has there been any increase in sales of timber berths since September 10th?

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DR. WARRACK:

This is a detailed question, Mr. Speaker, and it may well be that I would need to handle it in response to it being placed on the Order Paper. My indications are that probably this has increased in response to the very attractive prices that we have been experiencing over the fall and winter months. And if there is the price elasticity that the people in the industries suggest, then in all probability the answer is yes.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: did I understand the hon. minister to indicate that they are prematurely depleting the forestry reserves for political expediency?

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. minister doesn't want to answer that then, would he tell me -- has he abandoned the policy of retaining community forests or isolated timber pockets for long term local needs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly restate the question, I don't believe it was heard.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would wonder if the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests would advise if he has abandoned the policy of retaining community forests or isolated timber pockets for long term local needs?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

Government Land in Edmonton

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, another question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. There is a portion of land just north of the Legislative Building, north of 97th Avenue and just east of 109th Street. Would the minister indicate whether there are plans for construction in that particular area?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, at the present moment there are no specific plans for construction in this area. I believe this area is referred to as the government area. However I will be hopefully bringing forward a position paper later on which will go into a fuller discussion of this question.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would the hon. minister consider recommending that that area be landscaped and kept as a park for the people of this city?

DR. BACKUS:

I would be prepared to consider anything, Mr. Speaker.

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Manpower Training Programs

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower. I would like to ask him if his department, or perhaps his colleague the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, has made any representation to the Department of Manpower in Ottawa with regard to assessments of manpower training programs in Alberta. The approach to the federal government in Ottawa would be for research funds to assess the success or lack of success of such programs.

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I have the implications of that last sentence, but assuming I do, our reply would be that there have been considerable discussions with Ottawa, both from my department and that of the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Also, at the meeting in Jasper of the finance ministers of Canada, this was a serious consideration.

The federal programs will be reviewed and research papers will be documented, and these will be open to examination by the House. We will have research work done on our programs here in Alberta. We have not asked them, and this is the one that I'm not sure about, for money in the area of research in Alberta manpower programs. However, the arrangement that we are hoping to get is a redefinition, a restatement, a new description of the manpower function in Alberta, as a new kind of service.

I will deal in some length and detail with this when I present the Bill on Manpower and Labour later on in the session. I'm sure my colleague the Minister for Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs may add to this in a substantial way.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, then might I ask a supplementary question. Have there been any government agencies or any government departments that put proposals before you, Sir, or your department, concerning joint funding between the federal government agencies in Alberta, outside the government, and other government agencies besides your department?

DR. HOHOL:

Again I'm having difficulty with the hon. gentleman's wording, and I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if he is referring to agencies completely outside the government or at arm's length. If it's completely outside the government and including arm's length types of agencies, the answer would be, no, there have not been any proposals to my department of the nature which he describes.

MR. CLARK:

One last supplementary, Mr. Speaker, so that I or no one else should misunderstand the hon. minister's response. I would interpret your answer to say that no government agency at arm's length has made a proposal to your department where there would be a joint approach towards manpower reassessment in Alberta.

DR. HOHOL:

Yes. I think we are getting closer together now, Mr. Speaker. In the redefined question, my redefined answer would be, yes, there was a proposal from one agency at arm's length. There were none from

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the private sector or from any agency beyond the arm's length relationship with government.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, might I ask what agency that was at arm's length?

DR. HOHOL:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, he may ask.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, now that I may ask, does the hon. minister have the information and would he pass it on?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, he asks honest questions, I have to give honest answers. Yes, I do have the information and I would be quite happy to pass it on.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I think we're getting to the ninth inning, and at the risk of going into extra innings, might I ask what is that arm's length government agency? Is it the Human Resources Research Council?

DR. HOHOL:

Yes it is, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CLARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Source of Government Borrowings

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the hon. the Provincial Treasurer. What portion of the borrowing, this year, do you expect to be able to get on the Canadian market?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question the hon. member has addressed. We assessed the Canadian bond market in discussion with people across Canada, in particular the fiscal agents of the province, back in November of last year. At that time it appeared as though there would be no problem in obtaining our full requirements in the domestic market.

Now I think you can appreciate that the bond market fluctuates from week to week and day to day. But I would say that the amount that will be required to be borrowed may be a fair amount less than what we had indicated in the budget. Basically, the substantial portion in any event will be able to be raised in the domestic market -- 75%, 80%, 90% of it.

MR. TAYLOR:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. Provincial Treasurer able to tell us if there will be a premium in interest rates on the Canadian market as compared to borrowing from the American or European markets?

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MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, again in reply to the hon. member for Drumheller, the interest rates last fall and at the present time are very similar. The domestic market has been in the last five to six months very similar to the rate you would borrow on the US market and also on the Euro-dollar market.

Now these can move within a quarter of a percent one way or the other, but to all intents and purposes, it is very small, and as I say, we're very optimistic we will be able to obtain all we need on the Canadian domestic market.

MR. TAYLOR:

One more supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the government set a maximum interest rate above which it will not borrow, or has that yet been considered?

MR. MINIELY:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that all hon. members are aware of the fact that the cash position of the province at September 30th, which I indicated in my budget speech, was \$20.5 million. Certainly, our responsibility is to borrow at the lowest possible interest rate that we can obtain. Our analysis of the bond market is that we should be able to obtain that at any time during the coming year, on the information and assessment we have made, at a rate of 7 3/4 to 8% in this area. We are not setting any maximum amount, but these are the indications that we have.

Quality of Education in Alberta

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Education. A number of educational authorities outside this Legislature are stating that a decline in education quality is imminent in Alberta in 1972.

My question to the hon. minister is -- does the hon. minister share this concern, and if he does, what action is planned by his department to offset this decline?

MR. HYNDMAN:

No, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the government or I would share that kind of statement, stated in that way. Certainly we are looking at all the statements made at the meeting referred to in Banff. We will be looking to 1973, bearing in mind the fact that the state of education in 1972 has been to a substantial degree determined by the laws and policies of 1970 and 1971.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member from Calgary McCall followed by the hon. member for Calgary Bow.

Colonel Belcher Hospital - Calgary

MR. HO LEM:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Health. In view of the concern expressed over the possible closing of the Colonel Belcher Hospital, which is the Veteran's Hospital in Calgary -- and this concern has been more recently expressed by veterans in Calgary, as well as citizens at

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large. What are you doing to ensure that this institution remains open?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with the fairly long history of the policy of the federal government in regard to veterans' hospitals generally in Canada, and the effect that policy has upon the usefulness of these facilities at a time when they set about changing their plans, which they often do, in so many areas without consultation.

I had this subject come to my attention as a result of a news bulletin last week. I could only say then, and can only say to the hon. member now, that I have no details on whatever changes may be proposed in regard to the Colonel Belcher Hospital by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In short summary, the policy that I would follow in cases where there are federal hospitals in Alberta, and where their role in the eyes of the federal government may be changing, and they may become available in some way to the province, would be that each one would have to be decided on its own merits, bearing in mind the state of the facility, and the role that it is capable of playing in our overall needs.

MR. HO LEM:

In view of the overall bed shortage in hospitals in Calgary, would the government be prepared to step in as an emergency measure to stop the gap of this problem, if the hospital is closed?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a hypothetical content to the question because I have received no communication to the effect that the hospital is about to be closed. I think the only view we could take of it in that eventuality, and because of some discussions that I have had with people in the federal departments some time ago, with respect to another federal hospital in Alberta, would lead to the conclusion that they won't act on something like that very abruptly, and we would be approached before that was about to happen.

MR. HO LEM:

Does the hon. minister intend to take this up with the federal authorities, and to inform the citizens of Calgary, and particularly the veterans, what the situation is at the present time?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am certainly very sensitive to the concerns of veterans, wherever they may be. I would be interested in looking into the matter to see if there are concerns that are justified, that we should be giving attention to.

Workmen's Compensation Board

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the hon. Premier. What steps, if any, has the government taken to provide further assistance, other than financial, to citizens in their dealings with the Workmen's Compensation Board?

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MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that that's an appropriate question for this time. I believe the Minister of Manpower and Labour intends to deal with the matter during the course of debate and legislation and estimates. Perhaps he would like to elaborate upon it.

MR. WILSON:

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned other than financial and I might ask a supplementary question. Is the government considering giving citizens the right to appeal Workmen's Compensation Board decisions in the courts?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Chairman, this is an exceedingly excellent question in the light of circumstances having changed a great deal since the first Workmen's Compensation Board Act came into Ontario many, many years ago. I should like to mention to you, sir, and to the Assembly, that this government will assign a legislative committee with access to specialized help, because of the complexity of the act, to study, review and recommend. One of the clauses and concerns of this committee will be the very question that the gentleman asked. At the present time the act is so constituted that no appeal can be possible outside of an appeal to the board itself, so your question is indeed an excellent one. It will be a major challenge to the committee and we'll share that experience with the Assembly.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. minister advise if part of the changes anticipated included a professional counselling service to citizens before they go before the Workmen's Compensation Board?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer that question in a general way. There is some risk in anticipating the recommendations of the committee. At the same time, in addition to recommendations of the committee, the Legislature itself and government indeed, may affect what will ultimately occur in any act including this particular one.

So, I would then say that the question is a good one and would relate to other areas, for example, the Pension Board. And any agency of government that moves into new programs ought to make the information available at the same time that the programs go into effect, so that people can avail themselves of new services and new functions in government. To that extent I would at least reflect a positive attitude to the gentleman's question.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, could I put a supplementary to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour? Is it the intention of the hon. minister to bring the Workmen's Compensation Act before the Legislature at this session before the legislative committee reports?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, that is not so. The committee will be set up during the sitting of the House and will work between now and possibly past the fall part of the session, so that the proposals coming before this House will come in the spring of 1973.

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Right to Lay Charges for Contempt

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Attorney General. I realize that any major overhaul of The Police Act is going to take place next year, but I would like to ask him specifically whether the government has given any consideration to repealing section 28 of The Police Act. That's the section which allows police, with the authorization of the Attorney General, to cite witnesses for contempt if they don't cooperate in a police investigation of misconduct.

MR. LEITCH:

Not during the current sittings, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question on that, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean then that the government accepts the proposition that people other than judges should be given the right to cite for contempt?

MR. LEITCH:

No, it doesn't, Mr. Speaker.

Garbage in Fort Chipewyan

DR. BOUVIER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. This is brought about by a phone call that I have just received and I would like to direct my question, I believe, to the hon. Minister of Highways since his department is responsible for this, although they're doing it for the Department of Municipal Affairs. The question is, why has the garbage in Fort Chipewyan not been picked up for the past three months?

MR. COFITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I haven't an answer to that question other than that those people may be extremely tidy in that area.

DR. BOUVIER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs intend to get after the hon. Minister of Highways to see that his department carries on their duties?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, the vision of me taking on the Minister of Highways boggles the mind.

Foreign Takeovers

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. the Premier. In a recent issue of the Financial Post under the heading 'Foreign Takeovers of Canadian Drug Firms', it lists the following: Diamond Laboratories Canada Ltd. of Calgary, has been taken over by Syntex Inc., U.S. The question is, what is the government's policy concerning such a takeover?

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MR. LOUGHREED:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that that is exactly the sort of specific question which has caused the administration to propose to the Legislature a special legislative committee on the matter of foreign investment. I think that whole area is one that is fraught with considerable difficulty. I sense that the administration in Ottawa had the same concern. For that reason, we had anticipated that perhaps the federal government's proposals along these lines would now be before the public. However, despite that, it's our intention, hopefully within the next two weeks, to conclude a motion relative to a select legislative committee on the matter of foreign investment and restrictions, if any, as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

I do think that it is inappropriate to deal with the specific area that's raised by the hon. member at this time, because I think it has to relate to the total policy situation which we will be anxious to hear, from members throughout the Assembly.

Municipal Financing Corporation

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Several weeks ago I asked whether or not any changes were contemplated in the regulations of the Municipal Financing Corporation to make it possible for municipalities who wish to borrow to acquire ownership of their utilities. At that time, if I recollect, sir, you said the question was going to be under review. I wonder if you'd be a little more specific at this time and advise us as to whether or not this review is, in fact, taking place, who is doing it, and when we may expect a report on it to the Legislature.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the hon. member first to make sure that he speaks up a little louder. I sometimes have difficulty hearing you from here.

Yes, I had indicated that. The Treasury Department is doing it. They are supposed to report back to me as soon as possible. They have to have a meeting with the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation. They also, as I have indicated, have to assess the present indirect debt of the province and report back to me with some guidelines on that. The assessment that is required in order to be financially responsible before we make this decision is, in my view, much more than what it might appear to be on the surface. I really can't give you a time, except to say that we will do it as soon as possible.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would it be reasonable to anticipate the report during this Session?

MR. MINIELY:

Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly we'll attempt to do that, but I would not want to assure you of that. As I indicated, the factors involved, in my view, require a great deal of assessment before we make a decision to increase this aspect of the indirect debt of the province. We'll attempt to do it as soon as possible, but I can't assure you of a date.

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No-Shooting By-Law - County of Parkland

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct another question to the Minister of Lands and Forests. In the report in the Stony Plain Reporter, under the heading, 'Reeve's Report', I quote as follows: "Our proposed no-shooting by-law continues to generate interest." And then it goes on later to say, "The proposed by-law is now being prepared by our solicitors and will again be advertised before the decision to implement it is considered. It appears the proposal will get the support of the Fish and Wildlife Department." My question is, does the minister support the proposed no-shooting by-law in the County of Parkland?

DR. WARRACK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's the newspaper report that exists, and I do have information with me indicating that the County of Parkland has decided to alter the initial by-law proposition to some considerable degree, and have it apply on a blanket basis only east of the fifth meridian, which is roughly the more populated part of the County of Parkland.

Now the entire legal aspect of this, as I answered two weeks ago to the hon. Dr. Buck from Clover Bar, is under review at the current time, to ascertain just what the legal circumstances are that exist as bench marks for this kind of a by-law. I think it is a matter first of ascertaining the results of those things before venturing an opinion on the matter. However, it is clear that the alteration for the County of Parkland has taken place in the by-law that they are now putting forward. And it is much less unfavourable to the sportsman, as reflected by its support stated on behalf of the Stony Plain Fish and Game Association.

Civil Service Pay Scales

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Premier. Outside of the adjustment to the jail guards and the boiler workers, has the government made any other adjustments in the 1971 pay settlement with the civil servants?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I will refer that question to the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, the question is certainly one that should be shared by the House, but it is of a nature and detail that I would prefer to have on the Order Paper. I will give an extensive summary then in reply.

Foreign Ownership of Land

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Hon. minister, if this is going to come under the foreign investment study that will be studied by this committee, that is fine. But I want to know if your department is looking at possibly restricting or preventing the buying of deeded land in Alberta by non-Canadians.

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DR. WARRACK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. In response to a bill put forward last year, I believe it was -- but in any case, within the last four years -- by the hon. Minister of Highways, we have that consideration under active account at this time. For the most part, the longer term land dispositions for land surface use in Alberta are restricted already -- I emphasize leases again -- to Canadian citizenship.

Civil Service Pay Scales (cont.)

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Premier. In the latest civil service magazine, there is a statement, and I would like the hon. Premier to provide information on that statement. It says, "Peter Lougheed wrote that the government is not experiencing any difficulty in recruiting or retraining staff at the existing pay rates, so there is no reason to adjust them." The question, Mr. Speaker, then is: No. 1 - Is that a correct statement? No. 2 - Would the hon. Premier table a copy of his letter in the House for our perusal?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the second part of the question, certainly the letter will be tabled. With regard to the first part, I think the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour should deal with it as he said he would in the broader context of debate, so that he can describe the various ramifications that do arise out of the letter from Mr. Broad that the hon. member refers to.

Oil & Gas Production & Transportation

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals. Oil company and government officials are predicting that all oil restrictions as far as production is concerned will be lifted by 1975. In view of these statements, I am wondering what action is planned by the government to make sure that transportation facilities are available to transport this increased production that will hit the transportation facilities in 1975.

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, I think in answer to the first part of the question I could say certainly that the question of the lifting of the restrictions is under active consideration, and that deals with the discussions on energy we have had with the hon. Minister of Energy for the federal government. During the course of those discussions, the whole question of pipelines has come up and that is also under review, so the two problems I would say, will be given consideration, with a view that when restrictions are lifted the proper facilities will be available.

MR. DIXON:

Supplementary question to the hon. minister, or maybe to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, whoever cares to answer it. Reports out of Ottawa are that the federal government is actively participating with interested companies for pipeline facilities for transportation of oil in the Northwest Territories and beyond. And of course, some of it will, naturally, come to our boundaries. I am wondering, as we heard so much last year, whether we should get active and participate in these hearings. Are we taking an active part, or are we aware that the federal government is doing this?

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MR. DICKIE:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased to advise the House that we just had a meeting yesterday with the hon. Minister of Energy for the federal government. We reviewed our proposed pipeline conference that we are going to call as a government, with a view to having these questions discussed.

We are extremely interested in reports emanating out of the United States and particularly Washington, on these environmental studies. It gives us another reason perhaps that we can advance, as to why these pipelines should come through Canada and make Alberta the energy corridor of North America. We are pursuing that approach. I might say in respect to the particular question of the pipelines, it does appear now that the federal government has shown considerable interest in supporting a pipeline through Canada from Alaska.

MR. DIXON:

My last supplementary question to the hon. Minister. Is the transportation facilities the reason why the second project to be developed in the Athabasca Tar Sands has taken longer to get off the ground than usual? Is this one of the problems? You are going to have a tremendous amount of oil coming out of the Athabasca Tar Sands and really not a large enough pipeline capacity to move the amount that they are asking the government to allow them to manufacture from the sands.

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, I think that is a good question, I was just trying to recall if in any of the discussions it was brought up. I don't believe it has, but I would certainly like to check into it. If it has I will advise the hon. member.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to rise in formal debate in the House since the Legislature convened and since you assumed your post, and I would like first of all, to merely reinforce the remarks and compliments that have been passed your way, and add my own name to that list of members that have complimented you on your appointment.

I would also like to compliment the hon. Provincial Treasurer for delivering what I think is a very good budget. He delivered it very well, and certainly I think all Albertans can take encouragement from the paths that were outlined by our new Provincial Treasurer. I have been impressed by the debate offered on both sides of the House, particularly by the new members who sit here for the first time, Mr. Speaker. I think they are doing an admirable job.

With respect to the budget itself, I've assessed it many times during its formation and since its presentation and I would have to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is a credible budget. The operating portion of the budget is balanced. It proposes a reasonable borrowing program for capital works. It includes enough of the programs and new directions which were enunciated by the government party during the provincial election campaign, and, in fact, prior to it. It shows indeed that this government means what it said previously, and that we intend to follow through in a meaningful way with our programs.

Insofar as the Department of Municipal Affairs is concerned, I suppose most members are aware that that department is generally a

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service department offering services with respect to property and housing and the development of property. In those areas it tends to be a hold-the-line budget as the votes in the departmental budget will show. The only place where there are substantial increases is where there are programs oriented towards people, people who need assistance, Mr. Speaker. I intend to leave the details of these specific votes contained in the Department of Municipal Affairs budget for scrutiny by the Committee of the Whole, and I hope we can go into any questions that may be outstanding at that time. However, I want to say at this time I do think the overall budget reflects the hopes and commitments and enthusiasm of the new government. I've been a little surprised and puzzled at the response from some quarters that said there is nothing in here for the cities.

Mr. Speaker, I would be very concerned if this government came forth with a budget, at any time, that was oriented towards one specific sector of the society - whether it was urban or rural. Our programs are oriented towards people. Certainly the majority of the people are in the cities and I would think that the senior citizens and those people who have members of their families who are afflicted with mental or physical handicaps - any of the real personal problems with which governments should act boldly - would be very disappointed and puzzled to hear people say, "There is nothing in here for the cities."

As I said earlier, the Department of Municipal Affairs is responsible for functions that deal directly with people in the fields of property assessment and taxation, in the planning and development of properties and in the provision of various kinds of housing programs. So I am again emphasising the fact that there is plenty in this budget for the cities, but it is directed to the people of the cities.

I have had considerable help from the discussions I was able to have, and they were most interesting, Mr. Speaker, with a gentleman who held my position previously for some 12 years. I am referring to an Albertan who most of us know, Alf Hooke. Following the election, I did, in fact, meet on a couple of occasions, in very pleasant circumstances, with Mr. Hooke. As you know he wrote a book about his years in office and his experiences. He said quite a bit in that book, but more important is what he did not say. I can only say, at this time, I really enjoyed my very candid and pleasant conversations with a former Minister of Municipal Affairs.

I also was able to get a great deal of helpful assistance, Mr. Speaker, by studying certain interdepartmental memoranda dealing with the business of the Department of Municipal Affairs which I had inherited, and of course this was particularly revealing to me, as it does show how government in the past has dealt with some particularly sensitive problems which I expect will wind up on my desk before too long over the coming years. But I must say, in assessing some of the statements that were made during the Stettler byelection by certain individuals, and comparing them with the written statements in interdepartmental memos, I had a great deal of difficulty in reconciling the various versions with respect to certain political current topics of interests.

Today I would like to deal specifically with three items that regard the Department of Municipal Affairs; first of all, intergovernmental relationships as they are affected by the Department of Municipal Affairs, secondly, some important restructuring that has taken place, and lastly I would like to wind up by giving the members some broad objectives and goals of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Dealing with the first matter - intergovernmental relationships - Mr. Speaker, the province I think sits in the very sensitive position of being in the middle in the three areas of government,

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because we deal on the one hand with the federal government and on the other hand with the municipal government. I think it is quite important for a new government, particularly, to carefully enunciate its relationships and its philosophy with respect to intergovernmental relationships. Some of the members may recall that our Premier, when attending the Conference of First Ministers last November prepared a paper outlining our government's position with respect to the matter of tri-level consultations. I would suggest to all hon. members that if they are interested in this topic, they should avail themselves of a copy of the paper. There are a couple of statements in there that I would like to emphasize at this time for reasons which will follow in a moment or two.

In the middle of the paper it says;

"It must be understood, however, that tri-level consultation can not be more or less than that.

To suggest the creation of tri-level consultation as a vehicle to by-pass provincial responsibility in municipal matters is to suggest the elimination of the provinces as viable instruments within the constitutional framework. This must not, and cannot be allowed to happen."

Further on the Premier said:

"There must not be any attempt by either municipalities or the national government to circumvent the provincial government in these matters. The province alone can make decisions on policy matters affecting the municipalities. We wish an informed and consulted municipality. To that end the tri-level concept can be invaluable. But there is no place in the framework of constitutional federal government for an over-riding of provincial aims and concerns by direct municipal national contacts."

I wanted to read that into the record at this time, Mr. Speaker, because I think it's important to consider that statement with respect to some things that have been happening fairly recently.

I would like to remind the members also at this time to recall if they can, the statement of the hon. Mr. Getty when he addressed this House with respect to the policies of his department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, particularly with respect to the matter of shared programs and shared costs. We have been rather concerned about the aspects and long term implications of what is meant for our provincial government, not only in the matter of dollars but also in the matter of having to give up certain rights and responsibilities when complex series of cost-sharing programs are being instituted.

Sometimes these programs look very tempting and, in fact, invaluable on the surface, but I think it's important that they be given very careful understanding and it may well be that in the immediate months ahead some political decisions will have to be made that may be unpopular at that time. I'm referring, now, to some activities that are being conducted by the Federal Ministry of State who have indicated by certain actions and certain exploratory activities that they perhaps are interested in involving themselves, on a federal basis, with respect to a costsharing program, into certain kinds of municipal activities in the Province of Alberta. We have not as yet received a definition of the goals or objectives of the federal government. We would be very reluctant at this time to entertain such proposals unless a great deal more information is forthcoming.

Insofar as provincial-municipal relationships are concerned, I think we've tried to show ever since September 10th that we want those relationships, and the decisions emanating from those

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relationships, to be bilateral. Hopefully the days of unilateral decisions, made by the provincial government, and which affect our municipal governments, are over. Two forms of government, Mr. Speaker, work for the same boss. We're all put into office by the citizens of Alberta, and we're expected to cooperate and use the resources of our province to our best mutual advantage. I think that's very important when we start looking at various programs, particularly where large sums of money, or important jurisdictional areas are concerned.

I want at this time, to give to the members of the Assembly some statistics which I think are particularly interesting, relating to the problem of employment in the Province of Alberta over the winter months. I think it was extremely interesting this past winter the way the new provincial government and newly elected municipal governments were able to cooperate on a very short notice - quick sort of philosophy basis - and to produce some very substantial results, and I would like to give to you a summary of those results, Mr. Speaker.

First of all we discovered, upon assuming office, that there in Alberta approximately \$41 million of uncommitted Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation funds were available for commitments to various projects under the National Housing Act, if they were taken up by the end of the year.

I am pleased to say that the last report I have, which is dated January 21st and brings us up to the end of the year date. Of the target of \$41 million CMHC allotment that we hope to get used up or committed by our municipalities, as of the date I mentioned, \$41,348,344 has been committed by Central Mortgage and Housing for Alberta projects.

This is very substantial, Mr. Speaker, when it's related into terms of jobs, because it is estimated that that represents 4,000 jobs on a variety of projects for Alberta citizens. And that is a direct result of some hard, fast cooperation between municipal and provincial levels of government.

You may recall also that late last fall Mr. Benson announced a winter works program - if you want to call it that - very late in the fall season. Again the province was able to respond very quickly and work with the municipalities. One part of that program was the employment loans program for municipal projects, Mr. Speaker, and Alberta had an allocation of \$8.5 million under that program. They had the option of using it completely for provincial projects, partially for provincial projects, or working with the municipalities in getting municipal projects going. This government decided to pass on 100% of the \$8.5 million to the municipal levels of the government to assist them with their local projects. The previous government in the previous program had retained the 100% for the provincial government.

Again, the latest statistics that I have are that the federal government has approved 55 projects for a total amount of \$8,583,000, and again the number of jobs that are estimated as a result of those projects are 1,182.

I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that we had a working committee that studied the applications at a provincial level very hard and on a regular basis through the fall and early winter season. Every community in Alberta that submitted some projects had at least one approved, and I think that is very good. So the benefits of those federal dollars were spread throughout the province to everyone who had applied.

Again, I would like to speak of provincial municipal relationships. I talked about the municipal assistance grants

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program. Mr. Speaker, we've talked for some time about how this program was set up, and how over the years, the municipalities had come to depend on it, and in fact, had built an anticipated sum into their budget. We know what happened last year, when without prior consultation or any warning, after the municipalities were well into their fiscal year and had in some instances finalized the preparation of their budgets, the sum was arbitrarily frozen by the government of the day. Naturally this created a great deal of concern, and this year we were determined that that mistake would not happen. Therefore, about the second or third day of January, when we had an idea what funds might be available for the municipal assistance grants program, we immediately contacted representatives of the Alberta Association of Municipalities, and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. We had a very frank meeting with them in this building, and told them that it didn't look as if that fund could be raised very much; that in fact, the indications were that it would probably have to be maintained at last year's level. They were to relay this information to all the members of their association, prior to their association making their annual presentation to Cabinet at the end of January. This was done and the two associations responded in a very, I think, straightforward manner, and pointed out the plight of the municipalities. At the first Cabinet meeting following that presentation late in January and early in the municipal fiscal budget year, we were able to announce a 10% increase in the fund, bringing the fund to the largest amount in dollars it has ever been.

I'm also happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Provincial Municipal Advisory Committee has been reactivated. We've had a good meeting and we've set a schedule for future meetings. This committee, a very useful committee, for some reason had lain dormant since January of last year.

The second topic I wanted to talk about, Mr. Speaker, was some important restructuring that has taken place within areas affecting or relating to the Department of Municipal Affairs. There are four topics I would like to deal with. The first one is the Provincial Municipal Task Force on financing; the second one is the task force on urbanization in the future; the third one is the Alberta Housing Corporation; and the fourth topic for discussion is employment. Insofar as a Provincial Municipal Task force is concerned, I don't know why but at this time I'm reminded of the day the Deputy Premier announced the formation of the Grains Commission in this House, and the horrified reaction on the part of the hon. Leader of the loyal Opposition because of the fact that there was a defeated Conservative candidate on that commission. I wanted to blurt out at that time, "gee, whatever happened to that guy that ran against Don Getty back in 1967?" But anyway, dealing with another non political body, I would like to make a few comments about the Maynard Commission. As you know, the Maynard Commission had just been appointed and in fact had started work for one day and had been charged with the task of carrying out a review of provincial municipal financing and procedures, and was to report back to the government. Members will recall that the commission had offered their resignation which was accepted, and their tasks and their duties were taken over by a task force of government MLA's. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I think it's important that I name that task force and bring forward to the attention of hon. members just what sort of experience we have there. We have the hon. Member for Drayton Valley, Mr. Zander; the hon. Member for Ponoka, Dr. McCrimmon; the hon. Member for Innisfail, Mr. Doan; the hon. Member for Vegreville, Mr. Batiuk; and the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill, Mr. Farran. I just wonder if the members of this House and in fact the citizens of Alberta really appreciate the experience that these Albertans are bringing to that particular task force. There's a total of 72 years municipal council experience constituted on that body - 72 years of local municipal experience in the Province of Alberta. Included in that is another 30 years, by those members as mayors or reeves of respective

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municipalities, another 21 years active Alberta experience on school boards and hospitals. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter how you do the arithmetic or how you make the comparisons, the citizens of Alberta are getting a fantastic bargain on the members of that task force.

Just in passing, it may be of interest that the budget which had been allotted to the Maynard Commission was \$250,000 to carry out that work and the budget for the task force which I have just mentioned is \$50,200. The reports which the task force is bringing in...Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, there was another matter that I think was particularly interesting because it was mentioned in the Taber newspaper last fall, and again earlier in this House, was the fact that there didn't seem to be anybody from southern Alberta on that task force. Southern Alberta represented something like 250,000 people and the twisted reasoning given was that this was some sort of vendetta against southern Alberta because there were not any government members down there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the City of Edmonton has 16 government members sitting here. They represent nearly half a million people, and they have exactly the same representation on that task force as southern Alberta -- zero. And you see the philosophy of the appointment of the task force is not to give regional representation in its narrow sense, but to try and pick the men best suited for the job who will, I'm sure, deal with all parts of Alberta in an equitable manner. In fact, they have already contacted every secretary-treasurer, every municipal office throughout the whole province, and it doesn't matter if it's in the south, or the City of Edmonton, the response has been excellent. We expect the reports from that task force -- a final one, hopefully in November of this year -- so that proposed changes in legislation can be introduced for the '73 session. We have already received an interim report and we have seen some of the tangible results, especially with respect to senior citizens and their financial relief as a result of those reports which were produced, I think, in a very good manner in an extremely short time.

It's been questioned on numerous occasions whether the work of this task force will mean that some old programs will be phased out, or other new programs might be phased in, or if there will be extensions or revisions to existing programs. And I know there has been some concern. Somebody once said: "You mentioned that the homeowner's tax discount plan might be phased out," and this gave a couple of members excuses to try and ask what they thought were important questions. Well, unfortunately, they missed the point, Mr. Speaker, and I think if they will read the budget, they will see the directions that this government is taking with respect to assistance to property taxpayers of the residential variety in this province. It may well be that the names or approaches of some programs will be changed, but you can be sure of one thing, Mr. Speaker, they will be improved.

I have here, Mr. Speaker, a copy of something that means a lot to me. It's a petition I presented to the Legislature about a year ago on behalf of a senior citizen in my constituency. And in that, in his own language, he was speaking on behalf of many senior citizens in the Province of Alberta. I'm looking at the things he asked for in that petition, and I'm pleased to say that we have already instituted, in seven months of office, three of the five things he petitioned the Legislature for, and in 36 years, none of them had been instituted by the previous government.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I've been just a little bit puzzled by the response to the announcement of The Senior Citizens' Shelter Act. We thought it was pretty good. It does give substantial relief to I think, a portion of our population that has been hit the hardest by inflationary trends. Those of us who have knocked on doors in our constituency will know very well what I mean. The only indication I

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can get from the official opposition is that they have now labelled themselves the party of the Means Test, and their response to this meant that assistance for all senior citizens in the province should be accompanied by a means test, and in fact, rent control. And if those are the labels they want to apply to the new Social Credit, well it's fine with me. I think I mentioned earlier that this Senior Citizens' Shelter Act is meant to function as simply as possible, more or less as an extension to the homeowner's tax discount plan.

And Mr. Speaker, there is something that ties in directly to our budget that concerned me last fall when I found out what had been done by the previous government with respect to this vote. My colleague, the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development, spoke about the concerns he had regarding the underestimating in his department, and the size of special warrants that had to be passed for programs in his department. I was concerned last fall, Mr. Speaker, upon assuming my office, to find out that the vote covering the homeowner's tax discount plan was approximately 50% short - some \$8 million.

Mr. Speaker, this program has been in existence for some years now and it's not very difficult to project down to the nearest \$25 what the vote should be. You can appreciate my concern when I saw that the \$16 million vote allocated by the previous government was probably \$8 million short. I had discussions with the department accountant to ask him why this was done. He showed me their original estimates which were very close, but said they had been instructed to put the \$16 million sum in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I realize it is very easy to balance a budget by purposely underestimating, but I don't think it's a very business-like thing to do. I don't know how the previous government, had they assumed office again, thought they were going to make up that \$8 million shortage. We were faced with incorporating, as you know, some \$65 million of similar shortages in our first financial year. We took our lumps and absorbed them, and it's done. But an \$8 million shortage, in a program that is pretty easy to estimate by a department accountant, I think is a pretty shameful thing to have to be made public to the citizens of Alberta.

I think all members have probably noted in their budget documents a transfer of votes covering the homeowner's tax discount and the municipal assistance grants program from the Treasury Department to the Department of Municipal Affairs. It is our feeling that these two programs do in fact tie in with residential property assessment taxation, and that is where they should probably be.

Just a word now on the task force on urbanization and the future. We have had two meetings of that board since the new government took over. We have had a very careful assessment of this task force which had been set up by the previous government, and tried to assess a response. I must say the response throughout the province was very mixed, Mr. Speaker, from enthusiasm towards what the task force was attempting to do, to downright opposition, and in some cases, bewilderment. Our assessment of the objectives and methods of the task force was that the work the task force was doing was very necessary and very desirable. Perhaps the method chosen by the previous government had not been the right one. It was experimental in many aspects, and we decided because of the tighter financial picture and the urgency with which we regarded the objectives of the task force, to give it a new outlook. And this was done with the agreement of the board of directors of the task force.

As of the end of June this year all but two of the employees of the task force, in its experimental state, will have finished their work and their contracts, and the work will be carried on by a permanent coordinator of research who is now the deputy director of the task force on urbanization in the future. He will report to

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Executive Council through my office. Hopefully, he will not have a large staff. In fact, if he has more than one assistant and one secretary, I will be very disappointed. He has indicated that he can work very well with such a staff in his coordination and assessment. Insofar as specific research projects that will be carried out, he will have to have this done by firms that are able to do this, and which now exist only in private sector fields. So the budget vote against that task force on urbanization in the future is a bit misleading because although it does show an increase it, in fact, embodies a decrease of 75% in the basic budget of the task force on urbanization.

Another important area wherein some reorganization and new structure have taken place is on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Housing Corporation. When I attended my first board meeting I found there were five directors, all from the City of Edmonton, three representing government, and meetings had been called by the Chairman on an irregular basis. We immediately put the meetings on a bi-monthly basis, the second and fourth Friday morning, and have appointed additional directors. These include to date the Deputy Provincial Treasurer, because of the very important financial tie-in between the activities of the board and the Provincial Treasury, a gentleman from Lethbridge and a lady from Calgary. So we tried to expand the regional representation on that board.

The last example of important reorganization which I think this government has carried out and where I have had some involvement, deals with what may be labelled the employment scene. You know in your budget that is before you, that there is a special allotment for what is called the PEP and STEP programs that is a student temporary employment program through the summer months, and a program of employment priorities for the winter months. And of course, the objectives of those two committees, Mr. Speaker, is to try and flatten out the peaks and valleys in the cyclical employment picture that our western provinces have been experiencing. Quite frankly, the federal announcement of late last October was extremely disappointing. We are all familiar with the harsh climatic conditions of Alberta, and to announce on a crash basis a winter works program late in October, was rather ludicrous.

However, I think Alberta responded very quickly and very well. Fortunately, we had the skeleton and the committee of Cabinet, and the organizational work of our PEP program under way by the time Mr. Benson had announced the federal program. We were therefore able the day after Mr. Benson had announced his program, to have three Alberta personnel in Ottawa getting details of the program firsthand. On their way back from Ottawa, they were able to pick up the western region manager of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. And at an all Alberta conference which about 50 municipal people and some provincial people including myself attended, we held a work session at Government House and were able to assess the programs. There was no question that we were a jump ahead of the other western Canadian provinces. The statistics, the substantial increase in jobs and 100% use of the allotment of dollars that was available to Alberta, I think, is a tangible evidence in a very strong way of a government that knew how to act and cope with the problem of seasonal employment.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can repeat that conference with the municipal people. It was extremely worthwhile. I would like to see one in the spring whereby we could review the effectiveness of this last program and perhaps forecast the next one. We have in several instances urged the federal government to make the details of next winter's program, if they are going to have one, available to us at least by June. We could have some lead time, particularly when design work is involved in some of these capital projects, to make it really effective. As I said before, the '71 program was mentioned far too late.

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Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to state what I think are some of the important objectives and goals of the government that are embodied in this budget document, that affect the Department of Municipal Affairs. The quality of our physical environment has to be top on the list. We are attempting, and it is a big job, to try and make our municipalities and the surrounding agricultural communities as good in quality as is possible. We know that quality doesn't necessarily relate to size. North American cities, and particularly the larger ones, are pretty striking evidence of that, Mr. Speaker. But if we can make our cities not necessarily the biggest, but the best, I think that is an important objective. We want, along with that, those equitable developments. The hon. Minister of Agriculture and the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce will be talking to you about their programs to try and get some vitality and balance the rate of development in outlying areas a little bit better, so that all Albertans have equal opportunities to take part in programs of housing and industrial development.

I think it's important that we strengthen and define the areas of local autonomy and try and cut through the red tape, try to eliminate to as great an extent as possible what centralized bureaucracy might exist in Edmonton, and in fact treat the municipal levels of government as grown-ups, which I think they are. I think their days of babying are over.

To that extent, Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important that not only are their responsibilities guaranteed and defined, but that we also define and guarantee the financial resources to carry out those responsibilities. I mentioned the work that is under way with respect to that very large challenge.

The Premier has formed two committees of Cabinet, which should be of interest to anyone interested in municipal affairs. The Metropolitan Affairs Committee deals on an ongoing basis with the specific and unique problems of the two metropolitan areas of the province - Calgary and Edmonton. All other areas of the province are dealt with under the Rural Development Committee under the chairmanship of the hon. Mr. Topolnisky.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked about equitable development and opportunity. There is nothing that shows up more or bothers me more than documents that come across my desk every day. They are called 'tax recovery sale documents' and what a story they tell, because they come in from every municipality across the province. You wonder why, when you sign them - some guy has boarded up his business and walked away from it, lets the municipality sell it for taxes - why some farmer has been unable to pay his taxes and has to let his home go; why somebody in a small village or town has to walk away, let their property go for whatever it might get. And on the other side are the defences and reasons put up by the municipal government, who are conducting the sale, as to why these properties should in fact be sold for far below their assessed value, really using every legal means, within their means, to try and maintain some sort of property or interest in these towns. They tell quite a tale, and I hope that over the next four years we can substantially decrease the rate at which those documents come across my desk.

With the cooperation of hon. Dr. Horner, hon. Mr. Copithorne, hon. Mr. Peacock, and hon. Mr. Yurko, I think if we can develop and work with Alberta with respect to the vitalizing of the agricultural community and our towns and villages, in developing an adequate transportation system that connects us adequately, one to the other, of getting industry into these areas, getting adequate housing along with these programs and doing it in an environment that is acceptable to developers and conservationists, that we will have done something worth while. I hope that we are able to leave things better than we found them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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DR. BOUVIER:

Mr. Speaker, since it is also my first chance to participate in the major debate, I would like first of all to congratulate you on being elected Speaker of this Legislature and especially to congratulate you on the manner in which you have exercised your duties to date.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my constituents, for their vote of confidence in returning me to represent them in this Legislature and to reassure them that my motto is 'constituents before party'.

It is my sincere hope of course that the new government will concede that my constituents are indeed people, and they will therefore listen to their voices, whether it be inside or outside this House, whether it will be directly from my constituents, or through their MLA, and give fair and sincere consideration to their needs and desires.

Before I address myself seriously to the budget, Mr. Speaker, I think I'd like to participate in the entertainment of the day, as is usually performed by every member. I'd like to make a few general comments about the session so far, and especially with reference to some of the noises coming from the government backbenchers, otherwise known as the peanut gallery. They are very capable fellows, Mr. Speaker - sorry, very capable fellows and ladies! No doubt they have a monopoly on wisdom, and how do I know? They've been telling us for the past three weeks.

When listening to speech after speech coming across the aisle from the other side of the House, I'm reminded of an incident during the last session. One member at that time, from our side of the House, no longer a member, and there might be a lesson to be learned from that, made a speech similar to all of those we've heard from the other side of the House. A speech where he praised the government and the ministers, pointed out what a nice bunch of fellows they were, etc. The hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, now the hon. member for Edmonton Whitemud, took exception to this, and I'm surprised that he hasn't already straightened out his band of cheerleaders. Yes, that is what he referred to the member as being, a cheerleader, whose sole purpose was to butter up the Cabinet and Premier, in the hope of lining up a cabinet post. Now, I don't know why the members on that side of the House should do that now because, as we've heard, they're all Cabinet ministers already. Certainly we can't blame them as they have been convinced that they are all Cabinet material.

However, to get back to my story of what the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs had to say, he pointed out to the hon. member that cheerleaders are a necessity but that they usually operate from the sidelines, and usually stay there. They never get onto the playing field during a game, and furthermore they should be very careful that they do not stray onto the playing field during a game because they are liable to get stepped on by the players. Mr. Speaker, I thought I'd like to remind the hon. member for Edmonton Whitemud so that he might straighten out his cheerleaders.

I'd like also to take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. the Premier. I think he deserves a lot of credit in being able to bring as many cheerleaders as he did into the House. It is therefore not surprising to see his cheerleaders feel so indebted to him. I am reminded, and I'm sorry to see he is not here, of the words of the hon. Minister of Agriculture in referring to the long coat-tails of the hon. Mr. Manning and the hon. Mr. Diefenbaker. Although the hon. Premier doesn't require a very long coat it would appear that he has a long coat-tail.

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Now, Mr. Speaker, referring directly to the budget, there is one item that I feel the hon. Provincial Treasurer has overlooked. And that, Mr. Speaker, is an appropriation for the purchase of 26 flags and 48 paddles - the flags to be waved from the side lines by the cheerleaders and the paddles to be used by every member from that side of the House to pat themselves on the back. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that we may see a lot of elbow and shoulder ailments by the hon. members on that side of the House if they persist on patting themselves on the back without the aid of a paddle.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the hon. Provincial Treasurer on his speech on the budget and say, just generally, that it's not all good and then again it's not all bad.

To deal with a few of the items that are not all good, Mr. Speaker. I am first of all sorry to see that the budget for the Department of Highways has not been increased. We had been led to believe that the grid road program was all going to be built in one year as soon as this government took office. However, it would appear that it's going to have to wait for a few more years. We have been led to believe that there are no highways in Alberta, and that a lot of them would be built. But by the looks of the budget I guess it's going to have to wait until another year.

Furthermore, I guess it's not surprising to see that the hon. minister does not have enough in his budget to pick up the garbage in Fort Chipewyan. It's too bad the hon. Minister of Environment isn't here, because I would like to suggest to him that perhaps he'd better look into the environment around there now, because in the next few weeks, when the flies start coming out, the environment may not be all that good.

I am not also over-enthused, Mr. Speaker, about the budget with the allocations with regards to native training and native development. Although I've been led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that this government was very interested in the native population, especially those in my area, they would seem to have lost much of their interest since August 31st, if the budget is any indication.

Prior to August 31st, of 1971, Mr. Speaker, a lot of planning had gone into a program of native training and development for my area, that is, the whole of northeast Alberta, the largest constituency in the Province of Alberta. As many hon. members are no doubt aware, Alberta Newstart Incorporated was established in September of 1971, as an experimental private company through the cooperation of the Canadian Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and the Alberta Minister of Education. The company was funded 100% by the federal government through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. Now the purpose of this company was to conduct experimental programs designed to prepare unemployed and underemployed adults for stable and rewarding employment. Their basic objectives were to develop, implement and evaluate new intervention systems to improve the social and economic levels of disadvantaged persons.

The target area of Alberta Newstart almost coincides with the boundaries of my constituency, which include approximately 7,000 disadvantaged Metis and Indians, most of whom lack the social, vocational and academic skills to participate meaningfully in our present society. When the native people in my area became fully aware of the purpose of Alberta Newstart, that is, its basic interest in research and its short-term tenure, they became rather disturbed. Now this became very evident when the Lac La Biche Training Centre was suddenly closed by Alberta Newstart, and a native sit-in resulted. At that time, the provincial government of the day reassured these people that the programs of Alberta Newstart, judged to be beneficial, would be continued by the provincial government after Newstart was discontinued by the federal government. Then the

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federal government announced that they were terminating Alberta Newstart at the end of 1971, a year earlier than expected, even though there still was little concrete evaluation of the research forthcoming. As a matter of fact, according to officials of Alberta Newstart, the research was not even completed.

Then the provincial government set about to honour its commitment to the native people of my area. The North Eastern Alberta Development Company, commonly known as NEADCO, was incorporated, and the wheels were in motion to begin operation on September 1st, when on August 30th, the roof fell in. And it would appear, not just on the old administration, but on the native people of my area. A moratorium on all new programs was declared by the new government, and NEADCO was included. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not quarrelling with the moratorium because this new government had made so many promises it couldn't possibly fulfill them all at once, and had to set priorities. But, Mr. Speaker, they also said they were vitally interested in the native people, especially those in my area. Newstart facilities have been sitting idle and so have most of the native people of my area since August 31st. Fortunately Pe Ta Pun, the native organization carrying on native training and development in the Lac La Biche area, has been funded by this government, as indeed it had been since April 1st by the province, when the federal government decided to drop them.

The native people of my area, Mr. Speaker, won't settle for any short term programs. They have had disappointments in the

past and certainly can't stand very many more. What is needed is a well thought out, long-term program which fully involves the native people as NEADCO had contemplated and we need it -- to use that famous word -- 'now'.

I appreciate the hon. Minister of Advanced Education agreeing to detailed discussions of the situation with me. And I am prepared to outline, as well as I can, the wishes of my people. I also invite him to hold discussions directly with the native people of my area, as they have requested repeatedly.

I also caution them, however, to assess very carefully the advice of those people with invested interest in developing this program. NEADCO was unique in that the native people were to be fully involved on all levels of administration and management. Now we wouldn't want to see this important feature lost in any new program.

The other most important program of development involving native people to be considered is the reluctance of native people to re-locate. Any program which doesn't take this important fact into consideration, in my opinion, is doomed to failure. Even after training, the family will not for any length of time stay in a new environment, especially an urban one, and hold employment.

Now Alberta NewStart had a program designed to involve the whole family, with a view of re-locating people. This was successful in many ways but not with regards to the permanent re-location of native families to areas of employment. I have not seen any reports of follow-up by NewStart on re-location of natives, but from my own observations it has been a dismal failure. I know of many well trained heads of families who could hold good positions, but are back living on the reserve in a Metis settlement and still unemployed.

The only area of employment opportunities in northeastern Alberta, Mr. Speaker, is Fort McMurray. Now the people of Kikino Metis Colony of Fort Chipewyan, Chard, Conklin and the Lac La Biche area could work in Fort McMurray. They don't have to re-locate. How are they going to do this, Mr. Speaker? Fly - that's how they can do it. Mr. Speaker, Fort McMurray is less than one hour by air from any

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of the points I have mentioned. Many people drive one hour every day to get to work; for example the people living in Edmonton and working at the fertilizer plant must take close to an hour to get there everyday.

Now, when a family has to re-locate in such a place as Fort McMurray - and we have heard the Minister of Municipal Affairs this afternoon wonder why properties were going up for tax sale - when these people re-locate, they have to leave their home and buy a new home. There are costs involved, not just to the individual. There are costs involved to the company because GCOS in Fort McMurray, for instance, subsidizes the homes of their employees, and there are costs to the government because the development of a town like Fort McMurray is costing a lot of money, directly and indirectly, to the government of this province.

Now, what I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, is a program whereby all three, individual, company, and government, could participate in the program of transportation so these people could live where they live now and they want to live, you just have to go and talk to the people at Janvier reserve to find out that they have no intentions of living in Fort McMurray. They want to live on their reserve, but they would like to be able to work in Fort McMurray, because that is the only place they can work and make a living. They can do this by flying to work.

Now the costs would naturally have to be the deciding factor and I urge this government to immediately undertake a cost benefit analysis of this suggested program. Or they might want to even have a task force look after it, I don't know. It may be too costly to transport people, say for five shifts a week, but Edmonton City Hall is trying longer shifts. It may be possible to transport them for three long shifts and then to let these people spend four days at home with their families. Or it may be necessary to transport them once for the three shifts and then bring them back home for four days of leisure. This would be in keeping with native philosophy and would be a work party, not unlike the hunting parties of days gone by.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many air charters in the North that could fit into such a program. So the purchase of new aircraft, a Kingair for instance, would not be necessary in this program. We could use the charter services that are available and looking for work in the area. What would be necessary, however, and I have no personal interest in this, would be the upgrading of all the airstrips in the north. We would need airstrips and facilities that naturally would have to be useable in all types of weather, if such a program were to work. Now, I think that this program is exciting, and it's challenging, and it would certainly be in keeping with the government's announced policy of trying to save smaller communities of the province rather than promoting a few concrete jungles. It would also be in keeping with the government's announcement in the Speech from the Throne that "change will be viewed, not with fear and apprehension, but with optimism and with a sense of challenge and opportunity to be grasped."

Mr. Speaker, we very often hear that industry is absolutely necessary for the survival of small towns. Now why is it necessary? I have outlined a method of transporting people to industry for employment purposes. Now, I'd like to deal with the other reason industry is thought necessary in every locality, and that is for taxing purposes. Yes, municipalities want industry because they can tax them, and a lot of tax money is spent enticing industry to set up often in poor localities. Why? What needs changing, Mr. Speaker, is the property tax system, and I'm glad to hear that there is a task force studying that. And what really needs changing is the property tax system in respect to industry. Now, I'm not on a task force and

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it won't cost the government anything, so I'm willing to pass on my views for nothing.

I hope I am not out of order by mentioning the task forces. If industry were to pay property tax on a provincial wide basis, rather than on a municipal basis, I think we'd see some different views about attracting industry, especially the type of industry that causes pollution. And also places like Sherwood Park wouldn't hesitate to incorporate. All those industries which process the natural resources of this province should pay taxes provincially. After all, if the natural resources belong to the people of Alberta, then the taxes that the processing industries pay should belong to the people of Alberta also, and not to a few municipalities, where, through no fault of their own, some large industry has located and has brought in a bonanza for this one particular municipality. Now this money should be used for providing provincial services, and education and health come to mind very readily. Naturally, industry would have to pay some taxes to the locality in which they are located, because of the services which the municipalities do have to provide to the industry. So therefore, they would have to be reimbursed. But the major portion of their taxes should be provincial tax. And that would remove the reason for wanting to bring industry to small towns, usually to cause pollution. People don't really want them. All they want is the green stuff that it brings along with them and they don't want the black smoke.

It's also my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that if and when the government decides to remove the levy for education from residential property, it will use an industrial form of tax to distribute province-wide to make up the difference. We in the low assessment areas of the province are concerned about changes in education levy. If the result of this change is that low assessment areas are worse off than now to provide education, then naturally, we're not for this. Also, if removing the education levy from residential property is accompanied by removing grants from municipalities so that the end result is higher taxes for small urban centres which are already too high, we're not in favour of that either. Now, why are we concerned? Well, for several reasons. In Canada, for instance, the west fares poorly because the population centres of Canada are in the east and therefore, the House of Commons seats also.

Now, in Alberta, we're fast becoming an urban population and, as the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs said this afternoon, programs are directed towards people, and most of the people are living in cities. That is a concern to rural people and people in the small urban centres, because if this is followed to its natural conclusion, then we may be tempted to do the things which appeal to the city and forget the low assessment areas. And they would be in a position where they would be very hard-pressed to supply the necessary services to their people.

We have heard also another debate where about two-thirds of the people of Alberta already live in the two major metropolitan areas. Now, this government is dedicated to trying to arrest the constant shift of population, and I certainly hope they are successful, because I think we will soon reach the point where we will enter a vicious cycle if it's not arrested fairly soon.

The property tax system, especially the one with reference to municipal taxation, is already loaded in favour of the large urban centre and against the small urban centre, because most people who have homes in small towns now are paying, on a comparable home, much higher taxes than anybody in the cities would ever pay, and with fewer services being provided. Therefore, if this system is allowed to progress any further, then there is no way you are going to keep these people from coming to the cities; they are going to be forced to come to the cities.

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With reference to agriculture, I do like the part of the budget that deals with agriculture. I would like to say that I also have a lot of confidence in the hon. Minister of Agriculture. He is a member of a respected and noble profession who feels that if anything is worth doing, it is worth doing well. He has outlined the problems of agriculture and his proposed solutions; and he has done it very well. He is attacking the problems with vigour. What remains to be seen, is how effective his solutions are going to be. In agriculture we have seen many solutions in the past, and they haven't all been effective. He has raised the expectations of the farmers of Alberta very high, Mr. Speaker. Now, this could be very dangerous because they will not be easily satisfied. It has been mentioned by the hon. Member for Clover Bar that possibly the hon. Minister of Agriculture could walk on water. Well, Mr. Speaker, if he does disappoint the people of my constituency in agriculture, Lac La Biche is awfully deep and he may have to walk on water.

I would like to conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by telling the hon. members a short story about farming and politics. Since the hon. Minister of Agriculture has made \$10,000 loans available to farmers to purchase cows, I'd like to use the story of cows and farming to illustrate some differences in politics. And this will be termed the story of two cows.

It is too bad my socialistic friend is gone, but in socialism, if a farmer has two cows, the government takes one and gives it to his neighbour; in fascism, if a farmer has two cows, he keeps both of them, gives the milk to the government, who sells part of it back to him. Now, in the New Deal which applied in the United States back in the 1930's (and it's too bad that our friend from Lethbridge, Mr. Jack Landeryou, is not here because he liked to talk about this often) if you had two cows, the government would shoot one, milk the other, and pour the milk down the sink. With regard to communism, if you have two cows, you give both of them to the government, and the government gives you some of the milk back. With nazism, if you have two cows, the government shoots you and takes the two cows. In a capitalistic democracy such as we have, you can get a guaranteed loan to buy the two cows, but you have to sell one to buy a bull. Now, if you have a Conservative government, such as we have in Alberta, the government comes along and shoots the bull.

MR. J. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, at this my first opportunity, I would like to congratulate you - as so many have done before on your selection as Speaker, and to commend you on the very fair and just way you are conducting the affairs of this Assembly. I would also like to congratulate the hon. Gordon Miniely for his very progressive budget and to commend him, the Premier, and the rest of the Executive Council for the effort they have put forth in preparing such a dynamic document.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent the Lloydminster constituency, and take this opportunity to thank the people of my constituency for the confidence they have placed in me. And inasmuch for many years, the member of my constituency brought down the budget, it is fitting for me to pay tribute to Mr. Anders Aalborg, not only on behalf of myself, Mr. Speaker, but also on behalf of the people of the Lloydminster constituency, and in fact, all the people in this province of ours. Mr. Aalborg was a tireless, dedicated worker in this Assembly who always had the betterment of the province at heart. It is only fitting for me to say that Alberta is a better place to live in because of dedicated men like Mr. Aalborg.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We have the English who were brought to this country in 1903, and settled in what is now the City of Lloydminster and the surrounding area; the Scottish, Irish, Norwegian, Ukrainian

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and all other nationalities. And Mr. Speaker, all these people proved to be efficient pioneers and many of them successful farmers.

Lloydminster is not only the 10th city of Alberta, but also the 10th city of Saskatchewan. It is in a unique situation, having been established on the fourth meridian by the early Bar Colonist settlers. This meridian later became the border between Saskatchewan and Alberta. Lloydminster is a very progressive community surrounded by a rich farming area, and situated on an impressive crude oil field from which some of the finest asphalt for hard-surfacing roads is produced. Both the agricultural and crude oil industries have resulted in many secondary industries being established in this area. Such other major industries in the City of Lloydminster include the two weekly newspapers, with wide distribution, CKSA radio and television station, which broadcast over a large area, Nelson's Lumber Co., that manufacture homes for shipment throughout all of the western provinces, Husky Oil Refinery, Domtar Manufacturing of roofing materials, and also our impressive stockyard market.

In regard to our agricultural production, I would like to draw particular attention to our livestock handling in the last 15 years, which has increased from a value at that time of \$4,674,000, to a grand total last year of \$41,884,000 in the year 1971. Mr. Speaker, this works out to approximately \$800,000 a week from the stockmarket in Lloydminster. It is now the third largest marketer of livestock in all of Alberta.

This increased handling has necessitated better roads and highways and in this regard, Mr. Speaker, I would request that the hon. Minister of Highways work with the Minister of Highways from Saskatchewan to pave Highway 17 south from Lloydminster to join with Highway 14 east of Wainwright and to give serious consideration to extending this highway southward to the United States border. Mr. Speaker, this highway would serve not only the cattle industry, but also the tourist industry as well. We would like to be able to ship some of our fat cattle to the Lethbridge packing plant for slaughter. However, we find that the way that the present road situation is, with a lack of a north-south highway system in eastern Alberta, we have to bring our fat cattle up Highway 16 to Edmonton, down Highway 2 to Calgary, and from there south to Lethbridge. This is a distance of over 650 miles which is somewhat similar to that from Lloydminster to Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that we are the eastern gateway for the Yellowhead route into our province and we are looking forward to a tremendous increase in the tourist industry in the forthcoming year.

I am also pleased that further upgrading of market roads will be undertaken by the hon. Minister of Highways. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, the people of Marwayne and Kitscoty are looking forward to the paving of the market road connecting these two villages. It is the number one priority grid road for the county and is part of a good system of roads in the county of Vermilion River. This road has already been built up to a standard, so that all that is needed is paving to complete the project.

Mr. Speaker, as we go west from Lloydminster to Kitscoty and then to Marwayne and Dewberry, or south from Lloydminster to Rivercourse, McLaughlin and Paradise Valley, you will find some of the finest commercial cattle in Alberta. This is not only good productive farm land to grow wheat, coarse grains, rape and other feeds, but the size and diversification of the production of the farm units of this area make for prosperity in the farming community. The diversification of agriculture production in my constituency has generally provided the farm family units with a good income. Of course the last few years have not been as prosperous as we would like, but I am tired of hearing the prophets of doom and gloom

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forecast the death of the family farm units. They underestimate the intestinal fortitude of the family farm population.

We are not in such bad shape, but an efficient and aggressive marketing policy for farm produce can again get the agricultural economy rolling again. This government has such a policy, Mr. Speaker, and I am pleased to be part of a government with an agricultural minister who is ready to get out and sell our products, rather than sit back and blame the federal government, as has been done so often in the past.

However, Mr. Speaker, as we go further northwest in my constituency, into the Derwent and Myrnam areas, the need for the establishment of small secondary industries is quite evident. In this northwest area of my constituency farms are of a minimal size, many of them being from a quarter to a half-section. Many of these smaller units are in themselves uneconomical, but with the addition of some industrial employment, as many of these small farmers are able to do by working in the salt plant at Lindbergh, a good living can be assured. The opening of cheese factories and agricultural oriented industries in local areas can fill this gap in the rural economy and enable the smaller farm units to be economical and the people thereon to live a good life.

Mr. Speaker, while we are up in the northwest area of my constituency I feel I must pay tribute to the friendly, hospitable Ukrainian people who have played such an important part in the history and development of Alberta. These individuals, as pioneers, not only worked hard, but their sacrifices must never be forgotten. In this regard the hospital and nursing home in Myrnam not only serves the citizens of Myrnam, but also the people of Ukrainian descent in a large area.

In regards to secondary education needs, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that a feasibility study be made to determine whether a community college, technical or vocational, could be established in Lloydminster. In this respect, Mr. Speaker, possibly a joint venture between Alberta and Saskatchewan could best serve the needs of both northeast Alberta and northwest Saskatchewan.

The priority set forth by the Throne Speech and considered by the budget are worthy of much comment. However, Mr. Speaker, to assure the Assembly that we are a 'now' government I would like to point out that at present we are building 10 units onto the senior citizens' lodge in Lloydminster and are also cooperating with the government of Saskatchewan and the people of Lloydminster in the building of a sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded and the handicapped people of our area.

And, Mr. Speaker, if you were to look over the record of the past government's favours and commitments which have been given to our area, you would find that they are considerably less than elsewhere in the province. For example, the only provincial buildings in my constituency are the two liquor stores, the one in Lloydminster and the one in Derwent. We have no civil servants other than the three brand readers who work in the livestock market. In fact, Mr. Speaker, some people in my constituency have felt that the former administration thought the eastern boundary was 35 miles west of Lloydminster, rather than on the 4th meridian.

Nevertheless, the contributions which the people of my constituency have made for the good of Alberta are very impressive and noteworthy. Mr. Speaker, the City of Lloydminster has had the experience of dealing with two provincial governments, both Alberta and Saskatchewan, and we are extremely pleased that the next meeting of the Executive Council of the three prairie provinces will be held in the Lloydminster constituency. This is the Alberta government's choice of venue for the meeting, and as such we are pleased to say

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that the Premier has seen fit to extend to my constituency, and in particular the border City of Lloydminster, this tremendous honour.

I can also assure you, Mr. Speaker, this is the first time any Premiers' Conference has been held in other than a capital city. This action, of course, is typical of our Premier who is continually bringing forth new ideas and fresh approaches to all aspects of government. We look forward to welcoming you Mr. Premier, as well as the premiers from the other provinces.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the hon. Mr. Miniely has placed emphasis in his spending on those things which provide the tools for us to help ourselves. His confidence, and that of this government, in the future of agriculture is tremendous. It will serve not only to save the family farm, but make all of agriculture a true and viable industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I believe the hon. member for Calgary Bow was on his feet first.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, as a new member of this Assembly representing the people of Calgary Bow, I would like to commend the government for a number of the views expressed in the Budget Speech. Members of all political parties concur with the concepts of individual rights, the needs of our farm families and assistance to the aged and handicapped.

But first, before commenting further on these specific programs, it has been brought to my attention that I now occupy the desk of the present Minister of Telephones, the hon. Len Werry, who also represented the former riding of Calgary Bow, now in my constituency. I think it is only fair to serve notice that his present desk looks even more attractive to a Social Credit member. And after the next general election I am expecting to be over there.

But in the interim, my compliments to the hon. Mr. Werry. I will endeavour to be at least as formidable an adversary as he was in opposition. And I hope to sustain a continuing high level of representation for his former constituents and all residents of the new riding of Calgary Bow.

Mr. Speaker, the new government has made some commendable gestures, institution of a Hansard typewritten record of House proceedings has been carried out with our approval. However, abuse of this new institution by members of the government party must be controlled now before the standard of debate in the House is debased by individual members wishing to have a statement written in the record. The fear that members would not discipline themselves in this regard was expressed in the Swann Report which led to the establishment of a written record. And a member of the government side accorded himself the dubious privilege of being the first to perpetrate such an abuse during a debate on March 10th. I can only visualize with horror, a Tory member rising in some future debate to say; "I would like written into the record today, 90th birthday greetings today to good old uncle Charlie, who's been a card carrying member of the party since 1901."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join many others in expressing appreciation of the fairness, patience, and deportment, you as Speaker, of this Legislature have shown. You certainly have my earned respect and admiration. Members of the government's front bench who make a practice of turning their back to the Speaker's chair while their own members are on the floor, would do well to extend him the traditional courtesies of the House. The dignity of the hon. member's performance in the Speakers Chair has been far more

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edifying than anything these other gentlemen have had to say thus far.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the new Cabinet is quite large enough to form an impressive marching group. And, rather than playing games in the House, perhaps they could improvise on their signalized precision desk thumping, practise on weekends, and treat us all to a display of precision marching drill at the end of the session.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from Calgary Buffalo has had much to say about Social Credit members in the Legislature, both present and past members. I think it is most fair to say that his comments were anything but polite; in fact, they were literally dripping with venom, and were directed at individuals, as well as Socreds in general. His scurrulous remark generally centred around Socred attendance in the Legislature. And for his enlightenment, I would like to review the Lougheed team attendance and courtesy in this House. Like the hon. member for Calgary Buffalo, I too, am a newcomer to these august halls. But unlike the brash Tory, I would not presume to comment on events that occurred prior to my appearance on the scene. Since March 2nd, the Lougheed team members attendance in the Legislature has been going up and down like the proverbial yo-yo. It seems the puppetlike control of Lougheed team members does not function when an opposition member is speaking, or does it? Mr. Speaker, random samplings of Lougheed team attendance read as follows: On March 10th at 4:30 p.m., with a Tory speaker, there were 48 Lougheed team members in attendance. On the same day at 4:33 p.m. with a Socred member speaking, there were only 25 Lougheed team members in the House. Amazing -- that 23 Tories abandoned ship in three minutes; including 13 Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Speaker. My, what diligence to duty, what courtesy, what a desire to learn of another member's viewpoints, in his maiden speech yet. On March 13th at 4:43 p.m. with a Tory speaker, 47 members in the House, same day at 4:58 p.m. with a Socred speaker, Tory attendance dropped to 37. What an edifying indictment. On March 14th, at 10:17 p.m. with a Tory speaking, 45 in attendance; same day, two minutes later, when a Socred was speaking, only 29 Tory members in the House.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that it is in everyone's best interests for a member to look after his health when he has the flu. And further to the remarks of the hon. member for Calgary Buffalo, I do not think his comments were fair or called for, particularly when the hon. leader of Her Majesty's Opposition is nearly always in his place in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, there are words and sentiments expressed in the Budget Speech that are worthy of support, but sadly it appears that we have a government that cannot distinguish between words and action. They cannot separate policy from public relations. They cannot discern the difference between governing and electioneering. This budget is filled with deceptions. There is a promise of aid to agriculture and the family farm, but this aid turns out mainly to be a creation of a huge new bureaucracy in the Agriculture Department, an empire for the Deputy Premier, and one of many expensive contradictions to the stated objective of economy in government operations.

Mr. Speaker, this is supposedly a balanced budget. Well, it is in a way. Spending balanced by an outrageous \$199 million in borrowing and debt. The balancing is apparently to be done by future generations of Albertans. If the trend continues they could have one billion dollars to pay off before this government has finished its term. This balanced budget would be better described as a juggling act. Highway spending has been juggled from the current budget to the capital budget, but the logical and responsible transfer of oil and gas receipts to pay for this new capital cost have been ignored. Instead we will apparently have even more borrowing by the new

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Highways Commission, something else for future Albertans to pay for. Then there is the government so-called aid to industry, the \$50 million Opportunity Act. Businessmen may well have the opportunity of seeing their tax money used to finance and subsidize competitors. They are more the victims than the beneficiaries of this kind of aid.

Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens freed from the financial burden of Medicare fees was an action worthy of approval from all of us. But the Tory budgeters, in their rush to achieve a public relations coup, could apparently not go a step further and apply this only to persons in need. It would appear that welfare for millionaires, not to mention expense-account row backbenchers, is a speciality of this government.

The federal government has shown some foresight and courage in deciding to stop family allowances to high income families and put the money where it is needed most. Perhaps the savings of being selective in removing elderly citizens from Medicare payments would not be sufficient to make the headlines this government so diligently seeks. But if and when it gets around to its election promise of removing education tax from property owners, the amounts could be much more significant, as I am sure some wealthy senior citizen property owners have already discovered. The rich estate owner will save thousands while the ordinary person will be saved only a pittance, to find he has to pay in other ways for tax relief for the wealthy. This is a reason why the Social Credit party has always opposed universal welfare schemes and it is a reason the federal government now appears willing to modify such schemes. They amount to welfare for the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a few minutes about my own constituency of Calgary Bow. The community of Bowness in this riding is currently under siege by a combination of government action and inaction. Other communities in the riding and elsewhere in Calgary could soon be similarly affected. Destruction of a proud old neighbourhood is being threatened by the high handed application of so called flood control regulations by the City of Calgary. On the basis of one study commissioned by the city and the province, the city is wiping out more than one million dollars in equity held by individuals in their homes and properties. This government talks about individual rights - well the rights of the individuals in Bowness are being trampled now. The man who sees his home, his neighbourhood, and even his life savings being threatened needs more than words on a parchment scroll with his rights engraved on it. Surely there is a better solution than arbitrary local regulation and destruction of a fine old residential neighbourhood, or perhaps more than one neighbourhood if current reports are true.

The railway and the Trans Canada Highway have already slashed unnatural barriers through Bowness and now, as well as the threat of ill-considered flood control regulations, maps show a major freeway posing an additional hazard to life as residents know and love it in these riverside areas. Old neighbourhoods are among the best neighbourhoods and they are worth saving.

The people of Bowness and Montgomery, as well as others in Calgary Bow and the City of Calgary, must know what the government's plans are for freeway construction, for flood control and for the future of their neighbourhoods. And in this age of participatory democracy they deserve to be consulted in full before decisions are made. What is urgently needed is government leadership in stimulating new life for old neighbourhoods. This is not just a local issue. I am sure the hon. members have read the book, 'Future Shock', which has been a best seller for some time now. The people in such neighbourhoods are not worried about future shock, they are too busy coping with present shock.

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Mr. Speaker, the Budget Speech does not show any attempt of this government to come to grips with major urban problems of today. There has been the charade of sharing oil and gas revenues with the municipalities in an amount insignificantly higher than that proposed by the previous government. But we can only assume that the cities and municipalities will more than pay elsewhere for this so-called concession.

Mr. Speaker, in campaigning through Calgary Bow, the pride people have in their communities and the willingness and determination they display in coping with their problems was most evident. They are not looking for handouts, but the projects and programs they have initiated to help themselves need and deserve continuing government support. For example, the Boys Clubs of Calgary is an organization that has performed dedicated work with youth of the Calgary Bow area, including operation of a group home for students without parental support who wish to attend high school. This project is succeeding beyond the most optimistic hopes of the organizers, with residents of 16 and 17 years of age housed at a cost of only \$11.00 per day. It is a fact that determined young people have actually lived in abandoned cars and garages while attending high school. I know of one incident last year where a boy was attending school without parental assistance. He had a part-time job and was paying \$5.00 a month rent for a garage. He refused social assistance. I think that this type of initiative and drive must be encouraged and that we should do all in our power to help those types of people and to stimulate their initiative. It is very gratifying to see that the present government will continue its support of the very worthwhile project of the Boys Club of Calgary for at least another year. I am pleased to see that the hon. Mr. Crawford has recognized the need for continuance of the Boys Club's Dropout Education Program and its skiing and other recreation programs. If the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development would like to see at first hand the tremendous benefits of his decision to continue support for this very worthwhile program, I would be proud to give him a personally escorted tour.

The Montgomery-Bowness Day Care Association is another organization that has shown what can be done with just a little initial help. This group has been operating successfully without further subsidy from the provincial government since receiving an initial capital grant for renovation of facilities from the previous Social Credit administration. For the past few years they have been on their own, and most effectively so.

The German-Canadian Club in Bowness has been teaching students for 11 years in its unsubsidized language school and has not had a failure of any student writing provincial departmental exams. Further, these students write Grade X departmental exams when only in Grade VII, and have their credits reserved until they reach Grade X. When they are in Grade VIII, they write their Grade XI exams, and in Grade IX they write their Grade XII exams. What an outstanding contribution this language school is making to our society. And let me repeat, all on the incentive of the high school credits, it doesn't cost Alberta taxpayers one cent. I am sure all hon. members of this Legislature would agree we need to encourage more private initiative of this type.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded has a model project in Calgary known as Advance Industries, which operates a workshop second to none in the province. The Minister of Health and Social Development obviously recognized the outstanding work being done here, and picked up their operating deficit for last year. I hope to see the government continue its support for Advance Industries and similar projects.

I hope to see the government continue its support for advanced industries and similar projects. I compliment the hon. Minister of

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Education, Mr. Hyndman, on his recommendation for improvement of older schools. The Bowness High School which has followed an extremely enlightened 'open-door' community role under principal Len Ross, certainly falls into this category. Children in areas and categories of less than equal opportunity need and deserve the best of day care, pre-school and school facilities, the best, not the worst. They need the actions of a vigorous government, not just empty words of a Throne Speech or a Bill of Rights, but evidence in the budget that they will receive equal rights through equal opportunity.

I note allocations in the budget for construction of senior citizens' homes. It is gratifying to see that the government is continuing its policy of assistance for the elderly who wish to retire in their own neighbourhood near their families and friends of a lifetime.

I sincerely submit that one of the communities in the riding of Calgary Bow, Parkdale, Hillhurst, Montgomery or Bowness, must be placed high on the priority list for such a facility. There is a very high percentage of people who are approaching, or who are already included, in the category of senior citizenship in these neighbourhoods, and I am sure that the government would not allow partisanship to deprive them of a facility that I believe is legitimately theirs.

Yes, there are worthwhile aspects to the Budget Speech; aid to the handicapped, to certain aspects of education, to the elderly, but what is there for the future, for the young? They will certainly inherit a heavy burden of this government's debts. The budget promises a tax relief windfall for wealthy older citizens. Tory backbenchers will have a higher standard of living, but neither the budget nor the Speech from the Throne before it, has given us any indication that the leadership or the new ideas explicit in the Tory promises of last year's election, are anywhere in existence.

Mr. Speaker, let me suggest that housing is an area where this government could have, and should have, shown imagination and initiative. It is an area where this government could have initiated something for the young families in Alberta. There are programs in Canada that attack the real hard core of our housing problems, in so many words, the emergency needs for shelter. However, there exists a major problem of providing housing for families with incomes below \$8,000, a good many of them, younger families, who can save a sufficient amount for a down payment, but cannot meet the income qualifications for a mortgage. This housing must not only be economically, but sociologically and psychologically acceptable. Public housing or an extension of public housing programs is not the answer. Again and again these projects have proved themselves to be sociological disaster areas, a continuing financial responsibility to government and ghettos where children of these families are denied equal status and opportunity in our society.

It is clear that new thinking and new solutions are needed in the field of housing. The government must think in terms of helping the individual own his own home, rather than of building public housing, monuments to politicians.

A recent study indicates these general characteristics and shortcomings of existing housing assistance programs:

1. Buildings generally lack the amenities of other dwellings.
2. Tenants are not interested in repairs or maintenance in general.
3. Lending institutions rate other buildings in these areas as practically out of bounds to mortgage investment. Little or no investment is ventured near public housing projects, because of

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financing problems, prejudice and things of this nature. Often it destroys as much housing as it builds.

4. Tax arrears could be higher in these areas than in others. Owners are more interested in "milkability", in liquidation of their investments in a brief period of rents, instead of being satisfied with a moderate return on long-term investments.
5. Building values are lower in relation to rents than in other areas. This is due to financing difficulties, and the low esteem in which such ownership is regarded. And the report concludes, when subsidized housing is developed with government financing exclusively, with predetermined allocation for subsidized families only, segregated communities and segregated buildings are created.

This is a sorry commentary indeed on public housing to date, and what we could have more of in the future. But in spite of this, public assistance remains necessary to bring decent housing within reach of large numbers of people. But ownership and operation of assisted housing can be shifted to occupants and private groups, aiding not only those on the bottom of the income scale, but also those who are not classified as poor, but whose incomes do not qualify them for CMHC insured homes.

A program of interest and rent subsidies would be a practical alternative to public housing, a way of subsidizing people rather than buildings. This alternative of extending the subsidy to the family rather than the building would not be a commitment of subsidy for the life of the property, but would disappear as a liability of the government and the taxpayer when family income increases enough to support their housing requirements.

Interest rate subsidies on housing mortgages, not only those financed by CMHC, but conventional mortgages as well, would produce housing for those people who are today caught in the middle; people who are too low on the income scale to qualify for mortgages, but not poor enough to be admitted to public housing, who I might add, would be very reluctant to live in a public housing ghetto even if they did qualify. This includes many young families, whose starting out incomes do not qualify them for mortgages, but who would eventually move up to a position of paying their own way. Both interest and rent subsidies could have the important secondary feature of eliminating mass public housing with its well known social liabilities.

Mr. Speaker, on another important issue, the government's budget allocated \$50 million for meddling with the natural and businesslike development of Alberta industry. In doing so they are following some dangerous Tory precedents. Mr. Stanfield's \$200 million heavy water plant at Glace Bay and Mr. Roblin's financial adventures in northern Manitoba are two that come to mind. It is not the role of government to get involved in private business, but to establish the economic and political climate that will allow industry to thrive and grow. If my suspicions are correct, it is not too late to withdraw this ill conceived program and to allocate the money to other more positive use, perhaps a new approach to providing housing for the poor and for young families, or perhaps only to relieving taxpayers of yet another liability. This government has proved its inability to implement promises and to replace programs of so-called studies. But this is one promise well worth forgetting.

The lack of leadership and initiative on the part of this government, even after taking an unconscionable length of time in bringing a legislative program to the House, is nowhere more evident than in the field of parks. At first, it appeared that perhaps the government did not have a parks policy. But a glance at the budget a 63% decline in spending in this field has indicated that the

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government has an anti-parks policy -- anti-development of our provincial parks, and anti-answering questions on Alberta's position on the development of national parks within our borders.

Lake Louise is in Alberta, and it is the responsibility of this government to let Albertans and the federal government know where it stands on development of this and other tourist facilities. Are the interests of Albertans being protected in a deal which appears to be pending between Ottawa and the companies in question? How many Albertans could suddenly be priced out of an area they have enjoyed for so long? Has the Department of the Environment any views on such development? It is shocking to discover that no Alberta government representation was made at the hearings, and no study appears to be proceeding on lake development or preservation, as the case may be, in such areas as the Canmore corridor, or at the Kananoskis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while on the topic of Village Lake Louise and parks in general, it appears there is certainly a communication gap, at least among Lougheed team members. On second thought, there is even a suggestion of a rift among some government members. It is a well known fact that the front bench does not espouse complete unanimity on Village Lake Louise, and just yesterday we noticed that the hon. Member from Calgary North Hill was mildly chastised by the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs for publicly voicing his heartfelt viewpoint. So, Mr. Speaker, I was most pleased last evening to see an advertisement in the local newspaper which might very well be used as a communication tool between all government members and their leader. Incidentally, this advertisement was sponsored by the Alberta Fish and Game Association, the Edmonton Fish and Game Association, the Communication Employees' Fish and Game Association, the Greisbach and Namao Fish and Game Association, the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association, and the National and Provincial Parks Association.

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a copy of the advertisement which is an open letter to Premier Lougheed, complete and ready for the signature of the sender. This gesture is made as a constructive suggestion to the Lougheed team members, as a method for them to communicate with their leader. Hopefully, it will also have the desired effect of flushing out the government position on Village Lake Louise, if they have one.

Mr. Speaker, it is unsettling to hear the bombast emanating from the new Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs concerning communication with Ottawa for oil and gas sales, while there is a complete lack of communication with the people of Alberta about where their government stands on the Lake Louise Development issue.

MR. KOZIAK:

Mr. Speaker, will the hon. gentleman permit a question?

MR. WILSON:

Sure, as soon as I am finished you can ask all the questions you like, Sir.

Perhaps the budget cuts in allocation to parks could be transferred to intergovernmental affairs, which seems to be little more than a liability at the moment. A government that relies so heavily on federal financial assistance and cost sharing in its wishful thinking about a \$500,000 current budget surplus, could perhaps be more statesmanlike in its relations with Ottawa. Unfortunate statements about the Lougheed government: "Delivering every seat in Alberta to the Conservatives in the next federal election," are not calculated to be exactly in the best interests of

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Albertans in federal - provincial relationships. Statements like this, coupled with general indecision and

lack of leadership are creating a kind of an uncertainty in Alberta and the budget only serves to intensify that.

This government has, so far, only proved its inability to implement promises and to replace programs with study. Perhaps a study of all the studies in progress now would be a useful guide to what government policy really is. Industry, in particular, would like to know where the money is going to come from to replace property taxes for education. This is an area of uncertainty that is only intensified by the budget.

Mr. Speaker, instead of threatening industry with government interference, such as a \$50 million industry subsidy or outright takeover, although I doubt if this is the government's policy in the case of utility companies, it is submitted that the government should be moving out of the field of private industry, for example, by turning operation of the Pearce Estate Fish Hatchery in Calgary over to private enterprise operation. Therein lies the possibility to attract new industries to the province, contingent upon the other facilities and so on that could be incorporated along with this program.

There is uncertainty in the labour field. An early report on the effect of recent transportation strikes on the Alberta economy should be prepared immediately as a basis for action and possible new legislation and consultation with the federal government. Far too many innocent bystanders were hurt in the recent airstrikes to allow a recurrence and further hardship every two or three years.

The lack of decision or even a reasonable statement of position on oil and gas royalties is causing uncertainty. But instead of moving to provide open government as it promised, the public and business community is being denied more and more information. It is not enough that the government provide expense accounts for its so called back-bench task forces, but the public is also informed that the results of these task force studies will not be made available to them.

The government claims to have concern for implementing economies in operation. It is true that the number of copies of the budget speech made available to the opposition was very severely limited. But this hardly makes up for the spectacular addition to administrative costs of the Department of Agriculture.

And I notice, at least in my copy of the budget speech, that page 28 is missing. Is this perhaps the section accounting for the costs to be incurred by the expense-account row when they embark upon their secret task force operations? Perhaps page 28 has suffered the same fate as A Clockwork Orange.

I would like to suggest a four-point government economy plan that would be in the interests of all Albertans.

(1) 100% decrease in pay increases, direct or otherwise for Tory back benchers.

(2) The elimination of the new Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, which appears to be more involved with Tory politicking than the job that it was meant to do.

3. Withdrawal of the \$50 million industrial subsidy fund in favour of spending on positive programs rather than those interfering with the process of free enterprise.

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4. A complete re-evaluation or expansion of the Department of Agriculture with a view to directing the money to farm programs and farmers rather than bureaucracy.

These are positive suggestions and I would be disappointed if some members of the government side were to take them in a negative way.

The Lougheed government in its Throne Speech has shown no signs of positive leadership nor has it shown any sign of adhering to the principles promised during the recent election campaign. Some suggestions for Alberta that this so-called leadership could follow are:

1. In housing -- the policy must be to subsidize people rather than buildings. There must be continued public participation in the housing field with new ideas and new initiatives such as interest and rent subsidies. The budget indicates no policy on housing.
2. Participation -- people must be consulted before action is taken that affects their property, their neighbourhoods and their way of life. Thorough investigation of alternatives to the Bow River Flood control situation in Calgary must be undertaken so that neighbourhoods are not destroyed and people unjustly deprived of their rights and property.
3. Open government -- the government must return to a system of special committees involving citizens at large to explore and report on major public issues, such as the 1963 Social Credit Committee which studied provincial revenues and expenditures. Secret backbench task force reports and tight control of research within government departments is not open government, nor do people have adequate access to decision-making processes under such a system.
4. Welfare costs -- the Lougheed government has apparently decided to approach programs such as medicare and tax relief for property owners on the basis of a universal system, much as the federal government formerly approached its welfare programs. This approach has now been abandoned by Ottawa as a wasteful failure and such programs are apparently to be implemented on a selective needs basis. The family allowance being an example. Alberta's programs also should be introduced on a selective needs basis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have approximately a page and a half of notes left; would you like me to continue or adjourn the debate?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has four minutes left. Does the House wish him to conclude?

HON. MEMBERS:

Continue.

MR WILSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

5. Federal-provincial relations -- this new department of government in Alberta should be exploring new means of federal provincial cooperation, rather than acting at public expense as an extension of the Conservative party. Constant attempts to exploit feelings of so-called western alienation may serve the short term interests of those who seek power in Ottawa. Doubts

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created about the bonds of Canadian unity are damaging to the economic climate of Canada and Alberta and could become a threat to our prosperity.

6. Bureaucracy -- the Tory cabinet is very large and its ministers show a tendency towards the building of empires as the hiring figures in the departmental budgets indicate. A report on duplication of services, both within the government and in relation to municipalities and federal government would be most useful.
7. Department of generally foolish spending -- perhaps one of the most intriguing items in the capital budget is that of allocating \$50,000 for the purchase of work by Alberta artists. Now I can understand directing purchases of art when needed for new buildings and to help Alberta artists if they are talking about students in our high schools and things of this nature. But the risky and highly subjective business of acquiring an art collection when there is no need indicated, can only be described as frivolous, but this government it appears, has been very quick to establish itself as an expert in the art of foolish spending.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you for this opportunity of delivering my first formal address to this Assembly. It is my intention to serve my constituents to the best of my ability for as long as they want me, regardless of which side of the Legislature I am on. Further, I will attempt to live up to the sincere, dedicated and constructive example as set by our leader, the hon. Harry Strom. His judgment and integrity is unquestioned throughout Alberta and all of Canada.

MR. PEACOCK:

I beg leave to adjourn this debate.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Industry begs leave to adjourn the debate. Do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

[The House rose at 5:30 p.m.]

