

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Tuesday, April 18th, 1972

[The House met at 2:30 pm.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]

MR. SPEAKER'S RULING ON A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER:

Referring to the motion of privilege which was tentatively placed before the House for consideration last Friday, I should say that it has attracted some attention and in view of this and of the importance of a point of privilege I am anxious to make very clear to the House the reasons for the conclusions which I have reached.

On page 95 of Beauchesne, the function of the Speaker in this regard is referred to. The Speaker must be satisfied firstly, that there is indeed a prima facie case of privilege, and secondly that the matter is being raised at the first opportunity. Since all rules arise out of practical considerations, it must be assumed that the reason for giving these duties to the Speaker is to save the House time which might be lost by debating an invalid allegation of a breach of privilege.

Beauchesne makes it clear, further, that if the Speaker finds that there is indeed a prima facie case of privilege, then the final decision as to whether or not there is such a breach, and if there is what should be done, is for the Assembly and the Assembly only, and not, in any event, a matter for the Speaker.

Shorn of its preamble, the point of privilege alleged in this case says simply that the hon. Premier appointed, or signed an order in council appointing three more members to a committee than the number referred to in our rules. It is necessary to state the matter as clearly as that, since no member of this House should run the risk of being accused by means of anything but the clearest statement of the alleged point of privilege.

Referring to rule 52, it is clear that this rule refers to a special Committee, and moreover it refers of necessity to a special Committee of this Assembly. It is abundantly clear in the implications in our rules, as well as in Beauchesne and in Erskine May's authoritative work, that the rules apply to a Committee of the Assembly and that a Committee of Assembly is, and can be, only one that has been appointed by the Assembly or by its authority. For example, the mere fact that several MLA's might constitute a panel for some kind of discussion does not make that panel a Committee of this Assembly, even though all the panel members are MLA's.

Now referring to section 14 of The Legislative Assembly Act, this does not support the alleged point of privilege in any way. It merely permits members of the Assembly to receive, without disqualification, reimbursement of expenses in case they are appointed to certain committees, not necessarily Legislative committees, by order in council or by the Assembly. It may be of more than passing importance that, in fact, this committee was not

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appointed by the Premier, as originally intimated, nor was the Order in Council passed by the Premier as alleged in the statement referred to me. The Order in Council obviously was passed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

In fact, it is actually impossible for a point of privilege to arise under rule 52. By rule 52, the Assembly limits itself in regard to committees which the Assembly may appoint. Since it is a self-made rule, it is quite unreasonable to say that the Assembly may act in contempt of itself, or in breach of its own privileges. The Order in Council was passed on February 16th of this year, and the House has been in session for possibly 28 or 29 sitting days thus far, at least up until last Friday when the point was raised.

Now the Order in Council was passed on February 16th of this year and the House has been in session for possibly 28 or 29 sitting days thus far, at least up till last Friday when the point was raised. It cannot, therefore, in fairness be said that the point was raised at anything like the earliest opportunity.

There are, therefore, not less than three non-technical, clear and practical reasons why on its very face the proposed motion shows that it does not raise a point of privilege. Any one of these three reasons would be fatal in itself. Consequently, it is my duty to rule, as also happened in an alleged point of privilege some two weeks ago, that there is not here a matter for referral to the House for debate on a question of privilege. In fact, it would appear that genuine questions of privilege are very rare in Canadian Parliaments and Assemblies.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

MR. ASHTON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following petitions be now read and received. First, Alfred Bond, Fred Drysdale, William Hogue, Donald Hocks and Brian Tink, for an Act to incorporate the Grande Prairie Racing Association. Second, the Historical Society of Alberta, for an Act to amend an Act to incorporate the Historical Society of Alberta. Third, Sister Juliette LaRose, Sister Ellen Brunt, Sister Rachael Maynard, and Sister Laura Murphy, for an Act to incorporate the Sisters of Charity of Providence of Calgary. Fourth, Les Soeurs de Charite de la Providence des Territoires du Nord Ouest, for an Act to amend an Ordinance to incorporate Les Soeurs de Charite de la Providence des Territoires du Nord Ouest. Fifth, the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta, for an Act, being the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta Act, 1972. Sixth, the Canadian Junior College, for an Act to amend an Act to incorporate Canadian Junior College. Seventh, Thelma Thompson Baxter for an Act to provide for an Extension of Time for Commencing an Action Beyond the Period Allowed by The Limitation of Actions Act. And eighth, Ralph A. Sebring, Douglas Clark, R.J. Barrett, J.C. Gibbons, Ursula Melych, Peter Husing and Mrs. Greta Fennett for an Act to incorporate the Institute of Accredited Public Accountants of Alberta.

[The motion was carried without debate or dissent.]

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being an Act to incorporate The Sisters of Charity of Providence of Calgary. Mr. Speaker, I also beg leave to introduce a bill, being an Act to amend an Ordinance to incorporate Les Soeurs de Charite de la Providence des Territoires du Nord Ouest. I also, Mr. Speaker, beg leave to introduce a bill being an Act to provide for an Extension of Time for Commencing an Action beyond the Period Allowed by The Limitation of Actions Act.

MR. KING:

The intention of the act is to, first of all, broaden the purposes of The Historical Society of Alberta, and secondly, to give The Historical Society of Alberta greater latitude in the timing of their public annual meeting.

[These requests for leave and others being granted, the following bills were introduced by the members indicated and read a first time:

- Pr. 1      An Act to incorporate the Grande Prairie Racing Association  
            -- Mr. Jamison.
- Pr. 2      An Act to amend An Act to incorporate the Historical  
            Society of Alberta -- Mr. King.
- Pr. 3      An Act to incorporate The Sisters of Charity of Providence  
            of Calgary -- Mr. Farran.
- Pr. 4      An Act to amend an Ordinance to incorporate Les Soeurs de  
            Charite de la Providence des Territoires du Nord Ouest --  
            Mr. Farran.
- Pr. 5      The Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta Act, 1972  
            -- Mr. Jamieson.
- Pr. 6      An Act to amend an Act to incorporate Canadian Junior  
            College -- Mr. Cockson.
- Pr. 8      An Act to provide for an Extension of Time for Commencing  
            an Action Beyond the Period Allowed by The Limitation of  
            Actions Act -- Mr. Farran.
- Pr. 9      An Act to incorporate the Institute of Accredited Public  
            Accountants of Alberta -- Mr. Ghitter.]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HYNEMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted today to be able to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly some 60 bright-eyed and enthusiastic Grade IV and V students from Crestwood School in the constituency of Edmonton Glenora. They are accompanied today by their teachers, Miss Oberg and Mr. Foster. They are in the members gallery and I ask that they now stand and be welcomed.

MR. AFFLEBY:

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure this afternoon to introduce to the members of this Assembly a group of students from your constituency of Edmonton Meadowlark. These are a group of 25 Grade VI students from Sherwood School. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Roy Dahlstedt. They are seated in the members'

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gallery and I will now ask them to rise and be recognized by this House.

MR. COFITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly 28 high school students from the historically-named school of George McDougall in Airdrie, and their instructor Mr. Lyles. They are sitting in the public gallery, and I would ask that they rise and be recognized by the House.

#### FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

MR. YURKO:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a report on the environmental impact of oil and gas exploration and pipeline operations in Alberta commissioned by the Environment Conservation Authority. The report is qualitative in nature rather than quantitative, but it is rather interesting in indicating the extent of concern in this area and the possibility of new directions to be taken in the future.

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to file Notice of Return Motion No. 165 as requested one week ago today.

MR. COFITHORNE:

I am pleased to table Return No. 174 requested by Mr. Benoit.

MR. SPEAKER:

As recorded by Statute I have the honour to table the report of the Ombudsman for the period from November 1st, 1970 to October 31, 1971.

#### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

##### The Communal Properties Act

MR. DIXON:

I have a question for the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding The Communal Properties Act. Does the government intend to appoint a new Communal Properties Board in the near future?

MR. RUSSELL:

No, Mr. Speaker, we don't. I would recommend to Executive Council and through them to this Legislature that no appointments be considered until the Legislature has received the report of the special committee that is being appointed and asked to review the situation.

MR. DIXON:

I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. How then can the prospective Hutterite Colony purchasers proceed with the application to purchase in this intervening time?

MR. RUSSELL:

There is no way they can proceed, Mr. Speaker, and I think I have communicated that moratorium effect fairly well. I have spoken and written to solicitors and real estate agents acting on behalf of

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some of the colonies and I had some of the Brethren in my office themselves and did communicate that to them. I realize that there must be a reasonable limitation to the moratorium period that we could expect people to live with, but those affected by it seem to have accepted this fall's tentative deadline.

MR. DIXON:

A further supplementary question. I have had representation where there is a proposed deal going on in the very near future, and so my next question then is, does this mean that the government does not intend to enforce the act as it presently stands?

MR. FUSSELL:

Well, there are two kinds of activities which should be separated here, Mr. Speaker. First, there are the requirements of the act which is the law of the Province of Alberta right now, not affected by the Communal Properties Board, and secondly there are those activities in the act that are affected by the board. Those that are affected by the board are affected by this moratorium period that I mentioned, because there is no board. It is our intention to enforce the other requirements of the act.

MR. DIXON:

My final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in order that there should be an answer to this. In the meantime, could a group appeal to the court? Because I don't think the hon. minister himself can suspend the act in its present form, so I was wondering what legal ramifications - and I'm not asking this as a legal question without a board, I'm asking it regarding the act. How would they go about getting this because the board is the only one that can reverse the decision and there is no board?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is, in fact, asking a question of legal opinion.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, under what authority does the government make an act of the Province of Alberta inoperative, by refusing to appoint a board?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I had pointed out fairly clearly that the act is not inoperative. There is a period of a few months whereby no colonies can expand, or no new colonies could be acquired because there is no board to receive the applications. It's my understanding that that message had been clearly transmitted to most of the interested parties in Alberta. If some hon. members know of persons who are not aware of that I wish they would bring it to my attention.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I would still like to know under what authority the government makes an act inoperative, even for a few months by refusing to appoint a board?

MR. RUSSELL:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the authority is vested through the people who elected us.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway and the hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

Oil Leases

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals. Has any member of the government at any time during the last two months had discussions with officials of large oil companies or their legal departments, with regard to the lease restrictions announced yesterday, and what was the outcome of those talks?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, I certainly welcome answering all questions dealing with the review that was tabled yesterday. However, I have some reservation in that there may be a series of questions, and I would ask the indulgence of the House to consider them when the government brings down its position paper on natural resources revenue. Questions could be asked after that time and we could then deal with them.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, again to the hon. minister. In the paper tabled yesterday the figures on the leases were outlined. However, I would ask the hon. minister whether the government will supply us with an estimate of the reserves that are held under these restricted leases? The point -- just for clarification for the hon. minister's benefit -- that concerns a lot of Albertans is, just what percentage of our reserves are tied up in leases where there is a ceiling of 16 2/3%?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, that may be a little difficult question to get the information for the hon. member. I am wondering if the hon. member would put that on the Order Paper and be a little more specific, and we'll endeavour to have that information available for him at the time we commence discussions on our position paper.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question. Just by way of reply, I certainly will put that on the Order Paper in the form of a Motion for Return. I wonder, as a supplementary question, whether the government is giving any consideration to imposing either a selective sales tax, introducing a mineral leases renegotiation act, or perhaps considering the suggestion of the Committee of Independent Canada for an export tax?

MR. DICKIE:

Well, Mr. Speaker, again this is the point that I was raising about a series of questions that will certainly be required to be dealt with, and I had asked that those questions be withheld until we bring down the government's position paper on natural resource revenue.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Re the question of the reserves which are held. Has the government given any consideration to the allowable production rates in these leases where there is a ceiling of 16 2/3%?

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MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise again and say I would like to answer that question, but I think it is tied in with the other questions. I would again request that we would like to deal with them but we would like to deal with them after the government has brought down its position paper on natural resource revenue.

MR. TAYLOR:

Supplementary, in view of the hon. Premier's statement yesterday, is it the intention of the hon. minister to bring The Mines and Minerals Act before the Legislature and eliminate the maximum and increase the 16 2/3%?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to bring amendments to The Mines and Minerals Act, and I would again suggest that you wait until that time and then we will review the contents of those proposed amendments.

Civil Service Retirement Pay

DR. FAPROSKI:

A question to the hon. Minister of Labour. Is there any intention of this government or your department to decrease the amount of monthly payments paid to civil servants upon retirement through any new formula, directly or indirectly, because there has been a lot of concern expressed about this via phone calls?

DR. HONCL:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is unequivocally no, that is not the case at all. Without anticipating what may happen in the future I can say two things; that won't happen -- there may be an increase but this is something we will be looking at later on.

Supersonic Aircraft Over Alberta

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Premier. Has the Alberta Government established a policy on whether or not they are in favour of allowing the supersonic Concorde aircraft to cross Alberta?

MR. LOUGHFED:

Mr. Speaker, I am looking around to find out who I should direct the question to. Mr. Speaker, I am going to direct it to the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce who has been checking into the matter of transportation so far as the province is concerned.

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, through you can I thank the hon. Premier?

MR. SPEAKER:

As a matter of fact I believe the question is out of order since it deals with Dominion jurisdiction.

MR. PEACOCK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Because the impact of the supersonic aircraft is felt by people on the ground, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce if the government is aware that the British Aircraft Corporation and Sud Aviation would like to see the Concorde used in a Canadian cross-country corridor, flying over the prairies to reach the U.S. Pacific northwest?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, I think in answer to the hon. member's question it is a federal matter and I think we would have to consult them first.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. minister then, in light of his statement, if he would consider asking for a report from the three-man Canadian Transport Department delegation, who met with the Concorde manufacturers at Bristol last Thursday and Friday, where the possible air corridor was discussed?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, we'll ask for that report.

MR. WILSON:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What other steps would the hon. minister take both for and against this possible corridor to assure that Albertans are adequately protected?

MR. PEACOCK:

If the hon. member will put it on the Order Paper as a Motion for a Return?

#### Safety Test Centres

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask one of the hon. ministers what steps they take for and against something. Can I go now?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Highways and Transport. Two or three years ago the provincial government built a safety test centre at great expense, in the Manchester area of Calgary -- perhaps more correctly, they bought a building for that purpose in the City of Calgary. What does the province intend to do with this building which has been vacant for some time?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, there were two test centres built, one in Calgary and one in Edmonton. The one in Calgary was built by the Department of ...

AN. HON. MEMBER:

By the City of Calgary.

MR. COPITHORNE:

The City of Calgary owns the Edmonton one and the one in Calgary was built by the Department of Public Works. Perhaps the hon. member, Dr. Backus, could enlarge on the cost of the one in Calgary.

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MR. SPEAKER:

For the sake of the Hansard Report, did the hon. minister intend to say that the City of Calgary owned the Edmonton one?

MR. COFITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, the City of Edmonton owns the Edmonton one and the Department of Public Works owns the Calgary one.

MR. FARFAN:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, because I didn't quite get it. What does the province intend to do with it? Are you aware from the files that the City of Calgary last year requested the provincial government to perhaps reinstitute the operation for second-hand cars before sale?

MR. COFITHORNE:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Calgary one, we have equipment still stored in that facility and it isn't actually a functional operation for the City of Calgary for any purpose -- and particularly for the purpose of car testing -- because it was not well designed functionally and operatively.

Peace River Bloc and DREE Program

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, and ask him if the government has made any representations to the federal government asking for the Peace River bloc to be included in the federal designated area program?

MR. GETTY:

No, Mr. Speaker, we have not made any official representations to that effect. I recall though in the files that there have been some discussions at the official level about potential areas that might be considered for future DREE areas in the province, but this government has not -- my department has not -- made any official representation to have the Peace River bloc included or any part of it.

MR. CLARKE:

Mr. Speaker, has the hon. minister received representation from municipalities and interested organizations in the Peace River bloc asking that this representation be made to the federal government?

MR. GETTY:

No, the minister has not. There was one meeting with a group in which they requested that something be done to allow a rapeseed plant that was going into either High Prairie or McLennan to be moved outside of that area that those two towns are in, but other than that, no -- there have been no representations.

MR. NOTLEY:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Is the minister aware that the British Columbia government has backed the proposal of people in the B.C. bloc of British Columbia that they be included under the DREE program?

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MR. GETTY:

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I have heard of that representation, yes. However, we believe that there are other ways of handling the matter which are much more advantageous to the people of Alberta than in the manner which the B.C. government is using.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Would the hon. minister elaborate on the other ways of handling the problem so that the people in the Peace River can compete?

MR. GETTY:

We're back to a problem that we've had in the House before, Mr. Speaker. We are negotiating this matter with the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion, Mr. Marchand's office, and we hope that we will be able to give all of the members the information in that regard as quickly as possible and we intend to, but not while the negotiations are going on.

MR. MOORE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Is the minister aware that certain Chambers of Commerce, Unifarm locals, and NFU locals in the Peace River country are opposed to the efforts being made by certain persons to relocate the plant in another part of the Peace River country, near High Prairie or McLennan?

MR. GETTY:

Yes, I think, Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question it's quite clear that opinions are divided as to whether certain industrial projects should receive federal assistance inside and outside of the areas, because as you know, when there is an area established, it becomes then an artificial method of directing the location of industry in this province.

#### Sherwood Park Representation

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and I have two supplementaries which will save a lot of genuflection if I can get those in that order. The first question hon. minister is, in allowing Sherwood Park to have increased representation, number one, will this be by ministerial order?

MR. RUSSELL:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

DR. BUCK:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In setting the dates of the election for the increased representation, will this also be by ministerial order?

MR. RUSSELL:

No, Mr. Speaker. The existing council themselves have to set a date for the election. In my letter to them I suggested that the decision having been made to grant increased representation, in my mind it seemed desirable to have the by-election at the earliest possible date, preferably before the school summer holiday reaches us, but that decision rests with the existing council.

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DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker and Mr. Minister, this has been done before the feasibility study came in on a possibility of Sherwood Park incorporation. Is this true?

MR. RUSSELL:

If he means the decision was taken before the report having been received, that is correct. Mr. Speaker, I can only emphasize that this problem has been festering for years. We finally acted on it. It is that simple.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is this a supplementary?

DR. BUCK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last supplementary, just to help me with my elementary arithmetic, I am having a little trouble with the figure of two representatives, Mr. Minister. Just for the information of the hon. members of the House, there are 17,000 people in Sherwood Park and 10,000 people in the remainder of the county. I am wondering how you arrived at the magic figure of two, Sir?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I answered that question, I believe it was last week.

MR. SPEAKER:

The self-same question was asked and answered.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it wasn't answered to my satisfaction. . .

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. minister isn't required to answer it at all, and since it was put before and answered, I must submit that it should not be put again.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, if the situation has changed, cannot a similar question be asked? I want to know how. . .

MR. SPEAKER:

If there is a certain change in the situation and it is a new situation I suppose the question is in order again.

DR. BUCK:

For the point of clarification of the hon. members and the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know how he arrived at the number of two, when it is not representation by population. When there are 17,000 people in the hamlet and 10,000 in the rest of the county, I want to know how the hon. minister arrived at the number of two?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I still fail to see what new conditions there are. I gave quite a detailed explanation of that last week. I would be

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pleased to add one plus two equals three for the hon. member's benefit again if he is having difficulty comprehending that. I will go over it again out of the House.

The Communal Properties Act (cont.)

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Drumheller earlier had asked me by what authority we were literally suspending a portion of the act. My answer was by the authority vested to the citizens of Alberta. I since had the act passed to me. Section 4 of The Communal Properties Act stipulates that the Executive Council (presumably getting its authority back from whoever elected them there) may appoint a board but it does not say that they have to. Further on in the act it says that applications for the formation or addition of new colonies shall go before a board. So it is kind of a screwy act but we do have that choice.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, the government's action was a little screwy too, wasn't it?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview followed by the -- sorry.

MR. NCTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. He mentioned that he had consultation with the Hutterite Brethren. Could he advise the House who he consulted with? Did he consult with all the colonies in Alberta, or representatives of them, and who these representatives were?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I talked, by letter, by phone, and in person with a variety of solicitors who were acting for various colonies, also with some real estate agents. There were also two brethren in my office. It was, several months ago, and I would have to check my appointment book to get their names and what colony they represent.

MR. DIXON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Getting back to my original question, maybe now you have clarified it a bit. The act, according to the way I see it, is inoperative without a board. That is the reason why I think you should either announce that you are going to have a board or bring before the Legislature action to do away with the act completely.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member asking a question?

MR. DIXON:

I think you should clarify the point.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how plain I can make these answers because I have said many times in this House, for a period of several months -- probably until November, the portion of legislation that goes through the Board will be inoperative, and as far as I know, the people who are directly concerned by that decision seem to have accepted it. I haven't had any request to do otherwise.

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MR. TAYLOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the purchaser wants to sell and a buyer wants to buy, are they thereby losing their rights as citizens during this nine or ten month period.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is asking a legal question. The hon. Member for Olds-Lidstury, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

Edmonton Whitemud Developments

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. Some time ago I asked him at what stage plans were for the development of a major sporting complex in the constituency of Edmonton Whitemud. I'd like to know if the minister can now report to the House on the stage of those developments, and when we might expect money in the estimates for them.

MR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, we don't have any plans for construction of a sporting facility in Edmonton Whitemud, but I'd be happy to check in on that and see. And therefore, as far as I know it isn't in the estimates, either.

MR. KING:

A supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Public Works or to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Could they advise me about the state of preparedness of the plans in either department for an urban provincial park in Edmonton Whitemud, as of last September 10, and whether or not there has been any further planning done on this urban provincial park, as I understood had been proposed?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, that proposal was made by the loser of that election, and this is not in our estimates.

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Was that a government proposal?

DR. WARRACK:

No, the government, gentlemen, running in that election, won.

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, may I ask another supplementary question? Was it a government member making a proposal on behalf of the government?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, no it wasn't.

NAIT Expansion

DR. PAPFOSKI:

Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Given the enrollment at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, and given the emphasis on practical relevant

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technological training in our technological society, what is the state of expansion now with respect to NAIT?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, if I might just take a minute to answer this and provide the House with some interesting information which has come to my attention. At the present time at NAIT, Mr. Speaker, there are slightly over 200 students there enrolled in programs, who were previously at the University of Alberta. I discovered a short while ago that there are currently enrolled in NAIT for next year's term over 300 students who are presently at the University of Alberta. This is further evidence, I think, of a shift of emphasis, at least in one sector, and will give us cause for reconsidering our priorities in capital construction in the non-university field and I think that that states it.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. At what stage are negotiations with the federal government for the Department of National Defence land directly to the east of NAIT?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not a part of those negotiations, although I'm aware of that consideration as a possible area for expansion for NAIT. If the hon. member is interested in the detail of it, and to the extent it's available, I could recover it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Wainwright, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary McKnight.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like....

MR. SPEAKER:

Sorry, supplementary on the other side of the House.

MR. LEF:

I wonder if the minister has similar information regarding the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and the situation there in relation to the university?

MR. FOSTER:

I don't happen to have that particular information immediately available. I just discovered these other statistics from having been at NAIT one evening and talking with the president. I'm sure, though, that information is available, and it is something I'm sure we'll follow up on.

#### Hog Processing and Marketing

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received any word from the federal authorities regarding the proposed multimillion dollar hog-processing plant in southern Alberta, in addition to the earlier questions?

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DR. HCFNER:

I said in the House, either yesterday or the day before, Mr. Speaker, to our knowledge, no application has been made to DREE to date, in regard to the processing plant.

MR. RUSTE:

A supplementary question to the minister. Does he agree with the caution expressed by the federal Minister of Agriculture, in which he cautioned anybody to make any capital investment that would be solely dependant on the plant going forward? This is a press clipping I have.

DR. HCFNER:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we told the federal minister to be cautious about going forward.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Sedgewick-Coronation, followed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, and the hon. Member for Olds-Didstury.

#### Quality of Seed

MR. SORENSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. My question is regarding weed seeds showing up in certified seed, especially rape. What are the regulations governing seed suppliers in this respect, and are present regulations adequate? My question stems from a letter to the editor in this week's Community Press, signed by Dennis Bussey. I will just read a short portion.

"I have bought certified rapeseed for this year, with very disappointing results. After bringing it home I examined one bag, only to find many weed seeds. I then decided to send a sample to be analysed. The result showed that there were four weed seed per ounce. This does not sound like much, but it is 64 to the lb., and if you seed seven lbs. to the acre, this is 448 weed plants per acre. To my way of thinking, this is outrageous."

DR. HCFNER:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, as the hon. member knows, we are trying to upgrade the Weed Control Act of Alberta. On the other hand, the question of certified seed and the content of extraneous material including weed seeds, is regulated by the federal government under the seed act. I am not sure of the official name of the act, but it is under federal legislation which covers the seed grains of all types right across Canada. For pretty obvious reasons this has to be a federal act. If the hon. member will bring it to my attention, we will be willing to take up the matter with whomever provided that kind of seed, and to also take up the matter with the Alberta Seed Growers' Association to prevent a recurrence.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, supplementary question to that. Has the hon. minister given any representation to the federal government for amendments to The Canada Seed Act? I understand there was some work done on it earlier.

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DR. HCFNER:

Not as yet, Mr. Speaker. There has been a great deal of input, not only the question of improving the standards under The Canada Seed Act, but also the question of copyright or ownership of variety of changes in Canada; and the question of whether or not this should be considered under The Canada Seed Act, is one of the things that is being considered by the federal government at this time. As I said, we didn't make any representations as yet, to the federal government, in that area.

Japanese Investment in Feedlots

MR. NCTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Is the hon. minister aware of a report from Tokyo that the largest compound feed maker in Japan, in conjunction with some Canadian interests, is planning a giant feed lot operation in Alberta?

DR. HCFNER:

I am not aware of any specific one. I am aware of the interests that have been expressed by a number of feed lots in Alberta tying up with Japanese interests in relation to processing and supplying the Japanese market with wheat. We have made some substantial headway in looking into the market for beef in Japan. This has been because of a joint effort on behalf of the industry itself through the Alberta Cattle Commission, and individual feeders.

There have been a number of inquiries in regard to the question of Japanese capital being involved in joint operations of processing units in Alberta.

NAIT Expansion (cont)

MR. CLARK:

I would like to follow up the answer I got from the hon. Minister of Advanced education, by asking the hon. Minister of Public Works at what stage negotiations are between his department on behalf of the government, and the Department of National Defense regarding the expansion to the east at NAIT?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, there was a proposal made some time ago by the Department of National Defense, that the housing area to the east of NAIT would be transferred to the Alberta Government, provided we would build a similar housing estate for them out in the country. The cost of doing this was considered at that time unsatisfactory, and right at the moment there is no negotiation except that we have an agreement with the federal government and the Department of National Defence that should they decide to dispose of these lots, that we will have first option on them.

MR. CLARK:

One supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have there been any negotiations between the Department and the federal government and also Northwest Industries with regard to their facilities to the west of NAIT?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, no. We aren't looking in that direction at the moment and there is some negotiating going on, but it is, at the moment, in a fairly contemplative stage, and therefore, I would rather not make it public at this moment.

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Japanese Investment in Feedlots (cont.)

MR. MCILEY:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the question I directed several moments ago to the Minister of Agriculture. Just by way of explanation, information I raised in my question, sir, comes from the March issue of the Canadian-Japanese Trade newsletter. And my supplementary question to you, is that because this report suggests that they are going into the production not just the supplying of the Japanese market, but production here in Alberta, my question to you is will you look into this and report back to the House on it?

DR. HCFNER:

I will certainly look into it, Mr. Speaker. I have some knowledge as I said, of certain people who have operations in Alberta to develop sustained markets in Japan and have been negotiating with the Japanese on it. And this is feedlot processing to the Japanese market. I will look into the market and report to you.

Steel Plant for Alberta

MR. YOUNG:

I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. There is a press report to the effect that there may be a major steel development in the Province of Alberta. Could the minister indicate whether this is in fact, going ahead, whether there have been discussions and is the matter now certain?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, it just happened to be a set of circumstances, in order to explain this situation, in which I had reported to the House that one of the basic industries that we were looking at in Alberta was a steel industry and now is the time and that we would pursue this with our expediency, and all effort. At the same time there happened to be an annual meeting in Toronto in which the president of a national steel company made a statement that he was looking at an integrated steel development for the Province of Alberta in the future. And in some place or some way, the two reports got inter-mixed and it was then assumed that this is what I was talking about, and that it was a fait accompli that there would be a steel plant in Alberta.

I just want, for the information of the House, to advise them that the two reports are unrelated and that we know of no definite move for such a plant taking place in Alberta at this time.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is there any firm negotiating with the government at the present time for a steel plant in Alberta?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, we are carrying on conversations with a number of firms regarding steel and locating an integrated steel plant for Alberta.

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Margarine Sales Tax

MR. FUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct another question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the recent statement by the vice-president of the Western Canada Seed Processors in which he said, "Right now, margarine is the only edible product that carries a big sales tax". Have you made any representations to those responsible for that sales tax?

DR. HCFNER:

Not as yet, Mr. Speaker. We seem to be quite busy in trying to look after the affairs of the Province of Alberta in relation to some very important matters, our policies that we are trying to implement. I will assure the hon. member that we will be making the necessary representations to the federal government in relation to this tax and other taxes, and might I also say, that because of representations in another area of agriculture, we feel that the federal government has changed its mind and the question of semen sales are now going to be treated differently to the advantage of the farmer of Alberta.

MR. FUSTE:

A supplementary question to the hon. minister. I understood that there was a reduction in the tax on margarine last summer in the federal budget. Is this a different one than the one mentioned at that time?

DR. HCFNER:

I'm not aware if it is, Mr. Speaker, but we can look into that matter.

The Irrigation Act

MR. EUCKWELL:

Mr. Speaker a question to the hon. Minister of Environment. Could he advise the House, are there any amendments to The Irrigation Act that will be coming down at this session?

MR. YURKO:

No, Mr. Speaker, as far as I know there are not. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Agriculture might want to expand on the thing.

DR. HCFNER:

Mr. Speaker, if I might inform the House, at the spring session of the Legislature there will be no amendments to The Irrigation Act. Hopefully we can conclude negotiations with the federal government so that then amendments brought down will be better able to assess the necessary amendments that will be required.

Coal Royalties

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals. Is it the intention of the government to raise the royalty on coal at this session?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, that's a question I would like to answer but it does involve the review that we have completed on the natural

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resources revenue and will be dealt with when we table the position paper.

MR. TAYLOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the precarious condition of the coal industry, would the hon. minister and the government consider including representations at the proposed hearings in regard to the royalty on coal?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question about the proposed hearings, that will be dealt with by the standing committee themselves to decide the consideration of representations, and it will certainly be in order for organizations to make submissions to the committee if they so desire.

Works Incentive Program

MR. DIXON:

I would like to direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. Reports out of Ottawa regarding the Works Incentive Program show labour on the job received a rebate of 75% as far as the provincial government and municipalities were concerned. Who used those advances or loans? I was wondering why we didn't use this assistance to the fullest. I understand that it's about \$1 million to \$1.5 million short of the amount allowed for projects.

MR. RUSSELL:

I would like to thank the hon. members for advance notice, Mr. Speaker. It gave me an opportunity to check this with officials of my department and the news item that the hon. member showed, I believe, is incorrect. Alberta had an allotment of \$8.5 million for that program and it was distributed 100% to the municipalities of Alberta. The last available data we have is that all but \$117,000 of that \$8.5 million will be used and you can recognize that this involved many municipalities throughout the province, making application, getting their projects in order, having them approved, getting federal approval and getting on with the job. Some municipalities found it necessary to withdraw and in that case we tried to come back and find other municipalities who had projects of an equal value that might be substituted, so I really believe that in view of the very late date at which the program was announced and because it involved all the municipal governments of Alberta, that our record is really very good when you consider that at this time there's only \$117,000 uncommitted.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister. He mentioned some of them had to withdraw; were there any specific reasons for that or were they just particular to their own financial funds?

MR. RUSSELL:

I think it was all based on the local situations, Mr. Speaker. Camrose for instance had a plebiscite on their project and their voters turned it down, so there was a case of a substitution.

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Oil Field Maps

MR. EARTON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals. Have all oil fields been covered in this -- ?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, the document that's referred to is the review prepared by our table. The maps are in the back -- the coloured maps -- and I believe that is what the hon. member refers to. That's just representative of a number of fields. We didn't feel it was advantageous to have the maps for every field in the province put into that, so what we tried to do was to convey a cross-section of various fields and the effect of the various types of leases on those fields.

MR. EARTON:

A supplementary then. I have five oil fields in my area and they are not covered at all, and I was wondering if you were going to implement a supplementary to this to clarify it?

MR. DICKIE:

No, Mr. Speaker, but I think it's a very good idea placed by the hon. member and if any hon. member has a particular field that he wishes to have a map of, our department would be glad to accommodate him and get the map of the area and show him the leases that are on there, as well as the date that those leases expire.

Handicapped Persons in Public Buildings

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. What is your government's policy in regard to accommodating handicapped persons in public buildings so that they may live and move around as nearly as possible as do physically normal people?

DR. PACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, there is an amendment to the National Building Code which lays down certain regulations designed to incorporate into the design of buildings facilities for handicapped people. I believe this is called Section No. 5 and we now normally add into all of our contracts we are putting out with specifications, that buildings of a public nature will be built in accordance with this amendment.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are you planning to alter any existing public buildings so there is easy access for people in wheelchairs, and here I have in mind buildings which may have ramps now but they have inadequate manoeuvring areas for people in wheelchairs to open doors?

DR. PACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I have been in contact with the association concerned about this and, certainly, if there are any public buildings of this type that we do have control over, if our attention is drawn to the fact that they are unsatisfactory, we certainly will be happy to look into it.

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MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do you have a representative from any handicapped or disabled organization on your building design approval committee?

DR. EACKUS:

No, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we have but I could certainly check that out.

DR. FAPFOSKI:

I will direct this to the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development. Is it not the intention of the department to review this area so, in fact, we can keep people at home by modifying architectural design, not only in public buildings but also in homes?

MR. CRAWFORD:

The question of home care does raise a very useful alternative in the accommodation of handicapped people. I think, though, otherwise the answer given by the hon. Minister of Public Works -- in respect to the public buildings -- is one that I am glad to be able to take the opportunity to assure the original questioner has also had a good deal of attention by myself in regard to what may be possible in the future in that regard.

Programs for the Handicapped

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Does your department have or sponsor any programs specifically geared to the handicapped or disabled?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, yes, we have several. One of the set programs, for instance, is geared especially to the senior citizens lodges where we hope to engage them in some kind of recreation program. We also are supporting the Summer Festival for the Handicapped in Edmonton, which is under the auspices of the Association for the Mentally Retarded and we have several other programs which we do support. Even a programing, for support of the mentally and physically handicapped, as well as the senior citizens.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for the question period expired a few moments ago.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fort Vermilion

MR. RUSSELL:

On Thursday last the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview raised the question concerning the matter of some public housing units in the town of Fort Vermilion. I was hoping for a lull in the Question Period when I could report back, but because of the nature of the question I would like to report back to the House at the earliest possible date.

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First of all, Mr. Speaker, I thought I recognized the situation when the hon. member brought it to our attention last Thursday; it was almost verbatim from a news story covered in the Edmonton Journal on February 24th of this year. So at least I know how current the hon. member is with his newspaper clipping file.

The woman he referred to, a Mrs. Lorna Ferguson, was a member of the Community Action Committee that had been formed as a result of the specific housing problem in the Town of Fort Vermilion. Some of the members present will recall the situation of the squatters who were present on land which was called the Rosenberger land outside of Fort Vermilion, and the problem involved in finding housing accommodation for those squatters when they were asked to move by Mr. Rosenberger. After a great deal of difficulty, the government was able to obtain some land and get a small residential sub-division plotted, and it was sometime during that period that the Community Action Committee was formed representing the native population, the town, the provincial government -- I think there were about 15 members on the committee, but I could be wrong insofar as the members are concerned.

After a great deal of difficulty in arriving at a plan that was acceptable for the housing units to all the parties involved, the units were not tendered in that tenders were ready to be called last fall just at the time of the Winter Works Program, and the program of employment priorities was being launched; so the corporation, on instruction from its board of directors, asked that a reputable contractor who had previous satisfactory experience with the corporation try to go into Fort Vermilion and, on a basis of hiring as many local people as possible, build the housing units. He did this, and I think we'd all agree it was an experiment in trying to involve local labour and a great deal was involved, not as much as we had hoped, but a substantial portion.

There aren't any bathrooms in the houses because there are presently no water or sewage facilities, but there are empty rooms built which can easily be used for bathrooms at such time as the utilities are installed, and those can be used as extra storerooms or whatever. But they are there. The water connection is being put into the kitchens because it is the intention of the government to go ahead with the installation of a water service utility line for the sub-division and also overcome a local problem in the Town of Fort Vermilion.

Insofar as footings being poured on frozen concrete. While they were poured during the months of January and February, they were heated and hoarded over and covered in the usual manner, and I can assure the hon. member that the foundations at this point are entirely satisfactory and have passed inspections.

Insofar as the matter of oil versus propane being used. It is my understanding again that the school division is switching to propane and people are using propane wherever they get the opportunity. They are looking ahead to the day when natural gas might be available and it was a majority decision to use propane.

Just as a matter of coincidence, Mr. Speaker, on the day when the hon. member asked the question, I received a letter from the President of the Fort Vermilion Board of Trade, commenting on the substantial improvement in the housing lot of the persons involved and the general improvement of the community of Fort Vermilion, so I don't think the lady's charges about an instant ghetto being improperly built are really justifiable at this time, but I wanted to respond to them because of the seriousness of them.

I have fairly detailed information regarding the building drawings, the status of the program, the percentage of native labour that was used -- information of that type. If the hon. member would

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like it, he can get it directly from my office, or from the Alberta Housing Corporation office.

Grants to Exhibition Associations

DR. HCFNEF:

Mr. Speaker, I have just a short announcement to make on Order of the Day. It has to do with the grants that are made by my department to the exhibitions associations, the major exhibition associations in Alberta. To inform the House that the grants of \$100,000 to each of Calgary and Edmonton will be made as they have in the past, and that an increase of \$25,000 has been made to the exhibition associations in Lethbridge, Red Deer and Medicine Hat. I wanted to clear up that point that the Lethbridge and Red Deer exhibition associations will then receive \$75,000 apiece, and the Medicine Hat exhibition association will be receiving \$55,000 as a grant this year.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I propose to make a motion in a moment that Question 175 be made an Order for Return. I wondered if the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview had anything to convey to the House prior to my doing so as to whether or not he had received the consent of the person named in the question in regard to the release of any information that may be confidential?

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I believe I filed with the Clerk's office a letter of consent from the individual in question, indeed a letter asking me to solicit this information.

MR. CRAWFORD:

With that information, then, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs that the matter be made a motion for return.

[The motion was carried without further debate or dissent.]

175. An Order of the Assembly was therefore issued for a Return showing:

1. Why did the appeal hearing of Dr. John Jenkins, suspended as a psychiatrist at the Oliver Hospital last March, 1971, last more than 8 months, and why was it never completed?
2. Why was Dr. Jenkins not allowed to testify?
3. Was he forced to accept a government settlement because of the long delay during which he could not collect his salary?
4. Is he now being evicted from his home by the Alberta Housing Corporation, and if so, why?
5. Have any other appeals before the Grievance Appeal Board exceeded 8 months duration, and if so, how many?
6. What does the government plan to do in the future to ensure speedy appeals to guarantee employees are not forced to accept settlements because of financial problems that result from lengthy suspension?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. member wish to move the motion -- is there a reply to Question 180? I overheard someone say it was agreed to.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, pardon me. I would like to have until Thursday to give the reply, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would agree.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the House agree that the matter go over until Thursday?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

#### MOTIONS FOR A RETURN

MR. FURDY:

Mr. Speaker, I move Motion No. 169 standing on the Order Paper in my name, seconded by Mr. Ashton.

MR. FOSTE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment, seconded by Mr. R. Speaker that the motion be amended by adding the following:

8. What private consulting firms were used to determine the site of the hatchery?
9. What sites throughout Alberta were examined to determine the best location?
10. What facilities outside of Alberta were investigated prior to deciding on the type of hatchery?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate for me to respond at this point?

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the mover of the amendment wish to speak on the amendment?

MR. FOSTE:

Mr. Speaker, the only reason for moving this was that there are several new members in this Legislature, and I felt that with the additional information provided here, it would give a fuller picture of the whole operation.

DR. WARRACK:

The reason for my immediate response, Mr. Speaker, is that I am prepared to file the answer to the question as stated in Motion for Return No. 169. I have gone into some considerable detail on it, including some, perhaps all, of the matters brought forward by the hon. Member for Wainwright. He might wish to take notice of this additional detail and see if he would still like to have an amendment or perhaps file a follow-up Motion for Return. There is some of the additional information that you mentioned contained in my return.

DR. HCFNER:

Mr. Speaker, if I might suggest it, the amendment should be withdrawn until such time as hon. members have had a chance to peruse

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the material that the hon. minister is going to table today. Then he can very readily put out another Motion for Return. In my view, that would be the fair way to do it. I appreciate that he continues to try and still prove that his was the best government and he is still fighting the election back on August 30th.

MR. RUSTE:

On a point of order. I think the hon. minister is inferring that we have ulterior motives in this. If it is getting under his skin, well so may it be. I was just asking for information from an open government and, Mr. Speaker, I ask that this stand.

MR. HYLMAN:

Mr. Speaker, speaking to the amendment, if the hon. member opposite wants information, the answers to questions one to seven are now ready and the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests has them all available, I gather in some considerable detail. However, if there is an amendment passed, of course, it might be some days before he would get the answer, so it does seem to me that if the amendment were withdrawn he would get full and detailed information to questions one to seven, and then if he wishes further information, I'm sure the hon. minister on this side would be happy to provide it.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, is there any reason why the answer can't be deposited and another answer tabled when it is ready?

MR. SPEAKER:

I believe this is the suggestion that is being made.

MR. WARRACK:

I stand on a point of order, or whatever it takes. This particular question has been on the Order Paper for some considerable period of time, because it was on as a question, and later moved for return and I honestly think it's not particularly fair to bring forward an amendment at this point, but I would certainly, in the light of this, suggest that the rather detailed answer that I'm tabling today be examined and should additional detail be desired, I'd be most happy to respond.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Chairman, on the point of order...

MR. SPEAKER:

Actually, I don't know if there is a point of order before the House. I think we're debating an amendment. The hon. Member for Wainwright declined to withdraw his amendment.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, then in talking about the amendment, in the same fashion the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests did. I would simply point out to the House that this is the first opportunity that the hon. Member for Wainwright has had to make an amendment to the Motion for a Return. If I recall correctly, it was a question initially on the Order Paper, and last week, I believe, the Member for Wainwright stood in his place and asked if this was the place to make some amendment as far as a question was concerned. He was told, no it wasn't and he should bring it back today and do it now. So, in fairness, it seems to me that if we agree to the amendment, the

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minister can still go ahead and table the information he has and the additional information that might be necessary.

CF. HCFNER:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Wainwright has had since March 2nd to put his own Motion for a Return on the Order Paper, and in my view should have done so.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Agriculture argued the very reverse last night.

MR. SPEAKER:

I believe we're debating an amendment now, and I think perhaps we should confine ourselves to one appearance each . . . The amendment moved by the hon. Member for Wainwright and seconded by the hon. Member for Macleod, I believe.

MR. RUSTE:

Yes, by the hon. Member for Little Bow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oh, the hon. Member for Little Bow -- is that motion No. 169 be amended by the addition of clauses 8, 9, and 10, as follows:

8. What private consulting firm was used to determine the site of the hatchery?
9. What sites throughout Alberta were examined to determine the best location?
10. What facilities outside Alberta were investigated, prior to deciding on the type of hatchery?

All those in favour of the amendment, please say aye. And those opposed, please say no.

I'm unable to weigh the respective volumes, and I would ask the members -- this is not a division -- in favour of the amendment, would they kindly stand.

The difference is more readily apparent! Would the members opposed to the amendment kindly stand. I declare the amendment carried and now that the motion is amended, perhaps could be taken as having been read.

[The amended motion was carried without further debate.]

169. An Order of the Assembly was therefore issued for a Return showing:

1. What will be the total cost of the fish hatchery in Calgary now under construction?
2. What date will the hatchery go into production?
3. What will be the capacity of this plant per year?
4. Will this meet the total requirements of the province and if so, for how long?
5. Will the fish be available to private enterprise?

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6. Why was the hatchery built in the City of Calgary?
  7. Has Alberta any other ideal location for such a plant without great expense to Albertans?
  8. What private consulting firm was used to determine site of hatchery?
  9. What sites throughout Alberta were examined to determine the best location?
  10. What facilities outside of Alberta were investigated prior to deciding on type of hatchery?

176. Mr. Henderson.

MR. CLARK:

In view of the absence of the hon. Mr. Henderson, who is confined to his home because of illness, I'd ask that this Motion for a Return stand until Thursday...[Interjection]...It's not his voice!

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the House agree that Motion No. 176 stay on the Order Paper?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

177. Mr. Ludwig proposed the following motion to this Assembly, seconded by Mr. Mc Lem.

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:

1. A list showing the property owned by the government in total, and by individual departments, as follows:
    - (a) (i) All real property owned by the Alberta government as of April 15, 1972. Please classify; i.e., Treasury Branches, vacant land, provincial buildings, office buildings, warehouses, etc.
    - (ii) The cost of acquisition of such property.
    - (iii) The location of said property; i.e. city, municipality or I.D., or as the case may be.
  - (b) (i) All property leased by the provincial government in Alberta and elsewhere. Please give terms of lease; i.e., date, duration, number of square feet leased, cost per square foot, department which occupies the leased space, name of lessee department, and name of lessor, as of September 10, 1971 and as of April 15, 1972.
  - (ii) Please furnish same information for property leased by Crown Corporations and Crown Agencies.
2. Which departments of government or crown corporations or government agencies are involved in management and/or maintenance and/or caretaking of premises occupied by them? Please enumerate.
3. How many persons are employed in maintenance and caretaking of government owned or leased property, including property owned or leased by crown corporations or government agencies? Please

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provide the number of employees so employed for each department, crown corporation and government agency.

4. (a) How many contracts with private individuals or firms have been entered into by the government for maintenance and/or caretaking services for government owned or leased premises as of April 15, 1972? Please give details of contracts entered into: i.e., parties, terms, duration and date of contract.
- (b) Please furnish same information for crown corporations and government agencies, including Treasury Branches.

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an amendment to Motion No. 177, moved by myself, seconded by the hon. Mr. Russell, that we add at the end:

5. The cost to the department in providing the information required in this question.

To speak to the amendment, the reason for adding this on, is this question is a very extensive one requiring considerable time and effort on the part of the department. Such phrases as "provincial buildings, office buildings, warehouses, etc." and the fact that they have asked for all the real property owned by the Alberta government. This presumably would include crown land, and I think it is necessary to draw to the attention of this House and the public that considerable cost is involved in trying to answer questions of this type. Therefore, I recommend this amendment.

MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will not disagree with the proposed amendment. It should be brought to the attention of the hon. members, though, that when a question is given -- and I think it is in the public interest to have this information -- that a department is obliged to answer in the future. There have been answers tabled in this House at the request of hon. members who are now in the government, that required a couple of wheelbarrows to -- I am speaking to the amendment -- bring in the information that was available. The hon. members were certainly not concerned about the cost, but all of a sudden -- particularly in this case -- there is a concern about the cost.

I appreciate that there is a cost in providing these answers. I would also like to point out to the hon. Minister of Public Works that a lot of this information is ready and available and compiled in the Department of Public Works, so the cost should not be all that much, Mr. Speaker. But I agree with the amendment if he wishes to put it on.

SOME ECN. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. MCCRE:

Mr. Speaker, on the motion and the amendment, it seems to me that the Motions for Returns in this Assembly have the purpose of providing hon. members with reasonable information that could be obtained without the kind of cost that is involved here. Many of the questions here are so unclear, and I refer to (a) (1), where all real property owned by the Alberta government as of April 15, 1972.

Is the hon. member who submitted the motion aware that that will include something like 6,900 and some odd homestead sales and some

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leases and a number of other things? You can see the Department of Lands and Forests can spend several thousands of dollars answering that questionnaire.

Under (b) (i), "All property leased by the provincial government," does that mean, leased by the provincial government to someone else, or from someone else to the provincial government? That is another area that is difficult to determine in my estimation. The hon. member has a little more responsibility to his constituents, and to the province as a whole, in listing questions which answers can be found for much less cost than what these questions are.

If the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, has some pertinent information he would like to obtain, why doesn't he list the question for that department or that vehicle, or whatever he is after? But, that kind of a question is using government funds. The hon. Member for Drumheller for one, and a lot of the other hon. members in the front row, have been very concerned about using government funds for such things as this.

In my opinion, the question should be withdrawn and rephrased in a manner that is acceptable to the hon. minister.

MR. FENCIT:

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to the amendment. I don't think we would have to put some motions for Return on the Order Paper if we could get some answers back from the hon. ministers. My experience hasn't been so good up to this point, so far as even getting Motions for Return replied to. I am not really happy with that. For a government that claims to be an open government, we should be able to have more ready access. I don't intend to ask questions in the Legislature unless it is necessary, and I don't intend to put on motions for return, Mr. Speaker, unless it is necessary. But if we don't get the answers, there has to be some way we have to be able to reach them, and that for this reason, I'm not necessarily justifying this particular motion, but I want to make a statement of fact in this regard so far as the overall picture is concerned. It hasn't been all that satisfactory to this point this year so far as I am concerned, and I think that we are going to have to be more pertinent to get a little tougher, as the man says, or else we won't get the type of information that we need.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, it is all very well for the member to stand up and say that they are unsatisfactory. If we would like to state the case in the motions for return that he is not getting the answer for that is fine, but I would point out that some of the questions, particularly when they get extremely detailed, can take a considerable amount of time and a considerable amount of effort. There is no consideration on the part of our government that the answer should not be provided. We are merely saying that with respect to, as well as other government information, where the members on the other side certainly want to know what something costs, it is an extensive answer and requires an extensive amount of time and effort on behalf of the department. The minister's amendment is simply to show in this type of question that there is also a cost, and it can be a major cost, and certainly nothing else.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. YUFKO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

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MR. DIXON:

Ne, go ahead.

MR. YUEK:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I would like to say something in connection with this motion for return for the simple reason that I am very well aware of what has been tabled in the House in the last couple years. But I do want to suggest that what in fact has been tabled in the House in the last couple of years has been material in connection with the very specific requests for a specific piece of information. Information that was requested was readily identifiable. It was a document released, an approval released, by the provincial government. This particular Motion for Return has no end of ambiguity associated with it, and I am not sure across how many departments information is, in fact, required. Are we required, for example, to enumerate all our water leases which in fact, is property, water rights that we have given out in connection with numerous properties in this province? This type of a request is so ambiguous that it leaves me in a fog as to what in fact . . .

MR. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. minister debating the motion or the amendment? I think the debate must now be specifically the amendment.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I just wonder if we aren't going to run into a great deal of trouble if we accept this type of amendment. Hon. members on this side or that side of the House can ask for the cost of a certain document or information that the member requested five years ago. Unless you have some sort of guideline, I think we are going to be in trouble here, and I can understand that what the hon. minister who moved the amendment is attempting to do, is to show the cost to the public of this. We were concerned when we were in government, at the cost. Mr. Speaker, the reason I am on my feet is that this type of amendment can cause nothing but trouble down the line because it will be used as a political move at every opportunity. [Interjections] If the hon. Minister of Agriculture would stand on his feet and talk after I am through it is fine, but anyway, I wonder if we would give some serious consideration -- I can't see too much wrong with it in one sense, but in the other sense, I am thinking if it is going to be used as a general practice for the future or for the past, we are going to be going on forever. It is going to be just as expensive to find out in the long run what it costs for some of the material that the hon. Minister of the Environment was talking about, and we have wheeled it in here by the cartload. It is up to the hon. members to attempt to have their Motions for Return spelled out clearly so it is fairly easy and convenient for the minister or the department to come up with the answers.

And as has been said here about the motion which I am not speaking on at the present time, the only reason I am touching on it is because I think that if we go forward with this amendment, we are going to get ourselves in the position where we are going to be spending more time on what the costs were, than the time and costs to find out what the actual answers to the motion for return hon. member is requesting.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I support the amendment. Public funds are involved and whenever public funds are involved the information should certainly be made available to everybody. I see nothing wrong with this at all, the government is fully justified in

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indicating to the public what these things are costing. With this and with everything - this is public money - it's not our money: we are trustees for this money and I see nothing at all wrong in giving a report to the directors of this corporation -- the people of Alberta -- what their business is costing them.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. member wish to speak on the amendment?

MR. GHITTER:

No, I'll speak on the motion then, after the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Ponoka. Did you wish to speak on the amendment or on the motion? Then if there is no further discussion on the amendment -- it has been moved by the hon. Minister of Public Works, seconded by the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, that the motion be amended by adding:

5. The cost to the department in providing the information required in this question.

[The amendment was carried without further debate]

MR. GHITTER:

Mr. Speaker, if I might just speak for one moment with respect to the motion.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that as mover of the motion I should be permitted to speak first on the motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for speaking to the motion I believe, is when it is moved and that was before the amendment. The motion is no longer before the House, the motion as amended is before the House.

MR. GHITTER:

Mr. Speaker, if I just might make one brief comment with respect to this motion and not in any way to detract from the right of the members of the opposition to obtain as much information as possible, and every way possible to them.

Aside from the fact that I am somewhat concerned over the impreciseness of the motion and the onus that it puts upon the hon. Minister of Public Works in reply, and as surprised as I am that the hon. member who moved this motion is a lawyer and would allow such impreciseness to occur in the motion, it seems to me that the citizens of the Province of Alberta are being put to this great expense, and I think it is a high expense, for what I would regard to be political motives within this question. I think the key to the question that is put before this House ....

MR. LUDWIG:

A point of order, the hon. member could not impute political motives to any other member of the House, and he's out of order.

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MR. SPEAKER:

It has to be demonstrated, I believe, that political motives are evil.

MR. GHITTER:

Political motives are evil, Mr. Speaker, if they cause a great deal of expense to the citizens of the province, in this House. I think the key in this motion and the one that surprises me, Mr. Speaker, is the reference within the motion to the key date of September 10, 1971. Surely the hon. mover of the motion, who was the minister in charge of this department up to that date should well know all of this information and why should I then suggest he should be so concerned with the comparison of September 10, 1971 to April 5, 1972, which is mentioned throughout the course of this motion. I would suggest that, with respect to the use of these motions, that although the opposition is fully entitled to all information that they can receive, that it is indeed a shame to put the citizens of this province to this expense for a motion which I regard to have political motivations and one which would be, in the end result, of little use in the debate in this House by the hon. member.

MR. FAFFAN:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very presumptuous of the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo to assume that the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View did know what was going on before.

MR. SPEAKER:

In any event, presumption is not contrary to the rules. The hon. Member for Ponoka.

DP. MCCORMACK:

Mr. Speaker, looking at this motion as amended, this motion requires almost an inventory of government materials. This would keep a staff or a section of the department occupied for weeks. I see no reason why there should be this waste of time, material, effort, and staff when they could be occupied doing something useful. I have listened to this hon. member's questions before and read them on the Order Papers. The next line of questioning he will be asking will be how many bricks are in the new Calgary Court House or how many fire hydrants are there in the province of Alberta. This waste of time and talent of our civil service is ridiculous in my estimation.

MR. SPEAKER:

May the hon. member close the debate?

HCN. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the question, it appears that the hon. minister who undertook to answer the question did not feel that the questions were ambiguous. As far as the political motive is concerned, I don't think we need to go into that. I think the Conservative government has very clearly displayed its attitude towards politics and motives by appointing rather costly caucus committees to be running up and down retrieving information. Why not put them on this and get them to do something while they are at it? And I think that the hon. member spoke about the cost of this. I am well aware of what information the department has, but I am entitled to have it tabled so that I can have it at my disposal and a lot of this information is available and tabulated and ready now. The cry

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that it is going to cost -- certainly it costs -- every motion that is printed on the Paper costs money. I will submit the hon. Minister of Public Works hasn't got even a remote clue as to what this will cost but he is raising the spectre that this is going to be tremendously expensive but he doesn't know why.

As far as the hon. Minister Without Responsibility, the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill, I believe that his reputation of not knowing what went on in previous governments and in the government he is associated with is well established. I would say ... Mr. Speaker I have got the floor.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary North Hill was on his feet with a point of order.

MR. FARFAN:

Mr. Speaker, is it irresponsible for a member to call another member the Minister of Irresponsibility?

AN. HCN. MEMBER:

Just consider where it came from.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, if it's true, it isn't irresponsible.

DR. BACKUS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member said I probably hadn't a clue. The estimated cost, including salaries and overheads, to collect the data in response to Mr. Ludwig's question No. 177 and No. 178, regarding the Government Motor Vehicles and the Government Real Estate, is estimated at \$6,400 roughly.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I question that figure entirely. I don't think it is based on any research, I think it is an estimate and it's only . . . and I question the validity of that statement. . . [Interjections] . .

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please! The hon. Minister of the Environment has a point of order.

MR. YURKO:

Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, by way of clarification. I would like to have the hon. minister advise whether or not he feels this is applied to the Department of Public Works only, or is this information being requested across all departments of government? Because there is an enormous amount of property classified as property that doesn't necessarily reside with the Department of Public Works, and I would like this by way of clarification.

MR. GETTY:

Mr. Speaker, if we are getting into requests for clarification I would like also -- so that the hon. member who is closing the debate can give the House this information to make a value judgment as to whether or not we want to vote for this and have the expenditure -- whether he would, in fact, tell the House why he wants the

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information. Therefore we can assess the importance of it and decide to cause the people of Alberta this rather significant expenditure.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before I was interrupted by several speakers, and I was dealing with the hon. Minister Without Responsibility, and that's the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill, that I can only ...

MR. FAFFAN:

Mr. Speaker, can he go on doing this? I mean he is the former Minister of Irresponsibility -- this is obvious from the question -- but can he go on calling me names?

MR. LUDWIG:

That is not a point of order at all.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member certainly has the right to object to the use of this expression if he wishes to. Undoubtedly it was allowed to go by on a humorous basis in the first instance, and perhaps the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View would consider leaving it aside in his future remarks.

MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I can only speculate as to hon. member's ignorance, but only his friends know how deeply profound it is.

Now, with regard to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs' question as to why I need this information, it is absolutely necessary to establish a base from which I am entitled to question the government in its expenses, expenditures, in the budget in the future. I believe it is in the public interest that the opposition keep a close watch on this operation, and I think that that is sufficient and I don't feel we have to establish a particular need. Generally speaking, it's information that I need, that I want, and if the open government feels that it does not wish to give it, they are entitled to turn the motion down.

So far as not being clear, I'm prepared to clarify any point that any minister wishes to raise with regard to this question.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I did, I did . . .

MR. LUDWIG:

Now just a second, Mr. Speaker, I've got the floor. I know that when you ask a question of the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, that you have to draw pictures for him because he never did display very much brilliance of understanding, and I can understand his problem. But with regard to the other ministers, they have not raised a particular item of ambiguity. If they do, I will answer the question. [Interjections.]

MR. YURKO:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, may I rephrase my question so that the hon. member might answer my question? Apparently he doesn't recognize what, in fact, I asked, but it's a matter of real concern

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to my department because I suggest that as far as my department is concerned, that the costs can almost equal the costs suggested by the hon. Minister of Public Works. I ask the hon. member if, in fact, his motion for return was limited to the Department of Public Works and the matter of properties handled by the Department of Public Works, or if, in fact, as it stated, it covers all departments of government, which would include my department also. And perhaps the hon. member might indicate to the House what, in fact, his intentions are. Does he require this type of information from all departments? Or only one specific department, being the Department of Public Works?

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, reply to the question, No. 1.

A list showing the property owned by the government in total, and by individual departments. And then I set out specifics:

"All real property owned by Alberta Government as of April 15, 1972, please classify; Treasury Branches, (these are just examples), vacant land, provincial buildings, office buildings, warehouses, etc."

Now if there is any doubt as to whether I want a list of all the crown lands . . .

AN HON. MEMBER:

Oh, oh, that's pretty vague . . .

MR. LUDWIG:

It should not be vague because in most instances the Crown lands were not acquired by purchase. And therefore there should be no doubt as to what the question means -- if there is any ambiguity . .

AN HON. MEMBER:

Aw, come off it . . .

MR. LUDWIG:

Most of them were not . . .

DR. HCFNER:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member doesn't know what he's talking about...

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

DR. HCFNER:

The amount of Crown land that the previous government bought, as a matter of fact, over the past five years, would enter into some \$10 million worth, and some several thousand parcels. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the more I look at this motion, I think that it's completely out of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has already spoken. The hon. member has closed the debate and the motion as amended is before the House in its present form, and in passing I must accept responsibility for having

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overlooked the word, "etc." in it. But in any event it is before the House in its present form and the hon. member who moved the motion has closed the debate. I would, therefore, ask all those who are in favour of the motion as amended and taking it as read, would you please say aye.

[The motion was defeated on a voice vote]

178. Mr. Ludwig proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Mr. McLean.

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:

- (1) The total number of motor vehicles owned by the Provincial Government, including Crown Corporations and Crown Agencies on September 10, 1972 and April 15, 1972. Enumerate please; i.e., cars, trucks, tractors, tracked vehicles, etc. Please specify as to number of said vehicles owned by each Department, Crown Corporation or Crown Agency.
- (2) Which department service government owned motor vehicles? Please give location of each service centre and department providing service.
- (3) How many persons employed in providing services to government owned motor vehicles? Please break down by departments.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move motion No. 178 standing in my name on the Order Paper. I hope that this one doesn't get the same kind of open treatment that the previous one did. . . [interjections] . . . Yes it is interesting when the hon. members don't want to answer a question that they can vote it down and that is a precedent that is rather new in this government, in any previous governments. I will be -- if I may say so -- rephrasing that question.

With regard to motor vehicles owned by the government, I believe that it is in the public interest that this information be tabled. Something else that the opposition has a responsibility of keeping an eye on, and I urge the hon. members to support that motion.

DR. HOFMEIER:

Mr. Speaker, because the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View has chosen to make some innuendoes about not getting information, I think we should make it perfectly clear that if the hon. member will take a little bit of time and use some of the legal training that he is supposed to have, to set out in a clear and precise matter the information that he wants, that we will provide it for him. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, even this motion that we are now discussing is ambiguous. I would like to know what kind of a motor vehicle an "etc." is, for instance, and I believe that that "etc." should be taken out of the motion because nobody can answer that. If the hon. member will take some pains with these things and not just scribble out a thing and ask his secretary to type it up and throw it on, he will get the proper answers, but it became pretty obvious that in the other motion he didn't know what he wanted and didn't even know what he had asked for. That becomes pretty bad and is a measure of the kind of irresponsibility he was talking about earlier in this House. It should reflect upon himself rather than anybody else.

MR. FARRAN:

Would the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View permit a question, Mr. Speaker?

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MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FAFFAN:

In the long list of vehicles of which you want just a broad number, will you be including all the. . .

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Will the hon. member speak up? I can't follow what he is saying. I would like to hear. . .

MR. FAFFAN:

I wondered if the vehicles in the antique category in the Glenbow Foundation are meant to be included in the broad numbers?

DR. PACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, in view of what has gone on and in pointing out to the hon. member that we are not denying them the right to ask questions, and, in fact, even in the previous one we have turned that one down, because in the view of those on this side of the House it was not properly clarified. However, in question No. 178, I think it is much more reasonable provided that we make an amendment to strike out the word "etc." in paragraph one, because this permits everything right down to lawnmowers. But apart from that, I would agree too.

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I am. . .

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder for the amendment, or do the mover and seconder of the motion wish to accept that change without a formal amendment?

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would accept it but I would want to speak to the amendment -- well, he is proposing an amendment.

DR. PACKUS:

This was seconded by the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the amendment, the reason that that "etc." was put down is that I didn't want to be in the same position with the hon. minister as I had been with the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. He wants to have everything specific, and I set it out so that they don't say, well, a jeep or some kind of another vehicle is not a motor vehicle in the true sense of the word, so that all motor vehicles that are known as motor vehicles. I made it clear, I am not interested in lawnmowers because I don't think that is defined as a motor vehicle, at least I haven't heard it being defined as such. So that word "etc." has no hidden meaning; I just wanted to have an inventory of all the motor vehicles of all descriptions -- trucks, tractors, etc. -- in the department. If it created any confusion in the mind of the hon. minister, I am quite in agreement to have that word "etc." struck out.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Does the mover of the motion agree that the word "etc." may be expunged?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

And does the House agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

Then, without formal amendment, we now have the motion before us without the word "etc."

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, I've been asked, or at least this House has been asked, and I am a member of this House, to vote for a motion which requests what is basically an inventory at a certain point in time. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am at a total loss how this information of that very general nature may be used. I wonder, in fact, if we are to go on supplying this kind of information, what the function of this House is, when we are on public accounts? What is the function of members of this House when we are in the estimates? It would seem to me that this is a proper time to explore questions of cost, of function.

The information requested here will not enable anyone to decide whether the government should or should not have these vehicles, these other items that are requested. Without a proper understanding of the function and the need and the policy -- without relating them to some overall idea, some overall concept of the role that these vehicles will play, it is useless information. Now, I have yet to be satisfied by the hon. member opposite that there is any valid point in requesting this information.

If the hon. member really wants this information, then I think it is his responsibility to me, so that I can acquit my responsibility to my constituents, to identify for me a precise reason why this information can be useful. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that I have to regard the question or the Motion for a Return as frivolous, vexatious, and...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Irresponsible.

MR. YOUNG:

...not very well considered.

DR. FAIRFOSKI:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak on this motion. I support this kind of a request. I think it is valid and I think it is the duty of the opposition members to ask this kind of question. However, it had been stated on the previous motion that details have to be spelled out, and have to be spelled out clearly, so that the minister in charge can, in fact, obtain this information without any great difficulty and without any great expenditure. And therefore, on this particular motion, I must support it. I think it is the responsibility of the opposition to have a baseline for whatever

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reason he may use it in the future, and I would think that a baseline, gathering all this information about the trucks, cars, and so forth, will give him a very good idea what the expenditures will be henceforth. If he chooses to use it politically, fine, but I think we can defend ourselves very well. Thank you.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word or two in connection with the motion. It is the prerogative of every hon. member to decide whether or not the information should be made available and vote accordingly when the motion is before us. I, however, question the right of the government or government members or opposition members as to the purpose for which any member wants information. That is his business, and if my constituents want me to secure certain information, there's certainly no reason why I should outline that to my leader, or to the Premier, or to the House. I'm entitled to the information. If the House doesn't want to give it, that's the prerogative of the House.

Now, cost has to be a factor when we are considering these items, but cost was a factor also when the government decided to hire Touche, Ross for \$20,000 to secure information which was available already in the estimates and it didn't have to be spent at all. That is our view. The government decided otherwise and decided to spend \$20,000 on it. The cost has to be a factor and I think we have to leave ourselves open at any time when we are spending public money to decide whether or not we think it is a proper expenditure or an improper expenditure and finally, we'll answer to our people who sent us here whether our judgment was right or wrong.

But I want to emphasize again that because one member can't understand the reason why another member wants the information, and because a member does not give the reasons why he wants the information, is not a valid reason for turning down a request. I think it has to be on a broader basis than that. With those two points, I simply wanted to say that each member will have to decide himself whether he thinks the information should be supplied or otherwise.

MR. GETTY:

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I think the House should be aware of when you are dealing with matters like this, is the fact that the business of the Assembly is important; the Order Paper is important; and Motions for Return and written questions are important. Because once they have been decided upon by the Assembly, the government has no choice; they must answer in the manner determined by the Assembly. Therefore, the people of Alberta must pay in order to have the information gathered. But, I can see no reason why the people of Alberta should be required to pay for the sloppiness of a member in the House, who is preparing a Motion for a Return, and not doing it well.

I think if we achieve nothing else in this debate, we will have brought to focus that a member who has some record of ill-conceived questions and returns, should pay more attention to them. Certainly, any member of the opposition has a right and responsibility to ask for information. But that same right carries with it additional responsibility, to make sure that he is asking for it in the right manner. I submit that the people of Alberta cannot be asked by this House to pay additional money for sloppiness on the part of members.

HON. MEMBERS:

Fear, hear.

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MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. minister a question. In what particular manner is he criticizing this motion before the House now, as to either sloppiness or ambiguity? He could be specific since he made the allegation.

MR. GETTY:

Mr. Speaker, we had a sloppy one just the time before.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with this question. The hon. minister is getting a bit smart. He should answer my question. He made an allegation; if he has an answer, he should answer it.

MR. GETTY:

I am trying to, Mr. Speaker, because I said he had a record. The one just before; I have had to reply to a question which he put on the Order Paper, asking about a Finance Ministers' meeting in Jasper in the fall of 1971. There was no such meeting in Jasper in the fall of 1971. Nevertheless, without checking into the facts, he was asking for information. So he has got a record; he has done it twice. And for all I know, we have to go through it with a fine-tooth comb because it is probably in there in this one, too. There is no record about it; the question is there, and therefore, I think all the ones he is submitting should be looked at very carefully, so the people, again, do not have to pay for that sloppiness.

HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, on a point with reference to what the hon. minister just referred to. Quoting from Hansard, it refers to the heading, 'Finance Ministers' Conference.' The question by Mr. Ludwig: "Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Did he attend the Finance Ministers' Conference in Jasper?" and Mr. Getty's reply: "Yes, Mr. Speaker."

MR. GETTY:

He doesn't know either, Mr. Speaker. There was a Finance Ministers' meeting in Jasper. I answered the question when he said it. Then, he comes in with the question saying, 'in the fall of 1971?' There was not one in the fall of 1971. That was the question he asked. So now they have compounded the error on the other side.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, are we discussing No. 178 or several others?

MR. SPEAKER:

The point of order is well taken, actually. Each question must stand on its merits, and may not be judged by the personal record of the questioner.

MR. MCORÉ:

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Question No. 178, paragraph 3, "How many persons employed in providing services to government-owned motor vehicles?" I would presume that the word 'are' should have been inserted between 'persons' and 'employed'. But that in fact, asks

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for a determination of how many persons may be employed in servicing government-owned vehicles. It could, in fact, entail looking into the operations of every service station in this province, and garage, body shop and everyone else who might supply services to government-owned vehicles.

Finally, it says, "Please break down by departments." Break down the number of government-owned vehicles by departments? Break down the number of people servicing government-owned vehicles by departments? This motion is no different than a lot of the rest that have been submitted by the hon. member opposite.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, speaking to Motion No. 178 on the Order Paper, I think this is a good question. We can all argue back and forth, hon. members, as to how it is worded, but I don't know what the hon. member who moved the motion had in mind . . . [Interjections] . . . I have put motions on the Order Paper and so have members opposite, and they have gone ahead, and this is their prerogative to put them on. And I have certain reasons for putting them on and they may not agree with all the reasons.

But anyway, getting back to Motion No. 178, Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good motion because I am always interested in people giving the facts as they actually are, and if I am going to debate the point for example, as whether the government should either lease their cars rather than buy them, or whether they should give free enterprise an opportunity to service them rather than their own departments, we are in a changing world and the purchasing of vehicles and the servicing of vehicles have changed. And if I was going to stand on my feet in the House and argue that the government should realistically look at this situation and maybe have their cars leased rather than bought, then I would have the actual information before me given by the government, who I may be criticizing. I would sooner be criticizing with the facts than criticizing with the guesswork. And I think this is the reason that this is a legitimate question to ask. Because there are many things that we can bring up. As I mentioned we are talking about vehicles here, motor vehicles, and the time may come when we should look at the operation that we have as far as the government is concerned -- maybe we should be leasing the cars rather than buying them. Once I received the information I could go forward and be in a much better position to debate, as all hon. members would be, if they had the actual information before they debated the issue. Mr. Speaker, I think that this question is a good question, and can be used for the purposes of information, not only for the hon. members, but for the constituents as well.

MR. MINIELLY:

Mr. Speaker, just speaking to the question, no one is questioning the question in itself. We are saying that the question is specific in basically what it wants. This is an example in No. 178, and the intent of the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View in requesting No. 178 is not in question by the government. What is in question is actually what he wants, and I think there is a responsibility on him to be specific. I refer to clause (3) on question 178. The question reads "How many persons employed in providing services to government owned motor vehicles?" Well, we don't want to provide incorrect answers to the hon. member's question. I assume that he means employed by the provincial government, but it doesn't state there what he means. I assume that he means employed by the provincial government, not persons contracted or otherwise. But that kind of thing should be specified in the question.

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MP. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, commenting on the debate we have had this afternoon, I think we might almost call it provincial "be nice" day to the member from Calgary Mountain View. I suspect if all of us go back over some of the comments we make in the House, to some of the questions members in the past have asked and members of the present have asked, we can find some statements that wouldn't stand some of the scrutiny that is being hoisted upon some of them here this afternoon. For example, if the purpose of a Motion for Return is really to get information -- and the hon. Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs has made the point about a mistake that the member made as far as the Finance Minister's conference is concerned -- if the purpose of the House is really to get information, when the Motion for Return was posed, the minister could have said: "are you referring to the meeting that was held in January or February?" But you know, it is a matter of how you look at the thing, and where you sit, perhaps.

[Interjections]

No, now just -- but you know if one's attitude is the way the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is trying to portray to us, well that might have been the sporting thing to do. On the other hand, the members will recall yesterday in the House when one hon. member asked the Minister of Labour if the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board has resigned, and the answer was no, he hadn't. But upon a little more questioning we found out through the Premier that the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board has indicated to the hon. the Premier that he wants to step down right away. And so you get to a pretty narrow line here.

And thirdly, there has been a custom for several years -- and the Minister of Labour can shake his head all he wants -- there has been a custom for several years in this House that when a minister isn't satisfied with the question, he brings in an amendment to it. And some ministers have done this already this session. And so we could have handled it that way. Well, we can argue all afternoon and perhaps all I have done is stir up the water so we argue some more, but I suggest that there might be things that we could better spend our time on than spending all afternoon arguing about Motions for Return.

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

May the hon. member close the debate?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. LUTWIG:

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this motion I am obliged to comment on the remarks made by the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. I doubt very much whether in light of what has transpired previously, that anyone with even a Grade II education would have had any doubt as to what the question meant, and the only mistake I made -- and it was very sloppy on my part -- was that I gave the hon. minister credit for more intelligence than he has displayed since. As far as Motion No. 178 is concerned, Mr. Speaker, there are several reasons why that motion is on the Order Paper. I might want to determine what is happening and maybe make recommendations for changes. It's my responsibility, and I believe that no one can quarrel with the context of the questions. I am

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rather amused at the fact that one hon. member located a typographical error and made an issue out of it, and that just goes to show you the level of things we ought to expect. I believe that there is a responsibility to be specific, but there is also a responsibility on the part of a minister who has any responsibility, that if he is in doubt to not let a motion go through, let it be printed, let it go on and on and then say; "I'm sorry, but I wasn't bright enough to know what it meant and the answer is no." That's what happened. I think that was synonymous with sheer irresponsibility and the hon. Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is the last man to point his finger at anybody on grounds of irresponsibility, because his was the finest example of irresponsibility witnessed in this House. Mr. Speaker, I submit that this is a proper question and I urge the hon. members to support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard Motion No. 178 on the Order Paper would all those in favour of the motion please say "aye", and those opposed please say "no". The motion is carried.

179. Mr. Clark proposed the following motion to the Assembly:  
Seconded by Mr. Bencit.

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:

Copy of the text of the address made by Mr. James W. Clarke, Director of the Economics Division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture dealing with Government policy, at the Dairymen's Conference held earlier this year in Edmonton.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, it's with some fear and trepidation that I rise and move Motion No. 179. But I trust that it's quite straightforward and I might simply say that the reason I want information is because some people who were at this particular convention have asked if I could acquire copies of the gentleman's speech and that's why I'm asking the question.

DR. HOFNER:

We are very pleased to accept the motion, Mr. Speaker, and to table the answer.

[Motion No. 179 was carried without debate or dissent.]

#### MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. Lee proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Mr. Appleby.

Be it resolved that the government of Alberta consider methods by which early childhood education programs may be implemented in this province.

MR. LEE:

I just can't believe that I'm actually standing in my place. In order not to hinder debate too much I hope that I can keep my remarks reasonably brief. But at the outset, in introducing this resolution, I would like to repeat that statement that I made in my maiden speech in which I first presented my position on this topic and I quote:

"Early childhood learning experiences have become a major educational development, especially in urban areas, to the extent that these families and those communities which cannot

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provide this service are finding their children at a learning disadvantage upon entry to the school setting. Because of this new society emphasis I urge our government to move in extending educational services to the age five level, perhaps exercisable at local option, but provided for in the general foundation program."

In saying this I am echoing the words of a number of people, and most recently those of Dr. Walter Worth, who is the chairman of the Commission on Educational Planning. In 1966, speaking at the 60th annual convention of Alberta School Trustees' Association, he stated and supported the view that Alberta needs publicly supported kindergartens. And I see no indication that this statement made in 1966, after an extensive study of the whole area of early childhood education will change now in June when Dr. Worth presents his commission report to this Assembly. In fact, the message will probably be more emphatically stated, backed up by more current researches, stating that the weakest point of the Alberta educational system is at the early childhood education level, where Alberta's record is one of the poorest in Canada.

I want to examine with you the Alberta record in early childhood education. But before I do, let's clarify just what we mean by this term and determine what areas and what alternatives we are referring to. Basically, I see early childhood education as those learning experiences provided for children prior to their entry into what is now the formal elementary school system, usually at a universal age of five and a half or six years.

Now, children every day do learn simply by playing with their peers and playmates. But when we place an instructor in this process we formalize the instruction to a certain extent, then we do have what we call a learning experience, in this case an early childhood educational experience. Although we generally identify kindergarten as being congruent with this area there are other initiatives which we must identify and examine in order to determine just what would be our thrust in this very crucial area. So I want to examine with you early childhood education by discussing activities which we might present to children from the ages of three to six.

First of all, starting at the age of six, there are many pre-school activities which must be provided for those children who are unable to advance and who are unable to cope with regular Grade 1 learning experiences, and these are provided within the formal educational system. There are two main initiatives which I might point out in this area. First of all we have what we call 'readiness classes' and those of you who are acquainted with the Separate School system here in Edmonton will probably be aware of an excellent readiness program which is being conducted by this school board. But this is for students who are unable to learn within the regular class at Grade 1 and are provided at this time with a pre-school preparation prior to their entry into the formal learning experience. This thus allows them to benefit from the formalized curriculum a few months later on.

Now congruent to this, and secondly, we also have an emerging emphasis in what we now call Level 1 and Level 2, in those jurisdictions that have applied the level system. Level 1 and 2 are those pre-school experiences which a student will have before entering school. Instead of using the term Grade 1, when we use the level system we say that a student is entering Level 3, and if he is prepared to advance into Grade 1, or Level 3, then he is assumed to have obtained a Level 1 and a Level 2 experience by some other process, very often an enriched home or cultural atmosphere, or through an early childhood learning experience. Many students, however, at age six are not prepared for Level 3 and can be enrolled in a preparatory Level 1 and Level 2 in a level system type of

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jurisdiction and thus giving the same effect really as the readiness program which I just described.

Let's go on to age five. It is at the age five level that we find most of the pre-school incentives which do occur now in Alberta. The main one here is kindergarten and at this point the experience can be provided in a number of fashions. We can have kindergarten provided in half a day, every day per week, five days per week, or we can have it provided three days a week. But generally, kindergarten presents a variety of activities preparing the children for a more formalized Grade I instruction in the next year.

But, secondly, at age five we do have a formal Level 1 and Level 2 experiences provided, in most cases within local school jurisdictions, and there are a few throughout the province who have advanced their school system down to provide a kindergarten experience under the terms of Level 1 and Level 2, under the same basic criteria as that provided for kindergarten.

Finally now let's go down to the ages of three and four. Here we have a number of incentives. Some of these are what we call 'Headstart Programs'. Usually these programs, as provided mainly in other countries of the world and more currently in the United States, are intended for the ages of three and four. But in Alberta, due to the massive gap in, and the lack of kindergartens, these are also extended to the age five level.

Headstart activities are those that are provided for children who have been termed culturally, socially, physically, or mentally disadvantaged. And these activities can function within the regular school year, but also as a part of various summer headstart incentives. As an example here, I might point out that in the Red Deer Public School Board, under the Innovative Projects Fund in 1971, they provided a summer pre-school experience for beginners who had demonstrated a lack of readiness for the regular Grade I program in 1971. Although this was not provided for in the regular school year, it was done in the summer as a headstart activity.

Basically what we're doing then in a headstart program is providing advantages for those people, who will, in all probability, not be able to gain them, and will, in fact, if not gaining them, be placed in a depressed situation upon entering school. Now a prime example is our Indian and Metis population where it has been estimated that something like 85% of these children will drop out of school by Grade VI. In Headstart we are serving a population which is really politically powerless, where the families or communities where they live are not able to, or not willing to provide, the enrichment which they are going to require upon entering the school system.

Finally, in talking about early childhood education categories, I want to speak just briefly of a number of supplementary experiences, most offered now through the private sector and in a rather sporadic fashion throughout the province, and providing really a range of educational activities.

In the first group of these we have nursery, playschools and day care centres, which are provided in most cases, as a custodial service for working mothers. In many cases here, excellent educational programs are also provided in these schools and centres, but there will still be a wide range of the quality of these experiences offered. By the way, I might mention that this area is directed within the Department of Health and Social Development through a licensing function rather than by the Department of Education.

I mentioned earlier the summer activities under headstart programs. There are a number of other summer programs which do

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provide educational experiences for children -- the Opportunities for Youth program last year had a number of projects in which post-secondary students throughout the province provided learning experience for children. And this will probably be advanced to a great extent this year with a continuation of this program, and also with the initiation of our own Student Temporary Employment Program. Although these initially in the summer may be playschools, they also do provide a number of educational and headstart experiences for selected children.

In a limited sense also, there are creative and language schools, where students are given a more advanced type of learning experience in the arts and the learning of other languages. The main incentives, however, in this area have been provided in the two main cities of Calgary and Edmonton, and for a very limited number of children.

Finally, educational television is another supplementary experience, and a lot of attention you'll remember last year was centered on the program, "Sesame Street". But with innovations in cablevision and the extension of educational television, in our systems centred in Calgary and Edmonton, we find that there are more programs available to children either at home, or within a formal nursery, school, or kindergarten setting, as a supplement to some institutional programs.

Now let's look at the early childhood education system in Alberta. Generally our position in Alberta isn't too enviable. In fact, the present system of early childhood education is simply widening the gap between those who can gain these experiences, and those for whom they are not available.

Along with Prince Edward Island, we have the dubious distinction of being the only provinces in Canada which make legal provision for kindergartens, but do not provide grants or support for them other than -- and I might mention these -- two pilot programs which were offered in Calgary and Edmonton two years ago.

So the situation is this. Other than these two pilot projects, parents must pay for their children to attend kindergarten, usually ranging from something like \$10 to \$30 per month. In a number of cases communities and private groups will provide the kindergarten experience for children. In fact, what we really do in Alberta is rely very heavily on non-governmental groups to provide early childhood education. So the situation really is that groups, organizations, communities, and individuals must establish the and operate early childhood education in Alberta.

The provincial government does involve themselves, though, in this process to the extent that they do license and provide the framework within which early childhood education must function. This is done within two departments. The Department of Education licenses kindergartens and provides the framework of facilities, programs, and the quality of the teaching staff for kindergarten. Once again, I stress, this is only a licensing, not a funding capacity.

Secondly, those institutions and groups providing basically a custodial care, are licensed under the Homes and Institutions Branch of the Department of Health and Social Development.

This isn't to say that kindergarten isn't going on here in Alberta. I just want to examine what the private sector does and what those jurisdictions do that do decide to levy on their taxpayers a sum which will provide some kindergarten experience. First of all, in the area of kindergartens, a small number of public school kindergartens have been provided in six jurisdictions in the province. What they have done here through collecting extra taxes,

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in certain parts of their jurisdictions, they are providing kindergartens.

Going to the private sector, where most of the main energies are provided, we have something like 400 classes this year, available for about 11,000 students in centres throughout the province. Thus, we really have something like 14,000 to 15,000 children in kindergarten in Alberta and in all likelihood about an equal number in other pre-school institutions such as nursing schools, play schools, and day centres. So although the government is involved in licensing, I think that we should point out that a number of jurisdictions, a number of private citizens have recognized the need for early childhood education and are providing it in the province.

Just quickly looking at the second area of Headstart programs, we find that projects were operated under the Department of Health and Social Development and the Department of Youth. These have been provided in a number of areas in the province, mainly on a pilot basis for those that have been termed culturally disadvantaged. This is in about 15 jurisdictions.

That is the story in Alberta. There are a lot of activities and a lot of excellent incentives being carried on but in a rather accidental, almost haphazard manner, where the provincial government becomes involved only in a licensing way. As I said, we rely very heavily on local and family initiative to provide activities for our children.

In concluding, I want to provide for your consideration, four recommendations for early action in this area.

1. I recommend that we lower the beginning school age to age five, thus providing for the full services of the school system for those jurisdictions which would be prepared to undertake this service. This would extend the qualified staff, the extensive educational, recreational facilities now available to the age five and a half and six year old population down to the age five. At this point I envisage a level one or two of kindergarten experience for these five year olds, offered or maybe a half day, a full day, three days a week, depending upon what the local jurisdiction may determine.

2. That in lowering the school age we provide for this in the School Foundation Program and that this be exercisable at local option.

3. I recommend that we accelerate the evaluation and the development of headstart programs throughout the province, for the culturally, physically, emotionally, and mentally handicapped in those jurisdictions of need.

4. I recommend that all early childhood education experiences be both funded and licensed under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education, rather than under the three or four departments where it now exists.

In making these recommendations, I fully realize that many concerns and many problems do remain. I would hope that hon. members in this Assembly would share with us their experiences in the limited time left, their experiences as trustees, educators, and parents, discussing some specific programs which might be initiated, specific difficulties which might occur and specific arguments which they might have in opposing this resolution. And specifically, looking to the other side, I would invite comments from the past Minister of Education for Olds-Didsbury. I invite some comments from Mr. Gruenwald, who was past president of the Alberta School Trustees' Association, and a number of other people on both sides, interested in this area.

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In summing up, I would only make this statement, that early childhood education is a fact in Alberta. But what of those who are unable to benefit from this fact -- those communities not termed as pilot areas; those parents and communities not able to provide programs or funds for kindergarten or early childhood education; those areas not termed as culturally deprived? These are the people, and these are the areas that are politically powerless, and the ones that are finding themselves at a disadvantage upon entering the regular school system.

Now this year we've established five very creditable priorities for action, in our first year as the government of Alberta. I hope that we would establish early childhood education as one of our first priorities in our 1972-73 fiscal year. We would begin this reversal of emphasis in education from the top end of education, at the post secondary and senior high school level and tip it over to the area that requires it at this point in time, at the primary and early childhood level.

Mr. Speaker, it's my personal contention that anything less could only be termed inadequate at this time.

MR. AFFLEPY:

Mr. Speaker, as I rise to second the motion made by the previous speaker, my colleague, the hon. Member for Calgary McKnight, I wish to compliment him on the capable and comprehensive way he has covered the subject. As I stood up here this afternoon, I felt something like he did -- "Are we at last talking about this?" I think now that I still have hopes for The Fee Act.

I'd like to base my comments on some of my own experiences and observations in a number of years as a student councillor in the Alberta School System. During these years I have met with many teenage students who have had adjustment difficulties -- difficulties of social adjustment, academic adjustment, behaviour adjustment -- all of course tied in and integrated into the field of emotional behaviour. And frequently, Mr. Speaker, when, as a student counsellor, we meet with these types of students, we go, of course, into their cumulative records, which is a record that follows the student right through from day one, when they enter our school system. And we examine that, and if by some mischance this record is not available, then we do retesting and a reassessment of this type of student. Quite frequently we find that they have had somewhere way back at the day when they entered school a reading deficiency that was apparent in their testing programs. Perhaps they may also have some sort of environmental deprivation, but nevertheless, one or the other of these can be responsible for the type of behaviour that they are experiencing in adjustment at the teenage level. Either one of these things would have responded to training in early childhood with the proper type of program.

Now, Mr. Speaker, of course, these deficiencies are normally identifiable at Grade I level when this type of student does come into school. But by then it may be too late to do very much about it. Because we have such a broad spectrum of preparedness as students come into school at the Grade I level, we find that the staff can only cope with certain deficiencies and they have considerable difficulty in supplying the necessary remedial individual attention that may be required in many of these cases. The result is, quite often, that this same type of student is always falling a little further and a little bit further behind in the programs as they progress from grade to grade, and eventually they become more and more frustrated until at some later time in life these type of frustrations become evident in their behavior in other forms.

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My colleague, Mr. Lee, has described very well some of the pre-school programs that are available here in the province. A great many of them: pre-school, headstart, kindergarten, nurseries, playschools, many others. But the percentage of our student population that this could be made available to, that are able to take advantage of such a program, is quite small, unfortunately. One of the real unfortunate aspects of this, Mr. Speaker, is that quite often the ones who need most to participate in such a program of this type, do not do so because of conditions, maybe location, maybe a transportation problem, maybe an economic problem within the family, that they just don't get the chance to do so.

Mr. Speaker, a great many adults have some difficulty in seeing clearly or understanding just what we mean by an early childhood education. For many, I think, it is looked on as sort of a communal baby-sitting service or a playschool that is supervised. Perhaps the recency of the development of the thinking along the ideas of early childhood education is responsible for this misconception that prevails in a great many areas.

I think this probably came about, Mr. Speaker, by reason of the fact that the emphasis on this continent in education has, for many, many years, been in the areas of the higher education, post-secondary, secondary, junior and senior high, elementary. We might liken this, perhaps, to the rungs of a ladder, where they forgot to put the bottom rungs of the ladder. These lower levels on the ladder, of course, Mr. Speaker, would be the extremely important formative years in the life of the individual.

Then, Mr. Speaker, one might say, 'well then, just what is the purpose of early childhood education?' One thing we should be very cautious of -- and I lock on early childhood education that it should apply to the three to five year old level -- is that we do not put these children into a very highly-structured formalized type of teaching situation.

I don't really agree with my colleague when he says that we should put these five year olds into the regular school system and give them early childhood education at that point. I feel, that if the five year olds were put into our present elementary school system, this would result in the pushing down of the grade VI level as we have it now, onto the five year olds. And the purpose for which early childhood education is actually meant, and the achievements it should actually produce, would be lost in this instance.

Basically, the purpose of early childhood education, as I see it is to supplement and extend the early home experiences; to identify areas that the youngster may require assistance in; whether these are motor skills; whether these are academic deficiencies; or whether they are problems of behavior adjustment, and to do all this in an environmental atmosphere that is planned to further each child's development through living and learning with his peer group.

In short, such a program is to teach children how to live together and work together, and learn together. Besides this, of course, each child, in such a situation will learn what the matter of independence means; and he will develop the beginnings and habits of personal and individual responsibility, and also the beginnings of habits to do with community responsibility as well. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt, I am fully convinced, that the need exists for this type of education. Discussion on this topic could cover such a broad area that I don't think anyone of us could give it justice in this Assembly in the time that we have available.

We might want to consider how such a program could be implemented in rural areas of this province. And naturally that would be a question that might arise. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this

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is where we might make use of these graduates who will be coming out of Grant MacEwan College, who are in an early childhood education program there. This might be where our preventive social services could come into the picture in developing areas where maybe this type of education could be brought to the children close to their home situations. We might also want to consider uniformity of purpose, and this along with the matter of qualified instructors. These are all important things we might want to consider. I have felt, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of things we would want to include in this discussion. But for the moment now, before I close, I would like to get back to what I started with. In my original remarks when I spoke about the adjustment of teenage students and the problems they have, and these being identifiable with things that developed in the early childhood days. Know that the communication skills as we have them today, are the things that open the doors to everything in our society. Such things as listening, and speaking, and seeing, and reading and writing. These are the skills that lead us into the world of the sciences and of the arts, and all the related subjects. And coupled with these skills of course, are the needs for responsibility, for accountability, and the social graces. All the beginnings of these could be and should be developed in the early childhood days. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that we as a government, should foster this type of program. I think we should assess this need in respect to all the education programs that we have in this province today, and I think it should receive the priority that it justly deserves, and in saying this, Mr. Speaker, I do so because, if we institute such programs for these children, we'll do certain things. We will develop a very positive attitude towards schools and towards learning, we will develop a very positive self-concept based on the individual strengths that each child has. We will develop in these children the ability to communicate their ideas and their feelings. And we will develop within each child the responsibility for his own learning. In other words, we will teach him how to learn.

And all of this, of course, to be done in a very free, a very relaxed, a very non-pressured type of atmosphere. You have to include plenty of physical play situations, role playing, use of community resources, and all within a very homelike informative atmosphere. These, I think, Mr. Speaker, are some of the objectives and some of the purposes we should be looking at in early childhood education. And if we can, Mr. Speaker, work out the necessary physical arrangements to institute such a program for early childhood education, for all pre-school children, then we can look forward to significant advantages for all the participants in their later years, and for a much better preparedness for a responsible position for these people in our society.

DR. FAPFOSKI:

Mr. Speaker, I offer unequivocal support for this resolution. I would suggest that the resolution instead of reading, "be it resolved that the government consider methods by which early childhood education programs may be implemented", it should read, "should be implemented," and should be implemented for special children in our province that have these special problems. I think this resolution should have been a top priority and in fact I would say that it is a priority item in our government with our present administration because it's dealing, really in fact, with some of the handicapped children of the province.

When the hon. Member for Clover Bar -- unfortunately he's not here -- says the members from Edmonton are not concerned with priorities I would suggest to him that the south Cooking Lake is hardly a priority when it comes to this item. I would ask him what his priority was over the past two terms that he's been in office. I haven't heard him speak about children, early childhood education and handicapped children. So let me make this comment, that I support

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this resolution. A resolution that will especially emphasize the special needs of special children. May I suggest the intent is to really better prepare the children for specific academic experiences within the regular school setting. This is the ultimate objective so that they will get back into the main stream of society as soon as possible and to provide some type of a mechanism within this type of a program whereby learning problems may be identified at an early age. When we speak of early age we say the earlier the better for we know very well, and it's been stated by many experts in the field, and as a matter ordinary people already know very well, that 10% to 15% of the population of our children in our province, and this represents some 40,000 to 60,000 children have some specific type of problem that require special programs, special early childhood programs. When you ask the question - why early childhood, why not later on in the school years - the answer is again obvious, as I have mentioned, that if you lose one year or delay one year, you in fact delay three years; if you lose two years, you delay six years, and so forth, and by the third year you may lose that child completely.

I submit that 80% to 85% of the children that we are speaking of here, with these disabilities, with below normal intellectual capabilities, with mild to moderate hearing problems, visual problems or social or other emotional difficulties are, in fact, rehabilitatable. In this group of course, we have those who are average and above average but because of the various handicap problems that they may have they are really missed by the parents, teachers, the medical profession and for that matter by everyone concerned. They get into the main school system, the years go on, delay is a result and the child may be lost. Or worse than that, we, in fact, in this province do not have these special classes to accommodate these children with the various individual problems that they have demonstrated. So I say delay in providing appropriate help is often measured in terms of years -- one year delay is three years of loss. And this is something that has to be recalled and recalled by most of us before we are really moved by this, because I know if you say 10% or 15% of the children have this type of problem - I submit that somebody in this Assembly, as a matter of fact, has a child like this.

Now what happens - this child gets into the regular school system, is unnoticed, hasn't been screened and the result is inadequacy, frustration, anxiety, hostility, etc. not only for the child, but for the parents and for the teacher as well. So it's not an appearance of a need, I think the prevention, diagnosis and the early treatment of special care programs and early childhood education for these special children is a must at this juncture.

I think that this special program that should be developed for these special children -- I speak of special children and I emphasize that again -- and this is the area where we should go as a priority within the priority rather than go and provide early childhood education for all children unless we can afford it. We should emphasize the total learning, that is the development not only of reading and writing but sensory development, the muscular development -- it's called motor development -- the social development, emotional development, as has been mentioned by members who have moved and seconded this resolution. In other words a total learning experience.

Now the implementation of such a program, I would suggest must come from various units that can be developed or should be developed for special children's problems. Now there are many ways of doing this. You can have it within the school system if you wish, you have it within hospitals and also you can have it within a community health and social development centre, if this in fact comes to pass in the future. The value of having some type of a health unit, of course, is to have the multi-disciplinary approach, where various people who are interested and certainly concerned with the

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development of the total child, would be able to focus on this child and deal with the various problems that this child has.

I suggest not only should there be a central location for each community for all of these children, but there should be extended arms from this type of a centre, whether it is a community health centre or a hospital, as I said before, like the Glenrose. But there should be other community programs within a certain radius so that the expertise can go right out into the field and work with the parents, with the voluntary groups, the expertise and so forth, offering the programs right at the community level. So we have not only a decentralized program at the community level but also it is further decentralized at the community level with satellite programs. The program for the development of early childhood I submit to you hon. members of the Assembly, should not function in isolation, it should not be autonomous, it should be part of the total school system. The school system should, in fact, play a role in this total program for the development of the child.

I conclude these remarks, Mr. Speaker, and I submit to the members of the Assembly total support for such a program, providing it is for the special children that we are talking about. The handicapped children who are truly disadvantaged and have special problems and this represents 10% to 15% of the population, some 40,000 to 60,000 children, and these are the children that are getting into the school system and are not picked up until grades III, IV, V and VI, and I think this is a tragedy. I think this program deals with the essence of our society, they are our children in their earliest years. It is a very top priority and I submit to everyone here that we should support this type of resolution. Thank you.

MR. PURDY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to call the time 5:30 and adjourn the debate.

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

I sense the agreement of the House to the hon. member's suggestion. The House stands adjourned until 8:00 this evening.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair at 5:25 pm.]

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[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair at 8:00 pm.]

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply for consideration of the estimates.

[The motion was carried without debate or further dissent.]

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair.]

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COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Diachuk in the Chair]

Department of Culture, Youth, and Recreation

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The Committee of Supply will come to order. Department of Culture, Youth, and Recreation, page 85. I believe the hon. minister would like to take the opportunity to say a few words at this point.

MR. SCHMID:

With that information I would like to refer to Appropriation No. 2802 for some remarks that I would like to make at this. . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, like the rest of us, I am sure everyone in this Legislature is very much aware of the troubles of our youth today. They take drugs, they are spoiled by our affluent society; a great generation gap divides our world and theirs. These are among the accusations we hear, but I would like to tell this Legislature that a few of the things we do not hear so much about are of great concern. department and just last summer we sent 21 young people down to Ponoka where a hospital for the emotionally ill is located. I wonder how many of us have ever had the courage to visit such a hospital. Oh, we all have deep sympathy, of course, for people afflicted with mental and emotional illness, if only for a simple reason that all of us know of some friend or loved one who has been stricken by it. But as far as doing anything about it is concerned, I think it is honest to say that few of us have the courage even to visit such hospitals, much less try to do anything for its patients. As I said, 21 of our young people went down there giving their summer to these emotionally disturbed. When the summer ended, here is what one teenage girl wrote, and I quote only part of the letter:

"Most of them (meaning the patients) were so old they couldn't go out on walks, many couldn't see, many did not seem to be there. They were miles away in worlds of their own. I stuck to the patients as the summer progressed and began to spend a little time with a lot of them, not lasting relationships but at least for an old man happiness for a moment, someone to listen, someone to care for them."

She goes on to say that when an old man remembered her name, "I felt so good I almost cried." She wound up her letter by saying:

"I think that I will miss Ponoka and will remember it forever."

This is, and I am sure every hon. member in this House will agree, a different picture of our young people than we usually get in the news headlines. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it gives us a picture of our young people that we badly need today.

Another girl working down there says she doesn't know what she was able to do for the patients in Ponoka, but she says:

"I know what they did for me. They made me realize how lucky I am to have the parents I have, the friends, and such a good life thus far."

Can you imagine, my fellow members, these young people, who are supposed to be so sophisticated, so far away from our social scene, so spoiled, gathering together with the most unfortunate of our

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citizens for the last time before they turn into their classrooms, and when the young people and the patients sang Auld Lang Syne, the young volunteers breaking down and crying on the shoulders of the coordinators.

I will put it to you in a different way. These young people went forth to work for \$1 a day and room and board, and at the end, a \$200 honorarium for their labour, and I ask you, Mr. Chairman, where else could this province make such a fine investment, not just in economic terms, but in the whole area of human decency, human relationships. A young man who was completely withdrawn, according to a report, started dancing again. Old ladies began to take an interest in the world around them. That is what we get for \$1 a day, this therapy of human love, the medicine our hardened world needs so desperately today.

Our young people, of course, are engaged in many pursuits that make life more meaningful for themselves and enrich it for others. That they are making a priceless contribution to the province cannot be denied, and not least of all in their work with our native peoples.

I'm sure this Assembly will bear with me if I mention just a couple of the communities in which, again as volunteers, they have served, and the reaction of the people themselves. There was one girl, for example, who spent her summer at Watasca, prior to going to school in Hawaii. The letters she writes of her experiences may not be great literature, but it is an important document for our times. She tells about living in one room, sneaking down the hall to the one bathroom. You see, she was really there. She tells of the people she met, the native boy, for instance, who used the guitar as if it was an extension of his body and thoughts. She tells of the little ones who cried all through their first year of kindergarten. To her it was important and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it is important to us that one old lady "smiled and waved whenever she saw us." These months, says the girl, were the shortest of her life.

Unlike the girl at Watasca, volunteers at Kinuso and Faust, which as you know, have heavy Indian-Metis settlements, tell that the kindergartens there were thoroughly enjoyed by children. In such places, the volunteers not only instructed the little native children; they gave swimming lessons, they met the people and helped them. But they gave something far greater than all this, Mr. Chairman, something no money can buy. They gave of themselves. Small wonder that when these young people leave such communities, the old people cry and the entire community misses them.

It is one thing to talk about the world that separates the natives and the white people. Is it not a greater and better thing to bridge it? I am trying to show how my department is bridging it through the open hearts and helping hands of people -- our young people in particular. I ask you, is this worthwhile? And I'll let every member of this Legislative Assembly answer within himself. It is so worthwhile, Mr. Chairman, that I can tell this Assembly that from the Blackfoot reserve at Gleichen alone, four native girls have now become volunteer leaders, working in the playgrounds, play-schools, and so forth. All this as a result of our volunteers pioneering the way.

While time does not permit me to go into the activities of my department at any length, you will realize that headings of the various appropriations called for give very little clue as to the depth and the warmth of the work that such monies make possible. Consider for example what is accomplished for this province, if only in terms of building solid citizens, through our 4-H Clubs and Junior Forest Warden projects. The first thing you might say when I tell you that 4-H and Junior Forest Warden programs involve about 12,000 of our young people is; "well, that's 12,000 kids that aren't

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standing around on the street corner." Indeed they are not. Our Junior Forest Wardens go to the summer camps, learn about thinning trees, forest firefighting, timber cruising, survival in the outdoors and so on and so forth.

Consider the character building done through these programs. Consider the long range benefits to this province. And, where 4-H are concerned, would it be proper of me to point out, that sitting in this Legislative Assembly, are at least two former 4-H members. One is a gentleman in the opposition, the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury. The other is my worthy colleague -- I can see him up there -- the hon. Dr. Allan Warrack, who, I am told, still wears the Birks Challenger watch that he received from the Alberta Wheat Pool for his achievements in grain clubs as a 4-H member.

At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I think it is only proper to point out that such organizations as the wheat pools, the exhibition associations, the banks, etc. do recognize the value of our work in youth, culture and recreation, that they have given our department and its officers more encouragement, co-operation and financial help than I could possibly acknowledge here.

The worth of the work that is being done merits such co-operation and help from us all. In short, Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to say is that all the carping and criticism to which we can give utterance does nothing to show youth the way. Work such as this does give our young people a chance, and see how it pays off in a way that oftentimes puts the rest of us to shame. That, of course, is the responsibility we have, to make it possible for our youth to help themselves, to help others, to be an example to all of us, to build up the people who are the primary resource of this prairie province of Alberta.

In my maiden speech, Mr. Chairman, I dwelt at some length on the importance of culture in the lives of our people. I touched on the point that in country after country, in the socialist countries as well as in the western world, several inescapable conclusions have been reached. Countries rich and countries poor, countries with a cultural tradition, and countries just emerging have found that cultural and personal fulfillment go together; that culture and human liberty are inseparable; that culture and the society in which it is found or in which it is neglected are irrevocably bound together; that culture and prosperity, believe it or not, are linked to each other.

If these are not telling arguments for a cultural development program of the first priority, what is? If any person in this Assembly were to ask me, 'why money for the arts?' I can answer in words of people who know. Without the arts, people lose hope. They may live in a land rich in material things, but their lives are drab and barren. Ask a school teacher if she can tell which homes enjoy at least a little bit of art and music. Children from such homes come to school with something extra in their lives. They learn faster and keep on progressing all of their lives.

Man, indeed, was created in the image and likeness of God. There is something of the creator in every human being, and unless that creative talent is given expression, man fails himself and ultimately society.

In my maiden speech, I told you something of what a creative writing program was able to accomplish in the life of one woman who had been in and out of mental institutions. I ask you to remember the case of the girl whose art talent was thwarted, and the contribution she could have made to the art of the world, perhaps, and of the cost to this province of trying to help her now in correctional institutions.

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Our Cultural Development Branch has made outstanding achievements. The demands for its services are unparalleled. And we must make possible the modest appropriations necessary to unlock the creative riches in the lives of our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the money put to this end can be and will be the greatest investment we have ever made. Just to mention one person, who last year received first and second prize in the competition for the annual playwriting of one-act winners. He is sitting in our chamber right now, our good man, Mr. Warren Graves -- first and second prize.

In today's society we are so bombarded on every side by creeping technology, pollution, drugs, noise, chaos, mental illness and the growing ugliness of communities that we have almost closed our ears and our eyes and our hearts to the beauties of the world around us. Through music, theatre, creative writing, the dance, we open the eyes, the ears and the hearts of our people once more.

These are hard truths to demonstrate, just as it would have been hard to tell you what our Youth Department is doing, had I not been able to tell you of how an 18-year old girl, through the giving of herself, could help an old man speak once more. However, Mr. Speaker, I shall attempt to demonstrate the worth of these other riches.

Everyone here at one time or another has surely attended a play. Pressed down perhaps by cares and anxieties, they have found peace in themselves again. A man worn out by the labours of a lifetime hears his children or his grandchildren playing a piece of beautiful music and suddenly the labour of the years was worthwhile. A young woman, about to commit suicide, picks up a book, and changes her mind. Think of it for a moment and tell me, do we dare neglect our cultural development? Mr. Chairman, I say that we surely cannot.

Strictly in terms of social science and community well-being, we know that nothing brings people together more than participation in drama, dancing, all the creative arts. And one of those most important priorities out of which all our interesting life comes, is exposure to these arts, the exposure of our children in the school, exposure to young people and adults in mental homes, and exposure to our aged citizens. These help them become aware of the softening values of life, the real and lasting values of heart and soul. The arts can make them feel alive again.

So true is this, that you might well enter a Senior Citizens' home and see some aged person who has borne the heat and burden of the day, eyes dimmed by cataracts so she cannot read; a hip pinned because of a fall, so she cannot walk again; forgotten by family and friends. What is left for her? Music fills the room, and that old lady's lips smile again. The music with which our mothers sang to us is still the music she can enjoy as long as she is here. Other things pass away; the arts do not pass away.

So, in asking for finances to build and set free cultural talent in Alberta, I am asking you to vote money for the things that do not pass away, for the books and the artwork, the drama and the music, for the music and auditoriums, for the things that will enrich all of us, the lasting values that will remain as a memorial to us of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

In that thought, may I speak for a moment on the museum and archives located at 128 Street and 102 Avenue. Passing by it you are drawn by the magnificent stonework and the limestone panels depicting examples of the art of our prehistoric people. Vaguely we know, at least most of us do, that there are interesting items in that museum, everything from a world-famous collection of Blackfoot ceremonial material to life-sized reproductions of dinosaurs, hand-cranked

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sewing machines, hand driven sulky ploughs, which seem too recent to be in a museum.

But do we understand the importance of a museum in the lives of our people? I would like to tell the Assembly that 40,000 school children of nursery school age and up, visit this building each year. Professors from the university take entire classes to the geology exhibits and lecture there. Tourists flock to it, comparing it favourably with museums all over the world. In all, 375,000 people visited that museum last year. There you will see early cable tools for drilling oil wells in the 1800's. There, a suddenly excited lady will exclaim, "My heavens, I used a churn like that myself!" This is not just history, it is living history.

There you may see the native people practising the handicrafts of long ago, a Bavarian song and dance group putting on a folk dance from the past. There you will see, if the hopes of our directors are realized, a lady spinning and weaving as our grandmothers used to do. There, ethnic organizations have a chance, not only to talk of the heritage of the past, but to show it.

Do you know what the children say when they visit the museum? The children say, "Gosh, I'm coming back on the weekend, and I'm bringing my mother and my father." And the mothers and fathers come, and stand in awe in front of the old churns and old stoves, the old apple peelers, the devices for "broadcasting" grain. They stand before the diorama, depicting the duck-billed dinosaurs, and the fauna of 70 million years ago. If they are silent it is a reverent silence because museums tell people of the present what life was like in the past and that enriches our lives today. Men have to be reminded where they come from, that they are links in the generations of history, and so we ask for modest appropriations to make our museums and archives more meaningful still in the lives of our people, and a source of a real pride to us all.

Of necessity, Mr. Chairman, I am talking in generalities. How do you hold up the reality of beauty, compassion, decency, all the things that make life worthwhile? The values that prevent crime, that ward off mental illness, that give Albertans pride in their art, their music, their drama. These are important economic areas. Please let us not overlook this truth. Let us not consider all this as mere sentiment. Art is valuable and its economic worth grows. Music is a multi-million dollar industry. Think of the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent each year in Alberta in school textbooks alone, and then the complaints because they lack Canadian content.

Culture is not just a word, Mr. Chairman, not just a pleasant thought. It is a vital, multi-million dollar business and it is time we took it seriously. In a negative way the money spent through my department is repaid countless times over by money that does not have to be spent in hospitals, court rooms and other rooms. A boy planting trees loses interest in holding up gas stations. Better, surely, to spend a few thousand dollars giving our people an enriched meaningful life, a chance for identity and self-realization -- the basis for good mental and physical health -- than have to appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars repairing the damage that unfailingly results when we neglect it.

Eventually the work my department does, quietly without too much fanfare, bears on the lives of our citizens from early childhood to the grave. One day, Mr. Chairman, every Alberta citizen will no longer care much about our highways -- he will be too old to travel. The finding of oil wells he will leave to someone else. Do you know what will be the important thing to him then? Mr. Chairman, our Premier has spoken eloquently of the debt we owe our senior citizen -- a debt that is due them in justice, but we owe them more, Mr. Chairman, than a reduction in taxes. vital though every economic

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relief is to them. We owe them, as I told you earlier, the things that still give life meaning.

I pause for a moment to tell you of a community in a coal-mining area. There are more retired people there than in an average community and they are alienated, shut off. The company has given them a gold watch and told them to go home and take it easy. So they do go home, they sit behind drawn blinds and they don't do anything. Our Recreation Branch, operating through municipalities and various service organizations, teaches them square dancing. They are enrolled in keep-fit programs. The ladies take up hat-making -- those tired and gnarled hands turning out beautiful creations of millinery. Weaving, pottery making, dress making start a new and wonderful life for them. Men skilled in hunting and fishing pass on their hobbies to boys - the men of tomorrow. Those who know horses take up a second career - helping at dude ranches and stock shows. For those who have the talent our Creative Writing Division teaches them the art of setting down the story of their lives, the history of their part in the province, material that is going from our midst as these pioneers pass on.

Through our STEF program our young people set about getting the old involved in a life that really makes retirement mean the beginning of something -- not the end. So it goes -- an enrichment of human life through the arts, through recreation and human resources. Such is the work of my department, Mr. Chairman. Work, I submit, that is vital in our own lives, our family lives, in short in the lives of us all in this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Wilson.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Chairman, when it was disclosed last evening that no funds were in the estimates of this department for the continuation of the Boys' Club of Calgary Highschool Dropout Program I felt -- well, first of all I was appalled and aghast --

AN HON. MEMBER:

Aghast or gassed?

MR. WILSON:

But then I felt the need to apprise all hon. members of the Legislature of just what exactly the Gateway Project, the Highschool Dropout Program in Calgary, was all about.

The function of this program is to give counsel and vocational assistance to students dropping out of high school. Membership in the program includes:

- (1) the Department of Youth -- at least it has in the past,
- (2) the Boys' Club of Canada,
- (3) the guidance services of the Calgary Public and Calgary Separate School Boards,
- (4) high school counsellors.

This program operates with a staff of three people. Two full-time and one part-time. They are Susan Sparrow, Brenda Hnatiuk, who is the part-time worker, and Mr. Jim Gallup. All are professional social workers with university degrees. All have had previous business experience. In addition they have approximately 100 volunteer businessmen who provide jobs and counselling services for the young people, plus the north and south Calgary Rotary Clubs who have set up committees to provide liaison and to find jobs. The

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Gateways program operates out of four high schools, Bowness Composite High School, Crescent Heights High School, St. Mary's High School, and Bishop Grandin High School. Western Canada High School wants this program but the Boys' Club does not presently have funds to further expand the services. In fact, the existing program is in jeopardy and will be forced to close operations on December 1st of this year, unless the government finds \$15,000 to carry on the program.

The Gateways program is one in which business, government, and the private sector work in close harmony and ideal co-operation, all for the benefit of underprivileged youth. This group applied for and received a federal government local initiatives grant and put 21 young people to work with the proceeds. In four months of the current school year 88 of a 144 students who participated in the program found jobs or returned to school.

Now a word on the Gateways program process -- how it operates.

First of all an initial assessment is made of individual students, their abilities, talents and their desires are all assessed.

Secondly, they enter into a process of group sessions. These include several young people at the same time led by a professional social worker, plus talented volunteers with expertise in motivation.

Thirdly, they have mock job interviews and training in filling out job application forms. The business community participates by supplying forms and personnel managers who conduct the mock interviews. Many businessmen take the time to attend these classes and assist, because they are sold on the merits of the program. Through this funneling process of students and businessmen the jobs are usually available when the students have finished the course.

I would now like to give a few examples of what has happened to students who have taken the Gateways project course. First of all I am happy to advise that the young boy who I mentioned last evening who was interested in airplanes went through the Gateways program, got a job, and within a month was given a raise in pay.

Further he has been accepted for September enrolment this year in the Mount Royal College aviation program. Who can deny that this boy, from a single parent family, was not helped by the Gateways project?

Another boy, was a loser in school -- a dead loss, as the saying goes. He found help from the Gateway project which determined what talents he had, and he is now enrolled in an apprenticeship program to become a printer. His employer advises that he is an outstanding worker and doing well.

A final example. This boy was kicked out of school -- a real problem to everyone who came in contact with him. The Gateways social worker even had trepidations about taking him on. Finally, after a lengthy period of counselling and job hunting, the boy got a job with a carpet company. Just recently he was selected by the company from five employees, to take a company-sponsored sales-training program. This boy had his first successful experience ever in his lifetime, thanks to the Gateways project. They made it possible for someone to be available who really cared.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a few quotes from a report that Mr. Jim Gallup, one of the Gateway social workers made on their program. Mr. Gallup says:

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"A condition of existence appears to be that we are all greatly affected by the nature of our surroundings, and the particular nature of a poor community like Bowness-Montgomery finds its reflection in those who are raised there. The transient nature of many fathers' work with the resultant effect on family life, the low levels of completed education and training, and the poor economic and social status of parents all conspire to create a social milieu in which neither the means of achievement, nor the rewards of success are readily understood. Further these characteristics tend to be self-reinforcing and without special attention a downward-spiralling vicious circle is the result. Second generation welfare situations are not uncommon in the area.

Two characteristics in the young people of the area which I believe to be a result of cultural detriments in the community are youths' strong tendency to underrate their abilities and set very limited aspirations, and their poor verbal ability relative to youth in other areas of the city. In the first case, in talking to kids about vocational and life goals, rather than having to lower unrealistically expensive aspirations, one must introduce the youth to the increased opportunities that exist for them."

The final quote that I would like to read from Mr. Gallup's report, sir, is this:

"Bowness-Montgomery is still a poor community, and help and resources must continue to come into the area. However, if cynicism is to hold sway, then despair will be the result and the welfare workers will continue to do a blazing business. Nothing in our history teaches us otherwise."

Mr. Chairman, on making budget cuts, let's make decisions based on results obtained, not on the basis of cutting out private sector sponsored programs and retaining government-operated programs.

If we do not find \$15,000 in this year's billion dollar plus budget for direct assistance to humanitarian concerns, which makes taxpayers out of our youth instead of welfare cases, then something is drastically wrong. Let's endorse this unique community program now and assure the social workers involved that they themselves will not be looking for work next winter. Let's reassure the Boys' Club and the private sector who are making outstanding contributions to the Gateways project that we endorse their highly-laudable sacrifices and in fact, intend to make it an ongoing program. We could do far worse, Mr. Chairman, than challenge other communities to implement similar projects, with the government entering the partnership and extending financial assistance. The youth we save will be most grateful that someone cared.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I wonder if we could let the minister reply to that please.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reply to the hon. member from Calgary Bow. I just want to tell him actually there has been a budget for this year's program of \$35,000. I have said that last night I was able to find \$20,000 in last year's budget and we submitted the \$20,000 to the Boys' Club in Calgary to at least partly finance their program and ask them at the same time that they should approach the City of Calgary or any service organization possible to possibly raise the other \$15,000 from one of those organizations. Hopefully they are able to do so, but if not, we did not close the door on them, we said that we would try during the term of the year to review the program and see what we can do further to help them.

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MRS. CHICHAK:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps one of the items I was going to bring up was mentioned by the hon. minister, however I will make my comments in any event. It was interesting for me to hear what the program, the Gateways program is, because I'm not familiar with it and it appears to be with the basic information a very worthwhile program. However, there are several questions that remain unanswered in points that were brought up by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow. I noted that the hon. member had indicated that there were two permanent staff and one part-time staff that were being paid with respect to this program. I also noted that the hon. member had stated that they had received a federal grant. Now he didn't indicate in what amount but I also noted that the hon. member neglected or overlooked the fact that the hon. minister has mentioned that in this year of 1972 some \$20,000 was paid with respect to this program. The fact that there is not an allotment or grant available out of this particular budget, nevertheless, does not remove the fact that the hon. minister indicated that a \$20,000 grant was paid in this current year. It would be interesting to note what the total budget with respect to this program is. Is it in line to what is being done and I'm not questioning the value, I'm saying that we are talking about -- my goodness they are short another \$15,000, this will make a total of \$35,000 -- unless I'm reading your information incorrectly hon. member. It would seem that what you're asking for this year, that they require for 1972 is some \$35,000, irrespective of the fact that you indicated they did get an additional federal grant, but you did not say how many dollars. Really you know these are questions that I think leave a lot of loopholes, leave a lot of things unanswered and yet are making, I think, insinuations that really should not be there. Perhaps they were not intended but nevertheless this is the way they come across. So I would like to go on the record as saying as it appears and I feel that from the information of the hon. Member for Calgary Bow has given, the program certainly has a great deal of merit, and perhaps something that if we don't have here in Edmonton it is something to be considered. But let us look at the total budget of what you are talking about in their total need for 1972, and please, do not continue to overlook the fact that we have indicated that in 1972 some \$20,000 has already been granted. This is what I really want to bring up.

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if...

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I believe you'll be given an opportunity for rebuttal. I'm sure there are others that are going to raise some disagreement with Mr. Wilson.

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Chairman, without wishing to disparage such programs for the needy as the Gateways program and the Boys' Club programs of Calgary, and I know the service clubs and paid social workers, some of them are very well paid, are doing a good job in this regard, but the proper route for this sort of a program is a preventative welfare program initiated by the city, so that we get a 50% contribution from the federal funds, 30% from the province and 20% from the local authorities. It's silly to deny one's self one's proper share of the matching federal grants for provincial welfare programs, and this I believe, should be the route.

I, as a bridge player, believe in playing through strength to weakness, and I'd like to make a plea for an emphasis on outdoor activities, particularly for teenagers. I believe that Canadian youth have a great yearning for adventure. I'm talking now about the

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vast majority of youth and not the small percentage of problem cases. I think that the finger painters and the ceramic artists and the indoor tumblers obviously have their place in a country which has a long winter. But my own choice in priorities for this recreation budget, would be for emphasis on the outdoors. I believe that Canadian youth have a sort of reaction to the TV set and drive-ins and the pizza parlors and that they would just leap at an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. This would have a therapeutic effect much greater than all the guidance counselling and the psychiatrists and the experts who look for solutions inside the head. I believe that most of the alleged delinquency arises from a natural seeking of an outlet for high spirits.

That's why the adventure clubs, promoted in the beginning, I believe by Prince Philip, have been successful in so many parts of Canada. If youth can find an outlet for high spirits in challenging pursuits, I believe we have gained something in character building. The so-called risk sports contain this sort of challenge. I believe we'd build better Albertans if they were encouraged to climb and to ski, to join the Air Cadets, to ski both downhill and cross-country, to hike and to camp, to climb, to ride bicycles, to fish, to explore the remoter parts of the province, to canoe and to snowshoe, to ride horses, and perhaps to learn how to fly a sailplane, and even to fly a power plane. My own little private effort in this regard has been to give flying scholarships to the Air Cadets, and I believe that does far more than spending any \$15,000 on social work.

My own personal opinion is that therapy from this kind of approach is worth far more than any of that administered by the so-called experts, guidance counsellors, psychiatrists with a couch. I believe that it would be better to concentrate on strength by encouraging such organizations as the Canadian Youth Hostel Association, and the Boys' Clubs, self-sustaining and operating accounts, than on devoting too much money to looking after the small percentage of problem youth. That's the best way -- to reinforce strength, rather than to dissipate resources on weakness. That may be a personal opinion, but that's the way I see it.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to start off by saying that I sincerely appreciated the comments and question raised by the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood, which is more than I can say for the comments of the hon. juvenile for Calgary North Hill.

AN HCN. MEMBER:

Dcn't be nasty!

MR. WILSON:

For the benefit of all hcn. members, I would like to advise that the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation has full details on the Gateway Project all well documented and in the interest of time, I did not attempt to give a full detailed explanation of how it works, but simply attempted to summarize the program. Now in bringing up the example of the grant that they got or a local initiatives program, I was trying to point out that by getting these kids involved, they can achieve things on their own. And they did provide jobs with the grant that they got, for 21 people. That was a side effort that they initiated with some guidance from professional social workers, to help themselves.

The other points which you raised, if you want specific details on them, I would appreciate if you would refresh my memory on whatever ones you want specific details, and I will try to oblige. Or, if you want to consult with the hon. Minister of Youth, Culture and

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Recreation, I am sure he would be most happy to show you his file on the Gateways project.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Fine, Mr. Wilson. I am sure that can be arranged between you and Mrs. Chichak. Mr. Nctley.

MR. NCTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, in making some general comments on the estimates of this department, I first of all want to commend the hon. minister for a very excellent introductory address. I recollect the first time I heard the hon. minister speak. It was at Christmastime. We had a junior B hockey tournament in Fairview. The hon. minister was to be the banquet speaker that night; he faced approximately 100 young men who were bound and determined they were going to win the tournament no matter what happened. The hon. minister got up that evening and gave what I thought was one of the most persuasive and articulate addresses on the value of good sportsmanship that I have ever heard. Unfortunately, it didn't have too great an effect on the young men, because that evening, after the banquet, the two teams playing practically killed one another on the ice.

I don't know if I feel good towards the hon. minister because of a certain fraternity, in that we both often endorse unpopular -- some might even say -- lost causes. In any event, I must say I found his remarks that evening very impressive.

I think the only major criticism I would have, Mr. Chairman, of the estimates of the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation is that I submit this department should have been given a considerably higher priority in the scheme of things by the government.

MR. SCHMID:

Hear, hear.

MR. NCTLEY:

Perhaps my remarks can be used by the hon. minister in next year's caucus in determining the budget estimates.

If I can go back to last year and cite the report of the Human Resources Research Council on the Future of Alberta Between 1975 and the Year 2005; in that report it suggested that by the year 2005 some 35% of our work force will be permanently out of work, or there will not be meaningful work for these people to undertake. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that what this really means is that we are going to have to place a great deal more emphasis on developing the leisure time of our population. One of the things that concerns me, as I see it, is that too many of our people are becoming spectators rather than participants. I think it is vitally important that as leisure time becomes a bigger and bigger portion of the week for the average person, that we develop creative leisure programs. So as a consequence, I feel that this department should and will play an increasingly important role in the years ahead.

MR. SCHMID:

Hear, hear. Just a few observations about some of the programs. The hon. minister forgot to mention that there are three members of this Assembly who were active in the 4-H Club, because I was in the 4-H movement for nine years as well. I can testify to the fact that it certainly is a very excellent youth program, and one which I heartily support.

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I am somewhat concerned in looking at the estimates that while the Alberta Service Corps was mentioned in the hon. minister's speech -- and he referred to it several times, and quite correctly so, as being an excellent program -- the increase in the estimates this year, Mr. Chairman, is negligible. I will be saying more about that when we get to the detailed section of the estimates. But I do want to underline in the Legislature the very good work the Alberta Service Corps are doing. I am familiar with their program in Faust.

The Hon. Minister cited the program, and I have some knowledge of their work elsewhere, in the Lesser Slave Lake area of the province. I think almost without exception, it has been a program that has been well worth every penny that we have put into it, and my concern here is not that we have any problems with the program, but rather we are not sufficiently expanding it; because I think there is a tremendous reservoir of idealism among our young people today, the kind of idealism that the Hon. Minister talked about, and it seems to me a prudent course for this Legislature that we direct that idealism in socially-useful directions. Certainly the work of the Alberta Service Corps has achieved a number of very laudible objectives in the communities where these young people are located.

A comment about the district youth representative branch. There are a number of youth consultants in the province. Again, I'm not too pleased with the very marginal increase in this program, an increase which I gather will just, in the main, cover salary adjustments, and won't make any expansion available in the program itself. But, I think that this program of young people who are social innovators, if you like, is one that is really quite good in terms of its potential; I think it's a very creative idea, having these consultants who can go out and work with the communities, listen as well as advise. I think that too often we have the tendency in programs we develop, to have public servants who are quite happy in telling the public what to do, but they're not too good when it comes to listening, and the youth consultant program, by its very basis, is one which I think is a good program when it started, I think it's a good program now. My only concern is that it seems to me that we aren't placing sufficient emphasis on it in this year's budget.

I was out for part of the initial discussion on the estimates, Mr. Chairman, so this may have been covered. If it was, perhaps the Hon. Minister would like to respond, but I do want to make a comment on the operating grants for rural recreation commissions. The operating grants are tied to having a qualified salaried worker. Now, in recreation commissions that are large enough, this isn't really a problem, and certainly it is desirable to have a qualified full-time recreation person. But in some of the commissions, it just isn't possible for them to raise sufficient funds for a full-time worker. It seems to me that we have to be much more flexible in our operating grant structure. There may be many people, Mr. Chairman, who would be prepared to work on a part-time basis, so the seventy cents, twenty cents, and ten cents, it seems to me, should be re-organized. I can say more about that when we get to that particular aspect of the estimates, but at the present time, the program inadvertently discriminates against the smaller rural recreation commissions. I say inadvertently because I don't think it is a purposeful discrimination, but it's something I submit that we should rectify as soon as possible.

Let me conclude my remarks by saying that again, this department is important not only because we have to deal with recreation as a consequence of people having more leisure time in the years ahead, but also it's important because I feel we must take all the reasonable steps to encourage the development in Alberta and in Canada of an indigenous Canadian culture. This is something that is extremely difficult to do. Too often if we fail to recognize the importance of making an investment in cultural development, too often

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I am afraid that what will result is not a culture which is relevant to our history, our traditions, to our potential as a nation. Too often, I think, we will slip in the position of being just a warmed over version of the culture of the great republic to the south of us. So as a consequence, it seems to me that expenditures in this area are well worthwhile.

I think -- and I close on this -- that we have in the department today a minister who I commend. I'm not going to commend most of the ministers when we get into the estimates, but in this case I will. I hope that he carries on that way next year so the government will see fit to give this department the priority which, it seems to me, the young people of Alberta deserve.

MR. CHAIFMAN:

Does the hon. minister wish to reply to that? Go ahead.

MR. SCHMID:

To the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview I would like to state that the concern that he has regarding the administration grants has been very well put, and had been pointed out to me quite early after I was sworn in and will be one, definitely, of the major considerations we have once the five-year program runs out in March 31, 1973. I would suggest that most likely most of the items will be revised.

MR. KCZIAK:

Mr. Chairman, I find myself in the rather surprising position of agreeing completely with what my learned friend on the left the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview has just said with respect to this particular aspect of the budget. I too would agree that the amount which has been allocated in this budget for this department is low. I'm particularly concerned by the amount of \$2,630,550 for culture, which is less than \$2.00 for every man, woman and child in the province. I'm sure that it's insufficient, however, when you have regard to the overall priorities in this budget I think perhaps I can wait a year and look forward to an allocation in the budget for the 1972-1973 fiscal year --

AN HON. MEMBER:

1973-1974.

MR. KOZIAK:

Correct -- 1973-74, thank you very much -- in the forthcoming budget for the 1973-74 fiscal year of an amount of at least double the amount shown for this budget which we are now debating.

I think this is important because unless the required funds are allocated in this area there is no way that this province is going to be able to develop a multi-cultural policy, one which does not reflect, as the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview -- that's a long constituency -- perhaps you can shorten the name the next time the electoral boundaries commission discusses this matter -- it's a real mouthful --

MR. KING:

Perhaps we could eliminate the constituency.

MR. KCZIAK:

No, we'll keep the constituency.

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If this government is going to pursue a multi-cultural policy which will set us apart from the republic to the south, I think we've got to be looking at more funds in this particular area. And, of course, the funds expended in this area should recognize the fact that this province has taxpayers whose money is being used in this area, in the area of cultural development, 55% of whom are of non-British origin and the spending of the taxpayers' money in this particular area should definitely recognize that fact.

I have just one other comment in connection with this portfolio and that is in connection with the forthcoming conference, the Cultural Heritage Conference, which has been called for the 16th and 17th and 18th of June. I trust that we will have recessed by then so those of us who would like to partake in the conference can. I appreciate every assistance the hon. members opposite can give us in this respect. The points that I would like to make in connection with that conference, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister, are that in July of 1971 a multi-cultural conference was held in this city, attended by representatives of all of the various ethnic cultures in this province, and I trust that in dealing with the forthcoming conference we can build on the results of the last conference rather than starting anew; that the people who attended the last conference will be extended an invitation to attend this conference; that the approach of the department and the approach of this government will be one of encouragement, one of assistance in the briefs and submissions that will be made at this conference and not one of cold shoulder. I think, perhaps, that this government should learn from the experience of the former government in the fact that the death-bed confession type of conference that was held a month and a half prior to the election did not work, and this matter is a matter that must be pursued immediately and not at the expiration of the term of office of the government.

I trust, Mr. Minister, that you will take these comments seriously and that in the forthcoming cultural conference we will be seeing the cornerstone of a multi-cultural policy for this province, one which takes into account the work that has been done at all levels, both at federal and provincial levels, to this date.

MP. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Ghitter.

MR. GHITTER:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some comments with respect to this department, for it is a department which I feel, personally, is an important department and a department to which I believe in future years we must spend a considerable amount more attention with respect to the problems with which it is dealing. In some respects I feel that the amount of attention it is even getting now, Mr. Chairman, in a budgetary sense, should be much more when you consider that in a preventive way the things that you are doing, through your department, are of such significance -- more particularly even to the urban dweller.

But I wish to direct my comments to you, Mr. Minister, in the area of an element of youth that I personally feel is being forgotten by governments and by society in general. It is a forgotten portion of our youth that I feel that if we don't do something more about, the results may be somewhat difficult to deal with at a later stage. I refer to an element of youth to whom we seem to pay a lot of token lip service, yet whose problems, and particularly their messages, we are ignoring. I refer to the type of youth who sit in the docks in the police courts and walk in the corridors of our prisons; the youth who studies the computers by day and smokes marijuana by night; the youth who drops out of school at an early age and becomes a recipient of the public purse; and the youth who often -- but not too often

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fortunately in Alberta -- march in our streets with placards on their shoulders and often malice in their hearts. For these are the youths of today whose sensitivities tell them that there is something basically wrong in our Canadian society, yet they cannot seem to conduct a meaningful dialogue with their elders, and particularly with their governments. Day in and day out our newspapers describe, sometimes at great length and often overdone, what these youths are saying, and often talk in terms of the problems that these youths are meeting. For today it seems that our nation is caught up in a revolution of youth -- not a revolution in the sense of a transfer of power as we would see in, say, Cuba or Russia -- but a revolution in the sense of a highly drastic, accelerated rate of change. And the motivators of this change to a high degree are our youth. Why then we argue are our youth so discontent? They are better educated; they are better informed; they are more materially secure than ever before. What have they to be discontented about? But surely the answer to that question must be understood for it is because they are better educated, and because they are more secure, that they can understand many of the inconsistencies which to them are the hypocrisies that exist in our society today.

And it is that element of youth that your department, I believe, must concern itself with. And this is not just the element of youth that is a hippie, or the person that is walking in the street with long hair and the ugly locking clothes styles. But it is youth in general, for youth today are concerned with the things that we have never been really overconcerned about before. They are concerned about the discrimination against minorities; they are concerned about the elimination of poverty and squalor; and generally there is a doubt in their mind as to how we, as parliamentarians, relate to them and as to whether or not we are actually accomplishing anything.

In general, it can be said that our youth are trying to tell us that our conception of the individual has been too narrowly preoccupied with freedom of economic enterprise, to the neglect of the other dimension that human beings innately desire to express themselves and, as a result, social competitiveness compels people to live seriously and inhibits them from expressing their own individual desires.

In fact, our youth suggest that each person should be permitted to live in whatever way he feels he should, as long as they do it hopefully, responsibly and with consideration for their fellowman.

Now many of the views of youth today are worth noting, Mr. Minister, and many of these views should be expressed and should be debated with our youth. And it is not enough for us as parliamentarians or elders to merely sit back and pay lip service to what they are saying, for I believe our generation will be determined, will be judged on the basis of what we do for the development of discontent within our society. We must listen to them and this I believe is where we have failed.

In 1966 when this department of yours was first set up, it was in the hope that it would relate to the youth of the province of Alberta. And I think basically it has failed. I say that from the point of view that the work that is done through the 4-H Clubs and the Harvester clubs, and the organized Boy Scouts, and the other areas that are already organized, that you are assisting; I say that this is all well and good, but I worry about who speaks for the Grade VII dropout in east Calgary whose parents are separated and who cannot find a job, or even worse, who does not want to work and as a result is a recipient of welfare. Or who speaks for the child whose school is rundown, whose curriculum is outdated, whose teachers may be incompetent, as he looks upon the palatial schools in the wealthy areas of the city often in frustration. Who speaks for the teenager as he leaves jail after 18 months on a narcotics charge and faces a hopeless untrained future devoid of opportunity?

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Mr. Minister, there is a law for the rich and a law for the poor, unfortunately, in certain areas. And try and tell the young man who has received a sentence for \$250 on a possession of marijuana charge and can't pay the fine and goes to jail, while his neighbour who can afford the fine merely gets Daddy to pay it. And that young man goes to jail and the other doesn't -- tell him that there isn't a law for the rich and a law for the poor! This is an area that must be expressed, and this is an area, Mr. Minister, that is your challenge.

I suggest that what must be done through your department is that you must provide a channel of communication for disenfranchised youth to come to government, a channel of communication whereby you will go out into the communities and speak with the youth, not just the youth through the 4-H clubs or the various organized groups, but into the communities where youth have problems. In other words, get your workers out of their offices -- get them into the communities where there are difficulties, and have them relate so they feel that they can communicate with government, because they don't feel that now. They feel that government is something remote and way out here in this lovely room isolated from society and isolated from them. It is your challenge, Mr. Minister, and it is indeed a difficult one and one I am sure you will put all of your tremendous energies and talents to, to provide a communication channel to the young people where they can feel that we as a government care and relate to them. And if you can get your workers getting input from these young people, you will find that your policies will be better founded than now, and that your department will have achieved some of its very purposes and functions.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, in reply to this very excellent indication of how understanding the hon. member really is about the Department of Youth, I would like to tell him that some day after the session, of course, I would like him to come along with me to visit the Group of Eight, the "YOU" office, and even down in Calgary probably, the Gateways program of the Boys' Club and then, of course, any one of our district youth representatives who really try right down at what we call street level -- many new words that I didn't know when I came in, what it is all about -- and he will appreciate then that actually we have already made a start -- just a little start mind you -- to do exactly what he so well recommended. Thank you very much.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Chairman, there are just a few comments that I'd like to make with regard to the vote we are on, No. 2802. First of all I'd like to relate back to the comparison that the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill used when he talked about -- and I should preface my remarks by saying that I'm not much of a bridge player, especially when it comes to bidding. He talked in terms of when you play bridge that you go from strength to weakness, or he plays the game that way or bids that way. I think that is one of the problems that society has in dealing with young people today, and really the hon. member Mr. Gitter, I think, touched on this, that there are, if you'll pardon the expression, a heck of a lot of opportunities for young people who might fit into that category of having the strength to use them and having the opportunities to use them.

I cite the example that Mr. Wilson raised, the one of the Boys' Club and the Gateways Project in Calgary and truly I do think that a program such as this gets down to the types of problems that the Member for Calgary Buffalo talked about. In addition to that, it isn't something that's done just by the government and there are a number of youth serving agencies in the field who are, to say the least, very skeptical of any movement by the minister's department, to become more involved in this area of youth services. Perhaps this

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is just one of the problems the department will continue to face for some time, but a project such as this Gateways Project, where you do have the educational institutions, and a pretty influential group of businessmen from Calgary, who are involved in the Boys' Club and who are prepared to put some of their money where their mouth is; it seems to me that the \$20,000 that the Youth Department is making available for this cut of last year's appropriation, appropriated last year by this assembly, I believe, is right. It really isn't asking too much of the Provincial Treasurer to find \$15,000 some place. If you can't find it in the Youth Department there is in the Treasury Department a vote for Unforeseen and Unprovided For -- namely No. 2706 -- and I suspect that if the minister would like some help a number of the members from this side and I think some from that side would be quite pleased to come to a meeting of the Treasury Board or whatever the new term is --[Interjection]

Well that's the place to go and if you need any help come over and we'll help you...because I do really feel that this is the kind of project that needs some extra assistance.

Now in addition to the comment on this Gateways Project, I think a pretty reasonable question to ask the minister, would be to give us some indication of his priority in this budget. It seems to me that really what's happened in the budget -- and I say this with all due respect -- that the department has been asked to go along on what's the smallest amount you can possibly get along with in each branch so that you can keep a minimal service for the year and that's about it. If I'm wrong, I hope the minister will advise me, but I would really be interested in asking the minister to give us some indication what his priorities are because I was hopeful that in his initial comments he was going to say the Alberta Service Corps is one of those projects that's a high priority, and yet when we look at a .8% increase in the budget for it, obviously the Service Corps isn't a very high priority in the department, and so I would like to ask the minister to make comments -- and I wouldn't even mind if they were at some length -- on this matter of priorities within the whole because I think that's important.

Thirdly, I have looked through the estimate and haven't been able to see anything designated specifically for young people of native ancestry, and I would like the minister to comment in this particular area, because this also is an area of real concern.

The question of the recreational grants and the future of recreational grants was rather well touched upon by my colleague, who is appropriately seated to the left, from Spirit River-Fairview. I would hope that the minister would be in a position to indicate to communities across the province some time before next March, as to what kind of program you see communities getting involved in, whether it's going to be a straight grant program or what it might be, it's very important that recreation commissions and boards across the province have that information considerably ahead.

Next, I would like to ask the minister when it comes to the vote on the Recreation Branch, to give us some indication of what the department is doing in the area of lifetime sports. I think there is a tendency in our society today to really emphasize those sports that a person can be involved in during the person's lifetime perhaps up to thirty-five. But there isn't sufficient emphasis on those kind of activities that you learn when you are young and can, in fact, do through a lifetime. The Department of Education I think was doing some things in this area, but the Youth Department and the Recreation Branch certainly must be -- I think the new term is the 'thrust' -- in this particular area.

And in concluding my remarks, I was rather pleased by some of the comments across the way, because I rather recall the estimates about three years ago, and if the Deputy Minister of the department

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were here this evening, I think the statements were made by one of the very senior members in the 'now' government, when the suggestion was made that perhaps this department should be phased out. I'm glad that there has been more light shed on this and if the change of thinking is all due to you, sir, I congratulate you in being able to have an amazing effect in a remarkably short period of time. I thought it was perhaps due to the former minister, Mr. Taylor.

MR. YORRKO:

He's the one who should have been phased out.

MR. CLARK:

That wasn't the way I read it. The last comment that I would have to the minister is, in this department, what are the new directions? What are the new directions that we find in these estimates? I don't really see any, in light of the budgetary appropriations.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Minister? We'll let the minister reply to that.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I think it does shorten the debate if I reply to every speaker that gets up rather than waiting until the end to summarize, because I noticed during the Department of the Environment estimates, it lengthens the estimates by about two and a half hours -- at least it did yesterday.

MR. CLARK:

All you want is the chance for response.

MR. SCHMID:

I just noticed that there were too many rebuttals after that. Anyway, as far as the Alberta Service Corps is concerned, hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury, through this type of program we are receiving monies in addition to the monies that we have in our budget and thereby are enabled to increase the daily allotment to \$2 per day, for the 10 month program rather than only \$1, and increase the grant at the end of the four month program, to \$400, rather than the \$200.

MR. CLARK:

How many people are involved in the program?

MR. SCHMID:

How many people are involved in the program? We have planned for about 150 this year.

MR. CLARK:

How many were there last year?

MR. SCHMID:

Last year I think it was 75 that reported in total, if I'm not mistaken.

The next one, of course, as far as the changes in regulation No. 19868 are concerned, we have received all the replies from municipalities, recreation boards and so on, and hopefully by the fall we will have the changes known so the recreation boards can

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establish the new policies and know what is coming to them in the next few years to come, as far as the recreational area is concerned.

As far as lifetime sport is concerned, as the hon. member may well be aware, we still do have the recreation committee of the different government departments, and this is one of the subjects that we are discussing very thoroughly right now. We are discussing the report that was done by the last government, and hopefully out of that, plus out of our, what you call 'new thrusts' just now, we have ideas coming that will benefit not only the people, as you say up to age 35, but also past that stage of life to be active in that kind of sport that they can do even in later years. And of course, since I myself am only a very slow participant in any type of sport, I of course, value that much more than anyone else probably would realize. Thank you.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the hon. minister closed on that last note because I would like to start my very short address by saying that the hon. minister could not have been very athletic when they were trying to divide up the pie, because he certainly didn't jump in and get his share. I am very, very disappointed that the 'new' government were carrying on at great length before the day of decision on what they were going to do for the youth of this province, but when you look at the estimates, I fail to see that. The only legacy I can see in the entire budget is the \$15.4 million of debt that will be servicing the \$200 million. That seems to be the only legacy that the 'now' government is going to be leaving the youth of this province.

AN HON. MEMBER:

There's worse to come.

DR. BUCK:

Now, in trying to establish the priorities, I'll be touching only on the few points that I feel have been missed. The directions as mentioned by my colleague, and so well touched on, and I would like to compliment the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo, because I knew he had the talent. We were waiting to hear it. I missed the tirade earlier in the session, but I knew, hon. member, that you were capable and I do appreciate your contribution.

MR. GHITTER:

There'll be more tirades.

DR. BUCK:

In some of the areas that have not been touched on too much, hon. minister, I would like to say that I've been involved in one or two programs over in the jail in Fort Saskatchewan, and I think that this is an area that your department could move into. This is not new.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Dr. Buck, do you want to qualify that a little better for the hon. minister?

DR. BUCK:

Yes, in an area that you could move into -- I do not mean that quite so literally. In these programs, as was mentioned by the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo, some of these young people are the people we really have to concentrate on. I agree that the 4-H program is

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excellent, and I am glad to see that the appropriation for it has increased, but it is the people who really need us that we can't get to, or, it is very difficult for us to get to. In the small program that the people in recreation have started out at Fort Saskatchewan in the jail -- and I got involved in it in a sense that I used to do a little bit of umpiring, which is very, very handy in this type of avocation -- and some of the young fellows who were taking this umpiring course were out on civvy streets umpiring some little league games in our community. I really think this is a step in the right direction in trying to rehabilitate these people, and get them involved in the community. This is just a small start. Many of you members of the Roman Catholic faith would know about the Christopher program. Some of the young people, and some of the inmates are becoming involved in this program. It certainly does make them have another look in what direction they are heading. Some of these programs can certainly be enlarged upon.

In the area of athletics, as mentioned by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, we have to look more and more to the field of recreation, because as we are moving into a period of more leisure time, we have to get more participation. If you can't get all the hon. members, especially the Cabinet -- they are the ones you have to convince -- I am sure the hon. members in the back benches are convinced that you should have more appropriation. We will certainly help you. But in this vein, as I mentioned earlier in the session, I would like to see you and the hon. Minister of Education get together, and include hockey in some small beginning in our school curriculum. It is our national sport; it is our national game, and I think we should try, and when we are building the new arenas, build them in conjunction with the schools. I think not only will you be able to make more use of the facilities, you can probably save a little bit of money in the capital cost by making use of some of the present facilities in the schools, and butting these on into your new arenas and recreation facilities.

Another thing I am sure has been brought to your attention is the establishment of some type of provincial games modelled along the Olympics, something such as that that will give our young athletes a better opportunity to participate at a more competitive level. Because if we are ever going to be any kind of a power in the British Empire Games or the Olympic Games we have to have more competitive competition. I believe this is a small start.

I would like to end by saying, hon. minister, that we, on this side of the House, certainly support you and we would like to have the 'now' government now seriously look at the problems of the youth in this province.

MR. SCHMID:

In reply to the hon. member, I am very happy to state that the concern he has regarding provincial games has always been one of my attentions, as early as last September in fact. Searching in my department for monies and for those other things I didn't find, was a priority, this really was one of the priorities, and I am very happy to state that an organization called Sports Alberta was granted \$20,000 as an initial sum to get what you call Provincial Championship Games going for winter and summer, and hopefully we might even go ahead this summer to compete in southern Alberta and northern Alberta and try to make Provincial Championship Games possible, and do that every year in all sport disciplines. And, as far as the program is concerned, it was mentioned by hon. members on both sides of the House, regarding jails. Actually I had been looking at that program also. I'm not quite sure now, I may have mentioned that already in my maiden speech that I was looking at that, but it is also one of the priorities of my department. I was asked about priorities before. Priorities also of course include recreation, not only as the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury has

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mentioned up to age 35, but especially to get our older people involved in recreation. In this respect we had, for instance, two weeks ago, in the Lions Senior Citizens' Home here on 111th Avenue, a Night in Vienna. The older citizens participated in giving dancing demonstrations, dancing the Viennese waltz, and other things that are involved with Nights in Vienna, and they really did enjoy themselves. Dancing is a form of recreation, and is in a way, also a sport, and therefore I feel we are going in this direction just in order to involve our senior citizens in a type of recreational program which they still can participate in, because the oldest person I understand, was 94 years old. The youngest, I think, was about seventy-one.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Chairman, there are just a couple of misconceptions which I think it is important that the hon. members fully realize. In comments that I have listened to up until this time, firstly, with respect to our government's response to youth, I'd like to point out to the hon. members that Appropriation No. 1725 -- which is special employment projects in the Department of Labour -- provides for employment measures for students in the coming summer. Our government believes that a high degree of co-ordination is necessary to properly co-ordinate employment both for the students in the summer and also for the winter attack on unemployment and seasonal unemployment.

That particular appropriation -- which is in Dr. Bert Hohl's department actually -- includes monies, as the Hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation has indicated, for programs which will be administered through his department in culture, youth and recreation. So I did want to correct that misconception, and that there's \$5 million provided in that appropriation, and in past years there has been nothing provided in that particular appropriation.

The other matter which I think that hon. members could be aware of -- and which has created some misconception -- if you refer to the fund of Culture, Youth and Recreation, recreational programs themselves, on the surface, show a decrease of 26.2% from the actual level of expenditures last year. But I would like to point out that that is somewhat of a misimpression because in the fact that in March of 1972 there was a special warrant passed for \$500,000 in the recreational grant program and that, of course, is included in last year's actual level of expenditures,

That \$500,000, when we include the current year's estimate as a substantial proportion of the recreational grants for the current year, will complete the five-year \$5 million municipal grant program. These are two matters which I thought there was some misapprehension about.

MR. SCHMID:

Regarding the SIFP program, the student employment program, we should explain that last year there were some problems with service volunteers working side-by-side with ecology corps students, and of course complaining, "Oh heavens, we're getting twice as much money as you do." This is why we raised the grant from \$200 to \$400 for the four-months volunteers, and the ten-month volunteers are getting \$2 per day and \$1 per day. Last year Alberta Service Corps in total had 150 students employed in the program, which is the same number again as this year. What we did this year, actually, was to more or less double the grants in certain areas, so that they at least come equal to the other students who are being employed by other departments.

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MR. KING:

I had to get up for a few moments, if only to shatter the unanimity of the House which I think that we should be careful about.

As the youngest member of the Legislature, I would like to make a few comments about the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, and particularly about the emphasis on youth.

I was not at the time of its creation, and have not been since, a real fan of the Department of Youth. I have three concerns about it which I think are shared by a wide number of young people throughout the province. I think that the Department of Youth, when originally created, was created more to serve the interests or the aspirations of middle-aged people and older people than youth. And I think that some of the things that I have heard here this evening would indicate to me that the emphasis on youth continues to serve the aspirations of middle-aged and older people more than the interests of the young people themselves.

[Applause]

I appreciate that.

There are three things that concern me. The first is whether or not it is, properly speaking, a department of youth or a department for youth. In my experience, I would like to preface my remarks here by saying that I was in university and just out of university at the time that the Department of Youth was created. A good many of my friends at university, my acquaintances, people with whom I have had fairly extensive dealings in the past five or six years, at one time or another, worked for the Department of Youth, some of them continue to work for the Department of Youth. On the basis, first of all on these relationships and secondly my natural interest in the department, it seems to me that it is a department for youth, rather than a department of youth. By that I mean that in its programs and its policies it more nearly mirrors what middle-aged people think are the preoccupations of young people, than what young people themselves believe are the concerns of their generation. It is a department of society for what they think young people want, or should be in society, rather than a department which provides the opportunity for the young people themselves to interpret -- as was suggested by the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo -- their own aspirations and their own desires in terms of this society. I believe that young people, if there is going to be a Department of Youth, should be the group of people charged with the responsibility of interpreting their aspirations to the government and to the society at large.

The role of the Department of Youth, at least as it has been perceived by its employees, has clearly changed since its creation. At the time of its creation, young people 21, 22, 23, who were going into the department were going in in the expectation that they would be there for one year or for two years, that they would make a contribution and in turn would receive an education and that they would then leave the Department of Youth and go on to something else. There was not the expectation that they would become, as I believe they have become, professional young people, as I think that we have professional poor people, and professional representatives of other minority groups. I think that we have reached a situation in the Department of Youth where there are young people presuming to interpret for the benefit of the government, the aspirations of young people, young people who are out of touch at the present time with the generation which they purport to. I think that the only way that we can break through this shell is by creating in the Department of Youth, at least, a radically different organizational structure, a radically different relationship of the employees of the Department of Youth to the government as a whole. I think that was something many young people initially hoped would be done with the Department of Youth and I think many young people have been saddened that the Department of Youth became a conventional bureaucracy -- and I use

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that in the descriptive, not the prescriptive sense -- and that it has lost something as a result of that.

I think that the Department of Youth as it presently functions segmentalizes age groups, which I don't believe should be done. And I believe it centralizes the relationship of society to young people, which I also do not believe should be done. In terms of the three descriptive words in the title, I personally believe that culture and recreation should have a much higher priority than youth. I think that assistance to youth should be localized; it should be in the form of grants in aid to groups that are already operating with young people rather than through programs which are set up, fixed and destined, in my view, to enjoy, if such can be the term, an indeterminate future.

I think we very seriously should consider the pedestal which we presume to put young people on with some of the comments that we make about them, about the necessity of providing ever-expanding programs to them, without any concern for (a) the quality of the program we are providing and (b) the desires of the young people themselves to be a part of the total society -- and not recognized as a sub-group of the society.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Mr. Minister?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands and would like to reply to him that, having now been involved in the department for the past seven months, having gone to places like 97th Street, having gone out into the country, and having seen the involvement of young people, having seen the involvement of our district youth representatives with the young people of our province, I will plan on taking him along on one of my trips very soon in the near future so that he can see that the department does relate to young people and, especially, if you consider that the 24% increase in the enrolment in the 4-H Clubs has happened in last fall alone, that I think we still do have something for our young people that they will "go for", as it is being said, and that we do try to "tell it like it is". So come with me to see my young people.

MR. KING:

I will agree to go and see his young people if he will come with me to see my young people.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Very well, after all those comments from the younger members I wonder if we should let the more senior hon. Member for Pincher Creek now mention something.

MR. DEAIN:

I find myself waffling and disagreeing with everybody.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Again.

MR. DEAIN:

Mr. Chairman, you know there was a book published some time ago and, of course, it does contain a large number of misconceptions. However this particular book's title was "The Greening of America"

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and in this particular book it outlines the social patterns that we have followed in the development of America in this particular case -- which could be applicable to Canada. So we find the original basis of thinking in America was the work ethic, and pay your bills, and honour your country, and pay your taxes. Then as our society evolved we evolved to a more educated and more sophisticated era. We evolved to the time when those who were probably granted by fate a more sedate and generous mode of living, decided then by looking across the room and gazing at their fellows who were less fortunate, that all the patterns of life could be developed into one specific program. And this is where we evolve to "social conscience two" which is represented by both sides of the Legislature. In "social conscience two" the concept is that by fitting people into neat little patterns you will thereby solve all the problems that are presented to them.

Now I have heard weeping and wailing about the dropouts; I've heard about this program in Calgary whereby these people are taken by the hand and led forth to the promised land. You know it is an interesting thing: there was a study done by a professor at the University of Calgary which documented where the dropouts went and what they did and what they accomplished. It was found that these dropouts were raising families, paying for homes, and paying taxes in order to properly keep these representatives of "social conscience two" operational.

In my time I have dealt with many young people. Probably because of the type of work that I did, which was, in many cases, seasonal. And so these guys would wind up somewhere in my clutches, and I assure you they were very raw material. And somehow or other, in certain ways, I managed to start a lot of them along the pathway of life, and this is one of the great satisfactions of my life to meet one of these guys someplace and he says, "Well, Charlie Drain, I've learned something from you because here I am today, and I have done so and so," and this is quite a delightful thing. So I do not think by direct personal involvement that you can solve the social problems of people. You can certainly give them guidance, but basically these problems have to be solved by the realities and the facts that they do face in this world. And I think possibly that the effects of attrition, and the effects of hardship have possibly been under-rated. There is nothing that is so conducive to bringing people back to the cause of reality as facing the harsh facts of life.

Mention has been made of biculturalism in Canada, and at the risk of incurring a great deal of wrath, I should say that I'm for biculturalism in a Canada of Canadians, and to me a Canadian is anyone who has got off the boat and said, "I'm a Canadian." I believe properly that there is a right and a place for people to maintain the embers of memory of their forefathers, and I certainly say this without any reservation, but also to remember first and foremost that they were Canadians. I do not think that there is any cultural group in Canada that can claim pre-eminence in saying that they have contributed in any way, any more than any other specific ethnic group. We all came to Canada, whether we came on the first boat or the last one -- we came here to better ourselves. I know very well that my forefathers left Scotland for two reasons. One was the landlord needed the land for sheep; two, it was cheaper to load Scotsmen than to load rock in the sailing ships that carried the timber from Quebec at that time. So I do not say that there is any special honour or glory in the fact that my forefathers got here a couple of hundred years ago. They were just lucky that's all.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I say this, in my estimation, that patriotism is self-defeating, and basically what we are trying to do -- and I do not quarrel with the fundamental ideas -- is to evolve a system of paternalism, a system of nepotism, which in effect says, that tomorrow you shall play hockey at a certain time. I think that

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the young people of today -- and certainly the honourable Mr. David King mentioned this, and I think probably he represents basically what is "social conscience three," which says that people should be allowed to think for themselves -- that people should be personally involved, that people are quite capable of understanding and doing their own thing.

So basically my final contention is that every role that the government involves itself in, above and beyond the basic preconceived basis of government, subverts and denies the rights of the individual.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Dixon. Mr. Dixon -- I believe you wanted to get my attention here for a long time?

MR. DIXON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was quite amused at the hon. Member for Fincher Creek-Crowsnest, and yet I agree with him because he does support what the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands was saying, we have to involve youth, they are the ones who can solve their own problems, and guidance is the only thing that we can really give them.

MR. DIXON:

This is one of the reasons why, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the hon. minister for carrying out a program which has a lot of merit. This program sends these boys and girls, the youth of our province, to areas such as Ponoka and Cliver and into the far northern areas to work with Metis people and others, where they can learn a lot themselves by being there. They are there to help the people that are there, but actually the people with problems have a lot to offer, especially to our young people, because they find out how the other fellow lives. Really isn't that part of life? It isn't all a bed of roses. There are problems that have to be solved, and I believe these are the challenges that our young people need; they like to participate. You can organize a youth to go on a parade quicker than any other group if they think it is a worthy cause to go on the parade for, because they want to participate.

However, there was one thing I had in mind, Mr. Minister, that I would like you to remark on, but before I say that, I enjoyed the remarks of the hon. member for Calgary Buffalo. He mentioned east Calgary schools, and bringing them up to standards. Well, I do represent a great part of east Calgary and we're very proud of our schools there. I can say, for example, in the Colonel Walker School, I had an interview with the principal not too long ago and one of the questions that were asked at the time by a gentleman who was with me, was, "What about the drug problem in this school?" and I was very proud to hear the principal say there are no problems at all, they haven't had one student in the school that had a problem with drugs, to their knowledge. This particular principal spends a lot of extra time working with youth, extracurricular work, working with one of the service clubs where they have special awards for outstanding students. The Victoria Park School is another school where the staff, the teachers, and the principal put in extra time. I think many other of our schools throughout our city may not have such a wonderful record.

As I go down to the court houses, it is not often the real down-and-out children who are in trouble. I usually find some well known fathers, professional people, who are down there saying, "I can't understand my boy, I just can't understand him." I have even had them come to me, and I am sure the hon. members on both sides of the House have had parents come to them and ask, "What department can a

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guy go to that can help me with the problems of my boy?" It isn't a matter of the boy not having any money, or that his parents haven't got any money. I can remember a case out at the Y camp, at Camp Hector. The camp supervisor there told me he had said to a well-known Calgary businessman, "Look, your boy isn't any good; we have hired him, but we are going to have to send him home." The reply was, "Look, don't you send him home, I'll pay his wages."

So you see it is not always a money problem, but really what our youth needs is involvement and I congratulate the hon. minister for his efforts carried on through the youth department which has been operating for a number of years. Certainly we are going to have some weaknesses in it but I think the fact that we are showing youth that we are interested in them -- because the minute we start doing everything for them we kill their initiative, well any program is going to fail then, including the youth program.

Mr. Minister, I was wondering if your department has any plans for outlining or preventing overlapping of different organizations, not to prevent them from getting in the field, but to co-ordinate their efforts, both at the municipal level, the provincial level, and the federal level. I say the federal level -- I put that as a number one priority -- because under the Federal Incentive Program, which many of our youth in Alberta have taken advantage of over the past few months, and which will be ending some time this month -- maybe the hon. Minister of Labour will be more conversant with this -- but I had one young fellow who was in that program and he told me, he said "Oh, I've had a good time, I've been working on this project but the best thing about this is the fact that I have enough credits now so I can go on unemployment insurance as soon as the program is over." Well that type of program, to me, is not doing a job. It's not really carrying out the program it was set out for. So I was wondering if the hon. Minister of Labour, or the hon. Minister of Youth -- who I'm directing my remarks to -- if there couldn't be more co-operation and co-ordination with the federal government. You could even ask the federal government if your department could do a survey on how effective their program was in our Province of Alberta, because it's our youth who are involved in this program. Maybe we can come up with some suggestions for a better program; but it does alarm me a little bit when you hear some of our youth talking that way. They're getting into a program to assist them, and yet, the only alternative in particular was to be able to qualify for unemployment insurance until summer comes so they can start on the next program that's coming in the fall.

I wonder if the minister, in his remarks, could assure me that he would take this up with the federal government authorities -- and I'm not just thinking of that one particular program, but of all the programs. Because if I read the taxpayers right -- who are paying for all these programs -- they are concerned with the overlapping that is going on. Youth are concerned, as the hon. Member for Calgary Highlands and the hon. Member for Fincher Creek-Crowsnest have pointed out. They are concerned with the fact that they don't want our youth to be over-organized, and they want to do something for themselves. Mr. Minister, I think these are the points that we should take into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SCHMID:

Maybe I should state that the basic philosophy of my whole department is culture, youth and recreation. It's not a Department of Youth, it's a Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. It is to help people help themselves. By saying people, I mean young people, old people, middle aged people, whatever age you want to call them.

And now in reply, maybe I should mention that this concern that you have, hon. member, we had also. I was in office I think two days

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when I wrote my first letter to the hon. Gerard Pelletier, asking him what he felt the OFY program did for Alberta. I received a reply, and happily it was a very cordial one. In fact, he appreciated our input, telling him what we felt about it, and a very good co-operation has been established with regard to the Opportunities for Youth program. Just today, when I left the House here at 5:30 a letter was on my desk, again from the hon. minister from the federal government, asking us to come to a conference in Ottawa on May 13 regarding the Young Voyageur program of the federal government. So again, we can see what actually can be done to co-operate with the federal government and not to duplicate or overlap the programs. Also, of course, any time they give any assistance to anyone, we make sure that there's no overlapping with the municipal, provincial or federal departments or other departments, so that any program is assisted the correct way. That's the way it should be.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make two comments. If we don't hurry up and pass these estimates, we won't have any kids left. They'll all be adults. And secondly, if we don't hurry up and pass these estimates, we won't even have a quorum in here!

MR. BAFTON:

Yes, I would like to add a few notes to the comments on the Alberta Service Corps. Both the hon. Member for Edmonton Strathcona and the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview touched on some of the merits, but I think Art stole my thunder when he said, "The work experience and the understanding between the Service Corps personnel going out into the isolated communities is something that they will never, ever achieve by going to university and learning the hypothetical approaches of how to tackle our social problems."

The next thing on this, and I say this with real sincerity, is that any Service Corps members in the Lesser Slave constituency -- I would appreciate it if the hon. minister would advise me as to where they are located and their names -- because they have problems receiving materials such as pencils, and crayons, and incidentals. They end up in these communities with very little resource to work with. And I think our community would be in a situation where our service clubs would be prepared to provide some of these services. They are minimal types of requirements, but they are essential. The next thing is to have some sort of personnel to go in and see them at least once every two weeks in the isolated communities. They sit up there for months on end; they can't get their mail out; they drop into an environment that is totally strange. They have a tough time adjusting. I would really appreciate the hon. minister appointing somebody to at least see them once every two weeks.

Work experience and understanding are the two bases of this particular program. I think -- regardless of how you want to tackle it -- this is the basis that comes back. Each worker should submit a report -- and I would appreciate it if your department would compile it -- and table it. I notice the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands -- the anxiety -- he might appreciate the Department of Youth, Culture and Recreation in its total. That is about all.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Very well. Is it agreed that we . . . Yes, Mr. Minister? -- one comment before we move into . . .

MR. SCHMID:

I just want to tell the hon. member that I appreciate his remarks and I will let him have the list of Alberta Service Corps volunteers in his area.

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MR. CHAIRMAN:

Appropriation No. . . A couple of young fellows yet?

DR. HCHCL:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to comment because once we move into the appropriations we won't have a chance to address ourselves to the subject of the hon. minister's address to his estimates. I want to commend him and I want to say that it must make him feel good to get the kind of support he got here this evening. I think the size of the appropriations and budgets for the various services is often in direct proportion to the kind of support that the elected people in the province give to a particular program. This should augur well for next year's appropriation.

This year we had priorities, and that is the way it is. However, let no one feel the department is without funds or without capacity or without competence. I know a lot of the people in the department, I am not an apologist for the department -- or any other department -- it doesn't need it. Its record speaks for itself, and the work in clinics, in training recreation people, athletes, and leaders of athletes, and leaders of high school students' unions, and so on -- it is a record that is open for anyone's examination, and the record stands the closest scrutiny. So I commend the department and the hon. minister.

Even as we agreed on so many things, there is, nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, a rather serious kind of dichotomy in a discussion on which I want to comment, and most briefly, I assure you. That is the 'either -- or' in helping people one way or some other way. I think there is not a person here who has not worked closely, and long, and hard, and voluntarily with young people. The proposition that athletics alone will do it for someone is only half true. It will do it for those who are athletes, and who can become athletes, and who are so put together that they have no discomfort in participating in group activity. But those of us who have worked with children know that some are on the fringes of this kind of thing and will not participate, and need the kind of counselling that Mr. Wilson and others were talking about. I don't think it is a reasonable thing to turn our backs on the social scientists who are practitioners, the school counsellors, the social workers, the school psychologists, the remedial people, the speech and hearing specialists. These are the people who have often, often -- as Dr. Paproski has pointed out time and again, and he has documented this -- they often have working with them individually or in groups, made them an entrant into the other group of participants that we have talked about. So, please let us not look at this as an 'either -- or' situation. It is some of each, and depending very, very much on the individual because each one is different from another. And you know, sir, we can't talk about the worth of an individual, and to each on the basis of this interest, and capacities and aptitudes, and say that each person is really worthwhile, and we mean it, and then at the same time talk about the greatest good to the greatest number, and for the average, and then there's a group that's left out. I don't think that if we were pushed we could really accept this proposition. I can't. This government can't. I'm sure no one in the House can. And so what I'm saying then, Mr. Chairman, is that as we look at programs that Mr. Wilson was talking about, and I have some bias here because I am familiar with the programs. For many years I was with the Boys' Club of Edmonton and I know that we had to spend hours with young people alone or in twos, and work with their families before they could become entrants into the larger society of which the Boys' Club was a part, and then to enlarge this to a larger and larger community. It's popular in many circles to knock the practising social scientists. Sometimes they need it, so they keep their feet on the ground, but they also must keep their heads a bit turned upwards because the work is very discouraging, and progress in working with

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people who have extreme difficulty is not rapid, and the conclusions are not quick. So while the feet must be kept on the ground, and the criticism does it, the head must also be pointed upwards, so I want to commend the minister and indicate support for his programs.

MR. FEACOCK:

Mr. Chairman, as the oldest member on the government side, I'd like to support that youngest member on the government side, and at the same time take this opportunity to commend my colleague Horst Schmid. I think he's doing a tremendous job. I'd like to leave with this House one thought that's a great concern of mine -- I think the hon. Member from Edmonton Kingsway alluded to it -- and that is the fact that some of these purposes, schematics, and possibly in relation to the public and to this House, that we should re-entitle our particular departments, because recreation and culture seems to me to have a dollar connotation to it, but when we get into youth we're talking about an environment, and I think our hon. Member from Calgary Buffalo alluded to this.

This environment of youth is not only made up from things that we as a government, in a catalytic way, can maybe make the population of the Province of Alberta conscious of its responsibilities to its youth. It seems to me that it involves my department, which is the economics, and it's always been a question to me and my hon. colleague Mr. Yurko, why it's called this grand all-encompassing title, Department of the Environment, when maybe it should be related to the ecology. And so, all these departments identify themselves, it seems to me, in giving an opportunity for the present and future generations of Canada, particularly Alberta. So I would suggest that if we were talking in terms of priorities that we can certainly put dollars on the recreation and culture aspects of your department, Sir, but I doubt very much whether anybody in this House is capable of identifying the dollars in relation to the development of the youth.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, just one short remark. Again I would like to emphasize to the House that our program regarding employment for youth, creating jobs for them, is really one of the most important ones. And before we pass No. 2802, general administration, I would be amiss not to express my deepest appreciation to my Deputy Minister and his staff. They work many hours and they go up there sometimes Saturdays and Sundays to the CN Tower, where they are working, and to have people like this work for the Minister is very tremendous. They're the ones that help me do the things that I would like to do for the young people, for cultural development, and for the recreational development of our Province of Alberta. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Minister, No. 2802 was passed yesterday, we'll move into No. 2803.

The following was agreed to without debate:

Appropriation 2803 Recreation Branch 1,490,050

Appropriation 2804 4-H and Junior Forest Warden's Branch

Pages

MR. CLARK:

Before we are carried away too far, I would like to query the hon. minister -- I notice the 20% increase, and the hon. minister

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alluded to a 20% increase last year. What portion of that was a result of lowering the age limit for 4-H Clubs across the province?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, all I know is that we now have about 12,000 members in the 4-H Clubs.

MR. CLARK:

I conclude that a very substantial portion, perhaps 80% or 90% of the increase in clubs across the province last year -- increase in membership -- was the result of lowering the age limit. Is that a fair assessment?

MR. SCHMID:

I wouldn't say 80% or 90% hon. member, I would say a portion of it yes, but also a portion of it due to new programs that we developed.

MR. CLARK:

Could you then get some kind of a breakdown for us as to what portion is from lowering the age limit, and then as far as new projects? What new projects do you have in mind for this year?

MR. SCHMID:

I certainly will, hon. member, and I will supply you with it.

MR. CLARK:

For this year? What new projects? Well, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, what new projects do you propose to introduce as of September this year, and what about the ones that were started last year on a pilot basis?

MR. SCHMID:

As I said, I will supply the hon. member with the answer on these questions.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Chairman, my review says that there will be an increase of 3,000 members at \$2.00 a member; the difference between the 1971-72 figure and the 1972-73 figure is 3,000 new members at \$2.00 per member grant. So it's all related to increased membership.

MR. CLARK:

The point is, that last year the age limit was lowered for membership in the program. What I want to find out is some indication of what portion was the result of lowering the age limit, and what portion was the result of new programs.

MR. MINIELY:

...no change in programs.

MR. HCFNER:

Mr. Chairman, I want to make just one short comment in regard to the 4-H program. There have been continuing pressures of varying degrees in relation to the movement of the 4-H program back under the Department of Agriculture. I would like the House to know that I appreciate what the hon. minister is doing and I think that the 4-H

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program should stay where it is - under the hon. minister. However, I do think what happened when there was a change was that the personnel in my department dropped the 4-H program and walked away from it in effect, and I put out instructions to my field people that they should be available as resource personnel for the 4-H program in a meaningful way. I think that with co-operation in the two departments we can have a better 4-H program.

MR. DRAIN:

I can't resist stating at this time that the Junior Forest Warden program, of course, was started in Pincher Creek-Crowsnest, which just proves that we are more progressive.

Appropriation 2804 total agreed to \$ 448,540

The following was agreed to without debate:

Appropriation 2806 Planning and Development Branch \$ 89,150

Appropriation 2807 Youth Services Branch-Volunteer Services

Contracts and Agreements

MR. KING:

Just one point of information. The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake mentioned earlier in his remarks that one of the necessities of the Alberta Service Corps was that they should provide sport services to volunteers who are in the field. I had expected that the hon. minister would make the point at that time that one of the strengths of the Alberta Service Corps is that they already provide support services to their volunteers in the field. If he knows of an example to the contrary, the department would probably be interested in it, because I know that young people travel all over the province during the summer, providing support services to the volunteers.

DR. BUCK:

. . . isolated communities were not serviced in my area last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I think the hon. minister is taking that under consideration.  
Mr. Dixon.

MR. DIXON:

I would like to make a few comments to the hon. minister if I may, following up what Dr. Hohel said about the professional staff. Has the department ever investigated or planned to investigate the hiring of more non-professional staff, because you are working in some cases with youth where they would probably work closer with somebody who had more in common with their particular problems -- what I mean by that is dropouts and this type of person, and the type of person that the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo was talking about. Could we have some sort of a pilot project to see whether we could come up with some answers?

MR. SCHMID:

Hon. member if you ask my Deputy Minister he will tell you that about two months ago I discussed this subject with him and we are looking into that.

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MR. CHAIRMAN:

Dr. Buck.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Chairman, I would like just a short explanation. If you can give the hon. members of the Assembly just a sort of a rough breakdown -- in which area the Alberta Service Corps will be working -- you know, sort of a tall park figure?

MR. SCHMID:

Certainly, I would be very pleased to. One of our major involvements is the mental institutions, and especially in this case, Poncha, because they have asked us to again supply Alberta Service Corps volunteers. Then up in the Lesser Slave Lake area we are working with the young Indian children -- working with the communities in general -- to supply them with the support and help they need in having programs for younger children, and having programs for senior citizens especially. Then in the different Indian reserves where we found -- having sent out service volunteers there, as mentioned during my speech on the estimates -- that we even created interest, so much so that now, girls, for instance in Gleichen, are volunteers in helping on their own Indian reserves to provide programs of recreation for the Indian children living there. That is the general area of Alberta Service Corps volunteers.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Very well.

Appropriation 2807 total agreed to 178,220

Agreed to without debate:

Appropriation 2808 Youth Services Branch -- District Youth  
Representatives 300,860

Appropriation 2809 Youth Services Branch -- Project  
Development 133,610

Appropriation 2810 Youth Services Branch -- Leadership  
Development 77,030

Appropriation 2813 Objectionable Publications 1,610

Appropriation 2814 Cultural Development Branch -- Arts

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Mr. Ruste?

MR. RUSTE:

I believe when we started the estimates I was going to ask the hon. minister a question and he referred me to this section. Is there a grant paid to the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, which I understand is taking part in the International Youth Orchestra Festival in Switzerland? Maybe you could answer that and then, what are the bases for giving grants and possibly we could have a list of those who will be receiving grants under this vote?

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MR. SCHMID:

Hon. member I will be happy to reply to this question. Yes, this is the appropriation under which, out of last year's appropriations, we paid to the Edmonton Youth Orchestra 10% of the actual travel expense for going to Lausanne, Switzerland, to perform. The criteria under which support like that would be paid are that, first of all, it would have to be a bona fide invitation to compete on an international basis for an Alberta orchestra, and in this case it was provided to the Alberta Youth Orchestra because they were invited to go to Lausanne, Switzerland. But also, of course, 10% of the actual travel expenses is going to be paid to the Anne Campbell Singers and in this case it amounts to about \$1,200 and, also, the Medicine Hat Teen Tones. All three groups are the only ones who have been invited to go to a competition or to participate in a music festival and, therefore, they were able to get the grant under this type of policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Gruenwald.

MR. GRUENWALD:

Mr. Chairman, a brief question to the hon. minister. Is this the appropriation where you paid to the Provincial Council of Music Festivals?

MR. SCHMID:

That's right -- may I inform the House that the hon. member is referring to the Kiwanis Music Festival. I understand about eleven thousand young people will participate in this festival this year and we contribute one dollar per member to this festival per participating member, so there will be about \$11 thousand and then at the end of the festival we determine if they have been short of that fund, and, of course, we would pay anything in addition if there were more participants than that.

MR. GRUENWALD:

On this provincial fund, where is that set up at? And how do they dissipate their money? They receive the whole \$11,000, and where does it go from there, and how do they use it?

MR. SCHMID:

This goes to the provincial fund, of course, and then they decide where the money goes, where they most probably would pay it out, of course, to the people who do the judging, and to the general set up of renting the auditoriums, and everything else that is necessary for the holding of the Alberta Music Festival under the sponsorship of the Kiwanis Club of Alberta.

MRS. CHICEAK:

I have, Mr. Chairman, two questions for the hon. minister. One would be, would he be able to provide a list of all approved grants from his department, and in what amounts relating to each? And I wonder if also the hon. minister could advise whether he could give us what the ratio is in percentages of grants to professional groups, such as symphonies and opera, as to amateur groups?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, of course, I could provide the hon. member with recurring annual grants to certain groups; for example, she mentioned the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and the criteria there are that they have to come up with at least 50% of their budget through their own ticket sales; 20% to be provided by Canada Council; 10% through

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donations; 10% through the municipalities in which they reside, and then 10% through the Provincial Government. In other words -- again the philosophy to help people -- in this case orchestras, or cultural groups, to help themselves.

MR. FUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, maybe the hon. minister could inform us whether or not he is aware of the federal contribution to groups such as the three you mentioned that are travelling on an international basis, and the final one would be, possibly you could give us a list of those grants at a later date so that members would have it.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I'll certainly provide the members with a list of those grants so they will have them, and I'm also aware there are certain groups that are being sponsored or helped by the federal government, but a greater number are not.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Minister this will include both what Mr. Fuste and Mrs. Chichak asked...the list...very well.

Appropriation No. 2814      total agreed to      \$ 841,590

The following appropriation was agreed to without debate:

Appropriation 2815 Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

MR. FUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, maybe the hon. minister could explain this. There is about 10, almost 11% increase in this particular one. Could he explain the reason?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, the increase is due solely to increases in salaries and wages, especially for technicians. I understand we have had about four pay increases in the last while and they have to be locked after, of course, and this is the only reason why there is an increase in auditoriums.

Appropriation 2815, total agreed to      \$ 153,100

Appropriation 2816 Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

DR. BUCK:

I think that it's appropriate that we ask on these two votes, what is the situation as far as serving liquor in the auditorium will be. Can you give us any information on that?

AN HON. MEMBER:

He wants a vote on it...you have to be out by seven.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, the policy in this regard is under review and we will report to the House or to the people of Alberta in due course.

DR. BUCK:

When will the report of the committee be in? Do you have that information for us?

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DR. HCFNEFF:

Soon . . . soon . . .

DR. BUCK:

I mean, does that mean five years, two years, one month, I mean...

DR. HCFNEFF:

A couple of months . . .

MR. SCHMID:

In due course, hon. member.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Dr. Buck, you do understand; not now!

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Chairman, I've been asking that for about the last two months.

Appropriation 2816 total agreed to \$ 153,330

Appropriation 2817 Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta

MR. FOSTER:

One question to the hon. Minister on this: could you give us an indication of how many visit this place in a year? Or is there any record kept of that?

MR. SCHMID:

Yes Mr. Chairman, during my speech on the estimates I indicated that we had 375,000 visitors last year.

Appropriation 2817 total agreed to \$ 938,010

Agreed to without debate:

Appropriation 2818 Glenbow Alberta Institute -- Grants \$ 135,000

Appropriation 2820 Cultural Development Branch -- Libraries -- Grants

MR. KING:

I would like to suggest for the consideration of the hon. minister that next year, in establishing the amount of money to be set aside for this appropriation, that he consider reducing the grant that might be available to the City of Edmonton for the operation of the municipal library from whatever it may presently be to \$1.00. That Mr. Chairman is traditionally an expression of a lack of confidence in a minister or a program, or a department. I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have been distressed since the beginning of the year at some of the things which I understand have transpired at the municipal library in Edmonton at which institution some of my constituents are employed. There first of all has been the suggestion that the provincial government is in some way responsible for working conditions or for the operation of the municipal library. Under The Libraries Act this clearly not the case and if that misconception is being spread around, then I think that it should be squelched as soon as possible.

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There has secondly been a very real question in my mind about the relationship of the administration of the municipal library to the employees of the library, and particularly about the use of some of the provisions of The Labour Act, and The Minimum Wage Act, by the board of the library or in relation to the staff. I would suggest in the light of the problems that have been experienced here and the apparent inability of the municipality to resolve them, that perhaps we should consider giving up conditional grants altogether for libraries and rather make some other grant to municipalities, unconditionally, which they may at their discretion use for the support of libraries.

I wanted to take this brief opportunity to express my unhappiness with the situation there, to suggest that the provincial government is in no way involved in it and that indeed, if I had my way we would seek to express our dissatisfaction with the course of events that has transpired there.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I gather you have taken that under consideration, Mr. Minister.

MR. FENCIT:

If they decide to do that, our library is working very well and the people are very satisfied. They know who's running it and we would be glad to have a little more.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, I understood the hon. member from Edmonton-Kingsway was speaking about the Edmonton library and not about libraries generally in the province, or did I misunderstand him? Generally in the province?

MR. KING:

The suggestion was that the hon. minister might consider reducing the grant to the Edmonton Public Library to \$1.00 next year and the reason that I made that suggestion was simply that I wanted the opportunity to get something off my chest.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I'm not going to make any comment, particularly on the Edmonton Public Library, except to mention that I have found it to be a very valuable library and a tremendous service. I've never had any difficulty getting good service there and so I think in fairness I have to say that I found the services in the Edmonton Public Library very, very excellent indeed. But what I stood up to say was that I certainly think that we should be encouraging libraries all over the province, not cutting them down but increasing them. Hundreds and thousands of our people use them as a source of reading material and I think this is an excellent service. I'm a little disappointed and possibly I'm partly to blame in connection with the absence of requests for regional library establishment grants. A regional library has a tremendous potential and perhaps we as MIA's should be encouraging the establishment of regional libraries in our own constituencies.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, just having sent out the annual grants to the libraries, I received very many commendable letters, thanking the Alberta government for the few extra dollars sometimes that are able to help the libraries to purchase some books and some periodicals and they really were most appreciative. I would also like to comment this regard that in our summer employment program for students would

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involve some students to take an inventory of what is needed in the rural libraries of Alberta so we can do more for them in the future.

Since we're getting to the end of our vote, I do appreciate the remarks on both sides of the House regarding my department, and I and my staff will do our best for the people of Alberta.

MR. CLARK:

Just before the minister concludes all his comments, I would like to ask him to consider a pet peeve of mine, and perhaps no other member of the Assembly on the other side would want to associate themselves with it, and that's the question of, if you're going to review the library policy, I would seriously ask the minister to consider the advisability of connecting or involving community libraries with libraries in the schools. Now I know some of the professional librarians really get uptight about this, but there's a lot of money invested in books in schools, especially in school libraries, and if there's some way we could work the two together so they could have the use of the facilities, it would stop a lot of duplication of books and it would certainly increase libraries -- especially in rural areas of the province.

The other matter, Mr. Minister, is how are your plans coming along for interest free loans for municipal recreational facilities across the province?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, as I've mentioned before, both the library legislation, and regulation 198/68 regarding these loans that we are talking about are being renewed and hopefully by the fall we'll have the new program established.

Maybe I should say it's funny that the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury should mention school libraries, because I happened to be around his constituency presenting a cheque to the recreation board, and being in a big school with a big, big library, I had exactly the same idea he just mentioned.

MR. CLARK:

Next time you are down, we'll be pleased to expand your education.

DR. FAPFOSKI:

I'd like to make one comment regarding the libraries and I have to record this because of the hon. member next to me here. I hope that the hon. minister continues his support for libraries, and especially the one in Edmonton, despite the fact that they have, indeed, an internal dispute, which I think will be resolved; but by removing any grants, it will only cause pain and suffering to the children and the people that are going there. Thank you.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

I was going to ask the minister where the money was in any of the estimates for caucus task committees.

MR. SCHMID:

I'm afraid I didn't catch the last word.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Task forces.

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MR. SCHMID:

Well, if the hon. member sometime wishes to come here about two o'clock in the morning when I do my work in the office, he may realize that I'm afraid I can't afford any task forces.

MR. FAFFAN:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to put this question, anyway, of city libraries in the right perspective. Under The Library Act, in the City of Calgary anyway, the Library Board is entitled to draw two mills of the mill rate. Now it spends about one and three-quarter mills, which is about \$1.75 million. What it gets from the province is almost a drop in the bucket compared with the cost of the local program, and as the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury mentioned, there's also a \$20 million library system in the Calgary Public Schools. So that although these grants are very much appreciated, I wouldn't want anybody to get the impression that libraries anywhere in the cities were not largely financed out of property taxes.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. minister one question, in connection with champion teams that leave the province. Is part of the travelling expenses paid, of all champion teams, irrespective of the age of the players?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I received a letter from the hon. Charles Munro about two months ago in which he stated that any 'A' team participating in Canadian competition is being funded fully for their travel expenses by the federal government. Of course, for any other team competing, my department of the provincial government provides a certain percentage of their travel expenses.

MR. TAYLOR:

One further question. What is the contribution of the Alberta government towards Sport Alberta?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, the contribution to Sport Alberta was a one time only contribution of \$20,000. In addition to that we are providing them with office space until they are set up themselves for Alberta in the City of Edmonton.

Appropriation No. 2820 agreed to 407,950

Agreed to without debate:

Appropriation No. 2882 Alberta Arts Foundation Act 50,000

DR. HCFNER:

Mr. Chairman, I think this would be an appropriate time to move the adjournment. I move the Committee rise and report progress.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

It has been moved by the Deputy Premier that we rise and report progress. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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[Mr. Diachuk left the Chair.]

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[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]

MR. DIACHUK:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain estimates, reports progress and begs leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard the report and the request for leave to sit again, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

DR. HCFNER:

Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn until tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Deputy Premier moves that the House adjourn until tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. 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 10:35 p.m.]

