

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-43

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Wednesday, November 22, 1972

[The House met at 2:30 pm.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 215 The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1972

MR. KING:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill being The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1972. This act is a complete revision of the present Landlord and Tenant Act in the province and attempts to do two particular things; one is to make the landlord-tenant relationship more nearly like standard contract law in the province; and the second is to create easier access to the Small Claims Court by both landlords and tenants.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 215 was introduced and read a first time.]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the hon. members of this assembly, 30 good-looking young ladies and gentlemen from the Grace Martin School in my constituency of Edmonton Avonmore. I would like to thank their teacher Mrs. Barry for bringing them here and also the parents, Mr. Lengert, Mr. Neuman, and Mrs. Ramsankar for volunteering their efforts to guide the children around our legislative building. I would like them now to rise and be recognized.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to the hon. members of the assembly, two groups of students from schools in my constituency.

The first is a group of students from Victoria Composite High School, numbering 80, all in Grade X. Some are seated, Mr. Speaker, in the members' gallery, with the balance in the public gallery.

The second group is a group of 20 students, Mr. Speaker, who are enrolled in a special course on life skills. They are accompanied by their coach, Mrs. Madeline Dunkley. They are seated in the members' gallery. Mr. Speaker, it is of note that this group of students is a pilot project sponsored by the Canadian Mental Health Association. I would ask both groups to stand and be recognized by members of this assembly.

FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of three items. The first one is the reports and accounts of the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission for the year which ended March 31st, 1972.

Mr. Speaker, the other two relate to matters that have been referred to the in the fall sitting of the House, firstly The Mental Health Act, and secondly the progress with regard to the government's programs in respect to handicapped

80-44

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

programs. Although I hope to speak on third reading, Mr. Speaker, in regard to Bill No. 83, briefly this will be a written form of report for the hon. members to have. In a like way, the report I have mentioned on the program for the handicapped is for hon. members. I'd like to file them all.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of the Alberta statement presented to the three working sessions of the First Canadian Tri-Level Conference which just concluded yesterday in Toronto.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

1973 Spring Session

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the hon. the Premier. I'm not sure whether he will be making any statement in regard to the beginning of the spring session of the legislature. I was just wondering if he could give us some indication as to when we might expect that that would start?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had planned to make a definitive announcement today. It is the intention of the government to call the second session of the 17th Alberta Legislature for Thursday, February 15th, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Opposition House Leader, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

AGT Employees

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the hon. Minister of Telephones. Have there been any threats to blow up the AGT Tower recently?

MR. WERRY:

Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. TAYLOR:

Supplementary, have there been any threats against the staff that you know of?

MR. WERRY:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would advise why the news bulletin of October 20th was sent to all employees. Some of them have become quite disturbed.

MR. WERRY:

What is the date, Mr. Speaker?

MR. TAYLOR:

October 20th, 1972.

MR. WERRY:

I am not in receipt of the news letter. I have been in eastern Canada for the last three days. I am not aware of the document the hon. member is referring to, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TAYLOR:

I'll send it over to the hon. minister.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-45

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Millican, followed by the hon. Member for Hanna-Oyen.

Alberta Opportunity Fund

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. There are two questions I will ask him at once, if he doesn't mind, Mr. Speaker.

Alberta has had quite a bit of publicity lately on nation-wide television about rural towns that are closing up. I have in mind where they moved the elevator from Chigwell, near Ponoka, the other day. During the broadcast, the lady who owned the general store was quite concerned about relocating. I wondered if, under the present Alberta Opportunity Fund, this lady would be able to apply for assistance to relocate?

My other question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, is: how many companies from outside of Alberta have applied for assistance under the Alberta Opportunity Company, and what is the policy of the company as far as expanding and relocating of new Alberta companies? How have funds been made available up to now for this type of operation?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, to answer the hon. member's first question, the Opportunity Fund, of course, was developed and organized primarily for the help of rural industry, and the development of industry in rural Alberta. We have had some 2600 inquiries since the Opportunity Fund came into being, and we have had some 150 applications for funds. The direction of those funds is very hard to define within the confines of this House, but in the regulations, the direct approach that we are taking to the development and usage of these funds emphasizes the individual, or the person, rather than his financial assets. This is where the fund has a direct bearing on rural Alberta, where maybe the traditional lending institutions are not as active.

Now to answer the question about the particular person in the area where they are moving an elevator out of the town, and the lady who is staying there -- most certainly that is what the fund is designed for, to give help to people like that.

Mr. Speaker, if I may have a little latitude in the answering of this question, I think it would be of interest to the House to know that in the first six months of this year there was a capital investment of some \$500 million, creating 3200 jobs for new and expanded industries in this province. On the planning board there is another \$800 million of capital expenditure which will employ, when they come into being --

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, if I could ask a supplementary question. I appreciate the answer I received from the hon. minister, but I wonder if I could get a direct answer as to how many companies have qualified for the funds who were not established in Alberta prior to the fund being in operation?

MR. PEACOCK:

To my knowledge, there hasn't been any company that was not in Alberta -- or wasn't an Albertan -- that the fund has been made available to since the Opportunity Fund came into being. I am sure that the hon. member is aware that the purpose of the fund basically is to develop the entrepreneurial qualities of the individual within rural Alberta -- within Alberta -- I'm not defining just rural Alberta. That's really the purpose of the fund, to give the capital impetus as well as other services that the Opportunity Fund affords (such as research and development and management skills, marketing assistance) to the individual in Alberta who indicates and has the desire to do something himself. That's really the pin-pointing of the fund.

DR. BUCK:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. In some of the small communities where you don't have chartered banks but you do have credit unions,

80-46

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

is the fund working closely in relation to these small pseudo or quasi-banks, I guess you could call them? Are they in this ball game together too?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, of course the fund, Mr. Speaker, is open to all and sundry throughout the province of Alberta with no discriminatory areas. To suggest that the fund is more effective in areas where there isn't a chartered or central banking system or unit, I can't really answer that. I can only say this, that the fund having been in operation for six months leaves yet a lot to be desired. There is a lot of straightening out to do and certainly a lot more organization before it is nearly as effective as we want it.

MR. NOTLEY:

I wonder if the hon. minister could give the House an approximate breakdown as to where the money has gone in the first six months. How much has gone to the two major cities and how much to the communities outside the two major cities?

MR. PEACOCK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can give it to you approximately. Strange as it may seem it is heavily weighted in northern Alberta, that is north of Edmonton. They have received maybe 33 to 40 per cent of it, 25 per cent in the Edmonton area, and the balance in southern Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER:

Might this be the last supplementary on this topic?

DR. BUCK:

It is a short one, Mr. Speaker. In some of these smaller centres I think people are a little hesitant about applying to the fund because they feel maybe they are too small. Is this area being looked after, the area of the small businessman who, maybe, by taking out a \$20,000 loan, will increase his staff by two. Is this being utilized or are people afraid to come forward?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the hon. member's question, because that is exactly the direction to which the fund is pointed, to help people of that nature. I might add while I am on my feet, if I may, Mr. Speaker, that I think it is the responsibility of every member in this House to carry back the message to his particular constituency, not only of the opportunity of the fund itself, but maybe a study on the regulations so that it is understood and interpreted.

MR. DOWLING:

Mr. Speaker, if I might just add one thing to the answer of my hon. friend. Of the tourist facility loans that have been granted, some 90 per cent of them are for rural Alberta. The other 10 per cent are for the major urban areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Extended Area Telephone Service

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Telephones and Utilities. On November 2, you advised the legislature that you would be making an announcement or tabling some information in the House within the next week or two with respect to extended area service. Would it now be possible to make the announcement today, or when may we expect it?

MR. WERRY:

No, Mr. Speaker, the information that I had was that the engineering details would be available by late, or possibly mid-October, and the information now is that it will not be completed until some time in November or December. I would like to indicate that the earlier study we had undertaken in the latter

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-47

part of last June was a broad survey that merely indicated the total need and the desirability of such a service. But when you have to go into the detailed plans in engineering this is a different type of study and requires much more detail than the broad brush survey. This detailed plan is one we are waiting for now.

MR. FRENCH:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that we may be proroguing this afternoon, or even tomorrow, would it be possible for the minister to mail this information out to each of the members when it is available?

MR. WERRY:

Mr. Speaker, I would not like to make a commitment at this time. If such a study were to be released, I think the appropriate time would be during the next session, which the hon. Premier announced at the opening of today's session.

MR. FRENCH:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind the minister that the spring session --

MR. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member asking a question?

MR. FRENCH:

I wonder if the hon. minister could give me information to convey to my people, in view of the fact that in the spring session we told them the announcement would be made very shortly, and now we are going home. What will we tell them?

MR. WERRY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this to the hon. member, that as I indicated earlier, if the study is completed I would be pleased to table it in the House during the next session, but if he has a specific request will he please send me a note across on what the exchange is, and when that information is available I can then communicate with the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Moir Report

MR. NOTLEY:

I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. In the light of the government's recent statements of concern about the preservation of Canadian traditions in institutions such as the CPL, can the hon. Minister of Advanced Education advise the House whether the government has adopted a position on the Moir Report on non-Canadian influence in post-secondary institutions in the province?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a recommendation in the Moir Report, or at least an observation, that it is not for governments to accept or reject the contents of that report, it is for the institutions themselves in terms of their own hiring and personnel practices to adopt the recommendations of the report.

I think the universities -- from where I sit -- have been very conscious of the Moir Report; I think they are giving it very serious consideration and I also feel -- in my opinion -- that some of the things that the Moir Report talks about are being implemented by the university. I don't think it is something that government can take a position on in the sense of directing universities on how to respond to the Moir Report. We have taken the position throughout that indoor management of universities and colleges -- while it concerns us and is of interest to us -- is not something over which we have jurisdiction or control. We are anxious and hopeful that the institutions will consider the Moir Report

80-48

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

seriously, but we don't have any jurisdiction in directing them how to live with it.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the hon. minister advise the House whether or not the universities have given any serious consideration to the recommendation in the Moir Report that Canadians be given preference for staff positions at post-secondary institutions?

MR. FOSTER:

I am not specifically aware, Mr. Speaker, of the individual hiring practices of individual faculties in individual institutions. All I can say is that the report speaks for itself. I think it is generally acceptable to all Albertans; I think it is generally acceptable as an approach to personnel matters within the institutions. I cannot specifically answer that question. If you want me to inquire into a specific faculty of some university I would be pleased to do so and I know they would be pleased to respond.

MR. NOTLEY:

One final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government taken any action to implement the Interim Report of the Moir Report which, as you recall, pointed out the unfair tax break that non-Canadian academics were given? I am suggesting that the government take some steps to see if this could be eliminated.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague the hon. Provincial Treasurer could comment on that subject. I am not specifically aware of overtures from the Department of Advanced Education -- at least not on my initiative -- to the federal government on this subject. They are concerns to us but I have held no discussions with the Department of National Revenue on that subject.

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to all members that they realize that, while I am not discussing the merits of exchange of teaching or teaching instruction, that this was set up by the federal government in consultation with the American government under a tax treaty between Canada and the United States. The same benefits that accrue to the American professor teaching in Canada also accrue to the Canadian professor teaching in the United States. We should be aware of that.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question --

MR. SPEAKER:

Might this be the final supplementary on this topic?

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. In view of the fact that this was the concern expressed in a pretty important commission report, would the hon. Provincial Treasurer take this matter up at the next meeting of finance ministers in Canada?

MR. MINIELY:

Certainly I am prepared to discuss the matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Camrose, followed by the hon. Member for Bow Valley.

Big Knife Provincial Park Bridge

MR. STROMBERG:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Last week you promised further information to this assembly on "the bridge from

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-49

nowhere to nowhere" in Big Knife Provincial Park which is in my constituency. Do you have that information now?

DR. WARRACK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member did ask me to look into this and I have done so. The basic facts are that a bridge was put in across a creek at Big Knife Provincial Park at a cost, I believe, of some \$11,000. It was put in by the Department of Highways at the time, on the apparent request of the former Minister of Lands and Forests, although as far as I can tell the parks division planners recommended against it. What I have not really been able to ascertain, Mr. Speaker, is why it was put in.

MR. STROMBERG:

A supplementary question to the minister. This bridge from nowhere to nowhere -- since it can't be used -- since the land on the other side is owned by a coal company, can we salvage it or can we move it? Or is it money down the drain?

DR. WARRACK:

It's correct that the land on the other side is in the right-of-way held by Canadian Utilities with respect to their development there, and that no development can take place there without their permission. As a matter of fact, if development did take place it would be in danger of being flooded in some subsequent period. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that it was neither in the past, nor currently, nor in the foreseeable future, a part of the plan for that park to use this bridge.

MR. STROMBERG:

One last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since there has never been an official opening of this bridge, would you give consideration to naming the bridge, 'Taylor's Folly'?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for -- is the hon. Minister asking a question about the bridge?

AGT Employees (con't)

MR. WERRY:

To answer the question from the hon. Member for Drumheller with regard to the news bulletin, it was issued by AGT security. There had been no threats regarding the bombing of the building, as he would indicate. It is merely informing the employees that there is a procedure to be followed -- this is the case with any large building of this size -- that there is a precautionary measure. And as the bulletin indicates, they are asking the employees to help regarding theft and vandalism, so these can be kept to a minimum.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Bow Valley followed by the hon. Member for Drayton Valley.

RCMP Detachments

MR. MANDEVILLE:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the hon. Attorney General. In mid-August you met with a large delegation from Bassano -- approximately 75 -- in regard to the closing of the RCMP detachment in Bassano, and moving it to another centre. As to date, have you made a decision as to whether you are going to recommend retaining the RCMP detachment in Bassano?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the hon. member has raised that matter. It is one that very much concerns the people of Bassano and also the people of the town of Magrath. It arises out of a policy that was being followed by the RCMP in Alberta when we came into office of closing the detachments in the smaller centres, and providing policing for those centres from larger establishments through what the RCMP call the POPS system. There were a number of reasons for

80-50

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

that, including the principal one which was to enable policemen in the smaller centres to spend more time in the community on patrol in crime prevention work than they had been able to prior to that, because of the need to do administrative work in their offices. The towns that were losing their detachments were concerned, and that included Bassano. As the hon. member said, I met with a large delegation from Bassano and discussed their concerns with them, and I also met with a number of people from the town of Magrath and discussed their concerns with them. I don't want to take the time now, Mr. Speaker, to go into all of the pros and cons of these two systems, but I am satisfied that this program being followed by the RCMP would provide equally effective policing to that which was provided by the detachments in the local towns.

However, Mr. Speaker, the matter really doesn't end there because the people in these smaller centres were concerned and felt more comfortable with the detachments living there. It was the feeling of this government that we ought to respond to the concerns of those people in smaller centres. As a result of that feeling, I've again been reviewing the matter with the RCMP for some time now, and have concluded that that policy ought to be modified so that at least for the time being, the detachments in the town of Bassano and in the town of Magrath will stay there.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Vermilion-Viking followed by the hon. Member for -- sorry! The hon. Member for Drayton Valley followed by the hon. Member for Vermilion-Viking.

Farm Machinery

MR. ZANDER:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker, you almost missed me again today. The question I had was intended for the hon. Minister of Agriculture -- since I wanted to ask the question yesterday -- it concerns the inability of farmers to get replacement parts for their combines and swathers; in the past it has left something to be desired, and some of these machines are only about three or four years old. I was wondering whether anything is being done about trying to get replacement parts and have these companies maintain a source of supply of parts for farm machinery.

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, as acting Minister of Agriculture I'd be pleased to bring that to his immediate attention and ask him if he will communicate with the hon. member about that matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Vermilion-Viking followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

Municipal Boundaries

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. At the spring session, Mr. Minister, you intimated that a review of county boundaries was being considered. Has any work been done on such a review?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, a fair amount of work has been done. We've received a number of comments with respect to certain municipal boundaries in various parts of the province. Through the association of M.D.s and counties, we've tried to gain an expression of opinion from the various members throughout the province as to their feelings toward the matter, and I also spoke to the municipal associations explicitly with respect to the matter and asked for their opinions. We hope, within a very few weeks, to come to a final recommendation as a result of their suggestions and other matters.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Bow followed by the hon. Member for Taber-Warner.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-51

University of Calgary

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. the Premier. Can you confirm plans for a November 27th meeting between members of the University of Calgary Board of Governors and yourself?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not exactly sure of the nature of the meeting, but I will be having informal discussions with members of the Board of Governors at the University of Calgary and other business people in Calgary as part of a series of trips that I intend to make, both to my own constituency and to the City of Calgary on a number of matters.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the government reconsidering its position on the faculty of law at the University of Calgary?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the hon. member heard the eloquent description of the facts by the hon. Minister of Advanced Education a few days ago.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Taber-Warner followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View.

RCMP Centennial Celebrations

MR. D. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Will the hon. minister be restoring the RCMP Barracks near Writing-on-Stone Park complementing the centennial celebrations for this famous and historic policing body?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not precisely certain of all the details concerning the Centennial RCMP celebrations as they apply to Alberta, and particularly that area of Alberta. It is my understanding that 1973 is the centennial in Canada and 1974 the centennial as it applies to Alberta. I'm certainly interested in the possibility of some such endeavour as is suggested, but I think the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, and perhaps also the hon. Minister Responsible for Tourism who also, I know, has had a look at this matter, may have some additional response.

MR. DOWLING:

Mr. Speaker, just briefly, this is one of a great number of proposals for commemorating the RCMP Centennial. It is presently under review. The House would like to know, I'm sure, that all the major advertising agencies in Alberta have been asked to make proposals regarding how we might best commemorate the RCMP Centennial. Their proposals were narrowed down to four that qualified, and the decision made on which agency will spearhead the RCMP Centennial celebrations and what we'll be doing should be announced within the next few weeks.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View followed by the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Premier of the government from 'now' to 'nowhere' whether he --

80-52

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please! The honourable and learned member knows full well that the question in the form in which it was put is contrary to the very beginning of Citation 171 of Beauchesne.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I believe I should not use that kind of preface to a question, but it has been used in the House before today so I felt perhaps you would be more lenient with me today.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is more appropriate for the House to follow good precedents than bad ones.

University of Calgary (con't)

MR. LUDWIG:

Perhaps the word 'now' should have been excluded from the remarks, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the hon. Premier. Is he prepared to indicate to the House at the present time whether he is personally in support of the establishment of a law faculty in Calgary?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member's question is fully out of order, inasmuch as questions seeking to elicit personal opinions are not permitted during the question period, and I would again refer the hon. member to Citation 171 of Beauchesne.

[Interjections]

Order please!

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I obviously got from nowhere to nowhere.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please! I shall have to ask some hon. member in the House to raise a point of privilege if the hon. member insists on commenting on the rulings of the Chair.

The hon. Member for Clover Bar followed by the hon. Opposition House Leader.

Trade Mission - Japan

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to address a question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Knowing how precise and meticulous the hon. minister is with the accounting process, I would just like to know if all the accounts have been tabulated and paid, as far as the Japanese Trade Mission went. Have all these accounts come in now and been tabulated?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to check that. I know the matter is in process. Of course, as the hon. member may be aware, the accounts are actually run through the data centre and the cheque is processed through the data centre which is under the control of the provincial auditor. I believe it is close to being issued if it hasn't been already, but I would have to check to answer you specifically.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Was the amount that was budgeted for in the spring appropriations -- did we go over this amount, or is this going to be a special warrant or Order in Council?

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-53

MR. MINIELY:

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would have to check to see whether it was over, and whether a special warrant was required to provide increased funds. I'm not in a position to advise the hon. member today whether that was the case or not.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question --

MR. SPEAKER:

Is this a supplementary? The hon. Opposition House Leader followed by the hon. Member for Little Bow.

Alberta Coal Markets

MR. TAYLOR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought that was what you had said. May I direct a question to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals? Is the hon. minister and his department having any success in securing additional markets for Alberta domestic coal?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, the department itself is not engaged in securing markets. I know the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce is doing a great deal in that area. We are, however, attending meetings and discussing various aspects of coal to see if we can determine if there are areas in which we can make suggestions and recommendations to various companies involved in the coal industry.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Little Bow followed by the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury.

MR. GRUENWALD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Mines and Minerals. It would appear that if the price of gas is increased -- and it has -- would there be, in your opinion, the possibility of selling coal for power development in Ontario?

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Speaker, certainly with the increased price of gas, it does bring back the point of view of the debate between the use of natural gas and coal, and it should open significantly more markets. Some of the additional information that we have, however, still makes it hard for our coal to be economical in eastern Canada. It's a question of transportation costs. In that area, the Minister of Industry and Commerce is looking into it to see what he can do to make it economical. But it certainly helps the situation with coal.

Voucher System

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Has his department of government been able to eliminate the voucher system completely at this point in time?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member has asked the correct source to 'vouch' for the answer. I apologize for a pun that is that bad! The answer to the question is that the hoped-for progress in this area is related to changes, both in The Financial Administration Act which was approved in the spring, and in procedures through the Provincial Treasurer's Department. We had hoped to have a pilot project in one regional office showing how the accounting might be changed so that the objective could be achieved by about this time. I do not have an up-to-date progress report on it, except to say that it is in progress.

80-54

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury, followed by the hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Leduc.

Select Committee Reports

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. It arises out of the discussion we had last night regarding The Legislative Assembly Act. My question is, is it the government's intention to present a motion to the assembly to make it possible that all legislative committee reports be debated on the floor of the assembly?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, we're not prepared to make an overall commitment with regard to select committee reports, but we certainly are going to attempt to make it our practice to do that. For example, I think the report the hon. member referred to was the one regarding censorship. It's the feeling of the government, as was mentioned by the hon. Government House Leader a week ago, that this is the sort of subject on which I think all of us, as members, would be very interested in getting a response from our constituencies. I know I'm personally looking forward to getting a response from my constituency. I think it would be very useful for the hon. members to assess not only the report of the Select Committee here, but before being asked to participate in a debate -- particularly on a matter such as that, which is as personal as that -- to get an opportunity to talk to their constituents. I think that comes better when the session is over. So that is one we would put back on the Order Paper in terms of a motion for a general debate in the second session.

But I didn't want to imply that there was an overall commitment, or that there wouldn't be exceptions in the future. The general desire of the government with regard to select committees of the legislature is that these select committees present a report for the people of Alberta and it is for the legislature to determine whether debate is involved. I think the hon. Speaker noted this, that there is nothing that precludes an hon. member on either side of the House from putting forth a motion that a particular matter be debated, and that a particular report be either approved or not approved, or merely considered.

MR. D. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, on this topic I'd like to ask the hon. Premier then, in view of the report that has come in, will the regulations be altered at this time, or will they wait until we have full debate or hear from our constituents?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of altering regulations on that subject until the matter has come back for discussion in the House.

MR. CLARK:

I have a question, Mr. Speaker, dealing with the legislative committee that is studying the whole area of professions. Does the Premier see the report on that committee in the same category as the one on censorship?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I am simply not in a position to answer that question. I haven't brought my mind to it, nor those of my colleagues, and I'm not sure of the stage in which that committee is proceeding. Perhaps the hon. member could bring that forward as a question when we reconvene the second session.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Leduc, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-55

REA Commitment

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. Minister of Telephones and Utilities could advise the House as to what position the government is taking relative to the long standing commitment of the power companies to provide power at cost to the REA's. I raise the matter in light of the application on the part of Calgary Power before the Board of Public Utilities for a power rate increase?

MR. WERRY:

Mr. Speaker, there will be no change from the previous administration's policy, when the CUL and Northlands Utilities applied to the Public Utilities Board in 1970 for a rate increase. That matter was raised with the Public Utilities Board and the board set the rates that they deemed appropriate.

MR. HENDERSON:

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, and since the hon. minister brings up the position of the previous government on this matter -- if I recall, Mr. Minister, there was quite a debate at that time as to the definition of power at cost, and while we sat on that side we arrived at the conclusion -- at least I did -- that, if necessary, the question of power at cost would have to be defined in statute, because when you get accountants picking over --

MR. SPEAKER:

Would the hon. member please come directly to the question?

MR. HENDERSON:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I bring the matter up since the hon. minister had referred to it. It really is somewhat fundamental to the original commitment of the power companies. The question I am asking is: does the government of the day adhere to the policy that there should be an obligation on the part of the power companies to honour the commitment to the REAs to provide power at cost?

MR. WERRY:

Well, as the hon. member has already indicated, Mr. Speaker, there is a considerable degree of debate as to the definition of power at cost. The Public Utilities Board is the one to establish the appropriate rate that should be struck for REA users.

MR. HENDERSON:

Very briefly, has the government given any consideration to establishing a definition of power at cost by statute?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary West.

Southern Alberta Irrigation

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of unanswered questions that the hon. members have asked me, and I wonder if I could take a minute of the House to answer them.

One question I was asked, I believe by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, was with regard to correspondence between my office and the office of the Prime Minister of Canada on the matter of irrigation in southern Alberta. At the moment -- and perhaps that has to do with the events that are presently occurring in Ottawa -- we have received a communication from the Prime Minister not, as this stage, agreeing to a concurrence in the tabling of that information.

80-56

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

GCOS Crude

The other one was, I believe, asked by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview with regard to the prices at which GCOS were selling crude in terms of their wellhead price. I would like to table that document. I notice, Mr. Speaker, that I only brought one copy; I will see that other copies are made and that the document is tabled. It is a letter to the Provincial Treasurer dated November 13, 1972 from Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. setting out the pricing situation of GCOS crude.

Mackenzie Valley Highway

Another question I was asked was with regard to checking on the correspondence with regard to the Mackenzie Valley highway. I don't know which hon. member asked that question, but that correspondence was tabled in the spring as Sessional Paper No. 91.

Family Allowances

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was asked to check into the question of a submission by the hon. Member for Little Bow respecting the universality of family allowance programs and correspondence between my office and the office of the Prime Minister of Canada, and I would like to table that correspondence.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Millican followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View.

Appeals re: Insanity

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the hon. the Attorney General. It is regarding the case of a battered child in Calgary and the resulting death.

Approximately two weeks ago the case was before the courts in Calgary and the mother was found not guilty for reason of insanity. Upon the decision of the court an immediate appeal was made to the review board in the Alberta Hospital in Ponoka. That hearing has been held but I don't think any decision has been reached. I was wondering if the Attorney General was going to investigate the policy of where people can make an immediate appeal for release considering the recent court decision?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I can't respond to that without checking the legislation. I am not sure that that isn't a federal matter. I simply want to check the legislation before I respond.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View followed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Civil Service Salary Negotiations

MR. LUDWIG:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Has he received any communique or overture from the Civil Service Association to indicate that they will be asking for higher than average annual increases in their salaries and wages?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I haven't, but I will refer the matter to the Minister of Manpower and Labour.

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I can inform you, sir, and this assembly that we did in fact receive the submission from the Civil Service Association on behalf of its membership to indicate its preparedness to enter into negotiations for the subsequent year.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-57

MR. LUDWIG:

A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Did he receive any indication that the Civil Service might be asking for an additional \$100 across-the-board increase over and above the usual annual increases?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, the brief that the Civil Service Association presented to us and the one that we are developing are, of course, documents that will be the main ones in the process of negotiations between the two groups, and with that in mind it would be impossible for me to discuss details other than those that have been reported in the newspapers and other media.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Government Vehicle Insurance

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. In the light of widespread reports today, can the hon. Provincial Treasurer advise the House whether the government has come to any policy as yet with respect to self-insurance on the government vehicle fleet?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I think I have stated quite clearly that we are examining the issue. At the present time we haven't made a decision on it and I can't state any time today when that might be.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. C. K. Huckvale

MR. LOUGHEED:

I wonder if I could have all members cast their eyes toward the Speaker's Gallery, and, if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would make an announcement to you.

The Provincial Auditor, Mr. C.K. Huckvale has served this province for a period of over 40 years. He has made a remarkable contribution to the public service of Alberta, to the people of Alberta, and to this Legislature.

He has requested that a retirement date of December 31, 1972 be allowed to stand. With very considerable regret that resignation was of course accepted, with the understanding -- and we assure Mr. Huckvale of this -- that he might be getting telephone calls from time to time in order that his advice and counsel may be sought.

All hon. members are, of course, aware that the provincial auditor is an officer of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, although the appointment is made by the Executive Council. I am sure that, without doubt, I speak for all of us who have been involved on both sides of this legislature and for all the people of Alberta, in saying that we would like to pay tribute to Mr. Huckvale, to all he represents in terms of integrity, perseverance and effort, for the way that he has conducted his very difficult and responsible duties on behalf of the people of this province.

[Mr. Huckvale rose and was duly recognized.]

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be able to rise in my place today and to support the hon. Premier in the remarks he has made in regard to one of our very outstanding civil servants. I suppose I am in a rather unique position today in that I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that this might be the last day that I occupy the chair that I presently occupy. So, in a sense, I have more than just a passing appreciation for stepping down after spending a number of years in public service.

80-58

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that it has been my pleasure to know Mr. Huckvale for a good many years. I had the privilege of serving as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and as chairman of that particular committee I was able to get to know Mr. Huckvale quite well. I certainly have to say that he will long be remembered as one of our very capable civil servants who has served this province and its people in an outstanding way.

It is our privilege too, to have been associated with him at a number of conferences. We called upon him on many occasions to provide counsel and direction in matters relating to finance and he has always very willingly provided us with whatever assistance he could, and his service has been invaluable in that particular area.

I think that as a leader of a party that had a number of years in office I can say, without hesitation, Mr. Speaker, that he undoubtedly saved us a number of embarrassments over the years -- simply because we operate on the pre-audit system. He has done it in a manner in which all of us have learned to respect him, and so I am very happy today to be able to rise in my place and join the hon. the Premier in paying tribute to one of our very, very outstanding public servants.

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind I just can't resist adding one footnote. I had a really difficult time convincing Mr. Huckvale to come and sit there. He just simply didn't want to -- if you like -- come to the assembly, because of the way that he has always conducted himself, very quietly and very much his own man. I just said that I knew the members of this assembly would join with me in insisting that he come, even if he is blushing right now!

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Clinical Sciences Building

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of privilege. I wish to correct the misunderstanding that has occurred in the press report regarding the building of the Clinical Sciences Building. The report suggested that Dr. Donovan Ross, who was then Minister of Health, had overruled the Department of Public Works and given the project director authority to build the project any way he saw fit. This is not correct and it was certainly not my intention to convey this. The project director was given his authority by an Order in Council, and Dr. Ross was not involved in any way with the actual construction of the building.

MR. WILSON:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I might ask a question of the hon. Government House Leader regarding Question No. 240 on the Order Paper which was made an Order for a Return. When might we expect that return?

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a notice as to what that question related to, but if it is a Return it will not die, and it would be answered sometime during the next few weeks or months; I don't know when because I don't know the complexity of the problem. The answer is still required to be tabled and it will be tabled.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

3. Hon. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the assembly, seconded by the hon. Provincial Treasurer.

That the report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, Standing Orders and Printing regarding the Private Bills of the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta and the Institute of Accredited Public Accountants of Alberta be received and concurred in.

[The motion was carried.]

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-59

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS
(Committee of the Whole)

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and the assembly resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider Bill No. 124 on the Order Paper.

[The motion was carried.]

[The Speaker left the Chair at 3:31 p.m.]

* * * * *

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

[Mr. Diachuk in the Chair]

Bill No. 124 The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 1972

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Chairman, in view of the multitude of amendments yesterday and the consequential effects of some of those, I've asked the legislative counsel to review the record to make sure that they were in proper order. I did receive a report from him and I would like to read that to the hon. members.

When this bill was considered in Committee of the Whole Assembly last night it was agreed that the proposed section 15.3 of the Act (contained in section 10 of the Bill) was to be deleted.

As a consequence, the Committee agreed also to deletion of the proposed clause (g) as it appears in section 22 of the Bill (on page 8), and to the deletion of item 5 in the xeroxed amendments dated November 21, 1972. This was because the provisions deleted were predicated on the continued existence of section 15.3.

All of the above mentioned deletions were initialled by the Chairman of the Committee.

There are two other provisions in the xeroxed amendments that should also be deleted, although the official copy of the amendments indicates the Chairman's initials opposite them. They are clauses (c) and (d) of item 4 on page 2. They are amendments to the proposed section 15.3, since section 15.3 was deleted, it follows that these amendments are meaningless and unnecessary. Accordingly I have struck them out on the official copy of the xeroxed amendments.

It remains only for you to bring these additional deletions to the attention of the Committee when the Bill is again considered.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose that we revert to section 10 and, for the purpose of clarification, that sections (c) and (d) be struck out.

[These changes were agreed to.]

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Chairman, there was one other item raised yesterday during the course of the discussion and that dealt with the question of the definition of petroleum. When the question was asked I had some recollection of my notes on that and I went back and reviewed those. I was thinking of the definition of oil and gas under the Oil and Gas Conservation Act but I also, at the same time, noted that there are many judicial interpretations of petroleum. In further checking on that, it is my understanding that in the acts in the Province of Alberta they have not included the word petroleum, because there are a number of judicial interpretations and they rely on the judicial interpretations.

Now just in closing too, Mr. Chairman, I might mention that I have delivered a copy of the regulations to hon. member for Wetaskiwin-Leduc.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Henderson.

80-60

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

MR. HENDERSON:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I would first say that probably if the minister had made the regulations available a little earlier, we might have avoided the prolonged exercise last night in the interest of getting them out of him.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I'm glad you appreciate that it was awfully difficult on the Chairman.

MR. HENDERSON:

I might say that having got them, I would probably be leaving here far happier if I hadn't, because there are one or two items here on which the government regulations, in my opinion, should be seriously re-examined. I know they are discussing the matter with industry, but since the minister was kind enough to say if anybody has any suggestions, he'd like to hear them, I'd like to take him up on the matter and offer him another two suggestions. I see, in my view, some very serious pitfalls in proceeding with the regulations as now drafted in one or two areas, and I am sure, probably, the hon. minister is aware of them to some extent already. But since he is kind enough to ask for advice, while I am not too familiar with some aspects of this, I would nevertheless like to offer some advice.

In looking at the regulations under Section 5, Mr. Chairman -- firstly, Section 4 of the regulations talks about some instructions to the board relative to estimating all recoverable oils under a particular recovery mechanism. And I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that might be a little more explicitly defined to be sure it is the recovery mechanism that applies to the reservoir and not one that is picked out of the air for the basis of estimating the reserve there. I presume it is not the recovery mechanism that is in effect in a particular reservoir. But the regulation leaves it rather vague.

I think the area that really concerns me, Mr. Chairman, and it is worth dwelling on for a moment or two in the House, is the question of the instructions that are in the regulations to the assessor, and I think it is worth reading out. Under Section 5(1) of the regulations: "In determining the fair actual value of the remaining recoverable reserves of crude oil within a production entity, the assessor shall take into account, (a) the price of crude oil recovered from the pool containing the production entity in effect on the last day of the year preceeding the taxation year," (so far so good), "and anticipated changes in such price over the estimated life of the pool". And I suggest, Mr. Chairman, trying to base a tax structure on a system that involves trying to anticipate the price changes in crude oil over a period of several years which, in some cases, is 30 to 40 years of a given reservoir, is simply out of the question. And if the Conservation Board is to be in the position of trying to come up with a tax assessment that has to take that into account, I can assure you the board is going to do nothing but listen to appeals on assessments if there are any number of operators who choose this course of paying taxation in lieu of royalty.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, when one gets into setting an assessment, whether it is on crude oil, or whether it is on land or improvements, where you assess the property and take into account the future value of it, I think the assessment system is untenable. There is no way that such an assessment system can be utilized and established with any degree of credibility, or can establish any degree of credibility with the people involved as to the objectivity of it. It is difficult enough to judge equitability between assessments at present market values where you have some factual data to go on, but try to set up an assessment system based on anticipated price changes over the estimated life of the field, and I suggest this will be completely untenable. I simply don't know how it is going to do it. No one in this room or anyone in the business can say what the price is going to be tomorrow, let alone some time over the life of the pool which could run to 20, 30, or 40 years. So I suggest in all sincerity that, in drawing up the regulations in that manner, it doesn't say "may take into account", the regulations say the assessor "shall take into account" the future prices. I think it is going to be completely unsatisfactory, it will be a complete schmozzle, and the government, if it so chooses to learn it the hard way, is at liberty to do so. But nonetheless, in all sincerity I suggest to the hon. minister and the government that, with an assessment based on ground rules of that type, it would be literally impossible to arrive at any meeting of minds.

There is another concern in Section (b) of the regulations -- "the cost of producing crude oil from the production entity and anticipated changes in such

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-61

cost, over the estimated life of the pool or portion thereof under a particular recovery mechanism containing a production entity."

Well, Mr. Chairman, when the government sets the royalty, it's an arbitrary judgment. The hon. minister has said this. They look at the industry collectively and some of the variations within the industry, and they arrive at a royalty figure. The royalty figure, while collectively it may take into account some of the costs of the industry, in the final analysis it really doesn't. It is impossible to do it. It becomes a matter of judgment.

I'm at a loss to understand how, with an assessment procedure that relates to the value of oil in place in a reservoir, which is really a wellhead price of so much a barrel at present market prices, how the question of costs of production should be taken into account and, not only that, the anticipated changes in costs. That has just as many pitfalls in it as trying to set an assessment that takes into account anticipated market prices some years hence. I suggest that an assessment mechanism that contains such a stipulation once again will render the assessments completely useless and will be challenged continuously.

The question that I have to ask is, is he talking about the cost on the particular lease? Is it the cost of the industry collectively? All these arguments come into it. I, quite frankly, am at a loss to understand how the government expects to make such an assessment system attainable and in any way defensible, because, once again, of an anticipated change in costs over the estimated life of the pool, or portion thereof, under a particular recovery mechanism.

Mr. Chairman, I would simply say that, in my view, with such clauses in the regulations if the government continue them, I have to change my own mind about the desirability of a court appeal. If this is to go into the regulations and become the basis for an assessment, I think the board is going to find themselves in a completely untenable position, in that there should be an appeal to the court, not on the basis of the mechanisms of estimating the recoverable reserves -- there is some pseudo-engineering basis for determining that, but there is no pseudo-engineering or economic basis for plucking figures out of the air as to what the price of crude oil is going to be next week, a year from now, ten years from now, or any time from now. In the same way, there is really no realistic defensible method by which one could predict with any accuracy the costs of operations any time in the future.

In all sincerity, I have to say, Mr. Minister, that if the government intends to proceed with these clauses in the regulations and on this basis of it, then I think we should examine the question of appeal. There should be appeal to the court on the question of matters relating to assessment other than calculations or estimates of the recoverable oil left in a particular pool. That, I think, should remain the prerogative of the board.

On these other matters, I, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, have to say that I simply don't see how it is possible to make this system work. I think the best hope the government has is that nobody chooses the option, because if they're considering them, the regulations as now drafted are going to be practically useless when it comes to enforcing them or coming up with a system that demonstrates publicly any degree of equitability in the arithmetic that is used to arrived at the assessment.

In my view, Mr. Chairman, the assessment should be based on -- bearing in mind that the assessment is a ground rule where we try to determine equitability between individual owners primarily, to which you apply a mill rate. I can see no reason for trying to take future crude prices and future operating costs into the assessment. The assessment should be based on the estimated recoverable amount of oil, along with Clause (c) of this particular section which allows for suitable discount factors to allow for the producing characteristics and the estimated life of the pool, and the present posted wellhead price of the oil. It should have nothing to do with the question of anticipated crude oil price changes and anticipated operation at cost changes. If that hypothesis is valid in this assessment for this piece of legislation, it should also be valid for property assessment evaluation and improvements evaluation and assessment. I suggest it isn't tenable there and it isn't tenable here.

The government would be well advised to search and examine the removal of these features from the act, making the assessment based on present wellhead prices and the board's best estimate as to the recoverable oil in place with the allowance for recovery mechanisms and the life of the pool and so forth. I think that is tenable but I certainly would have to suggest that in my view, I don't know how on earth you can give any credibility to an assessment system

80-62

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

that includes the question of predicting the future price of crude 15 or 20 years down the road, let alone next year. The same thing applies to future operating costs. The assessor will find it completely useless. I don't know how on earth he could use it.

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Chairman, first of all I might say that when the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked for the regulations as soon as possible, we took that to mean they would be given to them right after they were approved by the Cabinet. The regulations, as we have submitted them, are in draft stages for discussion. We welcome the thoughts of the hon. member and will take them into consideration.

Certainly the question of fair actual value to be determined is one that has had judicial interpretation. In the courts they have looked at the question of, what is a willing seller not obligated to sell willing to take, and what is a willing buyer not obligated to purchase willing to pay? There are methods of determining that, and that's what they tried to do. They set out some rules to use as guidelines for doing this, and I think we will continue to review those with the suggestions made by the hon. member.

MR. HENDERSON:

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I would simply say that if the basis for arriving at this is some legal interpretation, then by all means there should be an appeal to the courts on its interpretation. Because if the the courts feel they are that profound and can render that type of judgment, I suggest they should have the prerogative of providing assistance to the board. The board is going to need that backup, and if it is in the position where there is no appeal to the court -- and I'm not talking about the mechanism of calculating the recoverable reserves; I don't think that should be appealable to a court -- it is going to find itself in a completely untenable position in trying to justify the question of estimated future price and estimated future cost. If the courts are that profound in their judgment, I think they should be entitled to have a crack at that particular aspect of it and they should be included. I think it's pretty fundamental.

[All remaining clauses of the bill, the title and the preamble, were agreed to.]

MR. DICKIE:

Mr. Chairman, I move the bill be reported as amended.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise and report.

[The motion was carried.]

* * * * *

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.]

MR. DIACHUK:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole Assembly has had under consideration Bill No. 124, and begs to report same with some amendments.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard the report, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be read a second time.

[The motion was carried, and the amendments were read a second time.]

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-63

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS
(Third Reading)

Bill No. 2: The Individual's Rights Protection Act

MR. GHITTER:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member for Whitecourt, third reading of Bill No. 2, The Individual's Rights Protection Act.

In so moving, Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the members, I would like to make a few brief comments. Firstly, I want to say that it has indeed been a privilege to have been a sponsor and to have had the opportunity of dealing with this bill, which I regard to be one of the very highest values with which a legislature can be involved. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to the hon. members for their participation with respect to this debate, for their deep-felt attitudes towards what we are endeavouring to do with Bill No. 2, and for their support as the bill has proceeded through the House. Thirdly, I think a comment should be made with respect to the 45 to 50 Albertans who took the time to deal with this bill and to send in their submissions to the government. Indeed, their submissions have been most useful and have, in fact, resulted in a reconsideration of a few of the clauses.

Mr. Speaker, this particular bill, The Individual's Rights Protection Act, is certainly not the answer to all the problems of discrimination such as may exist in the Province of Alberta. It is not to be construed as the end-all, and it is not to be thought that we have now passed a bill that will resolve all our problems, even in a latent form, or that they will just dissolve and discrimination will come to an end in the Province of Alberta. But it is, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, the commitment of this legislature that we regard The Individual's Rights Protection Act in primacy to any other legislative enactment; to suggest to people wherever they may be, that Alberta is just not a place where we have second-class citizens. It is the time when we have committed ourselves to suggest that Alberta is not the place for partial rights or half freedoms, but that Alberta hopefully will become the place where each and every man and woman will be able to stand on his own two feet and be recognized as an individual and not as a member of a particular class.

To all of the hon. members who have supported this bill, I know you all recognize that we have, by this bill, set out that Alberta is no longer the place where signs which tend to discriminate, or discriminate with respect to race, religious beliefs, colour, sex, age, ancestry, or place of origin will be tolerated in this province. We have also suggested and set out clearly in this bill that Alberta is no longer the place where landlords can discriminate with respect to their accommodation on the basis of prejudice.

We have also expressed our deep concern with the problems of those in the age-group of 45 to 65 in employment practices, in the hope that these people will be considered for employment on the basis that they do, in fact, have something very meaningful to offer.

I think that Alberta will indeed be a place that will be a little bit better off as a result of this legislation, and I think all hon. members can indeed be proud that they have participated in the debate and in the passing of both Bill No. 2 and Bill No. 1 which, I think, as we look back in future years, will be very meaningful legislation.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, someone suggested that legislation of this nature is not necessary. Someone suggested that legislation in the human rights area is merely set out in words which we have already known. But I suggest that as long as we receive letters as legislators like this one, which sets out, and I quote:

... but those who have been rejected are people who have not merited and do not deserve service or accommodation by reason of the fact that they are dangerous, dishonest, dirty, disruptive, lazy, unreliable, and a real liability to the reputation and property of the person against whom the so-called aggrieved party is himself seeking to discriminate against with the help of the law."

And letters that go on to add:

Any race, colour, religion, etc., that is rejected by others has only itself to blame, for its reputation has preceded it. The person needs only to live a life which is decent and be a good citizen of Canada (not India or Cuba), and he will be treated like all the others in the country.

80-64

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

As long as there are Albertans who feel this way, and as long as there are Albertans who sincerely feel that they must express their point of view, which, in my viewpoint, and I know the viewpoint of the hon. members, are totally contrary to the intent of this bill -- so long as people like this exist, such legislation is required. I think that all hon. members can be proud today of their participation in some very meaningful legislation.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express a few words on behalf of this bill, and I wish to point out that I favour legislation of this kind. But no matter what fine glowing terms we may have in a human rights act, the discrimination on economic grounds or on financial grounds will still over-ride some of the very well-intended protections that are apparent in this bill.

If an Indian came for accommodation, certainly a landlord who does not wish him in his apartment or on his property can discriminate against him as well today as he did yesterday on other grounds, and those grounds in the bill. I am suggesting that we are not too far down the line from where we are going to have to take a look at perhaps stopping this final form of discrimination, because as has been expressed in discussions on the bill earlier, a landlord may still rule out a black person's or an Indian's request for accommodation on other grounds than racial discrimination. So we still have a big job to do because, in fact, we may not have solved the problem too well.

It is little consolation to an Indian who comes for accommodation to be told, "I don't want you here because you are an Indian," or to be told, "You are not coming into my apartment because I don't think you can pay for the accommodation." He is still out of accommodation. As I stated, I favour this type of legislation and we are moving in the right direction.

I also want to point out that notwithstanding The Canadian Bill of Rights and The Alberta Bill of Rights and all the human rights legislation that we have, it still didn't prevent a dead Indian child being sent in a paper box to his parents in this province. It isn't the words; it isn't the glowing terms; it isn't the beautiful wording; this is all good and it is in the right direction, but it is the enforcement of the bill that is going to determine whether we have, in fact, done our job.

When we talk about discrimination, when it comes to appointing a commission under the act, I would like to suggest that the majority be, in this case, coloured people. We should be prepared to put this in the hands of the people who are personally concerned and who have suffered because of discrimination, to see how we can interpret some of these things from their point of view. Let's see whether we really mean what we say.

I am in favour of having a new commission appointed entirely to deal with this problem, the majority of which should be Indians and people of other ethnic groups. Then we are beginning to move in the right direction. Because we are still interpreting discrimination from our point of view. I think that we have now crossed over that divide; we have to be trusting enough to let the aggrieved man have a say as to what, in fact, is discrimination. But as I stated, Mr. Speaker, I favour this kind of legislation and I believe that we have moved a great way toward achieving some of the things that I am saying, and I commend the hon. member for bringing in this bill.

MR. DRAIN:

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed the clause by clause study of this particular bill, at which time I probably would have had more to say than I do now at this particular time. Certainly, when the seeds of good intentions and earnest endeavours were planted in Bill No. 1, it was necessary to plant a crop of regulations in Bill No. 2. There was some concern in my mind that in planting this crop there was a possibility that a crop of dragon's teeth could be reaped. However I notice in this particular bill that there are a considerable number of levels before you eventually arrive at the position where there is an appeal to the court. This I think is very, very good. I believe the success of this particular piece of legislation will be determined by the viewpoint taken by the commission in dealing with the problems with which they are going to be faced.

Certainly there will be many mischievous complaints, many that are unfounded. I think I have some misgivings that in this particular legislation it seems to be implied in all cases that the employer specifically is always guilty by virtue of being charged. At least this appears to be the way I read

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-65

this bill. Possibly in the clause-by-clause study of this it was shown that this was not so.

However, looking at this particular piece of legislation, realizing the tempo of change that we have in our society, and realizing truly that more and more the rights of the individual will have to be subverted because of the enlarged role of government, I can certainly applaud the mover of this particular bill. I hope that this legislation will in itself enable us to fit in with the sophistication of the era of the future, the era when harsh decisions will have to be made by legislatures, decisions that will directly affect the individual in the matter of growth and economic involvement, endeavours that have to be set aside for the common good, and increased pressure on property rights. Some of these things will have to be dealt with in the future.

So, I congratulate the mover and seconder of this particular bill, and I regret that I have not more to say on it.

I think at the present time it will fill a need in our legislative package, and hopefully it will accomplish some of the things that it is set up to do.

It is so difficult to deal with the matter of discrimination. I could even refer to the particular case of a young fellow from Blairmore who was going to New York to study music, and, as is the nature of people who study music, he let his hair grow and the musical notes come out of his whiskers and not through their hair, evidently! So he was successful in riding down by Air Canada to Toronto, but when he attempted to buy a ticket and get on United Airlines for New York this is where the trouble occurred. They said anyone with that amount of whiskers must certainly have a bomb hidden someplace and he had to travel that distance by bus because of this particular thing.

This is just one particular instance and there will be many of these things that do occur. So hopefully the commission will be learned men, people with understanding of life and with human toleration who will be able to deal with all these things. Thank you.

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say a few brief words on third reading of this bill. Discussing the bill with members of the public, there were a number of items I felt had not been well communicated, and I think it is important for all members when they return to their constituencies to try to consider how best to communicate this legislation. For example, I was asked how it compares with the former Human Rights Act and I think the answer -- although you can get into detail, there is only one really effective way to answer that question -- is that this bill is a primary bill and takes precedence over other legislation in the province. That is a simplified answer but it is an important answer to explain.

Secondly, and a very important step in my view (I know I am emphasizing this as I did in committee, but I do want to emphasize it), it offers a very positive and important approach, I hope, for all members to follow in trying to do something in a concrete way for those citizens, those older workers who are working in that age group of 45 to 65 years. I think we can, if we put our mind to it and our backs to it, make some improvement for those people and we can use this legislation not in its enforcement sense, not in its compulsory sense, but in the spirit of the bill, to try and help the people who are in that area.

Finally I would like to say that I know the sponsor has, I think, eloquently expressed the view, with regard to this bill, that the commission would work out a way of trying to meet the problems, not emphasizing the enforcement aspect of the problems, but trying to meet each individual problem as it comes along and working in an educated way with the people of the province.

I thought it was very significant that the hon. sponsor read that particular item of correspondence for any people who argue there is no need for this sort of legislation. I think it is clear by that sort of letter that is just not so.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think the sponsor did an outstanding job in presenting this legislation which reflects my view. I hope in the future this is not a matter of only one side of the House -- that bills that become public bills can emanate from both sides of the House. How important it is that all members of the legislature are involved in sponsoring and taking through legislation. I think the improvement that we have made in this particular area

80-66

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

is an important one, and I think the contribution of the members on this debate has been one of the highlights of my five years in the Alberta Legislature.

I do think these have been historic occasions -- November 15th and November 22, 1972 -- when we brought and presented these two important bills, Bill No. 1 and Bill No. 2 through this legislature. I am pleased to participate in third reading.

[The motion was carried and Bill No. 2 was read a third time.]

Bill No. 83 The Mental Health Act, 1972

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, third reading of Bill No. 83, The Mental Health Act, 1972. Mr. Speaker, I do want to make just a few comments on third reading of the bill which has taken -- and justifiably received -- a lot of attention on the part of hon. members ever since last spring. I like to think that all of the work that we do here in the legislature, Mr. Speaker, is important. But I would have to say that the item of the House's business that I have been personally involved in within the last several months that has given me personally the feeling that the most important matters for me to be involved in were being dealt with was this bill, which constitutes the government's new departures, from a legislative basis, in the field of mental health.

I have remarked in the course of speaking on the budget and on other occasions too, on the programming of the new directions the government is taking in the area of mental health. Certainly in the overall picture, much of what is done that is important must be based on forward-looking legislation. It is my strong feeling that the legislation embodied in Bill No. 83 is a piece of legislation that will stand for some time in Canada as a forerunner of better things for mental health, not only in this province, but in other provinces as well. We regard it as a very progressive and useful piece of legislation, and unashamedly have high hopes for it.

Mr. Speaker, today I tabled what was titled "The Mental Health Progress Report", in which I outlined various items in regard to the funding, for example, from the budget in the spring -- of the special fund that was made available for the purposes of mental health programming. I thought it would be of interest just to cover a very little bit of the progress that has been made, you might say, in the field as well as in the House in respect to this matter.

There have been about 137 positions created in Alberta guidance clinics, and steps are being taken at the present time to fill these. I want to underline that where possible this is being achieved not by the unnecessary expansion of the number of personnel involved in services. We know how very costly it is to grow rapidly in the area of personnel numbers in the civil service. We have attempted to look upon all of the areas where new personnel are being recruited for the mental health program as special, in the sense that our reason for expanding government service in that area is to fill a need that had not previously been met. Starting from that basis, the justification of a substantial escalation in field service personnel is made. The report I tabled today, I think, makes the excellent point that it has been possible to fill almost a quarter of the positions by adjustments within the service; of course we'll be trying to bring about shifts and redeployments of personnel in such a way as to fill as many of the new positions as possible.

Just a minor point; it is planned to change the names of the Alberta Guidance Clinics at some point in the near future, and their function of course along with that, in order to convey to the public and to have them in fact encompass a more comprehensive coverage of the field of care in mental health. I think they've been stagnant in some respects for a certain period, but they have also fulfilled valuable roles throughout the years. We're looking forward to a new and increased involvement and greater service to the people of Alberta through the guidance clinics.

Major changes have also been made, Mr. Speaker, in the method of delivery of services, including the creation of a community nursing service whereby nurses follow up on patients in the community. In particular, in Ponoka, a start has been made on the organization of that provincial hospital along more functional lines, in contrast to having numbers of patients of similar types scattered throughout the various wards. This is an attempt to bring to bear the greater expertise available in regard to certain mental illnesses and to make more use of the talent that is available there.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-67

The Sheltered Workshop Program is another item that should probably be highlighted at this point, Mr. Speaker. The extension of services taking place in this area has enabled the one at Edmonton to take referrals from both the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, and elsewhere.

Probably one of the more important program items is in the area of follow-up treatment; a unit based at the nurses' residence at the Edmonton General Hospital is in its final stages of planning, and will be created to provide follow-up care to psychiatric patients referred to it by the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, or any other treatment facility or source.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to the hon. members in concluding that the report I tabled today I provided to the hon. Member for Little Bow, as well as tabling copies. Any other members who are particularly interested in the subject matter, I would be glad to provide with further copies. I have not delivered enough copies for all members without being asked.

I have highlighted some of what has been set out in the report I did table. It does deal with other matters, including, for example, the role of the units now at Claresholm, Rosehaven, and Raymond which may be of interest to hon. members there, and the plans in regard to forensic services which both the Attorney General and I have remarked upon in recent weeks.

The one other thing I would like to say is that this was another case -- as with The Bill of Rights and The Individual's Rights Protection Act, Mr. Speaker, where it was deliberately put before the House in the spring and brought forward in the fall, after some considerable study in between with the benefit of submissions made by very large numbers of citizens and groups. This is consistent with the government's view that the drafting of legislation in the areas that both this and the civil rights legislation referred to are areas where significant new departures are being made on behalf of a government which is providing leadership in, I suggest, many areas. These are two very important areas where the moves being made are very, very significant indeed, and where we have also gone to the people of Alberta and deliberately said to them, "Will you please provide us with your ideas and suggestions, in order that we can give them the sort of consideration we would like to and that they deserve, and for a period of months serve that purpose.

Hon. members will recall that the changes made in the original draft of Bill No. 83 when it was brought back this fall, were extensive and this was a direct result of, what I consider to be a very successful consultative process that went on with the people of Alberta and with the various professional and semi-professional associations most directly concerned with the field of mental health.

We do regard the legislation as something that is a basis to work with for the present time, and have no doubt that, as more is learned and more programs are attempted in this area that are innovative in some way, more changes will be made as the years go by. We will be ready to make those changes, ready to progress, and to serve the people who require this type of service in Alberta with what I hope will be an unfaltering and unfailing continued alertness to the problem and a genuine desire to achieve whatever success can be had, through good planning and good efforts and an honest desire in this area.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Clover Bar followed by the hon. Member for Calgary McKnight.

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a very brief comment to the hon. minister and the hon. members of the House to bring a matter to the attention of the House. This was related to me, and I'm sure the hon. minister might recall the letter (and he might not) which has to do with spiritual counselling in the hospitals in Ponoka and in Oliver. I know that in the Fort Saskatchewan jail they have a full-time Salvation Army chaplain and, I believe, a full-time Roman Catholic priest. As far as I can ascertain, the services that are available to Oliver and Ponoka are really on almost a volunteer, take-your-chance basis, with a practically non-existent budget.

I would like to recommend to the hon. minister that this situation be reviewed and to say also, to hon. members of the front bench that I think these people require spiritual counselling just as much, or maybe even more so, than the people who are in the penal institutions. So I would like to say that I would like the hon. minister to take this under consideration.

80-68

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

MR. LEE:

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the signs or feelings I have about aggressive and responsible legislation is reflected, to a great extent, in this Bill No. 83. I remember back to the days when I was a practitioner in the field of mental health, when the Blair Report on Mental Health first was brought to the government, the great amount of support that practitioners in the field of mental health gave to this particular report. I remember also through the years the support that our party, and now our government, has given to a large number of the recommendations within that particular report.

I feel that this legislation to a great extent is responsible and progressive because it puts into operation some of those protections and some of those rights for a group of people who, basically, have been politically powerless; people who can't, of their own right, bring to the public the real needs they have in mental health; protections which were brought about to a great extent through the efforts of professionals in the field, but I think were recognized and expressed in this bill.

The Blair Report said that we should treat mental illness and emotional illness much the same way as we treat physical illness. This bill expresses throughout its various sections, that we take emotional and mental treatment out of the large institutions, out of the Dark Age treatment that we've had in the past, back to the home community, back to the hospitals and out-patient kinds of treatment.

The Blair Report said that we should move from more of a treatment model to a developmental model in the whole area of mental health. I feel that, by removing with this bill much of the stigma attached to mental and emotional illness, we have achieved this. It is much the same sort of thing in an operational sense as the principles that we have in Bill No. 1 and No. 2, and I applaud the hon. minister for this bill.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just make one or two comments with regard to the bill and the principle. First of all, I'd like to thank the minister for the information that I got prior to this current session, and secondly, for the information today. I would certainly like to request that if there is any further information between now and the next session he would forward it to us so that we could study the matter and be constantly up-to-date on the Blair Report.

I only want to make one comment at this point in time. It relates to the general principle of development of this whole concept. One of the intentions, as I understand it, was to try and decentralize the different areas of responsibility. One of the items that you raised here today in your remarks was with regard to the guidance clinic. I would suggest that in the development of your program, you consider more local autonomy for the guidance clinic, and a better built-in relationship between other existing facilities in the particular community where the guidance clinic is located, for example in Calgary, Edmonton, or the other areas. I have found, from my experience, due to the fact that the line of direction was from central government or from Edmonton or from the department to the guidance clinic, that often it didn't build the relationship that it should have to the general hospitals in the area or to other facilities which were available. I feel that if this continues without someone coming to grips with it, it certainly is in conflict with the basic premise or principle that you used in developing the idea behind the Blair Report or developing the mental health program for Alberta.

I'd like to say at this time, Mr. Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, that I would recommend that this be one of the first things that you look at as a possible improvement for the program at this time.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on this bill and to congratulate the minister and the legislature for supporting the minister and his bill, because I think it is a forward step in mental health and in the prevention of mental illness.

While I am on my feet, I am still bothered a bit, though, regarding the conflict between the Bill of Rights and the principle of charging the non-volunteer patient a fee to take him from, say, a general hospital in either one of our cities to an institution such as Ponoka. I think this is basically wrong, because we don't use the same system when we charge a man with a much

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-69

more serious offence, where he is taken to Lethbridge or Drumheller, or wherever the penitentiary may be. I think we should give serious consideration to the postponement or even the 'doing away with' of the charge to non-volunteer patients who are taken from a general hospital, under escort, to the institution.

I'd like to throw out another suggestion, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. members. I believe it would be a good idea in the interests of good public relations if, in the coming months, the hon. minister could make arrangements for a meeting of the members -- those desiring to go to Ponoka -- to review the institution down there, to meet the staff and patients, and to see the program that is being carried out, because I still get people who are concerned with the fact that Ponoka is going to be phased out, which the hon. minister has assured us here in the House will not be done. As long as there is a need for mental health services within our province, that institution is going to be needed. I wondered if they could arrange a meeting with the town officials at the same time. I'm sure the hon. member for that constituency will be pleased to arrange such a meeting and to underline the fact that the Town of Ponoka and, in particular, the hospital there, will play a vital role in any health program regarding mental health patients.

Before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say that it is gratifying to me to see the change that has been coming about. We have some distance yet to go, but it's certainly a good forward step to place Alberta in the lead in the prevention of mental illness, and, if need be, the cure of mental illness wherever possible with the best of facilities and the best that money can provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DR. MCCRIMMON:

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the remarks of the hon. Member for Calgary Millican, if such a request is forthcoming I would be more than delighted to make arrangements for the Minister of Health, or any of the members, or anyone they wish to bring with them for a tour and a complete coverage of the Alberta Hospital in Ponoka.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one or two comments. It is a new approach to place mental patients in the normal municipal hospitals. I think we have to approach this on an experimental basis to see what effect this is going to have on the patients themselves, on the other patients, on the general attitude in the hospitals. I think it is a good move, and as long as provision is made for patients who may become dangerous and affect people who are unable to protect themselves, I think it may well mean a quicker recovery for those who happen to be there. It is well worth looking into and well worth carrying out, taking careful precautions, of course, to make sure that others are protected if there is any danger of serious change in the condition of the patient.

The second point I would like to mention is that I think the more we are able to let people who are supposed to have an I.Q. below normal participate in everyday events, the better it is going to be for those boys and girls and men and women. I have some movies of the field day that was sponsored by Dr. Maury Van Vliet and some of his committee, in which the retarded boys and girls from across the province came to Edmonton to participate. I think the thrill of seeing those youngsters win a race or do a high jump and get an award in the same manner as they do at the Olympic Games was worth every dollar that was spent on those games. It did something for those people; it made them feel a part of Alberta, a part of Canada, a part of the community. I think we should do more of this type of thing.

It's a wonderful thing indeed when you are able to go to the Canada Games and see the thrill of the best athletes in Canada, and I was thrilled when I had that experience. But I was just as thrilled when I saw the youngsters participate in the Alberta Games in Southern Alberta, and even more thrilled when I saw the so-called retarded and handicapped participating in those games in the City of Edmonton. I hope that the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation will continue to take an active part, as it did previously and as it did this year, by sponsoring this type of thing, because no one can estimate the real value to one of these boys and girls in feeling that they are part and parcel of the community, that they can do things that other boys and girls can do. One of the real thrills of the games two years ago was when boys and girls from the high schools of Edmonton volunteered their services and helped with those games that day. I think this was a real thrill for them and a real thrill for the participants and a real thrill for everybody who watched, because it did do something practical. It wasn't taught; these boys and girls were able to

80-70

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

participate just the same as others do at the Olympics, at the Canada Games, and so on.

I hope we can do more of this type of thing to work in conjunction with strengthening the very fine points that are coming into play in the new bill.

[The motion was carried, and Bill No. 83 was read a third time.]

Bill No. 93
The Wilderness Areas Amendment Act, 1972

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Telephones and Utilities, Mr. Werry, that Bill No. 93, The Wilderness Areas Amendment Act, 1972 be read a third time.

I have on the occasion of second reading, Mr. Speaker, had an opportunity to describe the principles involved in these amendments. Important as they are, I think I can, in the light of brevity, not dwell on them in any detail other than to note quickly that there was the maximum size removal, there was the firming-up of the boundaries for the three wilderness areas that Alberta shall now have, and thirdly, the implementation of the controlled buffer zone concept as a part of the wilderness areas concept.

The one thing that I would like to do however in addition, Mr. Speaker, is add a description that I have thought about as it pertains to wilderness areas, and that is, for the citizens of this province and this country and indeed our visitors to have the opportunity for the quiet enjoyment of nature. This is possible in wilderness areas that are not encumbered by mechanized activities of any kind. This opportunity is one that people want. It is a reasonable thing for people to want as they maintain a balance in their lives, having regard to the intensity of their schedules at some times, the activities that they need to carry forward with their own responsibilities in society, and that opportunity for retreat. Even though, for some, the use of it may be relatively infrequent, it is still an opportunity that is there and would not be there if we did not have The Wilderness Areas Act and if we did not have Bill No. 93, The Wilderness Areas Amendment Act to finalize these matters; to have three wilderness areas in the Province of Alberta for people to enjoy that opportunity for quiet communication with nature; and to do so unencumbered by any mechanization that would detract from that quiet enjoyment of nature.

This would be the extent of my remarks in summary, Mr. Speaker, having regard to Bill No. 93.

[The motion was carried, and Bill No. 93 was read a third time.]

[Motions for the third reading of the following bills, moved and seconded by the members indicated, were, during the course of this sitting, carried without debate:

No.	Name	Moved by Messrs.	Seconded by Messrs
122	The Health Care Insurance Statutes Amendment Act, 1972	Hunley	Diachuk
124	The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 1972	Dickie	Backus
125	The Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Foundation Act	Crawford	Foster
126	The Election Statutes Amendment Act, 1972	Hyndman	Young

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor will now attend upon the assembly.

MR. SPEAKER:

While we are awaiting the arrival of His Honour, I should say that I have a message from the press gallery to the effect that they will postpone until next spring their customary show of approval for the members of the House.

November 22, 1972

ALBERTA HANSARD

80-71

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Order! His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

[The Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took his place on the Throne.]

ROYAL ASSENT

MR. SPEAKER:

May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta has, at the present sitting thereof, passed certain bills to which and in the name of the said Legislative Assembly I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

CLERK:

The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

- 2 The Individual's Rights Protection Act
- 20 The Perpetuities Act
- 49 The Meat Inspection Act
- 77 The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 1972
- 83 The Mental Health Act, 1972
- 89 The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 1972
- 93 The Wilderness Areas Amendment Act, 1972
- 108 The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)
- 109 The Land Titles Amendment Act, 1972
- 110 The Defamation Amendment Act, 1972
- 111 The Alberta Income Tax Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)
- 112 The Department of Public Works Amendment Act, 1972
- 114 The Brand Amendment Act, 1972
- 115 The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)
- 116 Alberta Hospitals Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)
- 117 Municipal Government Amendment Act, 1972
- 118 The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)
- 119 The Communal Property Repeal Act
- 120 The AGT-Edmonton Telephones Act
- 121 Improvement Districts Act, 1972
- 122 The Health Insurance Statutes Amendment Act, 1972
- 123 Alberta Lord's Day Amendment Act, 1972
- 124 Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 1972
- 125 The Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Foundation Act
- 126 The Election Statutes Amendment Act, 1972
- 127 The Credit and Loan Agreements Amendment Act, 1972 (No. 2)

[The Lieutenant Governor signified his approval.]

80-72

ALBERTA HANSARD

November 22nd 1972

His Honour, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

PROROGATION

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

Mr. Speaker, and members of the legislature. In bringing to a close this First Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly, I desire to express my appreciation of the earnest and diligent manner in which you have applied yourselves to your public duties.

It is with great satisfaction that I have noted the careful attention you have given to the consideration of the various important measures which have come before you and your steadfast zeal for the promotion of the welfare of our province.

I thank you for the provision you have made to meet the needs of the Public Service. The sums of money you have thus provided will be expended by my Ministers in accordance with the principles of efficient and economic administration.

In relieving you of your duties and declaring the Assembly prorogued, I pray that under Divine Providence our province will achieve an increasing measure of prosperity and happiness and that an even greater future is assured for all of this nation's people.

MR. LEITCH:

It is His Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be now prorogued, and this Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

[The House prorogued at 4:43 p.m.]