

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Friday, March 2, 1973

[The House met at 2:30 o'clock.]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

## IN MEMORIAM

The Hon. J. Percy Page

MR. SPEAKER:

It is most fitting and appropriate that before we start the business of this afternoon we spend two minutes of silence to honour the memory of the late J. Percy Page, who was formerly Her Majesty's representative in this province.

[A two minute silence followed.]

## PRAYERS

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, I would trust that members of the Assembly would agree to interrupt the routine of the day to pay tribute to Dr. Page, a distinguished Albertan, who has a unique place in the history of this province.

Dr. Page was born in Rochester, New York on May 14, 1887. He was principal of the Commercial High School, Edmonton, Alberta, 1912-1952; coach of the Edmonton Commercial Grads Ladies' World Champion Basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity recently to read the excellent History of Alberta, by James MacGregor. I had an opportunity to look back on it at page 249, and I am sure the members would like the reference to Dr. Page in that history to be read into the record of this Legislature. Mr. MacGregor puts it this way:

Edmontonians, on the other hand, concentrated their acclaim on Alberta's world famous basketball team, the Grads -- an Edmonton girls' team which as far back as 1914, under their amazing coach J. Percy Page, had won the Alberta championship and thereafter for over twenty-five years was to bring more fame to Alberta than any other organization or event. In 1924 the girls attended the Olympic Games in Paris and played in Munich, Strasbourg and many other cities, and won nearly every one of their games. Trained and disciplined by Page's genius, they won and won and won. All through the Roaring Twenties their victories were taken for granted and Alberta folk always turned out to adore and cheer the team. The fact that the Grads' fame focussed the limelight on their province was secondary. So, indeed, was its record of wins -- a record unparalleled in the basketball world. After a twenty-five year history of 375 games played -- international and national, competitive and exhibition -- their victories totalled 355 games. What counted in what now must seem a remote era was its greater and more endearing record of clean play and good sportsmanship.

Mr. Speaker, of course we are all aware that Dr. Page served in this Legislature for 15 years, between 1940 and 1955, representing the Edmonton West constituency in the Legislature. He was Lieutenant Governor of Alberta from December 19, 1959 to January 6, 1966. Personally I had the opportunity after his retirement, to have many occasions to visit with him and have the benefit of his very good advice. But more than anything else, Alberta has today lost a man who, I'm sure all of us would well recognize -- as the people of Alberta I'm sure would all recognize -- as more than just a distinguished Albertan. He was one of our most distinguished citizens, and has a special place in the history of this province.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the Premier in extending sympathies on behalf of the members of this Legislature to the family of J. Percy Page.

I think the Premier has outlined in a very satisfactory manner his career of public service to the people of Edmonton and to the citizens of the Province of Alberta. I would simply like to go on record, Mr. Speaker, as saying that while this is unquestionably a moment of sadness within the Page family, undoubtedly they should find some consolation in knowing that their distinguished father and husband has certainly left his mark on the pages of Alberta history.

We have a number of members on this side, Mr. Speaker, who served in the Legislature with Mr. Page -- who served under him during his term as Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta. I had the privilege of being in the House, in my first term of office, when Mr. Page was Lieutenant Governor of the province.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, rather than proceeding further with my remarks, I think it would be more appropriate to ask one of the members who served with Mr. Page in this Assembly, to say a few words.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to join with the hon. Premier and the hon. Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to the late Dr. Percy Page, and in extending deepest sympathy to Mrs. Page and all other loved ones.

Dr. Page, or Percy Page, or "Percy" as he was known to almost everybody, was elected to this Legislature the same year I was. I came as an individual who had never been inside the Legislature before. I was completely foreign to all the movements within a Legislature. I recall that at the first session, the late Mr. Page and the late Mr. D. M. Duggan were a tremendous help to me in outlining the reasons for parliamentary procedure.

One of things I thought when I came to the Legislature, from reading newspapers, was that there was great antagonism between the two sides of the House. I think many people on the outside, from reading papers, feel that there is personal enmity between members even though we are all Canadians, and all Albertans. I remember one day hearing the late Mr. Aberhart, who was then Premier, pay a glowing tribute to Dr. Percy Page for what he had done in the field of education and, particularly, in sport. Another day they had quite a vehement argument or debate, and I was quite amazed as I sat where the member, Mr. King, now sits, to see Mr. Page and the late D. M. Duggan walking towards the door. Mr. Aberhart came up behind them and threw his big arms around both of them, and they went out laughing like three school youngsters. It was quite an eye-opener to me. They didn't let the difference in politics make a violent difference in their friendship. They were all real Canadians. I found Mr. Page's work in the Legislature always an inspiration too.

We were both back benchers -- he on this side of the House and I on the other. And I certainly felt very strongly, as he did in those days, that there should be some means of compensating those who were hurt in automobile accidents -- that they be not left to charity. It was largely through the work of Mr. Page that the first unsatisfied judgment fund came into being to help those who were injured in automobile accidents.

Later on Mr. Page lost his seat in the Legislature and became the Lieutenant Governor of this province, and there he showed himself to be a statesman. I think the tribute paid by the hon. Premier to his ability in sport needs nothing added to it.

I would like to say that the monument of goodwill that Dr. Percy Page left in the hearts and minds of the hundreds of people with whom he came in contact will certainly be a source of consolation now to Mrs. Page and his loved ones. His life as a legislator, as a statesman and as a sportsman will be an inspiration to all of us who try to follow in those footsteps. He lived a full life, and it is nice to think that after he retired he was able to live a number of years to enjoy the many good things he helped to build in this country.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a brief tribute to the late Dr. Percy Page. Although I never had the opportunity of knowing Dr. Page, I remember, as a youngster in a rural school, doing an assignment which related to Dr. Page and

his famous basketball team, the Edmonton Grads. We all remember his excellent work, which has been so ably outlined by both the hon. Premier and the hon. Member for Drumheller during his years in the Alberta Legislature, and of course, we all pay tribute to the outstanding service he rendered to this province as Her Majesty's representative between the years 1959 and 1965. We have lost a very great resident of this province and we will all miss him.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, as the hon. the Premier and the members on this side of the House have mentioned, we pay tribute to a man who I feel exemplifies the best in political life. The hon. Mr. Page was a politician and in public life he always impressed me, as a member coming into this House a number of years ago, with his statesmanlike qualities. Another thing that always impressed me was his punctuality. He was very stern when it came to saying, if the meeting was called at 3:00 that we were all to be there at 3 o'clock.

I had the privilege of chairing the Workmen's Compensation Committee, and Mr. Page was a member of that committee. When we travelled across the province I was amazed to see the many people, especially young people, who had heard of Mr. Page or were associated with Mr. Page as students with his famous Edmonton Grads.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in tribute to Mr. Page, I would just say these few words. He held the parliamentary system and our political system in such high esteem that he set an example for many of us to follow, and I am sure it is the desire of all of us that we will be able to follow the example he has set. He was held in such high respect, in my opinion, because he respected the opinion of the other person regardless of whether he agreed with him or not. That's what makes good politics; that's what makes a great nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to associate myself very briefly with the remarks that have been made, and add that I found Dr. Page, in addition to all the things that have been said, a very warm human being. I would like to illustrate to the members of the Assembly an example of that.

In 1961 it was my opportunity to attend this session for the first time and, upon being sworn in in Dr. Page's office, I recalled that he was a rather noted basketball coach. I was a physical education teacher at the time, and I remember discussing basketball with Dr. Page for just a moment or two. Then, after I was sworn in and the register was signed, he shook my hand and said, "Young man, you'll find me a very blunt man; you look more like a school kid than a Member of the Legislature." I can't help but take this opportunity to recall this to the members of the Legislature, and to point out, in addition to all the things that have been said, the type of warm gentleman that Dr. J. Percy Page was.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join others in extending a tribute to Dr. Page. He represented in this Assembly what was then the Edmonton West constituency, the constituency which I now have the honour to represent -- Edmonton Glenora. I know many thousands of my constituents knew and loved Dr. Page over the years. I particularly want to extend sincere sympathy to Mrs. Page and to the family. I also knew him for four years as his naval aide-de-camp and certainly in knowing Dr. Page, one knew a true sportsman, a gentleman in the old sense of the word, a gentle man. We have lost a loyal Albertan.

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, they are, today, here!

[Laughter]

It gives me a special pleasure to introduce to you and to the members of this Assembly 30 Grade 6 students from Kingsland School in the Calgary Egmont constituency. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. LaMarsh. They are in the public gallery and I ask them now to stand and be given a special hand.

MR. FLUKER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly some 46 Grade 8 students from the Glen Avon Protestant Separate High School in St. Paul. They are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Tony Pacholek, Mr. Dennis Zukiwsky, and their bus driver Peter Boychuk. I might add here that Mr. Zukiwsky is not only a very capable Phys. Ed. teacher but also an all-star defenceman for the St. Paul Rockets Hockey Club. They are seated in the gallery and I would ask them now to rise and be recognized by this Assembly.

MR. KOZIAK:

Monsieur le President, il me fait grand plaisir de vous presenter, et par vous presenter aux membres de cet Assemble, des visiteurs du conte Edmonton Strathcona, Reverende Soeur Alice Trotier et dix etudiants de sa classe d'histoire au College St. Jean qui sont venus aujourd'hui assister aux deliberations de cet Assemble. Monsieur le President, je demandrai presentment a ces visiteurs qui sont assis dans la gallerie des membres de se lever afin de se faire reconnaitre par cet Assemble.

#### FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table for the benefit of the hon. members, the proposition with regard to changes in the dairy policy that we placed before Ottawa prior to Christmas, and in addition to that, additional information with regard to changes in the allocation of subsidy eligibility quota, and some explanation of that quota for the benefit of the hon. members.

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to table three reports as required by the Statutes; first the Annual Report on the administration of the Local Authorities Pension Act for the year ended March 31, 1972; secondly, the Annual Report on the administration of The MLA Pension Act for the year ended March 31, 1972; and the annual report on the administration of The Public Service Pension Act for the year ended March 31, 1972.

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I have four reports to be tabled, pursuant to the requirements of statutes. The first is the report of Orders-in-Council filed pursuant to The Blind Persons Act. The next one is the same in respect to The Disabled Persons Act, and the next one the same in respect to The Old Age Assistance Act; as well, the twenty-first Annual Report covering the year 1972 under The Public Contributions Act.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report of the Alberta Art Foundation, as required by statute. If you will permit me, I would just like to add that the Art Foundation Board met at least once a month during the past year since the act was approved. One of the members came from Bermuda every time they had a meeting in order to be able to attend here in Alberta, and returned right back thereafter.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Annual Report of Athabasca University.

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answer to Motion for a Return No. 110, concerning the cafeterias.

MISS HUNLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission as required by statute. While I am on my feet I would also like to table the final report of the Human Resources Research Council as required by statute, and would advise all hon. members that printed copies will be available next week.

## CRAI QUESTION PERIOD

Universities and Colleges Commissions

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Advanced Education could advise the House as to whether the government is reconsidering its decision to phase out the universities and colleges commissions and to centralize administration of the advanced education institutions in the province within in his department as a result of the strong opposition which has been presented throughout the province on the subject?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader of the Opposition for the question because I think it timely that we clarify some misunderstanding that may have existed, but I don't think now exists, with the university authorities.

First of all, we announced last August that we would be dissolving the functions of both the universities and colleges commissions, and that the functions of the commissions would be transferred to the Department of Advanced Education. Accordingly we have carried out a reorganizational model to accommodate those functions.

I must take issue with the hon. leader, Mr. Speaker, when he talks about centralizing these institutions under the Department of Advanced Education, because that is entirely and absolutely incorrect. I think, if you will examine our model carefully, you will discover that we are attempting to involve what I call the 'stake-holder groups' -- the institutions themselves -- and more members of the public in the decision-making process in advanced education than was previously the case.

I think some confusion may have resulted, Mr. Speaker, from the reading of our model by those who were not fully aware of, or did not remind themselves of the provisions of both The Universities Act and The Colleges Act. I'm afraid some people in the university communities may have read the organizational model and expected that certain amendments to The Universities Act would follow. I wish to assure the House, as I have in recent meetings with the Board of Governors of the University of Calgary, and this morning, with that of the University Alberta, that such are not our intentions; that we are merely taking over the functions of the commission and building into our relationship an adequate voice for members of the public, faculty, and institutions themselves in the policy decisions of advanced education.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, because this is a very complex and detailed question, that I will in fact be following up with a more detailed statement, which I intend to circulate to those institutions governed by a board of governors, to clarify the misunderstanding I think they have with respect to organization. That misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker, I think is quite logical, because the Department of Advanced Education operates a number of institutions -- NAIT, SAIT, the AVCs, and the Agricultural Vocational Colleges -- and I am afraid that some of the functions the boards of governors saw identified in our organization are functions we do carry on our own institutions. But they are functions that are carried on by boards of governors with respect to their own institutions. There was some concern that perhaps we were trying to take over the function of boards.

I wish to assure the House, as I have the boards of governors, that we want to assure the role and authority of boards of governors -- more than that, we want to strengthen and improve that role. I think that assurance has now been understood but out of an abundance of caution I am going to prepare a formal statement for boards of governors to clarify what may remain as a small misunderstanding, and to ensure that there is no misunderstanding on this problem.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, just one supplemental. Can I conclude on the basis of the minister's statement that the boards of governors, and the General Faculties Councils of the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta in particular, have formally withdrawn their objections to the minister's program?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of an objection, formal or otherwise, of General Faculties Council or Board of Governors from the University of Alberta, concerning the reorganization. I am aware there was, with respect to the University of Calgary, some misunderstanding on this. But I met with my colleagues on the University Board of Governors in Calgary, earlier this week, and I think we have now resolved that. If there was a misunderstanding with GFC in Alberta, and with the Board of Governors, I think it is fair to say, from our meeting this morning, that I think we have clarified their concerns, and I am looking forward to meeting with them again at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview with a supplementary, followed by the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury.

MR. NOTLEY:

Could the hon. Minister advise the House what formal consultation took place prior to last summer's announcement about the disbanding of two commissions, with the boards of directors and the General Faculties Councils?

MR. FOSTER:

I think the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, was referring to boards of governors rather than general faculties councils.

The decision to dissolve both university and colleges commissions was not a decision we arrived at overnight. It was not a decision we arrived at without giving it a great deal of thought. You will note it was a recommendation of the Worth Report, and in my judgment, the government was moving in the direction of a decision on the dissolution of both commissions quite irrespective of the fact that it was dealt with in the Worth Report. It is something we had been considering since October of the year I came to office.

In the course of about a year of discussions, I had a good deal of informal contact with students, the faculty, with governors, with administrators, with people involved in the education system, and with the public. I formed an opinion that in terms of a better co-ordinated approach to advanced education, we should in fact dissolve both commissions and assume that function by the department but build into our organization adequate access for institutions public, students and faculty, and the involvement of these groups in the decision-making process.

I really think, Mr. Speaker, we have achieved that. I am looking forward to working in this relationship with the colleagues I have in the universities and colleges. I am hopeful that it will be very successful, and we will be able to achieve a co-ordinated approach to advanced education, at the same time allowing for institutional autonomy. There will, under no circumstances whatever, be any threat to academic freedom.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question just for clarification. Am I to take it then that there was no formal consultation with any of the boards of governors, before the announcement was made last summer?

MR. FOSTER:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that would be a fair conclusion by the hon. member. There are all sorts of ways of consulting with people. That is a process of life of which we are all a part in this building and outside of it. I might say most of my life is taken up with discussions with academics, members of the public, boards of governors and administrators. I don't know whether that was true of the previous minister or not, but it is certainly true of my life. I don't know how you define 'formal', Mr. Speaker, but I can assure you that there was a good deal of discussion in all quarters.

Now there might be some in the Province of Alberta who feel they would have liked to have had a voice in that, and regret they had not taken that opportunity. I regret that that might be the case. However, I think we have done a fair assessment of the function of this department of government -- of the needs of the institutions involved. I am extremely mindful, Mr. Speaker, of the roles of the boards of governors, of the roles of the general faculties councils ...

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. The hon. member's question related to formal consultations. We have covered this subject at sufficient length to have warranted a ministerial announcement on Orders of the Day, and I think it is generally conceded to be good parliamentary procedure for general statements of policy to be excluded from the Question Period and to be given on Orders of the Day.

Now, perhaps, we could have one final short supplementary on this topic.

University Senates

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Advanced Education. Is it still the government's intention to remove the Senate of the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge?

And secondly, has there been any formal consultation with the students at the universities?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely astounded. I really am. I have no idea where the hon. member got the impression that this government was committed to abolishing the senates of universities. Certainly I have never made that statement. It's a major recommendation and it may be a choice of futures, but both the Minister of Education and I have been extremely involved and busy in assessing the Choice of Futures, and will speak about this in the House later on.

But I want to clear up this impression if there is such an impression. I have never given the House or the public any suggestion that we would be doing away with senates. Frankly, I personally feel -- and this is a personal point of view -- that the senates are an extremely useful forum within the university community, essential to the functioning of a university. But I will have more to say about that when we get into debate on the Commission on Educational Planning.

MR. SPEAKER:

Perhaps we could come back to this topic, if this is a further supplementary after we have heard some of the other questions.

The hon. Member for Cypress followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton Jasper Place.

Administration of Advanced Educational Institutions

MR. STROM:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Advanced Education. I listened rather carefully, and I don't think that he gave the answer. I'm wondering what institutions you were referring to when you made a statement that there would be a gradual withdrawal from the operation of some of the institutions for Advanced Education now directly under the jurisdiction of the department. I would like to have the specific institutions mentioned.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, again, I really welcome the questions from the other side about advanced education. Sometimes, sitting here, I get the impression that no one cares, and I'm delighted to know that you do.

The statement made in our re-organization paper, Mr. Speaker, about the possible gradual withdrawal is that we would like to examine whether or not institutions like NAIT and SAIT might become independent, governed under a board of governors rather than being operated by the Department of Advanced Education. That general consideration also applies to the colleges known currently as agricultural and vocational colleges. It may also apply to those centres known as vocational centres.

I developed an opinion, Mr. Speaker -- it's a personal opinion -- several months ago on this subject, and it was my feeling then, though I have yet to test it, that perhaps the Department of Advanced Education should not be

directly involved in the operation or administration of any educational institution. However, I'm now coming to recognize that that may not be valid, and as the reorganization paper points out, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that perhaps the department should operate certain specialized institutions.

In the course of the next year or so we will be examining the question as to whether or not some of the institutions we currently operate could operate better in terms of the public interest and in terms of educational services they provide, by being organized and governed by a separate authority exclusive of government. We have yet to examine that, although NAIT and SAIT have been looking at it informally at my request.

MR. DIXON:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister or any official of his department had discussions with officials of Mount Royal College as to the advisability of combining the Alberta Vocational Centre and the Junior College for administrative purposes?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, this is again, an excellent question, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to respond.

I discovered, on coming to office many months ago, that through the initiative of the previous minister an examination of the possibility of merging the Alberta Vocational Centre in Calgary with Mount Royal College was taking place. Those discussions between the AVCs, Mount Royal College, the Colleges Commission, and personnel in the Department of Advanced Education have been going on for quite some time. We are now at a point where it is just about time to make a decision. Last week I had a meeting in Calgary with all of the staff of our facility in Calgary, the Vocational Centre, to discuss this very point with them. I have a draft agreement in my office, together with a great many details on assessment of the proposed merger. I am hoping to meet with the president, the chairman and other officials from Mount Royal College Monday of next week to discuss this further.

I am hopeful that in the next ten days or so, and not wanting to be limited by that, that we will come to a final conclusion on this and attend to the details that will be necessary to effect if the merger takes place.

I told my staff in Calgary that I have some serious concerns about this merger, but I would like to reserve comment on that subject until I have had a chance to discuss it further with Mount Royal.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Edmonton Jasper Place, followed by the hon. Member for Drumheller.

#### Consumer Credit Abuses

MR. YOUNG:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier or to the Minister of Manpower and Labour. Could the House be advised whether it is anticipated that at this spring sitting of the Legislature there will introduced any legislation to curb some of the abuses which were mentioned in the report tabled yesterday in the House by the supervisor of Consumer Credit?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, to answer the hon. member's question, I have only had an opportunity to give a cursory review of that report. There certainly are some aspects to it that are a matter of concern to the government. We mentioned in the Speech from the Throne that we are going to propose some organizational changes in the whole area of consumer affairs. And I would like an opportunity perhaps in the course of this weekend, to give further attention to that particular document and to the reports, and tie them into our organizational plans.



Achievement Levels

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Are the hon. minister, and his counterparts in other provinces working toward minimum bench marks of achievement that should be reached at the level of Grades 12 and 13, and if so, is any progress being made in this regard?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, with great respect, I really don't know what the hon. member means by 'minimum bench marks of achievement'. He referred to Grades 12 and 13. So far as I am aware we have no Grade 13, perhaps you can explain your --

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, if I could speak briefly to it. Some provinces have a Grade 13, others have double the subjects or more subjects in Grade 12, so that is why I include Grade 13. The 'common bench marks of achievement' refers to the fact that a student, when he reaches Grade 12 in this province, or Grade 13 in some other provinces, reaches a certain point common to that reached by students in other provinces, instead of having so many different levels of achievement that it makes it very, very difficult for students and universities.

MR. FOSTER:

I think, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is referring to levels of achievement in Grade 12 and the possibility of there being different levels of achievement and the effect it may have on a student's ability to move into the post-secondary field. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education should comment on the question of Grade 12 exams. I know he would appreciate that opportunity.

Elimination of Grade 12 Examinations

MR. HENDERSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, before the minister replies. I would just like to ask the Minister of Advanced Education whether they are contemplating the institution of entrance exams at the university level because of the elimination of Grade 12 exams?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, definitely not at my initiative. In fact, if I had a voice in that sort of decision, I feel very firmly, very strongly, that there should not be admission exams.

MR. HYNDMAN:

A supplementary answer, Mr. Speaker. We are working in the Department of Education now on the development of bench mark or achievement measuring exams, exams which are objective and therefore different from the departmental exams about which we have known. These exams will be in the process of development over the months and years ahead and will provide an objective measuring stick by which schools, teachers, parents and students all over the province can measure against an objective standard how their students are doing, and also provide the government with some measurement of whether educational standards generally in the province are remaining the same, going up or going down. We've never really had an effective measurement of that in past years.

MR. TAYLOR:

Supplementary to the hon. minister. Is there some attempt to get these common bench marks of achievement recognized right across Canada so that there is not going to be the variance we have today in every province?

MR. HYNDMAN:

There is none at the moment, Mr. Speaker. A number of provinces have recently abolished Grade 12 examinations and have not had any replacement for them. This will be a matter probably discussed at the Council of Ministers of Education meeting. However, I think I would want to say that we would be wishing to co-operate with regard to some national guidelines. However, we want

to keep Alberta in the lead in terms of educational achievement, so we wouldn't be held down by other provinces.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview with a supplementary, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill.

MR. NOTLEY:

Supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Education. In view of the fact though, that there are places in the province where students go to another province for their high school, I would ask whether or not you are going to consider sitting down with at least the ministers of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, to see if some common program could be worked out?

MR. HYNDMAN:

We've already explored that very generally with the ministers of those two provinces, and I would expect we'd be doing that again, Mr. Speaker. There, of course, is the whole question of mobility between the school systems between provinces. If one wants a great degree of mobility, then you have to have standardization of the curriculum and standards across those provinces through which students will pass. So, using excellence as the target for Alberta education, and within that framework, we will certainly attempt to achieve greater mobility and permission for that, with regard to students and parents.

MR. FARRAN:

All right now? Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the hon. Minister of Education. Mr. Minister, will there be facilities for children in Grade 12 to take the College Entrance Exam, which is the only universal qualification for universities across North America that is standard and accepted - inasmuch as Alberta universities at the moment don't accept British Columbia's Grade 12?

MR. HYNDMAN:

The High School and University Matriculation Board, which represents the universities and the teaching profession, the ASTA, and the department, have recommended against standardized college entrance examinations, on the theory that we might be replacing one evil by another. However, the benchmark measuring test which we are developing - and let me make it clear there certainly will continue to be tests in high school, without question....So there would be, therefore, no policy change at the moment, whereby one would - or I would - recommend to the Executive Council the kind of exam which was suggested.

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Minister, I'm sorry. I may have misled you. I'm talking about the American College Entrance Exam, which is a standard exam -- the standard qualification accepted by universities throughout North America. Everybody can sit it now if they go to the trouble to get it.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, that privilege which exists now would certainly continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

#### Student Quotas

MR. HO LEM:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Are there presently any quotas established for enrolment of out-of-province students, as well as foreign students, in Alberta universities and colleges?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any formal quota system that may exist in the advanced education community. However, I do appreciate that in those faculties where there might be more student demand than there are spaces available, I

think there is an informal arrangement with universities and colleges. And I'm again answering for them; I may not have all the facts and it might differ from one faculty to another -- but I believe there to be an informal arrangement whereby Alberta institutions give a preference to Alberta students.

At the same time, I think we recognize we have a responsibility to Canadians generally, and although preference may be given to Alberta students, there will be spaces available for non-Alberta students from outside our borders. In fact, I think in circumstances where there is a demand for a certain faculty, perhaps involving Alberta students, other Canadian students and perhaps non-Canadian students, there may be an informal arrangement that a percentage of spaces be set aside for Canadian students and non-Canadian students. But I think the vast majority of spaces are made available to Alberta students on a preferential basis.

MR. HO LEM:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is there a problem of enrolment for foreign students existing at the present time?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, you really can't answer that question unless you can be more specific in terms of institution, perhaps the university or college of which you are speaking, and perhaps the faculty. Some faculties have a greater demand for their services from non-Canadian students than others. I know this has been a matter of some concern to the university community. To generalize in the broadest sense, I don't think we have a serious so-called foreign student problem in Alberta at all. In a way I object to identifying foreign students as a problem; I think we had better be very careful to distinguish between students who are here as landed immigrants and enjoy the status of landed immigrants, because they are, for all intents and purposes save law, Canadians, and other students who are here on student visas.

MR. LUDWIG:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that it is apparent that the University of Alberta will be restricting the number of law students who may enter into the faculty, is it the intention of the minister to recommend to the cabinet that a law faculty be opened in the City of Calgary?

MR. SPEAKER:

Perhaps the hon. member might take his turn on the list and ask his question as a separate question as it doesn't appear to be supplemental to what we have just discussed.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder in view of the significance of the question, whether the minister could inquire into greater detail as to what exactly is happening in various faculties and so on within the universities and colleges and report back to the House at a later date?

MR. SPEAKER:

The proper method of dealing with that kind of situation, as far as I know, is to put a question on the Order Paper.

MR. TAYLOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Is there any difference in fees for foreign students and for Alberta residents and native students?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, again you must be careful to identify the institution and the faculty or program, because the fees are different. Again I generalize because there are many students. I am not aware of a differential fee for non-Albertans and non-Canadians. If I may comment further on that -- and I recognize that fees are of considerable concern to students -- I do not personally favour the creation of what I might call artificial barriers to the free movement of students, particularly within Canada and specifically within western Canada. I think you create those barriers, Mr. Speaker, when you devise fee structures designed to charge a higher fee for a non-Alberta student. I would be happy to

go into the detail of that on an institutional basis with any individual members if they would like to do so.

MR. TAYLOR:

One further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the fee left entirely to the institution itself?

MR. FOSTER:

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the institutions have a great deal to say about fees. At the moment the authority rests with the universities and colleges commissions for approval. That approval will eventually become that of the Minister of Advanced Education. My view of a fee situation in the province at the moment is that we should not look forward to any significant change in the fee structure generally, until such time as we have dealt with the matter of student finance. The new methods or ways of making funds available to students -- because tuition fees are a cost of your post-secondary education -- are not unrelated to the policies of student finance. This is all bound up with the discussions we are having now with the federal government and their federal provincial fiscal transfer arrangements for post secondary education.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Wainwright, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

Food Product Quality

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. What protection as to quality has the Alberta consumer when purchasing items such as canned luncheon meat or chopped beef luncheon meat, some of which, I understand, is imported from other countries?

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member is aware that the standards for food products are set by Canada and these are closely watched. The importation of canned luncheon meats particularly is carefully watched by the federal authorities in that regard. I might add I had some discussions with the Veterinary Director General, Dr. Wells, who has a very keen interest, of course, in the question of whether or not canned luncheon meats coming into Canada are, in fact, well inspected. We have reciprocal arrangements with the countries where they can this meat, to accept their grading and health standards if they compare with ours. This is an area about which, I'm sure, the federal people are very strict.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we have had some complaint with regard to some of our shipments of meat going into the United States being stopped at the American border and having been returned. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, more shipments of American canned or processed meat coming into Canada have been stopped and returned because they didn't live up to standards, than the other way round.

MR. RUSTE:

A supplementary question to the minister. Have you received any complaints of this nature? I'm thinking of one in particular from the country of Peru. There is a shipment to come in.

DR. HORNER:

No, I'm not aware of any complaint from the country of Peru. Having recently been there though, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that not very much foodstuff is going to be coming from Peru to Canada. In fact, the reverse will be happening.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway followed by the hon. Member for Sedgewick-Coronation.

World Figure Skating Champion

DR. PAPROSKI:

Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation. In view of the world historical fact that Karen Magnussen has again won the world championship for Canada in skating --

AN HON. MEMBER:

It's the first time.

DR. PAPROSKI:

-- may I ask the hon. minister, and request from him, if he has sent her a congratulatory letter from the Government of Alberta and the Legislative Assembly indicating our pleasure?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, may I read the telegram to you that has gone to Karen Magnussen in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia:

On behalf of the government and the citizens of Alberta congratulations on winning the Gold Medal for Canada. We are all proud of you and we watched your magnificent performance.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Sedgewick-Coronation followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

Rural Gas Policy

MR. SORENSON:

My question is directed to the Provincial Treasurer. In light of your new responsibilities of Telephones and Utilities, will you be announcing a rural gas policy early in the Budget Debate?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the hon. member is so impatient as to not wait for about five or six hours when I will have some comments to make about it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Bow followed by the hon. Member for Stony Plain.

University Residence Taxation

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Further to your comments in the House in May of last year regarding the matter of exemption of university residences from municipal taxation, what progress, if any, has been made toward providing this exemption and lowering rental fees?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of talks with students on this subject and I have had, I think, two briefs from students, primarily from the University of Calgary. There have been discussions with myself and the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Minister of Municipal Affairs on this question. As you know, it is at the discretion of the municipal authority whether or not the tax would be assessed. I take, I think, a broader view and say it is really a question of student finance in the sense that it is a direct cost to the student for his post-secondary education. We are giving some thought to reviewing the formula under the student finance where a student is allowed so much for accommodation. But, other than that, I would welcome the opportunity, if you like, of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to comment further. He may have had other discussions or may have had other contacts with these people of which I am not aware.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention then of the government not to introduce any legislation changing The Municipal Taxation Act regarding student housing?

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, we intend to bring in amendments to The Municipal Taxation Act and during that time the hon. member will have a chance to debate that matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Stoney Plain followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge East.

Obscene Literature

MR. PURDY:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney General. Provincial News of Edmonton has recently been summoned to court for distribution of obscene literature. What criteria does your department follow before laying a charge of this nature?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, the general test before laying any charge is whether the evidence indicates there has been a breach of the law. In this particular case we are dealing with some of the provisions of the Criminal Code and prior to recommending that a charge be laid or forming an opinion, the members of the department would look at the information and evidence they have and review the authorities who interpret these particular provisions of the Criminal Code.

MR. PURDY:

A supplementary. Does this come from the City Police or from the Attorney General's department, the complaint first of all?

MR. LEITCH:

I am not aware, Mr. Speaker, how this one came. Sometimes these complaints come from citizens and may be made to the department and then are referred to the police. On the other hand they may go to the police and then be referred to the department for an opinion. Or, perhaps, they may come to the attention of the police who would, themselves, refer them to the department.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Lethbridge East, followed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

CKUA Licence

MR. ANDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Advanced Education. In a joint statement with the hon. minister, Mr. Hyndman on the proposed education communications corporation you suggested that CKUA's licence was in jeopardy. What is the present status of the station's broadcasting licence with the federal regulatory body?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague, the Minister of Education might be able to add further comment on this. It's my impression that there is a good chance that the CKUA licence would not be renewed next time it comes up -- I guess it's in the next year or so -- and that the federal authorities would look with some approval on the inclusion of CKUA generally into an educational communications corporation. In that way its licence would be safeguarded if it is renewed from government and not operated by Alberta Government Telephones Commission.

We have said, I think, with respect to CKUA that we would like to confirm the program integrity of CKUA as a station operating a mixture of programs, generally in the continuing education field. I think it is doing an excellent

job, however, we do recognize that it will be subject to some review. I don't know whether the Minister of Education can add anything or not.

MR. TAYLOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. member aware that the federal authorities have taken a similar stand just prior to the renewal of this licence in the past 25 years?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Janitorial Services

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. Can the minister advise the House when the government consulted with the CSA concerning the experimental contracting out of janitorial services, and with who they consulted? Further, can he reconcile his statement that full consultation had taken place with the statement of the President of the CSA that, in fact, no consultation had taken place?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to answer that question. I can state that the CSA were informed of our intentions to carry out this experiment, and I have before me the memo of which a copy was sent to the CSA on December 11, 1972 and received by them on December 14, 1972.

Perhaps while I am on my feet I could also correct an answer that I gave three days ago -- I think to a question from the Member for Drumheller -- when I said I didn't believe the contracts had been put out for public tender. This was wrong. The contracts for the caretaking service were, in fact, put out for public tender several weeks ago. The bids have not yet been opened so I am unable to say who will receive the contracts.

In talking about our communication with the executive of the CSA, I have received a letter expressing the concerns of the CSA, and I will certainly take their views into account in assessing the results of the experiment.

However, I feel they have shown a complete lack of faith in the civil service, and I wish to state that I have the greatest confidence in the employees of the Department of Public Works and believe this experiment will show that they can do the job better and as economically as the private sector. I look forward to the people in the department getting behind me and meeting this challenge and coming through with flying colours.

MR. NOTLEY:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House of the exact duration of this experiment? Will it be six months, a year, a year and one half, two years? What will be the exact duration of the experiment?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I can't give a complete answer on that because we may not even start the experiment. If the bids come in on the public tenders that we have put out, indicating that the private sector expects a much higher cost for the service than we can provide in the department then we will continue operating in our present manner. If, on the other hand, their tenders come in and comply with the limitations we ask for, and appear competitive with the department's work, then we will run the experiment for a sufficient length of time to assess the quality of the work so that in coming to a conclusion we can decide whether, in fact, we are getting as good quality of service from the private sector as we are presently getting from the Department of Public Works.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary question. Has the minister had an opportunity to assess the concerns expressed in certain quarters of the CSA that the private contractors will be employing part time workers, people who have other jobs and are using this job as a second job, and that in fact this experiment will be replacing full-time people with part-time people?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is clearly making an announcement rather than asking a question.

The hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

Employment Opportunity Program

MR. DIXON:

I have a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Public Works. I wondered if there was any consultation with the social development department in their employment opportunity program before the tenders were sent out by your department?

DR. BACKUS:

No, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we went into any special consultation in this area because we are looking at contracts rather than specific employment of individuals.

MR. DIXON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Owing to the fact that there are a number of people in this program looking for work, I wondered if they would be allowed to look at the bids that may be coming up?

DR. BACKUS:

My recommendation, Mr. Speaker, would be that they contact the people who make the bids -- because these would be the people with whom we would be dealing primarily -- rather than trying to set up some sort of a contract with individuals who hadn't previously had any experience in the field of bidding for contracts.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary --

MR. SPEAKER:

Might this be the last supplementary. We are just running out of time for the question period.

Employment Restrictions

MR. TAYLOR:

Would the hon. minister advise if there will be any women used as caretakers in the private sector, and secondly, is there an age limit being used by the private sector -- say men and women over the age of 45?

DR. BACKUS:

As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, when you are dealing with the private sector you can't dictate to them necessary age limits. However if we are aware of the fact that they are using an age limitation on it, I think it would be contrary to our act, and we would therefore not accept their bids on this.

CREEPS OF THE DAY

2. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Mr. Miniely:

Be it resolved that Rule 5 of the Rules of the Assembly be suspended in order that the Assembly may sit at 8:00 o'clock on Friday, March 2, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard the motion by the hon. Government House Leader are you ready for the question?

[The motion was carried.]



## FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

[Adjourned debate: Mr. F. Speaker]

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday I adjourned the debate at a point where I was discussing the objectivity required by any member of the Liaison Committee for Communal Property problems. Mr. Speaker, I feel, that each member of this committee must be very open to listen, to negotiate, to inform, and to establish a very high level of public relations without taking the side of any one group, either that of the community or the Hutterian Brethren. The members must constantly remind themselves that they have no authority since the repeal of The Communal Property Act over the people with whom they will interact. They have only the power of open and objective discussion. The challenge is great, but Mr. Speaker, I certainly feel that it is possible.

Right now, what other alternatives are available? None, it seems, when we examine the situation. So we must make the best of the liaison committee approach.

In the light of these remarks, Mr. Speaker, my position with regard to any member of the liaison committee who loses his objectivity, who publicly biases himself, or who takes a narrow approach either toward the Hutterian Brethren or any individual or group of citizens becomes very clear.

I believe -- regretfully -- that Mr. Bill Dascavich, the Regional Coordinator of the NFU has illustrated very clearly that he has lost the opportunity for objectivity in his liaison responsibility, a responsibility given to him by his organization, and endorsed by the present provincial government.

I obtained, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the actual press release I would like to table for the information of the other members of this Assembly.

In commenting on the delegation from Vulcan and Drumheller that came to the Legislature last Friday, Mr. Dascavich says, "Their eyes blazing with fear, their souls full of meanness, and their hearts filled with hypocrisy...". And then he goes on to say that the delegation is saying, "We cannot afford to allow freedom to flourish."

I recall that a few years ago a delegation led by the NFU was going to break down the doors of the Legislative Assembly, and it almost killed an innocent visitor to this Legislature in the swinging doors at the front where we enter. Possibly Mr. Dascavich is commenting on that delegation.

I really wonder, Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Dascavich were here when the delegation was present. I would have to say -- and I am sure that all the members of this Assembly can confirm this -- that that delegation was neither belligerent nor disorderly, but very responsible and well-behaved.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

They were attempting in the most effective way possible to express their deep concern about a problem. They felt it would be best to make a presentation to the Premier, and I would certainly like to say on their behalf that I appreciated how the Premier and his ministers and other people made themselves available on the front steps of the Legislature so the group could talk to them directly and hear what the government of this province had to say with regard to their request. I would have to say that was certainly a good step in communication, and one that has flourished for a long time in the Province of Alberta.

I would have to say though, Mr. Speaker, I certainly take exception to this person's remarks. The 400 residents to me are decent, principled and excellent residents of the province of Alberta.

In Mr. Dascavich's release, he goes on to infer that anyone who takes a position with regard to the communal land ownership is "... advocating Draconian measures ...", -- "... they prefer the iron heel of neo-fascism...", and that the businessmen and citizens of Drumheller and Vulcan are "... reactionary ..." and are launching "... a new era of human discrimination in this province."

To me, he has outlined a clear case of bias, where his credibility for objectivity has been lost. He can no longer be an effective member of that liaison or advisory committee. I would have to say that Mr. Dascavich, as a member of the liaison committee -- to hear presentations in either of these communities, and particularly in the community of Vulcan, which I represent as a member of this Legislature -- will find it very difficult to take on his responsibility. Certainly it will prejudice the whole committee's responsibility and their actions. Therefore, I feel any real achievement which could be accomplished by its chairman, Mr. Platt, and other members, may be impossible to accomplish. As I have said, their task is enormous and they need to have everything going for them in this problem.

In light of this, Mr. Speaker, I am asking that steps be taken to remove Mr. Dascavich from the liaison or special advisory committee on communal property.

Firstly, it is incumbent upon the NFU to examine the action of their nominee, and take the necessary action. We should know whether this is a stand of the NFU or whether the lack of objectivity is just that of that representative. However, this representative -- and so should the NFU -- should realize that a distinction is not made in the general public.

Secondly, and even concurrently, Mr. Speaker, the government has a responsibility to take action in this matter. They cannot ignore the responsibility before them. As I and others have said, the responsibility of the liaison committee is very, very sensitive. The concerns of communities and the concerns of the Hutterian Brethren cannot be jeopardized by an individual's behaviour with responsibilities for liaison purposes. The government, I am sure, recognizes the problems which can be created in our communities, beyond those which are just maybe political. So I ask them to give this matter their special and immediate attention.

Mr. Speaker, in discussing another question and one quite closely related -- the matter of land ownership -- and discussing another area possibly of the advisory committee which involves certain community concerns, individual concerns, and the concerns of the Hutterian Brethren, I wish to make the point that each and every one of these bodies has a great responsibility, a responsibility to understand each other to the greatest extent possible. We cannot leave this responsibility to the liaison committee alone, because in my mind, they have to act as a facilitator of communication. They cannot make decisions for other individuals or other groups.

Since the removal of The Communal Property Act, the Hutterian Brethren can buy in the market place at their discretion. Responsibility for their future growth and relationship to any community or individual will only be enhanced by their actions. A new challenge rests with the Brethren. The avoidance of difficulties or hostilities in the future rests with their decisions as to land locations and other actions. The number one responsibility at this point in time rests at their doorstep. As of yesterday, their challenge began. They, and Albertans, must recognize that much of Alberta's future growth lies with them. The implications of their actions, as well as ours, must be to consider the broader society economically, socially and philosophically of our province of Alberta. Progress will only occur by an open attitude of all those people concerned.

Mr. Speaker, in my closing remarks I would like to say that I started this speech with regard to the Speech from the Throne, and by talking about it as being one of deception.

I'd only like to make one last remark, and it is with regard to one of the items I felt had been left out of the speech, and should have been touched on. It is with regard to welfare.

During a meeting in Red Deer, prior to the last election, the Premier made a statement that the Conservatives would see that more people would be working, fewer people would be on welfare, and that employment would be stressed. Well, Mr. Speaker, 18 months have gone by. I have waited with anticipation. Nothing really has happened. The employment opportunities program started by the Social Credit government, cutting welfare payments by \$1 million in the first year, the opportunity corps in northern Alberta, the citizens' committee with local citizenry, are still working. But beyond that, we haven't heard of any new programs or anything really different.

Either the Premier had some new ideas in 1971 he has not communicated to his minister, or there were no ideas and a great political deception has taken place. The people of Alberta are waiting. More and more concern is heard over

welfare costs -- whether it is unemployment insurance, social assistance, or social allowance. The diminishing number of tax-payers or creators of wealth are wondering whether it is worth fighting any more, and whether they should join the ranks of the tax-users. The Premier and the government should put this item on their list of priorities.

One of the other things that interested me in the Speech, that was included, was a Disaster Service Act. Mr. Speaker, an act such as this, introduced after only 18 months of Conservative government! What will be the act in 36 months? I can imagine what one of the disaster clauses will be. It could be worded something like this: "Effective, following the next general election, Conservative ministers' and MLAs' pensions will be doubled for the following reason, they will be out of office."

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you ready for the question?

MRS. CHICHAK:

Mr. Speaker, I feel it an honour to have the opportunity to participate in this Throne Speech debate. I too, want to congratulate both the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech for their valuable and eloquent contributions.

In reflecting on the history of Alberta, the bountiful resources of this great province, and the new directions in which we are moving -- I would like to philosophize on that reflection. I come to the conclusion that perhaps it would be quite accurate to say this province was not built by government, but by the people; not by welfare, but by work; not by shirking responsibility, but by seeking responsibility. This is the context in which I wish to make my comments today.

The seeking of responsibility by this government is, I would say, well demonstrated in the Throne Speech. Although other members have extensively referred to the Speech, I likewise would like to review it from the points of view as I see them. One of the foremost issues considered and dealt with by this government is, of course, The Alberta Bill of Rights. That in itself is unique. What does it say? It really, in essence, tells the people of Alberta the atmosphere in which they are regarded by this government. Although sometimes it may be difficult to live by, nevertheless we have felt and are determined that there had to be such a clear foundation without any diffusion, misinterpretation of intention, here in this province.

In reviewing further the Throne Speech, such areas come to mind as the placing of priorities on the elderly, the recognition of a responsibility for those who pioneered and sowed in the Alberta soil all of their human energies. These people, who, in essence, developed this country from its original wilderness, who were more interested in building a rich legacy and heritage to pass on to us than rich bank accounts but now live on limited incomes, even now contribute to our knowledge the benefits of their experience and wisdom.

Then go farther down with the goals this government has set, to recognize the very importance of agriculture in this province and to take up the challenge of building an agricultural industry second to none, understanding the importance and the diversity of agriculture, recognizing the need for greater knowledge and training in agriculture, in development, in production, in marketing; recognizing the need for education in early school years for a change of attitude toward agriculture and its vastness for both the rural and the urban citizens.

Our fortune is in having a man heading this portfolio who possesses such a high degree of understanding, intelligence and foresight, who is developing such an exciting diversified program to reach this goal of placing Alberta in the forefront of world food producers for decades to come. The recognition that the forecasts of food shortages in the near decades, and the setting about of programs to delay the truth of such forecasts, is all for a better life in Alberta as a whole.

In this Throne Speech is also demonstrated the responsibility for the disadvantaged, the mentally ill and the handicapped. Training programs are developed for the disadvantaged and the handicapped, employment programs to give them a measure of pride, of ability, of being worth-while human beings.

In our goals -- in seeking responsibility -- the government has set priorities, some of which are: the development of programs and of opportunities for personal initiatives and resourcefulness, to determine one's own destiny, irrespective of what walk of life one comes from. To accomplish this goal,

there are many educational programs designed for adults, the development for new skills -- the training programs in this respect -- new attitudes toward manpower responsibility of this government in relation to its people in the province, and the development and expansion of a manpower department to deal specifically with these very important issues in this very important area. Again, there is training and employment of the handicapped, programs being developed through manpower, social development, and advanced education departments -- as incentives to take employment rather than social assistance.

There is support of cultural development for the fulfilment of a people of varied homeland backgrounds, but of a people who have a common goal in the destiny of this great country and province to which they have declared allegiance.

In carrying out its responsibility of assuring that people who built this province receive a fair price for the natural resources being exported, this government is developing a totally new -- long overdue -- natural resources policy.

The hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest made a plea the other day for welfare recipients living in poverty, and criticized this government for having dealt inadequately with this problem in its 18 months in office. Well, let me throw the problem back and let me ask what was done about this problem over the past 30 some years when the members opposite were in government. As a matter of fact, what was done in the last decade?

In reflecting a little further in this area, I would like to ask which group should receive priority consideration -- welfare recipients, or the employed whose incomes are within the poverty spectrum, but who have too much personal pride to accept social assistance? I sympathize, of course, with all disadvantaged who can survive only with the help of social assistance. And so, I await anxiously a revamping of programs by the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development, to resolve many of these problems.

I am concerned, and I am pleased, with the direction this government is taking in the development of assistance for new senior citizens' homes, because it is rather a critical issue in my constituency of Edmonton Norwood.

My concern also extends to the area of school up grading. Even though in the past 18 months a fair amount of assistance has been directed to schools in the Edmonton Norwood constituency they are still a far cry from enjoying any measure of facility that other students enjoy.

I'm also concerned, and I am pleased that some direction has been followed, in increasing support to schools such as L.Y. Cairns and W.P. Wagner. But I feel that certainly we have not gone far enough.

I would also like to draw attention to the area of employment of equal pay for equal work, of equal opportunity for advancement to be recognized and extended to the women in the work force such as is enjoyed so much by the opposite sex. These are some of the many goals embarked on by this government.

We have heard, and I have no doubt that we will be further criticized -- in envy perhaps -- where they will say that we keep reviewing the budget speech and reviewing the programs we have instituted in the past 18 months, and repeating the goals we have set forth for the ensuing year, that we are doing all this in arrogance and backslapping. I would like to say that I very strongly differ with that type of criticism. I feel that in the confusion of comments and remarks, it is necessary that Albertans are fully aware in truth and in honesty of the concern this government has for them, and the efforts made by this government to give Albertans the kind of good direction and government to which they are entitled.

So I wish to return to my earlier reflection and say that this province was built by people; not by welfare, but by work; not by shirking responsibility, but by seeking responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this government has well demonstrated its responsibility to Albertans. Thank you.

DR. MCCRIMMON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the Throne Speech. I thought the mover gave a penetrating assessment of the oil industry and oil production in Alberta, and the seconder

an equally penetrating assessment of the rural situation in the province and what this has done for his particular constituency.

I would like to open with a few remarks on subjects directly affecting my constituency of Ponoka, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start with the mental hospital. Over the last few years the morale of the mental hospital has not been too good. However, at this time I would like to publicly thank the hon. minister Neil Crawford who came down to Ponoka and gave a statement of policy for the mental hospital, covering the next few years.

Several years ago there was a statement made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, at that time the Minister of Health, stating that the Ponoka Mental Hospital was going to be phased down and possibly closed down. This was one of the biggest blows our town had had in many years, and it took a long time to bring about a recurrence of confidence, which only happened clearly when the hon. Minister of Health gave a program for the next five years.

He made the statement that there would be some reduction over the next five years in the staffing of the mental hospital, but no one would be fired, no one would be let out, and in fact the reduction in the staff would be by natural causes such as retirement. Now this presents a different picture from the rumours, stories and so on that have been going around for years, and it has brought a different mental attitude to the staff of this hospital. The hon. minister also outlined the changes in mental health with regard to the institution in Ponoka, the travelling clinics and, the different structures that mental health would have insofar as the institution was concerned. There were to be some changes, some new approaches and alterations, but the basic institution would carry on.

With regard to Alberta Government Telephones, over the past number of years the Ponoka constituency has had quite a problem with rural lines. It has been a crowded situation. There have been eight, ten or twelve people on every rural line throughout the constituency. Last year a major thrust in the buried cable program covered a good portion of the Ponoka constituency, and today this program is pretty well complete. Now the average farmer -- there are only two or three on a line -- is a lot happier with this much better method of communication.

I would like to speak for a few moments on the effects of the various programs in agriculture I have had in my area. I will start with the Farm Loan Corporation. Now, unfortunately my constituency is faced with the same problem practically every other farming constituency in the province encounters, and this is the problem of the age of our average farmer. In my constituency most of the farmers, I must say, are between 50 years and 60 years. There are not that many young people on the farms. There are some, of course, but there are also some in the 50 to 70 bracket still operating their own farms.

Now within my area there has been a reasonable use of the Farm Loan Corporation, and it has been quite an incentive to keep the young people on the farms. The method of moving the farm from father to son has gone over very well because now the father can get paid off with a Farm Loan Corporation, and his son can take over the farm and have a viable business and operation. The father can have enough money to purchase his property in the town, retire or stay on the farm, whatever he wishes. It makes a difference because the farm the fathers worked is carried on by the son, and the family farm concept is carried forward.

Now, my area is fortunate in having very active 4H Clubs. There must be six or seven in the area. It is my hope that these clubs can be nurtured in every way possible, and I hope they can work in conjunction with the new program announced in the Speech from the Throne and the Future Farmers of Alberta. The new program has not been announced yet, but I imagine that 4H Clubs must play an active and busy role in it because this is what I feel to be the actual future of farming in Alberta. Unless we keep the young people happy, interested, and occupied and learning what cattle raising, sheep raising, so on, is all about, I don't think the future of farming will hold nearly as good a prospect.

Regarding the Agricultural Incentive Program. In my constituency the western section is still in a developmental area. The program has been extensively used in this section of my constituency. A lot of the people in these areas...[inaudible]...are homesteaders, small homes -- quarter section, half at the most -- they've had a really tough struggle. This is the first time they have ever been able to get set up in a cattle business program. This area is ideally suited to such an operation and there are a great many of them who have taken advantage of this. It is going to make a tremendous difference as far as the outlook of the average farmer throughout this district is concerned.

In conjunction with this -- and it makes good sense when you stop and think about it -- we have been fortunate to get the district agriculturist and a home economist in the area to service this new development of farm operation, which is really coming along well. I think over the next five years this whole area will present a completely different picture and the farmers, for practically the first time in the history of this district, will have cash coming in through their own operation.

I'd like to speak now for a few moments on the Opportunity Fund. Due to the fact that the Alberta Mental Hospital may or probably will be facing staff reduction over the next five years of about a 100 to 150 people, Ponoka has been very fortunate in being named the base for the Alberta Opportunity Fund. The fact that this office with a potential staff of 30, 40, 50 over the next two or three years, is going to be based in the area, in Ponoka, has given the town and the area a tremendous lift. It's brought a feeling of optimism to the town in which before the prospects were just a little bleak, and this feeling of optimism we can feel in just talking to the people in the town. The building permits are up; there is activity among the merchants which hasn't been shown before for quite a long time in town. There's a feeling of cheer and optimism which just this one fact has brought to the town.

There is another small industry developing and starting up in town which has hired about 10 to 15 people. Also this has been felt in other areas of the town, the tinsmith, the woodworkers, the electricians, and the building of metal buildings. Just the fact that the Opportunity Fund is there, the centre is there -- there is an availability for industry in a small town and we've got a different outlook in my town and its people.

The policy laid down by this government of decentralization to towns and villages wherever possible has been cited before. The Opportunity Fund moving to Ponoka is the first actually concrete accomplishment of fact of this policy.

Now I know there will be others. For the first time this type of community has had an opportunity to have a chance at industry. I know that in the past smaller towns, villages, have always been anxious for industry, but they just never had a chance at it, never had a crack at people coming in, to show their possibilities, to have a chance to sell themselves to industry.

In 90 per cent of the cases over the past 20, 30 years industry has come into Alberta, but in every case it must be funnelled into the province somehow. Every major city has professional people, full-time staff, contacting these through the government, through the industry itself, from the head offices; but in no way can a small town afford this type of personal staff to compete against the cities. This is one of the reasons why industry has gone to the major centres. For the first time now, the information is available to the smaller towns. We don't expect that all will move to Alberta's smaller towns, even with the Opportunity Fund. However, for the first time in history the small towns will have an opportunity to prove themselves, to show industry what they have got, a chance to sell themselves. There is a chance that in one of the towns industry will find a location it wants. It is surprising what these towns can offer, when looking through all the facets of it. On top of that, there is an element of cost, too, as far as these smaller towns are concerned.

To a person in an industry moving in to a smaller town, the cost of the house alone -- I believe, and I don't think I am too far wrong there -- the average cost of a residential lot in Edmonton runs between \$8,000 and \$10,000, serviced; the average cost of a good lot, a prime lot, in Ponoka -- and I am sure the same situation is true in many other small towns across the province -- would run between \$1,000 to \$2,000, serviced. Just stop and think about it. This makes a difference of \$7,000 to \$8,000 -- the same money that a person could put in the construction of the actual house. This is a pretty important factor there, too. That is just one of the things a small town has to offer, which the city does not.

I would like to speak for a few minutes on the property tax reduction plan. The hon. Member for Little Bow made the statement the other day that "the property tax reduction plan is only an extension of the homeowners grant." If that is all he understands, it is a sad case. The homeowners' grant was a basic concept to give \$75 -- it started at \$50 was raised to \$75 -- on an across-the-board basis to every property and farm owner in the province.

However, the property tax reduction plan is a completely different concept. It is true that the machinery set up by the previous homeowners' grant will be used, and the \$75 is incorporated into this and carried on. But it is only a part of the tax reduction plan used in the past that will continue to be used;

it is just a matter of convenience because there is no use duplicating what already has been done.

Our initial examination of the problem of property tax reduction showed it to be an enormous task -- to bring a well-balanced, practical, workable program from the jumble of grants, programs, and uncertainties, from the municipal level right through the provincial level. However, after the breakdown of the tax structure of every city, town, village, municipality and ID in the province was named, some of the basic problems that existed gradually came to light. Gradually, over the months, there began to evolve what we considered a workable, practical plan. This plan, for the first time, is equitable for all areas in the province. The master builder of this is Roy Farran; the rest of us just helped. We had wonderful co-operation from the hon. Dave Russell and his department, in helping us with information, staff, and so on.

From this we feel that a reasonable, sound plan has developed. When the interim report of this plan was published we expected feedback and criticism. Our expectations were correct. That's one of the reasons the interim report was put out, so we could find out what the people thought, where the sources of problems were, what they felt was unjust or not correct in the plan. Consultations were held with the rural and urban municipalities -- school boards, towns, cities, and municipalities, and finally we feel that a fair and just program emerged in the final report.

This final report will have an effect on every man, woman and child in the province -- the effect being a reduction in the cost of living, a saving to Alberta taxpayers and renters of \$50 million. Moving \$50 million into the economy of this province in itself means a great deal. It makes a better way of life for people, and provide stimulus to the economy. When you consider that this \$50 million was made possible by the sound business and foresight of our hon. Premier and Bill Dickie, it makes me very proud to be a part of this whole concept.

I was pleased to see in the Throne Speech the emphasis on parks. In conjunction with our expanding tourist industry programs and expanding recreational facilities, both through the Agricultural Society's grants to cities, towns and villages, and to Edmonton for the British Commonwealth Games, it shows concern for the physical health and wellbeing for the citizens of this province, both young and old.

There is one final point I would like to bring out about the tourist industry. With the orderly development of our tourist industry toward our potential some problems will no doubt be created. However, others will be cleared up. One of the chronic problems we have had over the years is summer employment for our young people. Every year there are thousands and tens of thousands of students from our universities, NAIT, SAIT, and our high schools coming out looking for jobs. True, we have programs whereby a good portion of these young people are absorbed, but there is no equalizing effect. The tourist industry is the one industry where the freedom of the young people from their studies in school coincides with the need in the tourist industry for help. I think if this tourist industry is developed to the potential that the hon. Bob Dowling hopes it will be -- a \$1 billion industry over the next few years -- this problem of summer unemployment will automatically clear itself up.

I'd like to go back to a few facts in my constituency. We are fortunate in my constituency; we have probably the highest cattle density, for the area, of any place in western Canada. There is a different feeling among the farmers now. I see hundreds of them over the year in my office. Over the last five or ten years there has always been a feeling of pessimism. This has been changing over the last year. Now there is a feeling of optimism, confidence, stability. For the first time when they come in they are talking about, "Well, I'm going to build a new house. Maybe this year is the year I can get my new combine. I need a new tractor, and it looks like this year I can get one." I think the stimulus to the whole economy from this agricultural progressiveness will be felt in Alberta and I think there is a good future in farming. Now all we have to do is convince the young people there is that future. Economics is probably the quickest and best way the young person can see he is going to make a good living and that he has a future in the farm -- I think we can attract farmers to our farms.

Now the hon. member for Little Bow made another, rather ridiculous statement. He's made the statement that the government has done nothing to alleviate unemployment. What about the 50 additional oil rigs drilling in Alberta since last July? I have been told, I don't know whether it is correct or not, but I believe it's so that the average oil rig employs directly and

indirectly in the area of 125 men. When you stop and think about it there is over 6,000 jobs just in that one item, itself.

What about the dozens of new secondary industries brought about already by the opportunity fund? I believe there are over 100 new industries, and developing industries, expanding from this fund alone. And yet they say nothing has been done for unemployment. How ridiculous can a man be?

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to be a part of the accomplishments and progress this government has made in the past 18 months, and to represent the constituency of Ponoka during these exciting times. Thank you very much.

MR. MOORE:

Mr. Speaker, I once again welcome this opportunity to participate in the debate on The Speech from the Throne. I would like to again congratulate you on the very fine and fair way in which you have carried out your role, Mr. Speaker, as a servant of this House - and also to congratulate the Member for Edmonton Calder who moved, and the Member for Stettler who seconded the speech by The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor. They are indeed to be commended for their very thoughtful and well-worded speeches.

I was particularly impressed, Mr. Speaker, by the hon. member, Mr. Chambers' positive facts with regard to the activities of the oil industry here in Alberta during the past months, and since the hearings on our government's natural resources revenue plan last spring. Certainly those concerns expressed by hon. members opposite, and in particular by the hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Leduc, were unfounded. In fact the oil industry employment levels, as has been pointed out, are once again reaching an all-time high due largely to this government's initiative in developing a drilling incentive program, and our new policy with respect to the pricing of natural gas.

I would like to say more about that a little later, Mr. Speaker. As many hon. members know, apart from some very specific problems in my own constituency, much of my time has been spent in the directions we are and have been taking in improving the incomes and the quality of life in rural Alberta. Much of my time in that area has been spent in regard to my duties as vice-chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission. Indeed during the past 18 months and the past year, many of the new directions taken by this government have had a favourable effect on the net income position of most Alberta farmers, and on a good number of people who are supplying services to farmers in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a considerable amount of concern in recent months -- well-founded concern -- in regard to rising food prices in this country. I believe most hon. members are aware that the percentage of average income in this country is required to purchase food is, of course, one of the lowest - if not the lowest - in the world. I was interested in reading, Mr. Speaker, very recently in the January edition of the International Review, some facts with regard to the cost of living in other countries. So that the members and the public at large, Mr. Speaker, would have some appreciation of what is happening in some of these countries: in Argentina the cost of living rose between January 1, 1972 and September 1, 1972, a period of eight months, some 49.2 per cent. At the same time the price increases and wholesale prices increased some 62 per cent. In Brazil the cost of living index in that same eight month period rose 12.2 per cent. But even worse yet, in Chile the cost of living index rose 99 per cent between January 1, 1972 and September 1, 1972. Again, this was over a period of about eight months, and it was somewhat close to 130 per cent in a single year.

Mr. Speaker, this is not to say that we, as members of this Legislature, should not be concerned about food costs, particularly with regard to those persons such as pensioners, the physically and mentally disabled, and so on, who are tied to a very fixed income. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the government of Alberta and a member of this Legislative Assembly, I look upon the announcement in the Speech from the Throne in regard to new legislation in the consumer protection field as being something that is very positive, and something that has been required for a good many years in this province, but is only now recognized.

Mr. Speaker, on the subject of food costs, again I believe that we should welcome an inquiry by the standing committee in the House of Commons regarding rising food costs. That inquiry however, Mr. Speaker, will show -- at least in my opinion, without question -- that the farmers in Alberta and other parts of Canada as well, have not in the past years been receiving anywhere near the price which is required to cover their cost of production and provide a suitable standard of living for them and their families.



I think it is generally known, particularly by hon. members in this House, that the agricultural community in Alberta and Western Canada has changed a great deal in the past few years, and it is likely to change a good deal more in the future. How drastic these changes will be, how they will affect the total economic society in Alberta, and how fast they are likely to develop, are questions that should be answered.

At the risk of repeating, Mr. Speaker, what has been said perhaps many times before, I would like to bring to mind some of the influences responsible for this continued change and continued upheaval. The cost of farming has been increasing at a much faster rate than returns for farm products. For example, the value of machinery in Western Canada approximately doubled during the years from 1951 to 1971, and the amount paid by farmers in land taxes during the course of that time also doubled.

However, Mr. Speaker, in regard to land taxes, certainly there is a positive contribution in the Speech from the Throne toward alleviating some of the hardships in rural Alberta. The speech outlines a very significant step forward in developing an Alberta property tax reduction plan in this province to finance the costs of education and other social services. We have heard some people complaining that that plan does not, in fact, relieve the people in rural Alberta of as much taxes as it should. I want to suggest, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. members, that that plan of paying the 30 mills formerly paid by the property owner on the first \$7,200 of assessment will, in my constituency, pay 30 mills on 90 per cent of the farmers who live in that area. In other words I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, that the plan was developed not to help the giant operator relieve himself of all his financial responsibilities towards education and social services, but based on the ability to pay principle. It was developed with the idea of helping those people who have small holdings in rural Alberta, of helping those people who have smaller, less costly houses in the urban areas, and in particular our small towns.

Many small towns in Alberta with populations of 400 and 500 have only a few houses which are, in fact, assessed at over \$7,200. So we have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where people who have not been able to pay are getting relief they have so long deserved.

That program, Mr. Speaker, was one of the major parts of the Progressive Conservative election campaign during 1971, and I know that many people across this province welcome the relief afforded by the Alberta Property Tax Reduction Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I was speaking about the costs incurred in the operation of a farm and the production of food and I strayed off on property tax, and I would like to come back to that again too.

Other farm costs have continued to rise, prices of just about everything including gasoline, farm labour, fertilizer and so have advanced over the years. During the course of the last 20 years the price of food advanced only marginally. In fact the prices which farmers were receiving for feed grains and some of their other products have actually declined, taking the long-term average into consideration, since 1951. Admittedly, we are experiencing quite an increase in price of many agricultural products at the moment and I would like to talk about the reasons for that, later, Mr. Speaker.

But for purposes of analyzing the situation over a longer period, we have to look and admit that generally farmers in Alberta have only been getting slighter higher prices for their commodities as the years have passed.

Faced with the situation, the people in agriculture have responded with remarkable increases in efficiency. This efficiency has been accomplished sometimes through the rather brutal process of forcing a number of smaller farmers off the land. Certainly we have seen some very drastic programs on the federal level within the last few years, such as operation LIFT and incentive programs which have, in actual fact, curbed production to the extent that many farmers simply could not gain a livelihood at their present level of production.

Mr. Speaker, some of these concerns in rural Alberta have grown out of the fact that we simply did not have in this country a national agricultural strategy.

Mr. Speaker, to give you some indication of the kind of strategy developed in Alberta and the kind of appreciation Alberta farmers have shown of that strategy, I want to quote from a very recent edition of the Alberta Wheat Pool Budget, January 5, 1973. It says:

Alberta had a Conservative government in 1972 for the first time. An enthusiastic, imaginative minister set about reorganizing and enlarging the Department of Agriculture, and 1973 will see a continuation of this process.

Mr. Speaker, in the January 26 issue of the Alberta Wheat Pool Budget:

When Henry Ruste was appointed Minister of Agriculture, the Budget saw fit to advise him to make commitments to take definite action. We said agriculture is dynamic.

Much more recently, when Dr. Hugh Horner assumed the post of Minister of Agriculture in Alberta, the Budget made no similar plea because we expected it was unnecessary, indeed it could be inflammatory.

It goes on to say:

That judgment has been vindicated. No administration in the history of the province has moved so quickly or so dramatically.

Those are quotations, Mr. Speaker, from two very recent issues of the Alberta Wheat Pool Budget.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Unpolitical too.

MR. MOORE:

Those statements, Mr. Speaker, from a farmer owned co-operative in this province, a farmer owned co-op that I can recall the Minister of Agriculture challenging some 12 months ago in Calgary at their annual meeting to get out and get involved in the processing of agricultural products, to quit just being a storage arm for the elevator and grain trade in Alberta, but to get out and really get involved in the kind of things that would make farmers' income level out and keep them in the rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, there are a good number of reasons why many of our farmers in past years are forced to leave the land: his elevator suddenly vanishes, if the price of the farm machinery inputs and gasoline and fertilizer and so on, as I mentioned earlier, go up and keep rising then at the same time the prices he received for his products were not increasing.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking of food costs, if we had allowed that situation to continue in Alberta, then we could certainly look to a considerable decline in farm numbers, and we could look to an ever increasing cost being paid for the basic necessity of food.

Mr. Speaker, a good politician likely seeks to defend the farmer, and on the other hand a successful politician, without question, attempts to find out what is wrong and what the real problems in agriculture are, and to respond to the development of more appropriate farm programs. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from the Speech from the Throne, that's what it is all about in Alberta today. I am sure that the aim of the Minister of Agriculture in the formation of a new marketing division, and a marketing intelligence service within the Department of Agriculture, is following in that track of expanding Alberta agriculture production and marketing. There has been in recent weeks and months some rather severe criticism, perhaps from other governments and other organizations, of the Minister of Agriculture and the department here in Alberta for being involved in trade missions to Japan, South America and Mexico and elsewhere to promote and develop our agricultural industry, for having been involved in a job that basically is the responsibility, as they find in our constitution, of the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the foundation of this government is built on the theory that if there is in fact an area which the senior or the federal government is not working in, then it very definitely is the responsibility of this government to do the very best we can.

Mr. Speaker, we have in Alberta a strategy with regard to agriculture and marketing and production, just as we have developed an industrial strategy in this province. I am sure that many of the hon. members have heard in recent years considerable talk from Ottawa, and we have also expressed our concerns here in Alberta about the desirability of developing a national industrial strategy. Certainly my honourable friend the Minister of Highways and Transport has been very involved in developing a national transportation strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you and to the honourable members that perhaps even more important than those areas is the need for the government in Ottawa in co-operation with the western governments to finally develop a national agricultural policy -- something which this country has lacked for as long as I can remember. If we go back, Mr. Speaker, some four or five years to the situation in western Canada when we heard one federal minister in charge of the wheat board saying, "Don't increase your rapeseed acreage." At the same time, Mr. Speaker, and I was one of those farmers, we went out and planted double what we had planted in the previous year and we grew some 80 million bushels of rapeseed. In fact by allowing free enterprise society in this province and in western Canada to sell that rapeseed we came out with even better prices per bushel than we had the year previous. Fortunately, on that particular occasion the advice that was given was not followed. On other occasions since, as operations lift, millions of acres were taken out of production, 4H incentive programs, and many more acres were taken out of production.

We find now, Mr. Speaker, we have markets for many of our products, but we don't have anything to sell. We find we have sold much of our produce, even in this year -- wheat and feed grains -- at last year's prices. We are now delivering these products, during the first part of this particular crop year once again at prices actually below the cost of production -- even in the face of very buoyant prices on the world market.

Mr. Speaker, we recently, in fact as short a time as two or three months ago, heard the federal Minister of Agriculture telling people right across Western Canada it was time to increase their wheat production. At the same time we heard another arm of that particular government saying, don't grow any more wheat. Just one more example, Mr. Speaker, of a complete lack of a federal agriculture policy or strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak very briefly about the situation with regard to marketing boards. The theory in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, of an expansionist agricultural economy is not new, of course, but it is the first time in many years that it has been so vividly presented right across Canada. There are some difficulties however. There are two that I would call diametrically opposed views, now striving for dominance in farm policy-making today. They can be compared as supply management, marketing boards, government controls, and a tangle of bureaucratic regulations, as opposed to producer freedom, expanding production, and a market-oriented approach to maintaining adequate net incomes. Mr. Speaker, that latter proposal is the direction taken by this government, a direction that will ensure the continuation of the family farm and our rural way of life.

Mr. Speaker, while we recognize, of course, the need for marketing boards for some major farm commodities, we cannot continue with some of the weaknesses that have developed in marketing boards -- weaknesses which include a tendency toward officious attitudes, aloofness from the producer they were meant to serve, and often, a complete lack of a marketing approach.

Speaking of marketing, Mr. Speaker, I noticed on the Order Paper the other day there was a question regarding the number of contracts the Minister of Agriculture had signed when he was on a trade mission to South America, and Mexico. And it brought to mind the trade mission the Conservative government made to Japan in September of 1972. Mr. Speaker, they contacted many people there, both in government and trading companies and industry -- people who were interested in purchasing food and all kinds of other supplies. There have been a lot of results from that trip. No the Minister of Agriculture didn't put his pen hand to any contracts when he was on that trip, because he doesn't particularly have any goods in his possession to sell.

Members of the Assembly must understand that the purpose of trade missions abroad -- government-to-government trade missions, and government-to-industry trade missions -- is not to sign contracts the day they go there, but for the purpose of providing a political and industrial climate so people who are involved in our free economic society, here in Alberta, can follow up with those contracts and sign some contracts themselves.

In that regard I recall the Minister of Agriculture was in my constituency in early December of last year. The Peace River Honey Producers Co-op there, who sell honey for most all of the Peace River region, had well over a million pounds of honey on hand they were unable to find a buyer for. They told the hon. Dr. Horner about the situation. Within 48 hours, Mr. Speaker, a Japanese trading firm from Vancouver had telephoned the manager of that particular honey producers co-op, and within four days a sale was completed at over 35 cents a pound, the highest price honey has ever been sold in Alberta.

MR. MOORE:

Mr. Speaker, those are the kind of results that have come out of trade missions to Japan, South America and Mexico, and the kind of results that will develop from trade missions that I hope in the future will go to a good many other countries from this great province of Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I would really like to say more about agriculture. I have a motion on the Order Paper, No. 6, with respect to the marketing of rapeseed. I hope perhaps that we will get to that during this session of the Legislative Assembly. It appears that the opposition side, however, made a mockery out of Private Members Day on Tuesday and Thursday, and have decided that such important things as the marketing of rapeseed and a good many other things in fact are not important in this Assembly.

[Interjections: Order, order]

So they have filled that paper up, Mr. Speaker, with questions taken out of 1968 books or journals of this Legislative Assembly and answers that the --

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

AN. HON. MEMBER:

Touchy, are you?

MR. LUDGWIG:

No, I am not touchy, but the hon. member apparently has as little regard for the truth as some of the front benchers --

[Interjections]

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. Is the hon. member speaking to a point of order?

AN. HON. MEMBER:

Withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. member wish to speak to the point of order or to continue his speech?

MR. MOORE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my speech.

MR. SPEAKER:

Perhaps we should deal with the point of order just briefly.

[Interjections]

Order please.

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition keeps mouthing off in his seat. He is apparently afraid to stand up. But what the hon. Member for Mountain View has said is strictly unparliamentary, and he should be required to withdraw. If the gentlemen opposite are so sensitive about their peculiar tactics, we can't help it.

MR. HENDERSON:

Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member who uttered the remark on this side said something to the effect that the gentleman, the member who was speaking on the Throne debate, was about as well acquainted with the truth as the gentlemen in the front bench are. And if the -- that's the way I heard it. Mr. Speaker, that's the way I heard it. I think we should await the examination of the transcript, because it is certainly my recollection

of the statement. And if the Deputy Premier chooses not to like it, it simply shows how well he is acquainted with the truth.

MR. SPEAKER:

With regard to the first point, as to whether the hon. members opposite are making a mockery of the Order Paper, I would have to say that it is probably not in order to say that, since they are not responsible for the Order Paper, but rather the Speaker and his staff.

But as far as the second point is concerned, with regard to the equal regard or disregard for the truth of the hon. member speaking and of the members in the front bench, I would have to say that the practical implication to be drawn from that remark is that both the hon. member speaking and the occupants of the front bench have little regard for the truth, inasmuch as the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View would not have drawn attention to it had he thought they had a great regard for the truth.

MR. MOORE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly didn't intend to insult members opposite. What I was alluding to, Mr. Speaker, and I wanted to continue on on this subject, but in a slightly different tone -- is that, I would hope that the House Leader on the government side, in the event that there is a continuation of filling the Order Paper with questions would see fit to have a determined look at the possibility of some rule changes so that we might debate these very important motions at 10:30 o'clock on Thursday night or some time such as that.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have too much time left. I would like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by talking about two or three things that have happened in my constituency during the past year. I remember standing in this Legislature about a year ago now and expressing my concern to the front bench members and the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development regarding construction of a senior citizens home in my constituency, a home which has been asked for for 20 odd years, a home about which the former government said, no you don't need it -- you are in Falher or McLennan, you can go to Grande Prairie or High Prairie, or you can send your senior citizens away, if you like. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to note that the construction of that home will begin within the next two months and it should be complete and ready for occupancy in 1973.

I'd like to mention one other item that hasn't had a great deal of comment here in the Legislature but it has certainly been of tremendous value in my constituency and in many areas of rural Alberta. I refer to the changes that took place with regard to school financing. I recall in my constituency, and in many other areas of the Peace River country, the old structure with regard to financing of the operational classrooms, called the Classroom Unit Grant. It was so bad for many of our separate school systems and smaller school jurisdictions, they finally began to call it the Clark plan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have recognized the need for a shift in attitudes. We recognize the need for a per pupil grant system, a system which will allow small schools in rural Alberta to maintain their identity and maintain their ability to service the residents in their community. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, no longer will the only criterion in education be the addition of another yellow school bus.

Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of other things I'd like to mention with regard to some of the members' remarks this afternoon. The hon. Member --

MR. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member able to conclude shortly, and has he the leave of the House to conclude?

MR. MOORE:

If I could have about 30 seconds, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

MR. HENDERSON:

You've already wasted that much.

MR. SPEAKER:

I regret that without --

[Interjections]

--Order, please. I regret --

[Interjections]

--Order, please. I regret that without the unanimous leave of the House I am unable to bend the rules.

It has been moved by the hon. Member for Edmonton Calder, seconded by the hon. Member for Stettler, that an humble address be presented by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say aye.

Those opposed please say no.

[The motion was carried.]

[A number of members rose, calling for a division. The division bell was rung.]

[Three minutes having elapsed, the House divided as follows:

For the amendment:

Adair	Dickie	Hyndman	Peacock
Appleby	Doan	Jamison	Purdy
Ashton	Farran	King	Russell
Backus	Fluker	Koziak	Schmid
Batiuk	Foster	Lee	Stromberg
Chambers	Getty	Leitch	Topolnisky
Chichak	Hansen	Lougheed	Trynchy
Cookson	Harle	McCrimmon	Warrack
Copithorne	Hohol	Miller, J.	Young
Crawford	Horner	Miniely	Yurko
Diachuk	Hunley	Moore	Zander

Against the amendment:

Anderson	Dixon	Mandeville	Speaker
Barton	Drain	Miller, D.	Strcm
Benoit	French	Notley	Taylor
Buckwell	Henderson	Ruste	Wilson
Clark	Ho Lem	Sorenson	Wyse
Cooper	Ludwig		

Totals: Ayes - 44 Noes - 22]

[The motion was carried.]

#### GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

3. The Honourable Premier proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Dr. Horner:

That the Address be engrossed and presented to His Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor by such Members as are Members of the Executive Council.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table with the Legislature the Public Accounts of the Province of Alberta for the year ended March 31, 1972.

4. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Mr. Miniely:

That the Public Accounts of the province, together with all matters connected therewith, be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

[The motion was carried.]

5. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Mr. Miniely:

That this Assembly do resolve itself into Committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 5:30 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard the motion by the hon. Government House Leader, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House stands adjourned until 8:00 o'clock this evening.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair at 5:10 o'clock.]