

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Wednesday, March 7, 1973

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 12

The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Amendment Act, 1973

MR. HARLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill being The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Amendment Act, 1973. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to update existing legislation and to permit easier access to the funds by injured people. It will put into effect the practice which is being used by the administrator in paying funds when the injured person is unable to make the application himself.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 12 was introduced and read a first time.]

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by my colleague the Minister of Advanced Education, that this bill, Bill No. 12, be moved under Government Bills and Orders on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER:

Having heard the motion by the hon. Minister of Highways, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

[The motion was carried.]

Bill No. 203 An Act to Amend The Clean Air Act

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 203, An Act to amend The Clean Air Act. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Act is to guarantee citizen involvement in environmental control, to make sure -- or at least ensure through legislative protection -- that no employer will refuse to employ, threaten dismissal of or discriminate against any person who provides information dealing with environmental control.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 203 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill No. 204 An Act to Amend The Clean Water Act

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 204, An Act to amend The Clean Water Act. Mr. Speaker, the principle contained in this act is the same as in Bill No. 203.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 204 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill No. 13
The Health and Social Development Statutes Amendment Act, 1973

MR. ASHTON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Health and Social Development Statutes Amendment Act, 1973. The act has three distinct parts.

The first part is to amend The Cancer Treatment and Prevention Act. This will remove the uncertainty of appointing the board members at the pleasure of the minister, to provide that they have fixed terms which should give them more autonomy.

The second part deals with an amendment to The Hospital Visitors Committee Act, which will be a welcome extension of the powers of the Alberta Hospital Visitors Committee to visit places like nursing homes and senior citizens homes.

The third part of the act, Mr. Speaker, provides for an amendment to The Public Contributions Act, which will enhance local autonomy further by giving the final decision to the municipal governments with respect to the local charity appeals that are conducted within those municipalities.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 13 was introduced and read a first time.]

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 13, An Act to Amend The Health and Social Development Statutes Amendment Act be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[The motion was carried.]

Bill No. 205, An Act to Protect Private Land From Trespass

MR. STROMBERG:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being An Act to Protect Private Land From Trespass. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to deal with the problem of trespassing as it pertains to farm and ranch lands.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 205 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill No. 7, The Agricultural Societies Amendment Act, 1973

MR. J. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Agricultural Societies Amendment Act, 1973. The purpose of this bill is to allow agricultural societies to conduct and promote horse racing. It also allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to authorize the minister to make grants to agricultural societies, and it increases the government guaranteed loans from \$10 million to \$15 million.

[Leave being granted, Bill No. 7 was introduced and read a first time.]

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member responsible for rural development, Mr. Topolnisky, that Bill No. 7, The Agricultural Societies Amendment Act, 1973, be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[The motion was carried.]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the hon. members of the Legislature a very distinguished group of young men and men from St. Mary's Salesian Junior High School. This group is in both galleries, the public and the members and is 116 strong. They are in Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. St. Mary's Salesian Junior High School is not only noted for its academic achievement, but also for its sports achievements. Their bantam and midget teams are at the top of the league in their respective leagues in Edmonton. In softball in the summer, and baseball and basketball, they have excelled

themselves and they also include in their course of studies a course on religion. At least two years ago a Protestant boy won the award in religious instruction which shows the high calibre of teaching that goes on at this school and that they do a tremendous job.

I would also like to say that along with the group are Rev. Father Louis Liberati, the director, Rev. Father Richard, Rev. Father Claude, Brother Joe Lockwood, Brother Bob Hennings, Brother Joe Boenzi, Brother Vic Tousignant, Brother Ed Berlongill and Brother Roger Charbonneau.

The group is also distinguished by the addition of three other people. The young man who recently arrived from Hong Kong by the name of Francis, who speaks very little English, is with us -- a very, very personable young lad who, I am sure, will become an excellent Canadian citizen. The group is also joined by a young man from Thorsby by the name of Holger and the group also has among its number the son of our hon. Mr. Speaker.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce to you and all Assembly members some 20 lively and alert students from Grade 8 in Westminster Junior High School in the constituency of Edmonton Glenora. They are accompanied by their staff member Mrs. J. Shewchuk. They are in the public gallery and I would ask that they stand and receive recognition from the Assembly at this time.

FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table for the Assembly an important document of the province entitled The Manpower Policy of The Government of Alberta.

MR. FARRAN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table Return No. 135 concerning the questions asked by the hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

I also beg leave to table the answer to Question 105 asked by the hon. Member for Drumheller.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Craig Case

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question and one or two supplementals to the hon. Attorney General. I wonder if the Attorney General could advise the House as to whether he personally examined the evidence before the charges were laid in the matter of fraud and criminal negligence in the case of Dr. Craig?

MR. LEITCH:

Not at all, Mr. Speaker, in the case of fraud. I had some discussion about the evidence in the case of the other charge, but I wouldn't certainly call it a personal examination.

MR. HENDERSON:

Supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Could the Attorney General, or possibly one of the ministers or the Premier advise as to whether the government was financially supporting Dr. Craig's methadone program, either directly or indirectly through one of its boards and agencies?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I think that it can only be presumed that when Dr. Craig performed medical services he billed the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission in the way that other practitioners do and no doubt the accounts were paid over a period of years for various services. To what extent they included the services in question -- in the first question the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked -- I do not know.

MR. HENDERSON:

Would the minister know whether the Department of Social Development was paying for some of the prescriptions that were forthcoming from Dr. Craig?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer to that question.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, may I address a final question to the Attorney General as to whether the government is now considering the establishment of a judicial inquiry into the Craig case in light of the report of the Alberta Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, the report to which the hon. Opposition Leader refers is a lengthy one running to approximately 200 pages, and I received it this morning. It is a report on which obviously a great deal of work has been done. I think it deserves a very careful study and review before I make any response to it. I expect it will be through the weekend before I will be able to make a response to it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview has been on his feet several times for a supplementary, followed by the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Attorney General. Since copies were made of Dr. Craig's files, can the Attorney General advise the House whether these copies have been destroyed or what, in fact, has been done with them?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that the hon. member is correct when he says "copies were made". I will check that, and I will also have to check the question as to where they are now if they were made.

MR. NOTLEY:

Another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since undercover agents were employed by the police to obtain evidence against Dr. Craig, can the Attorney General advise the House what the policy of the government is in this province with respect to the use of undercover agents in obtaining information about Alberta citizens?

MR. SPEAKER:

This sort of question which elicits a general policy statement is the type of question which I think, according to most parliamentary precedents, is put on the Order Paper.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Attorney General. Has the Attorney General's Department carried out an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the loss of the tissue samples that made it necessary for the criminal negligence charge to be withdrawn, and who was responsible for the loss of these?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I have already commented on that. I don't know again that it is accurate to refer to them as a "loss". My memory is that they didn't follow the usual procedure in that case -- that is normally followed in a homicide case -- because at the time of the death it wasn't clear, as would be the case in homicides, for example, that there might be subsequent action. And so a somewhat different procedure was followed, and later on when they tried to trace the samples they found that as a result of not following the procedure which is followed in homicide cases, they were unable to trace them.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury and then the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, and might these be the last supplementaries on this topic.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Attorney General. Has the Attorney General's Department carried out an investigation to see what the circumstances are and who was responsible for the fraud charges getting outside the jurisdiction of the court, because they were remanded more than eight days without the approval of the defence?

MR. LEITCH:

I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, that there is any investigation involved there. They were remanded at the time the matter came up before the court and the only persons that would be involved from the Attorney General's Department would be the counsel who appeared at that time.

MR. CLARK:

It would be the counsel who appeared on behalf of the Attorney General who would be responsible?

MR. LEITCH:

I wouldn't have added the comment "responsible", Mr. Speaker, except he is there and in charge of the case. I am not sure what the hon. member implies by the word "responsible".

MR. CLARK:

Who is responsible then?

MR. LEITCH:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is talking about a responsibility, I assume, in the sense of making a mistake, and ordinarily I would agree that that is the counsel's function on the case.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview with a final supplementary.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Attorney General. In light of the very considerable criticism in the report on coroner's inquiries, has the Attorney General's Department established a review committee to assess The Coroners Act?

And while I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, if I might just ask a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Has the government considered the proposal --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. The hon. member is not asking supplementaries, he is going down a list. There is some question whether the first question is a supplementary. Perhaps the hon. minister may wish to answer it or perhaps it should be deferred to the end of the question period.

MR. LEITCH:

I assume, Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member says "report" he is referring to the report of the civil liberties group that was issued this morning. And as I said in answer to the hon. Opposition Leader this is a large report. I want to review it carefully and that's going to take me a few days.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Drumheller, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

Snowmobile Insurance

MR. TAYLOR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the hon. Attorney General. Will the snowmobilers who paid more than \$30 for their compulsory insurance this winter be refunded the extra amount that was charged in view of the recent order by the Automobile Insurance Board?

MR. SPEAKER:

It is the recollection of the Chair that this selfsame question was asked within the last few days and answered. However, if the minister wishes to answer it again --

MR. TAYLOR:

There has been no answer.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is it on the Order Paper?

MR. HENDERSON:

No.

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, when that question was asked some time ago it is my recollection that I said I would have to check the order of the board, and since that time I filed in the House the board order. I can't say from memory whether the board order covers all of the situations although it is my recollection that it does refer to a refund in the event of cancellations.

MR. TAYLOR:

A supplementary. In the event of cancellations, I was asking about the amount charged over and above the \$30.

MR. LEITCH:

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would have to check the order. I thought the order provided that there would be a refund of the excess if it were cancelled. As I said, Mr. Speaker, I would have to check the order. If it is not in that order it hasn't been dealt with yet by the board, and the board is the only one that would have the jurisdiction to deal with that particular question. So the simple answer to the hon. member's question is, that if it's not covered in the order that is filed in the House it hasn't yet been ruled on by the board and that's the only body with the authority to rule on it.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Alberta Gas Prices

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question today to the hon. the Premier. It's regarding the hon. Premier's statement during the fall session on the gas policy statement. What success have you encountered in obtaining a higher field price for Alberta gas following your statement that gas is 10 cents below fair prices, and possibly 20 cents per 1,000 below fair prices?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, it's a very important subject, and not one I think I can properly answer during the question period. It is my intention to participate during the course of the budget debate, and during the course of my remarks in

the budget debate I will deal as fully as I can with the important question the hon. member raises.

MR. DIXON:

A supplementary question to the hon. Premier. The hon. Premier of Ontario, Mr. Davis, is advocating a new national energy policy and urging the federal government to enact the same. I wondered when the hon. Premier Davis was in Edmonton did he ask you as the leader of the government to support his activities, that we prefer a national energy policy rather than a continental policy?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, my recollection of our discussions was that that specific matter was not raised by the Premier of Ontario.

MR. DIXON:

One further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the hon. Premier could answer to the House as to whether he is having strong representation for an early decision so that the gas being held up in Alberta for export will be allowed to be exported within a reasonable length of time?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, again it's a question of such significance. We, of course, are awaiting a further recommendation from the Energy Resources Conservation Board with regard to TransCanada Pipelines. As I believe hon. members are aware, there is an outstanding recommendation by the Energy Resources Conservation Board for a permit of further gas to be shipped out of this province. And that particular item has not been dealt with by the provincial government. As I mentioned in my remarks last fall, it is being held in abeyance pursuant to the statement I made last fall. There is a second application for a larger amount that is presently before the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board, regarding further export of gas from the province. We anticipate that in a matter of weeks we will hear a recommendation from the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board on that second application. After we get that we will be in a position to make a public statement as to our response both to the one that is being held in abeyance, and also the one regarding the recommendations we might receive from the energy board on the second application.

MR. DIXON:

A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Owing to the heavy reliance of our budget on natural resource development, has the hon. Premier made representations to the federal government that it is urgent that they make a decision on their policy in order that this gas can be exported, and that we can benefit rather than just say, "Well, we just want it for Canadians and we are going to hold on to it forever"?

MR. LOUGHEED:

Mr. Speaker, that is a very valid question. Again I don't think I can respond to it properly and adequately in the question period. I will take it as notice specifically and deal with it in the course of my remarks.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary McCall, followed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Agrimart

MR. HO LEM:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Originally I had a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but in his absence I would like to direct this question to hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Is the government prepared to act on behalf of the residents of Vista Heights in the City of Calgary and the Agrimart developers by persuading the federal government to withdraw its objections to this suggested alternate proposal?

MR. GETTY:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this matter has been in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but it has not been drawn to my attention by him.

MR. HO LEM:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are you aware that the residents of the area, along with the City of Calgary --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. A question which is prefaced with the words, "Are you aware" is usually the opening for making an announcement to the House. Could the hon. member please come directly to the question. Possibly if it is on the same topic, it might be saved until the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs is back in the House.

MR. HO LEM:

Mr. Speaker, will you accept this wording: "Has the information come to you that the residents of --"

MR. SPEAKER:

Will the hon. member please come directly to the question.

MR. HO LEM:

Right. Has the information come to you that the suitable --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, followed by the hon. Member for Sedgewick-Coronation.

Calgary Power

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Telephones and Utilities. Can the hon. Minister advise the House whether it is true that Calgary Power recently awarded a \$9 million contract on its Sundance project to an out-of-province contracting firm?

MR. FARRAN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I am some 36 hours in this office, I would appreciate it if the hon. member would put the question on the Order Paper and I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Sedgewick-Coronation, followed by the hon. Member for Highwood.

Nuisance Bears in Parks

MR. SORENSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Has there been any increase in the number of nuisance bears in the past year in and around our parks? I am referring specifically to attacks on humans by bears.

DR. WARRACK:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to 'bare the facts' for the House, but I am afraid I would have to check. I am not at all certain how one defines a nuisance bear, but if the hon. member would give me all the help he can in terms of exactly what his question is, I would be delighted to answer it.

MR. SORENSON:

A supplementary. I am wondering if any bears have had to be destroyed in this past year because of the nuisance factor, and what tactics are used to transport bears to other areas away from population centres?

DR. WARRACK:

I think I would have to take notice of that critical question and follow up later.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Education: Hutterite Colonies

MR. BENOIT:

My question, Mr. Speaker, is addressed to the Minister of Education. When does the department, the minister or the government intend to take action on recommendations 3 and 4 of The Communal Property Act -- I mean Communal Property report? If the minister wants, I will read that recommendation.

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said he was directing his question to the Minister of Education. He's been looking straight at me all the time and I don't know why.

[Laughter]

MR. BENOIT:

I'm sorry.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I realize I have a somewhat thin physique, but I thought I was still visible!

We have been continually and continuously, Mr. Speaker, looking into those recommendations as they pertain to education, and it will certainly be a matter of ongoing consultation and review.

MR. BENOIT:

Supplementary question, has the minister any date when this will be done -- I mean with regard to possibility of this session?

MR. HYNDMAN:

It's very difficult, Mr. Speaker, to set an exact date. These matters will take some time, but I think the targets and the suggestions which have been stated by the committee and the recommendations they have made are in progress now.

Certainly we are aware of the recommendation concerning the apparent need for changes in education as presented to those students who are on Hutterite colonies. We're viewing the various alternatives as to ways in which that might be improved with regard to such things as curriculum and the standards of teachers, this kind of thing.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Agricultural and Vocational Colleges

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Advanced Education. I would like to ask the Minister if the Department of Advanced Education is giving serious consideration to changing the governing apparatus at the Olds Agricultural and Vocational College and appointing a board of governors to look after the responsibilities of the college?

MR. FOSTER:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wrote to me on this subject a while ago and asked the same question, to which I replied, as I recall, that it was my opinion -- a personal opinion -- that some of the institutions operated by government and in particular by the Department of Advanced Education, should probably become independent institutions governed by a board of governors or some other authority, but that we had not yet examined it in detail. This is a policy matter although I have had the staffs of both NAIT and SAIT discussing this internally for over a year, and they have responded to it. Certainly the Olds College is one we'd like to look at. I recognize the hon. member's interest in having that matter resolved, and the possible clarification of the Olds College becoming independent.

I'm not trying to delay the hon. member or to add to any uncertainty that may exist in the college with respect to its status or role in the future. It is something I think we should discuss with the institutions involved, and we'll be looking into it actively, I would say, starting sometime this spring.

MR. CLARK:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Has there been any discussion between yourself and officials at the Olds College, primarily members of the academic staff?

MR. FOSTER:

No, Mr. Speaker, I have not had any discussions with any of the academic staff on this subject, other than to let my personal views be known to NAIT and SAIT since they are the largest and most complex. It is a major policy decision. It may be that it can only be applied, if accepted, to some of the institutions and not all of them. Because, as you will recall, our reorganization structure does anticipate that the department may very well continue operating certain specialized institutions. We have not yet made that decision although we recognize it as a legitimate role of government. But it is something I'm mindful of and of the member's interest in it, and I'll attempt to keep him up to date on our thinking.

MR. CLARK:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister has had no discussions with the academic staff at the Olds Agricultural Vocational College with regard to the appointment of a board of governors?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I'm incorrect. I was talking with the staff in the college about a year ago about a number of subjects. It may very well be that I raised some of my biases and opinions with them at that time. I don't specifically recall. I know I have been very open and frank about my opinions about the operations of these institutions in the hope that I would get an open and frank response from people. To be as clear as I can, I may very well have discussed it with them. I don't specifically remember.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary --

MR. NOTLEY:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in the ongoing process of consultation are you also considering Fairview and Vermilion Agricultural Colleges for a board of directors at the same time?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, talking again on hypothetical matters, but I am happy to respond: certainly the two other agricultural and vocational colleges referred to, Vermilion and Fairview, need, I think, some special assessment and consideration. In the case of Fairview, it has occurred to me that perhaps the Fairview College could be combined with other educational facilities in that region of the province, including, perhaps, the Grande Prairie College and the vocational centre at Grouard. Again, these are in the context of 'perhaps' and 'possibly'. It is something that we are studying and looking at.

I am a little concerned about the small agricultural colleges at Vermilion and Fairview, not Olds, in terms of the services they are providing educationally to their community and the numbers of students and their cost. I think this came up in the Estimates last year. No doubt it will again this year. We are examining, in particular, possible amalgamation of Fairview with other educational institutions. It is certainly no policy decision at this time, it is just being examined.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Bow, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View.

Blackfoot Trail Alignment

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Highways. Have you been invited to attend a meeting of concerned citizens in Calgary this coming Friday evening regarding the proposed Blackfoot Trail alignment?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be attending a constituency meeting in the McCall constituency this Friday.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What does the minister mean by the term "constituency meeting"?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, the term "constituency", on this side of the House, only means that of the Progressive Conservative Party.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Have you authorized use of your name as a reason for press and public attendance at this meeting?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, in regard to attending the meeting as a constituency meeting, yes.

MR. WILSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister's attendance mean that the government is reconsidering the re-alignment of the Blackfoot Trail, after it has been established by three public hearings in Calgary City Council?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Order, order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Answer the question. Answer the question.

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Calgary Bow, as a Calgary member, should know that the municipality of Calgary makes its own decisions as to where the roads go.

MR. DIXON:

A supplementary question to the minister. Could he confirm that the province does not agree with the suggestion of the Calgary officials, in particular the engineering department?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Highways -- the decision of where the roads go, where their priorities are, is left entirely in the hands of the decision of the councils elected.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, just for clarification. Doesn't the Department of Highways have to approve the plans?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, they approve the plans of what the local autonomy suggests.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View, followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge West.

Sale of Homes of Welfare Recipients

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Health and Social Development. It deals with the issue of payment of welfare to people who own their own homes and on which homes the mortgages are paid by the Department of Social Development. Would the minister advise whether there is any action taken by the government to recover for the people of the province the monies which are advanced as payments on these mortgages which, in fact, increase the equity of the owner in the property?

MR. CRAWFORD:

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to explain to the hon. member and to the House the reason why it would be that payments would sometimes be made on an agreement for sale or a mortgage of a house owned by a person who is on welfare. And it is based strictly on the economics of the situation as far as the public purse is concerned.

In other words, if it turned out that a person has an equity in a house and is living there and has a mortgage or an agreement for sale to pay, and has fallen upon hard times, and the amount of assistance if he were staying elsewhere would cost the department -- say, \$175 per month for rental, the department will consider if it is more economical in the overall picture, whether it would be close to as economical, or more economical than that type of rental. Then they will consider making the same payment to the mortgage company rather than to some landlord for that recipient. But the practice is to file a caveat against the property showing that the public treasury has, in fact, made this type of payment.

As far as recovery of those amounts put out as welfare payments is concerned, I can't give the hon. member any figures on that today. I have not looked into the question of how much of it is actually recovered. But the intention is, by filing the caveat at the time the property is sold, or perhaps the person dies and there is an estate of which this is an asset, the claim filed on behalf of the department is paid or settled at that time.

MR. LUDWIG:

Supplementary to the hon. minister. Who determines whether a caveat is, in fact, filed against a property? Is it through the minister's office, or is it some official in the department?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I don't personally determine those. I would say that in the last year and a half one or two cases have come to my attention. I don't know if there have been any more that have crossed my desk where this was an issue. I indicated on those occasions that my presumption was that claims would be filed in an ordinary case.

As to other deliberations, if there are cases where some other decision has been taken, these are matters I don't have sufficiently at my fingertips to answer the hon. gentleman fully at this time.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. Has it not been brought to the hon. minister's attention that there are homes --

MR. SPEAKER:

Order please. This is the type of question that preceeds an announcement.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to re-word my supplementary question. Has the minister received notice of any houses sold which have been paid for through welfare payments but against which no caveats have been filed to protect the public?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not have in mind any such incident having come to my attention. If the hon. member is referring to a specific incident he knows of, it is entirely possible that my office could have received a letter or something to that effect on such points. But I can tell him that such a point has not come to my personal attention.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Lethbridge West, followed by the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

School Board Elections

MR. GRUENWALD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Minister, is it your intention to bring about changes in The School Elections Act that would permit school board elections to be held at a time other than civic elections, as suggested in your Education Week broadcast?

MR. HYNDMAN:

Not during this spring session of the Legislature, Mr. Speaker. But it may well be a subject on which I would comment or perhaps offer an initial statement of the government's position with a view to considering legislation in future years.

MR. GRUENWALD:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What would the cost of such elections be, if they were held separately from civic elections? Could you give us an idea?

MR. HYNDMAN:

I don't have any figures, Mr. Speaker, on what the cost might be. Certainly, there would be some extra cost. But that would have to be balanced against the argument in favour of separate elections which is, essentially, that the degree of emphasis and attention given to school trustees would then, hopefully, be equal to that now given to those involved with municipal matters.

There are ways -- I think if the election was held, perhaps, three or four weeks after a municipal vote -- where the enumeration could be simplified. But at the moment I think it can be concluded that the attention paid by voters to school trustees is somewhat submerged under the votes in respect to the aldermen and the county councillors. In my view the matters dealing with education are at least equal to those dealt with by municipal councillors.

MR. GRUENWALD:

A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What advantage do you see in the Ward system you suggested for school elections?

MR. HYNDMAN:

That is another subject, Mr. Speaker, which I suggested the boards and the public as well should consider in the sense that in very large school districts, such as very large cities, there is very little or not enough contact between school trustees and the individual electors who, in a small centre, can go down

the street to see their school trustee, thereby giving a greater quality of representation. This was a suggestion I made to the larger boards for their consideration, in addition to the suggestion that perhaps we should think about electing a chairman of the school board at large.

MR. CLARK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Education. Are you giving the same kind of consideration to the possibility of holding school elections in rural areas of the province, especially under the county system?

MR. HYNDMAN:

Yes, I realize there are some special difficulties with respect to the county system insofar as these proposals are involved. But that shouldn't preclude us from having a useful and continuing public discussion on the issue because if the principle is good, a way to implement it would be found.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Transportation of Oil

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Highways. Last fall, hon. Minister, you made a statement that Arctic oil could be moved by truck rather than by pipeline. My question is, did your department have a feasibility study done on this before you made this statement?

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I presume that the hon. Member for Clover Bar is referring to an article that was written in a newspaper. I did not make that statement, but it was reported that way. I think it dealt with the movement of oil out of the Northwest Territories.

DR. BUCK:

A supplementary. Is your department considering doing a feasibility study on moving oil by truck rather than by pipeline?

MR. COPITHORNE:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

Government Rental of Private Property

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Public Works. During the fall session, Mr. Minister, I asked you a question regarding the renting of property at Smoky Lake and the agreement between Mr. Kaban and the government. The hon. minister stated that he would either be compensated or the lease would be carried forward. My question today is, has there been a settlement with Mr. Kaban and is the government going to rent his property?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, when I answered this question previously I stated at that time that an agreement had been entered into or had been arranged with Mr. Kaban, using a technique that had been previously used for the renting of space in smaller communities, that this government was not satisfied with the fairness of this method and that therefore we were proposing to adopt a method of tendering for space. Select tenders were put out. We have received those tenders, they have been considered, and now an arrangement is being entered into with Mr. Kaban in completing the arrangements now with him to rent the space.

It will continue to be this government's policy to use this method of tendering for space, rather than the method of private arrangements between agents from the department and individuals in the communities.

MR. DIXON:

My supplementary question to the minister is: in what position does it put a person bidding on your contracts, when you have already got a signed agreement? Would he be excluded from re-bidding again? Why would he re-bid when he already had a contract?

DR. BACKUS:

Mr. Speaker, I should correct the hon. member. He had no signed contract. No contract had been entered into with Mr. Kaban. I just said an arrangement had been entered into with him. But there was no signed contract and therefore he was not prevented from re-tendering when tenders were issued.

MR. HENDERSON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the minister as to whether or not there wasn't some recent correspondence expressing the intention of the government relative to the utilization of these particular facilities?

DR. BACKUS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was correspondence and Mr. Kaban was put completely in the picture of what we are proposing to do in this case. We not only contacted him but his lawyer as well.

MR. HENDERSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Had the gentleman not been given a directive to proceed with the alterations to his building prior to the decision to tender?

DR. BACKUS:

As I was saying, this was under the previous system in which, in fact, procedures are gone through in inviting the individual to provide a suitable type of accommodation whether it requires alteration or not. It had been gone through to this point but no agreement had been reached under the circumstances, and it was therefore felt that to permit tenders would be a much fairer and a much more above board method of doing it. Had the tenders gone against Mr. Kaban I am sure that suitable compensation would have been paid to him for the work he had undertaken in an effort to try and arrange for us to use his space previously. However, as I have just said, we will now be entering into an agreement with Mr. Kaban for renting his space.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, if we are now entering into an agreement, what is the contracting business for, because the original undertaking related to an agreement?

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is a good question.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question to the minister -- and it is in order to clear the air on this more than anything else that I ask this question of the hon. minister. Were there representations made to you or to any other cabinet minister, to your knowledge, that this particular letter of commitment either be delayed or not implemented by your department?

DR. BACKUS:

The letter of commitment had been sent but this is not an agreement. This is a letter of commitment. It was as a result of this letter that representation was made and brought to our attention the unfair nature of this type of arrangement. I might say that with this particular situation that occurred here it was very much brought to our attention and subsequently other cases have been brought to our attention that this old method of obtaining space in small communities was not only unfair but laid itself wide open to criticism from all sides, because it really didn't acknowledge the fact that other people

who perhaps were not approached should have the opportunity to offer their accommodation to the government as well.

MR. SPEAKER:

Might this be the last supplementary on this topic, if it is a supplementary.

MR. DIXON:

Yes, it's a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and I was just wondering from the statement the hon. minister is making, are there any instances since last year, other than Smoky Lake, where we have used this method, where we have had a letter of commitment and then we decided that was the old way and we are going to change it?

MR. SPEAKER:

This would appear to be the type of question that should be put on the Order Paper. It should be related to a time frame as to what period of time the hon. member wishes to have covered by the inquiry.

The hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood with a final question.

Mobility Payments - Grande Cache Miners

MRS. CHICHAK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour. Can the minister advise what success may have been arrived at in relocating those employees from the McIntyre Porcupine mines whose employment has been terminated?

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, a team of cabinet ministers will be in Grande Cache in the forenoon of this Friday. Therefore, a very specific kind of question can be answered thereafter. In the meantime I can report just a bit more than I did last week.

The committee that is set up for working out the problems of relocation of the miners who have been laid off has had some reasonable success. There are some problems that have to do with the interpretation of The Federal Manpower Labour Act concerning mobility payments from one place to another, and the definition of what is the location for which payment could be made -- whether it is the closest job available or the closest desirable job available, or, in fact, back home, in the province or outside the province. However, to be more specific, a fair proportion of the people who were laid off have been employed by other mining companies, notably Kaiser of British Columbia.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, can the hon. minister advise what the present situation is with Canada Manpower, and when he will be able to straighten out this problem of the mobility payment, because it is causing some concern?

DR. HOHOL:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, one of the problems and questions on the agenda which we now have before us for the meeting on Friday has this very problem on it. So I will have a personal opportunity to study, understand and attempt to influence this problem of mobility and the complexities that seem to have arisen due to the fact that it has been interpreted in two or three ways.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

3. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Dr. Horner.

That the Report of the Special Committee be now received and concurred in.

MR. HYNDMAN:

The hon. members will recall that on Monday the hon. Member for Lacombe, Mr. Cookson, tabled the report which sets forth lists of the names of members of the Assembly to serve on the Standing Committees.

MR. SPEAKER:

I assume that the Special Committee is sufficiently identified for the record?

Having heard the motion by the hon. Government House Leader, seconded by the hon. Attorney General do you all agree.

[The motion was carried.]

4. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly, seconded by Dr. Horner.

That commencing on Friday, March 9, 1973, and on Friday thereafter for the duration of the current session, the House shall meet for the conduct of business at 1:00 p.m. and shall stand adjourned at 4:00 p.m. until the following Monday.

MR. HYNDMAN:

I might mention, Mr. Speaker, that this has been a matter discussed informally by members on both sides of the House. I believe there is general support for those hours on Friday, and the changes will be received by both sides of the House. The way the motion reads this would apply to the fall session this year as well as the spring session.

MR. SPEAKER:

I'm sorry, I didn't get the name of the seconder on this one.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Dr. Horner.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the motion. I appreciate the move made by the government, but I would like to recommend that they give consideration to moving the sittings on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. rather than from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is an advantage, I think. We would gain an hour of work in the Legislature and it would also give the MLAs who do not live in Edmonton an opportunity to perhaps take more time in their constituencies.

I do know that there are problems in doing this, that some committees might have to be dislodged and sit at some other time. The cabinet may find that they may be too busy to sit on Friday morning, but I think that the priority should go to the business of the House. It would help tremendously the members who don't live in Edmonton in avoiding the heavy traffic they have to face when they leave at 4:00 o'clock and travel several hours, some of them, toward their homes. Also, as I stated, they would have more time on constituency work which is considered very essential by all members.

I believe that perhaps the objection to this might be from the public accounts committee, but it is just as easy to sit in public accounts after 1:00 o'clock as it is in the morning until lunchtime. So that is not an insurmountable barrier, and although I am not opposing this motion I would just like to bring it to the attention of the House as I believe a lot of the hon. members would appreciate this move. It would not be against the interests of the business of the House, and I think it would be in the public interest if this factor were given consideration.

MR. HYNDMAN:

In closing debate, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that we will certainly think about that. There are pros and cons, of course, to any hour which we may want to sit or change, but at the end of this session we would give consideration to that suggestion and any others of a similar nature.

[The motion was carried.]

2. Hon. Mr. Miniely moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Dowling.

That this House approves in general the fiscal policies of the government.

[Adjourned debate: Hon. Dr. Hohol]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, I regret that other duties have taken the Provincial Treasurer out of the House, but he may catch some of the flavour of what I have to say from Hansard. His address last Friday has been rather consistently referred to as confident. I should like to add that confidence comes from both the individual, the hon. Gordon Miniely, but also from the way the final document, the budget itself, was put together. A document such as that is the result of many many hours of work by the appropriate minister, by the priorities committee, by the various ministers and their staffs, and by the Premier.

I can say very sincerely that once you set priorities, once government and the MLAs feel that they have the pulse of the Province of Alberta and set the priorities of a kind that the people would, if they could get together, all of them, and have the opportunity to decide what it is that in today's Alberta really matters to Albertans -- that is the set of priorities we would have. Once you have reached that conclusion, an exhilarating, challenging and somewhat humbling kind of experience, the preparation of a budget becomes not simple at all. In fact it is quite complex. But it falls into perspective and I want to say that the experience for me, as it has been for my other colleagues, has been a great one, as we have worked with mutual respect for each other in the functions which we represent in government, but being very aware that priorities have been set and that these dictate the kind of budget that we finally bring down.

On a personal note I couldn't help but think last Friday of the speech bringing down the budget in Ottawa; it was an address that reflected anything but confidence. I have had the privilege to meet the hon. John Turner and think well of him. But when a man is placed in a position of having on the one hand to balance Conservative task proposals and policies with the NDP state-controlled doctrinaire concepts of how to deal with the citizen and the corporation, there is just no way that Mr. Turner could reflect confidence for himself or his government. And so I find it important to comment on this matter of the confidence of the person and the budget itself and the government which brought down that particular document. I commend and congratulate the hon. Gordon Miniely and my colleagues and the hon. the Premier who personally spent many, many hours in drafting and assisting in both the direction of the priorities and the setting of the budget.

Now a personal note, if I may, Mr. Speaker. The orders of the House or the approach of the House don't permit one who introduces guests to say what his relationship with the guests happens to be. I should like -- and I know I won't be thanked for it -- to comment on the fact that long before I was the representative of Edmonton Belmont, in which happens to be located the St. Mary's boy's school whose staff and students were in the Assembly today, and long before I was in the Legislature, I was well aware -- because I was in education for those many years -- of the intensive and persistent and many years of very committed service that the hon. Member for Drumheller supplied to that particular school, as you yourself know, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to comment about Edmonton Belmont. It's a constituency that is unique in at least one way. It is one of the five new additional constituencies; it isn't one that was reshaped from others. Apart from a few blocks, it is one of the new ones that were added in the redistribution some months before the last election. Situated on the northeast end of Edmonton, it is a long way from downtown and has the problems and the needs that suburban communities have. It is characterized by youthful parents,

young people, upwardly mobile, bright, positively aggressive, who have a definition of life which is rather peculiar to the community. As I visited over 9,000 homes -- and someone spoke about 2 pairs of shoes -- I guess there is something the matter with the way I walk, I guess I was pounding the cement just a bit harder, I wore out 3 1/2 pair of shoes. In visiting over 9,000 homes, Mr. Speaker, I found many definitions of these by the people of that area. But there was one that was overriding and I should like to mention it. It had to do with the quality of life, and especially the quality of life for children. The older folks, like me, and a little younger, and a bit older -- and there aren't too many of those in Edmonton Belmont, most of them are young people with young children -- who said, "Well, we can look after ourselves. We've had our opportunities, we've had our chances. But we want, and we need the help to develop a real quality of life for our children." And even though I have spent my entire life working with children and with the parents of children, I was never so impressed as I was with the collective interpretation and definition of this community for its children. And I am sure that is the case across this province.

Now in Edmonton Belmont there are certain things from the budget that must have fallen, and I've been at one meeting since then, last Friday. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the matter of early childhood education is one that my constituency will support and be most happy about. The parent Co-Operative Kindergarten Association of Greater Edmonton has 800 students in 23 kindergartens and at least 10 more are due to open next week.

I congratulate the Minister of Education that he is aware that in addition to the school systems, people such as private agencies and kindergarten co-operatives or early-childhood associations have a great deal to offer to the matter of preparing children before they begin their formal education. Above all, I would think the people of Edmonton Belmont will feel extremely fond and close to the government because of this step forward the government has taken and has reflected in the budget.

It will, too Mr. Speaker, congratulate this government and feel very kindly about the matter of urban transportation, because we are a long way from downtown. The constituency begins a long way northeast and extends into the countryside, where there are sub-divisions and, in fact, acreages. And so the matter of urban transportation as defined in the budget address in one of some consequence to my constituents.

I address myself this afternoon to the Minister of Transport and Highways, and hope that in the 45 per cent increase that the budget reflects, the residents of your constituency and mine are, in part at least, benefactors.

Because of the nature of north-south and east-west travel in northeast Edmonton, it is difficult, it is slow in the morning and in the evening. Major streets and avenues...[Inaudible]... are slowed down by necessary things like red lights, green lights, stop and don't go. I hope that part of this 45 per cent increase finds its way to Edmonton Belmont. And on behalf of those who have to make decisions in the city and in the province and elsewhere, I speak for the residents for Edmonton Belmont because this is a very clear and specific need. It is likely that the plans that we are aware of now come close, at least in intent, to supplying this kind of need to the people in northeast Edmonton.

Also because we are a long way from downtown Edmonton recreation, another aspect and an important one in the matter of the quality of life is important to the people of Edmonton Belmont.

So the announcement with respect to parks is a very happy one. It is rather unusual that we thought of parks as somewhere out in the country. I suppose in some ways, most of us grew up in the parks, because where I lived out on the farm we were surrounded by trees and creeks where we could get out and get lost in the solitude of the countryside and this was unique at that particular time. Those needs we all have. The city somehow became defined as great masses of concrete, either flat or moving upward. The definition of city life as including large areas for parks is nearly something like breaking the sound barrier. I congratulate the government and the opposition support on the matter of urban parks.

Edmonton Belmont needs large spaces for playing fields, for hockey facilities closed-in, so that children don't play ten games in one year because it is either too cold or it is snowing too hard, or it is too warm. I think in the city we need more closed-in rinks. Certainly we need more swimming pools in the northeast end of the city, as I am sure we do in other areas. But somehow when we build a new part of a city, we seem to reflect the proposition that it has to wait for its turn. Mr. Speaker, I don't hold that view at all, any more

than a school class should wait for its science equipment to build up over a period of years, rather than having it all there on the first day for its full benefit.

In the same way, I feel our new subdivisions, when they are developed in our urban centres, should initially be developed fully so the children, as they grow, don't miss out on the whole opportunity to live fully and live well, and to live in the open spaces and be able to play and swim. I think it is a sad comment on the way we have set our values over the years that youngsters seven, eight, and nine years old have to travel from Edmonton to as far as Sherwood Park to practise hockey at 5:00 o'clock in the morning.

DR. BUCK:

Tofield, too.

DR. HOHOL:

Tofield, too? All right, I'll accept that.

It's simply not good enough. I'm not a proponent nor an opponent of professional hockey at all. I'm much more concerned that people learn how to skate because it is a reasonable thing to be able to do, as it is to swim, or run or walk. But it is no accident, Mr. Speaker, that most of our professional hockey players are not from Calgary and Edmonton, but from the smaller towns where they have ice available to them from morning till night, Saturday and Sunday. In the cities we can't develop hockey, or swimming or runners, or hardly any kind of sport to the level of excellence if you have to wait your turn until you get so bored you forget why you are in the line-up, and expect to eat or get paid when you finally find it's your turn at whatever it is for which you came.

So I plead, then, Mr. Speaker, for more facilities for the urban -- and not in any way to prejudice the rural which is so much a part of my background. I see he is smiling -- he agrees. He agrees with my rural background, I guess. That's what you were talking about. Thank you. I recognized, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's handclap, and I'll remember it for a while and see when I can get back at him.

I recommend to those who have the decisions to make -- possibly between recreation and city hall and the school boards of Edmonton -- that the facility at M.E. Lazerte, built so many years ago with accommodation for a regulation-size swimming pool, be moved on. On the matter of priorities, one year here, one year there, this city and this province would have to live a long time. The youngsters who should now use the facilities will be making the judgments in a few years where those facilities will have to go. I don't think that's good enough.

I should like to comment, carefully -- but comment -- on the matter of community use of schools. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to sound somewhat like the hon. Member for Cardston -- I don't know if he is away because I'm here -- but in any case I recall when I went to school as a student, and when I taught in the country, somehow when there needed to be a meeting the school was always open at the right time. We would have a meeting, and when the meeting was over you'd go and someone would put out the fire and the lights. There was no big hassle.

But something happens as we urbanize and become metropolitan and become sophisticated. We begin to divide up labour into discreet parts and begin to account for the dollar so carefully, forgetting that it's out of the same pocket. Something happens. The school then is no longer the community school, but belongs to the management of the schools.

I do not say this without the awareness that many schools in the large urban centres and in the smaller ones are open, and the schools are lit day and night. But what I am speaking of is the kind of arrangement where things like community centres and libraries and schools can so be put together that they can be used by the total community.

It saddened me a long time ago and it saddens me still to see the community centre closed all day for the most part -- except sometimes for ladies skating or figure skating -- and the schools bulging at the seams. Then after 4:00 o'clock the school shuts down and is locked up, and the same population of children -- by and large the same population -- shifts over a few yards into the community league. It seems to me that many of these accommodations could be built together, and surely people of good intent and with long range planning

can use facilities to better advantage by working out proposals to do exactly that. Again, I commend the Minister of Education whose speeches, documents and policies appear to be encouraging the schools and communities of this province to get together and use the facilities to better advantage around the clock, including Saturdays.

In summarizing the needs of my constituency, Mr. Chairman, we are far enough from the downtown area to really require a large recreation area, something like the ones -- if you are familiar with them -- at Jasper Place and Coronation Park here in Edmonton. Because we are so far away, and because there are many children and a large number of young people, the facilities are simply inadequate for the kind of quality of life that I feel I read very accurately when I campaigned in my constituency and when I did a considerable amount of work there since that time.

Again, in speaking of the quality of life, the provincial programs in the Throne Speech and naturally in the Budget Address reflect that very kind of attitude. Because so many of my colleagues have referred to them, I will be extremely brief. But I feel strongly about the ones that I do mention.

Certainly I feel strongly about some in the area of health and welfare -- the emphasis on hospital services, alcoholism and drug abuse, health care insurance, The Mental Health Act and handicapped services. I believe the hon. Minister of Health and Welfare has a quiet but uncanny way of being impressed with the needs of those who are unfortunate, and he is just as uncanny in being able to find facilities which apparently exist. He is not building new ones in any substantial way, but he finds facilities, staff and financial resources to move in quickly to alleviate severe problems. There are those who say that the most you can do for certain of those who are unfortunate is act as a custodian. I reject that outright.

The time does not permit me to document current research in this area, but I just want to say very pointedly, Mr. Chairman, that many, if not most of the children and grown-ups who are handicapped in one way or another, regardless of how severely, can be assisted in a very significant way.

In agriculture, the family farm development, the rural development, marketing, irrigation, commodity support, product development, communications, the agriculture development corporations and lands and forests initiatives are things that make the budget a current one.

With regard to the environment, water resource development, conservation concepts and practices, grazing development and reforestation are programs that are completely in the interest of the people, quite apart from a host of others such as regulations for garbage containers. These and other things the hon. minister has piloted through this House and is effecting so successfully in the province.

In transportation, the urban funds rose from \$11 million to \$16 million. Road development at the local level is extremely important plus the development of two northern highways near Fort McMurray and north of Lesser Slave Lake. In education there are some bold steps in the early childhood education area for pre-school and handicapped children. Elementary and secondary education grants went up more than \$24 million to \$255 million. There are those who say that we are trying to stifle post-secondary education. I see here, quite the contrary, a real potential to develop. Emphasis on parental involvement and work with disadvantaged children continues to be found throughout the speeches and the work and the attitude of the Minister of Education.

In the area of the fiscal no-tax increases with reduced capital borrowing, increased municipal assistance -- mines and minerals, 30 per cent source of our revenue, a remarkable job of developing in this direction.

In the municipality, the matter of tax reform so many people said, "This just can't be done, the matter of reducing the taxes on residences. I have heard since I was a youngster, you simply can't do it." Well, we simply have done it.

Low cost housing -- I commend this approach because there are so many people who need it. This will make it possible for people generally. It will make it possible for the Metis people to be recognized as people who have a serious problem and a government that responds to it.

I must say that I know something about low-cost housing. One of my old friends, the former Chief Commissioner for the City of Edmonton, had a strong feel for low-cost housing and I support it too. It is just that he found a lot

of empty space in my constituency and placed about 70 per cent of the low-cost housing in that area. So while I am for low-cost housing, I would like to spread some of it around and I offer, Mr. Speaker, the next round of intensive low-cost housing developments.

I should like to comment, Mr. Speaker, on the work of the members of the Legislative Assembly. And in making reference to three, I pay tribute to all. You will understand that it would take the rest of the time I have if I were to comment on the work of each.

But you will recall the speeches by the hon. Members for Smoky River, Ponoka, and Calgary McKnight. I just chose one from the country, and one from a town, and one from the city, and each in a different way because each works with a different area, a different constituent group. By their speeches I know their performances on home base reflect the kind of work and the attitude of our MLAs, not only in the House but back home in their constituencies representing their people. So I pay tribute to these three who did such an exemplary job here on the floor of the House, as I do also to my colleagues, the MLAs.

[Applause]

I did all right on that one. In my notes it said here "pause for applause."

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak about some of the responsibilities of the Manpower and Labour Department on behalf of government and the people of Alberta. You will recall that not so long ago we reorganized into three divisions, those of manpower, labour and safety. Because The Labour Act and The Workmen's Compensation Act are up for review and will be reported directly to the Legislature, I will make no comment about them although these are areas I would be very happy to speak about.

As I move into this, like my colleague, the hon. Don Getty, I too feel that sometimes it is proper to remind ourselves that some of our senior and other staff are a great asset to the work of government. Some of my senior people have forgotten the meaning of Saturday, I hope they remember the meaning of Sunday. They forget the meaning of half past four or half past five, and come back at night to work, and work, and work. I want to make that comment because it is a proper and a fair one.

In the talk this afternoon I should like to speak in some detail and at some length with respect to manpower as it relates to our development of a new service, and as it relates to employment and unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, in the foreword to the manpower policy of the government the hon. Premier introduced a document with the following statements:

The Government of Alberta is committed to developing and maintaining the highest possible levels of employment in the province. Along with this is a commitment to move in new directions required to meet such challenges as welfare costs ...

And by the way, Mr. Speaker, and ladies and gentlemen of the Assembly, the number of people on welfare dropped during the month of February.

"Programs of training and retraining," and I will just editorialize on this one by saying that quite apart from the criticism that we get on this this does prepare people to be more mobile because they are equipped to do more things than they have done before. So they can follow the jobs much more effectively and adequately if they are better prepared.

"Hiring preferences for Albertans, employment problems faced by the handicapped and those over 45 years of age --" and you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the conference that the hon. Premier convened about a month ago with the business people, the labour people and with some people over 45 years of age, some of whom were employed and some of whom were unemployed. It was a very, very successful and fruitful conference and one which will be followed up.

"Programs for new job creation": it was this commitment that resulted in a decision to develop a comprehensive manpower program in Alberta. Its major function is to co-ordinate all manpower programs in Alberta. A major objective is to ensure that the Departments of Industry, Advanced Education, Agriculture and all departments of government that have to do with jobs and training have a lynchpin through our department so we have a co-ordinating function in that respect.

Let me illustrate, Mr. Speaker, by following up on a question that was asked this week with respect to how we are getting along in preparing workers for the Syncrude project. I want it to be clear that these matters are under consideration and discussion and are not finalized policy. This is important.

The manpower training related to tar sands developments. Although the final decision on the implementation of the Syncrude Tar Sands application will not be concluded until August, we are well into preparations with them and the federal government and other agencies to make sure that we use the lead time to best advantage to prepare people through a plan that will assist people in the local area to be first in line for the jobs, should this project proceed.

The plan we are working on now will have a major training component, and we hope will meet two objectives: First, to ensure that the residents of northeastern Alberta are prepared for and able to compete for employment in the tar sands development or the resulting service industry.

Secondly, to ensure that Syncrude and other industrial agencies and the resulting service industry developments have an adequate labour force to carry out the necessary activities.

We know from other places, notably Fort McMurray presently, and Grande Cache more currently, where they attempted to go on line without preparing their work force and the unhappy results of those experiments.

Some principles and guidelines will be effected in attempting to reach these objectives. The employers have a responsibility to employ people who have resided in the area prior to resource exploitation. We know that when industry moves into an area it dislocates and changes the way of life of the inhabitants in a rather severe way. For this reason I think an important principle is involved here. They should have first choice of the jobs. If they are not trained, if they are not prepared at that point this would be part of the plan that they would be prepared.

It would then be incumbent on the company to provide us, and also the Department of Manpower and Immigration in Ottawa, with information such as the following: the number of people that the company will require on the project; the skills it will require on the project; the entry qualifications; the experience requirements; and the salary levels of prospective permanent employees at all levels in the organization. This information must be made available to the federal people and to ourselves. It is on information like this that we can then begin our training programs.

Another principle, and I remind you that this is now in the talking and discussion state; this is not finalized. All union contracts would have a local-hiring preference clause included. I think it is extremely important that, if the project is unionized, it has a clause in it or some statement that is binding in its capacity to see that the people who are locally prepared, trained, able and want to work do, in fact, work. So that people from other parts of the nation, or across the oceans and so on, will not happen to be first choice while the people in the contiguous area are looking across the fence for earnings that they well could have but do not.

Appropriate counselling support will accompany all training and employment programs for local people. This one, Mr. Speaker, arises from the pragmatic experiences we have had in some companies and some company towns. Counselling in many cases is not necessary and doesn't work. We know that if you bring a family into a new town, the man may accommodate. He works in the daytime and if he is tired enough he will sleep at night. He might have some extra-curricular activities in between. But the wife and the children may have extreme difficulty adjusting to the school, the community and the total acceptance problem. So the counselling support should be there.

Training for local people will begin in the local community for those who need job-readiness, basic academic and other general skills. It will not surprise you that, regardless of the level of work, some people are not prepared to do it in the sense that they just don't know how. This kind of training has to begin immediately. Each training centre will be staffed by people having a knowledge of the local native language and will function under a local advisory committee. I am speaking, Mr. Speaker, of the matter of Syncrude and its location in the far northeast.

More advanced forms of training will occur in larger centres such as Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche and Edmonton, and in centres like this the training can be at a higher level or it can be at a very basic level. But the key feature

here is that you can bring in trainees from a much larger area than you can in the basic training in the immediate community into which the project is coming.

Anyone wishing to relocate from his local community to a site where the job will be should be open to some kind of relocation fee and some kind of financial assistance to move, because many workers may be on a marginal income. They may in fact be unemployed. So it seems to us reasonable that some assistance here should be forthcoming.

Housing, which is a major problem in any developing area, as those of you who have been to Fort McMurray will know, should have special attention. Emphasis in any relocation will be placed on family counselling and assistance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of strategy that our government recommends to Ottawa. We feel that we would then be in a position to work effectively with such associations as the Metis, and the Indian Association, and other organizations who have a direct or indirect concern or responsibility or interest in the matter of major projects in our province.

I should like to report briefly on the unemployment information system that is contained in part in the book which I tabled today, and to which reference has been made during this week's discussion on the budget.

The preliminary planning that I've discussed now with respect to Syncrude certainly points out the real need to plan on a short-term and on a long-term basis. This is a major responsibility of our department. It's a complex and a difficult one, but one that will have to be carried out if we are to be moving effectively into developing secondary industry.

The matter of the unemployment information systems was referred to in the House this week by the hon. Members for Olds-Didsbury and Cardston. The former, if I heard him right, said planning and research would not solve unemployment, except for those working in the department's planning secretariat. He is not in his place in the Assembly, but some one might say to him that the staff in the planning secretariat of my department was not drawn from the lists of the unemployed. There are some of the most competent people -- and scarce, I might say -- so a statement like that is in no way helpful in a situation that is a common one for all of us as legislators, to make sure that Albertans have an opportunity to do a job in Alberta industry. To say that the only people who get employment from the unemployment information system are those who will be doing the information system is simply falling short of how I would view my role as a legislator, regardless of which side of the House I sat on.

The latter, the hon. Member for Cardston -- and I'm sure I heard him right, and, of course, he is in the House and he can set me right if I did not -- implied that planning is a waste of time and money, and won't get anybody a job in any case. That could be, kind of just leave things along and learn to live with unemployment, a nice kind of Alice in Wonderland approach -- if you look the other way, the problem simply isn't there. Well, I have to tell you the problem is there and we won't look the other way.

The point of planning, Mr. Speaker, certainly is not to get jobs -- and nothing that we have said or written would indicate this -- but rather to obtain and organize the best possible data on which to make the best possible decisions with respect to employment and unemployment. That's the point of information systems.

Unemployment data are essential to understand socio-economic conditions, measuring manpower utilization and studying economic trends and activities in Alberta. We must bring together and improve the available information relating to unemployment; and we must learn how to develop and use unemployment information.

We have some concerns and some needs, and I'd like to identify these as briefly as I can. We must know more about the characteristics of certain sub-groups of the working age population which is 14 years and up. The immediate need is data on such sub-groups as the unemployed, the hidden unemployed, and the under-employed.

If I were to look at definitions, and these are important in general terms, the unemployed labour force is defined as persons without work, and actively seeking work. The unemployed labour force excludes by definition all persons without work, and not actively seeking work.

This group consists of, first, the hidden unemployed: individuals who have voluntarily withdrawn from the labour force and are not actively seeking work,

but who will accept employment in the future, or in the event that an attractive job opportunity presents itself; individuals who never actually get involved in the labour force, though of working age, who would accept employment should an attractive job opportunity present itself. Now these are the hidden unemployed that we rarely hear about.

Secondly, we have the unemployables: individuals who are unemployable and not actively seeking employment.

Thirdly, we have, what I would call, the voluntary idle. These are individuals who are not working and not willing to work.

Within the present frame of definition, two important conclusions can be drawn. First, all unemployables are not necessarily included in the unemployed labour force; indeed most of them are not.

Secondly, the unemployed labour force may well not reflect the number of people who would accept employment or seek labour force activity, given certain circumstances and conditions.

The latter observation may be regarded as one of the chief factors accounting for fluctuation in the rate of labour force participation during the course of a year, or for cyclical changes in the rate of participation over longer periods of time, and for the resulting effects of employment and unemployment rates in the economy.

Within this framework, it is easier to understand how the size of the labour force varies monthly, quarterly, yearly and by decades. And probably the best way to look at unemployment is not a monthly one, but rather an annual one.

Traditionally, the study of unemployment has focused on the unemployed labour force. However, experience with employment programs has revealed that the knowledge of the hidden unemployed should really be expanded. That is because the incentives in the employment programs, aimed at the actively employed, often attract participation by the hidden unemployed. A clarification of the characteristics of both groups is necessary for the implementation of effective employment policies. At the same time, present data does not permit an adequate assessment of whether the hidden unemployed are in greater or less need than the actively employed and this is another area that we will need to study very closely.

Once a month we report the information from Statistics Canada and I feel that it is important to my report on the manpower studies to touch very briefly on the approach used by Statistics Canada in developing its data.

The labour force survey was first established in 1935 to supply the labour force characteristics of the Canadian labour force in five regions. In January, 1966, Statistics Canada also provided Alberta with similar data. Since then, each province, one after the other, has been added to the list of getting its individual labour force statistics.

How does this work? The labour force survey is designed to supply estimates of monthly labour force characteristics for Canada and each province. The main characteristics to the labour force supplied by the survey are as follows: first, we get the total population. We also get the total labour force, the total employed labour force and the total unemployed labour force.

The above data is published as estimates and should not be interpreted as absolute figures. I think sometimes we do that, Mr. Speaker, and argue very stoutly a .02 change or .1 change, when maybe it doesn't matter quite so much. However, the labour force statistics are reasonably accurate and do provide an important indicator or trend of what is happening in the labour force.

Statistics Canada obtains information for the labour force survey reports by conducting a monthly sample of 35,000 households in Canada. Each of these is called on monthly by an interviewer to determine the labour force status of the population 14 years of age and over. The sample is a selection of areas designed to represent the Canadian population and each of the provincial populations. The Canadian census data is used to divide the nation into sampling areas. In Alberta, portions of 5 cities are included in the sample and 34 areas outside the cities are included in the sample. So it is important to note, ladies and gentlemen, that you have here a division which includes the urban and the rural population in one sampling unit. Any given household will be included in the labour force survey for a maximum period of six months. This means that each month one-sixth of the total households is dropped off the survey and one-sixth is added on.

How is unemployment calculated? When all the labour force survey sample questionnaires are accumulated by Statistics Canada, they are tabulated for Canada and for each province. The sample survey results are checked and then blown up or enlarged to represent the total labour force, the total employed labour force, and the total unemployed labour force for Canada and for each province. The unemployment rate is determined by taking the total unemployed over the total labour force. For example, in December of 1972, the total labour force in Alberta was 694,000, and the total unemployed labour force was 37,000. The calculation to determine the unemployment rate was as follows: $37,000/694,000 \times 100 = 5.3$. That was the unemployment rate for that particular month.

An important thing to note, in completing this section, is the error range in calculations. The labour force survey is not a survey covering all the Canadian population. It is a structured sample covering approximately one per cent of the total households in Canada. In Alberta, the sample covers approximately .8 of 1 per cent of the sample. Estimates obtained from a sample survey of this nature are subject to certain margins of error. Let me illustrate. The error range for the Alberta unemployment rate can be as high as 10 per cent. Thus, while the December, 1972, unemployment rate was published by Statistics Canada as being 5.3, their data is not really that precise. In fact, on the basis of the existing approach, it would be more correct to say that the December 1972 unemployment rate for Alberta was somewhere between 4.8 per cent and 5.8 per cent.

Moves to improve the data situation: as described, the present data situation cannot be viewed as satisfactory for Alberta in terms of having an information base from which to make sound and precise decisions of employment and unemployment. With this in mind, the planning secretary of the Department of Manpower and Labour and the Alberta Bureau of Statistics are working very closely together on a project specifically designed to upgrade the province's daily capacity. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, this will not be an easy job, or one that will have results next day, next week, or next month. In this regard they are continuing close liaison with Statistics Canada, and to date everything points to an excellent review of the operation from Ottawa to assist us in getting a better picture of Alberta unemployment and employment statistics.

I would like to touch on unemployment in Alberta. Employment has been generally favourable in our province over the years, in a relative sense, when compared with most of the other provinces in Canada. While the unemployment rate for Alberta at the year's end was the lowest in Canada, the rate at that time rose slightly by .2 per cent. The rate rose in January and we expect it to do so again in February. After this time we anticipate it will level off and begin to drop.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to make brief reference to an article in today's Edmonton Journal, headlined "Drop Predicted in Unemployment."

Alberta's unemployment pendulum will swing downwards in 1973, says a federal economist based in Edmonton.

Jack Craven, staff economist for Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories with the Department of Manpower and Immigration, was commenting on the heels of a manpower review of the Prairie economies in 1972 showing for the first time since 1969, employment growth in Alberta watched the increase in the size of the labour force.

And this, Mr. Chairman, is one of our big problems this year, and it was also a problem last year. The growth in the labour force outstripped the number of jobs available for people who were seeking jobs. Part of what he goes on to say includes the following:

The improved economic activity in Alberta through 1972 will accelerate this year, Mr. Craven forecast, with one of its main impacts on the employment-unemployment situation.

He said the monthly unemployment pictures presented by Statistics Canada figures are less reliable indicators than the year-round averages.

I feel this confirms the position and interpretation that we take here in Alberta.

The yearly labour force increase has important policy implications, and the labour force has been increasing in 1970, 1971 and 1972. The yearly labour force has increased, but this has important policy implications for the planning of government programs and will be given serious attention.

The increase in the labour force cannot be totally accounted for by population increases. It appears that various government policies, Mr. Chairman, act as an incentive for persons to enter the labour force where before they may not have done so. For example, unemployment insurance, job creation, tax deductions for day care. The increasing labour force activity is a government policy, so the rate of employment growth must be considered in that light. However, whatever the circumstances and whatever the reasons, over 30,000 people unemployed in Alberta in times of a buoyant economy is just too many unemployed. Resolutions, much less solutions, are complex and difficult as recognized by the hon. Member for Cypress, who, while the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, had the following to say in the 1972 Throne Speech debate.

What has happened? I think that everyone recognizes that the slowdown was not in capital projects of this government [meaning the 'then' government]. It was a slowdown in the projects that have been carried out by the private sector. Everyone recognizes that that area [meaning the private enterprise area] of our economy is responsible for 85 per cent of the employment factor. Nothing that we can do can take up that kind of a load, and I suggest that it is foolish to suggest that we are wrong in laying the blame directly where it must be laid, at the door of the federal government who controls the economic policies that create the situation in which we find ourselves living in this point of time.

Now there is a good deal of common sense in what the hon. Member for Cypress had to say, except that it reserves the right not to accept provincial responsibility along with the federal government and private enterprise. Because of the statements of the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury -- and I see he has gone again -- and Cardston, I tried to assess the employment programs of the prior administration. Mr. Chairman, I state right off that I could be wrong, that there may have been programs, but I just could not find them. What I did find can be summarized as follows:

The federal government had winter works programs called "Do It Now," and the provincial government had representatives on the committee. Some departments took on some winter construction projects, but the government did nothing as a whole and there were no official programs. In the summer the government established the ecology corps for summer employment for students. Also, the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation and the Department of Labour worked with the federal Manpower people and local student groups on an ongoing basis to create employment for students. So much, Mr. Speaker, for the employment programs of a government whose Premier said, "No one is happy with unemployment".

Not for one second would the present government stand by, feel badly, blame Ottawa, and do nothing for the unemployed. Nor would this government say that our special initiatives can or will get a job for every unemployed, but a clear commitment to reduce unemployment is a matter of record.

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.]

I should like then very briefly to speak of the Winter Employment Programs. To ease what we expected to be a reasonably high level of unemployment this winter, the ad hoc Cabinet Committee on Winter Unemployment was re-established. Under the general policy of the Cabinet Committee, my department administers and co-ordinates both provincial and federal winter employment projects. Other departments and provincial authorities and agencies were required to provide employment creating projects, and implement them whenever they were funded and approved for funding by the Cabinet.

The following outlines the current status of the provincial program in its four program elements and three federal programs. At the provincial level we have the Priority Employment Program. First the Agricultural Societies Program, then the Water Resources Program, the Training Program, and the Direct Employment Program.

At the federal level which we co-ordinate, a Local Initiatives Program -- or LIP -- Training on the Job Program referred to as TOJ, and Winter Capital Projects Fund Program.

In the preamble to our statement on winter unemployment we said as follows:

The Alberta program was ordered both 'for the purposes of establishing employment projects to increase job opportunities in those areas of the province where needed, and to provide training for unemployed people in skills which will improve their chances of obtaining employment.'

The Cabinet Committee was authorized to approve projects or programs designed for the purpose of

- 1) Reducing the level of unemployment by providing a maximum number of employment positions at the least possible cost.
- 2) Performing work that would be done in future years or socially useful work which otherwise might not be done because of lack of funds.

The total funds available for winter employment projects is \$12 million in the fiscal year 1972-73.

I should like to comment briefly on these programs. The Agricultural Societies Program -- The Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Societies sponsored a Capital Grants Program for building and improving multi-purpose facilities in rural localities. The maximum capital grant available to any agricultural society is \$50,000. A total of \$1,300,000 for this PEP program was authorized. Some of these projects also received grants from the federal Local Initiatives Program. As a result, 30 agricultural societies have been provided \$1,000,113,880 in capital grants.

Water Resources Program -- The Department of the Environment sponsored a cost-shared program for water resource management projects. Local authorities submitted projects for clearing of reservoirs, channel clearing, and erosion control. A total of \$1 million for this PEP program was approved. In consequence, some 11,718 man-days of labour have been generated with the provincial government's share of 27 water resource projects totalling \$361,400.

The Training Program -- The Department of Advanced Education sponsored a training program whereby major educational institutions throughout the province provide training courses for the unemployed and individuals receiving social assistance benefits. The intent of such courses is to upgrade the employment opportunity of the individual. Depending upon the applicant's financial circumstances, tuition fees and a daily allowance are provided the trainee. A total of \$3 million for the PEP training program was sponsored by the Department of Advanced Education. In addition, the extension grants of the Department of Agriculture provide agricultural training projects for upgrading farm workers at an investment of \$150,000.

Accordingly, 18 major educational institutions have 190 training projects underway with some 3,500 trainee openings available in the province. The reported enrolment at the present time is 3,312 people. An additional 22 training projects are provided for agricultural trainees. An appropriation to the two departments totalled \$3,150,000 for this PEP training program.

Finally, the direct employment program. Employment-creating project proposals, preferably labour intensive, were prepared by various government departments and provincial agencies as a contingency plan against high unemployment possibilities over the 1972-73 winter. Employment priority was for people unemployed and receiving unemployment insurance benefits. The PEP direct employment program being operated by 13 departments and three agencies was allotted \$6,197,349 for employment of 2,539 people in 296 projects. 2,539 in 296 projects.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the latest information from the participating government departments indicate that employment and training aspects of PEP are helping well over 6,000 Albertans who otherwise might be unemployed at the present time. And when you think that these 6,000 people are, for the most part, heads of households this has a particular significance. I am very pleased to report this figure to you.

Because of the many calls we are now receiving I should like to reconfirm the STEP program for the summer of 1973.

The indications are, Mr. Speaker, that certainly this summer no fewer young people than last summer will be seeking employment and jobs in Alberta. The program of last year employed, directly and indirectly, 3,317 students and involved nearly every department of government. In addition, 96 local governments -- towns, cities and so on -- had approved projects in the STEP program. The scope of this program varied from labour-type projects to research projects and educational projects. Distribution of the STEP projects was on a per capita basis using the census divisions throughout Alberta.

Important to report too, Mr. Speaker, the province offered assistance to various organizations who, in turn, placed students on various summer jobs with the private sector. The most prominent example of a program of this type would

be the Operation Placement Program. I should like to comment on these because some of you should be able to influence or assist within your constituency with this type of work.

The Operation Placement Programs are a co-operative venture sponsored by the province, the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration and the various Chambers of Commerce throughout the province. The province offers assistance as well as expert help in the program. The federal government offers material items, office space, expert help and support staff and the Chamber of Commerce offers guidance, expert help and a direct link to the employer. I think this is very important.

This program not only places students in summer jobs, but also makes direct contacts with the employer, encouraging the employers to hire a student for the summer. Programs of this type were operated in all the major cities in the province last year and proved to be very beneficial to both the students and the employers. I commend this program very highly, and I am looking forward to a repetition plus improvement this year. Some major industries in the province created summer jobs for students over and above the normal requirements. The province is very hopeful that additional industries will look into the student unemployment problem and consider programs within their industry, or come to the province and offer assistance in creating programs that would employ students.

I should like to return, in a summary form, to another aspect of manpower initiated in my discussion as I talked about Syncrude. Along with the hon. member, Mr. Getty, and other ministers we advised departments that we make certain initiatives with Ottawa to develop certain plans and programs mutually reasonable and acceptable to both. Some of the initiatives from our departments are of special significance to the Legislature. The Department of Manpower and Labour is taking major initiatives in discussions between Ottawa and ourselves with respect to responsibilities in the area of manpower.

The objectives of discussions we are holding with Ottawa are the following:

1. To ensure that all manpower activities constitutionally under provincial jurisdiction are operated by the province, for example, social and educational matters.
2. To ensure that all manpower activities not assigned directly to the Government of Canada or to the province by the constitution are operated by the level of government most suited to the activity, and best able to deliver the service. This one makes for some very interesting and worthwhile discussion.
3. To ensure that appropriate financial ability accompanies program responsibility. In other words, if we were to get a particular program as a function of our government that is presently that of Ottawa, we would expect that the financial resources would follow the program.

We consider that some of the appropriate responsibility areas are the following:

1. Placement services. We recognize, Mr. Speaker, this as a federal responsibility because of the fact that working people move across the provinces. However, even though it is a federal responsibility, we like to remind and make Ottawa aware that the characteristics of various provinces have to be taken into account when they apply this particular program. We would like to see them become more active in locating as many jobs as possible. It should be universal and comprehensive. It should reach actively into the community rather than as at present, sit in the office and expect the working people will come to the manpower offices seeking assistance. It should make provision for special services for hard to place groups, such as handicapped, hard-core unemployed, over 45 years old, socially or culturally disadvantaged, and people in penal institutions.
2. Career planning services. This has to do with a transfer kind of activity -- preparation for transitions from training course to training course, from training to employment, from job to job, from employment to unemployment, to retirement. We feel that the counselling in the career area is the responsibility of the province.
3. Training is constitutionally within provincial jurisdiction so the province should have a maximum of discretion over this activity. The federal government will, therefore, be encouraged to withdraw from

some of its intrusions into provincial training jurisdiction in to areas of training selection, training purchases, and industry based training.

4. Employment development activities, such as Canada Manpower's local initiatives program, and our own PEP programs will have to continue to be co-ordinated. But it is clear to us, over the experience of the last two years, that the province will have to have more influence on what finally comes out as the Local Initiatives Program, the Training on the Job program, and other Ottawa initiated programs.

I should like to comment on the Canada Manpower presence in Alberta today. What had been is that there were two senior supervisors of Canada Manpower, one for the North and one for the South, both reporting directly to Winnipeg as a regional office. We proposed to the appropriate minister at the time, the hon. Bryce Mackasey, that we felt that we should be viewed as a region on our own, the reason being Alberta, and that we should report minister-to-minister, government-to-government rather than to Winnipeg. However at that time we were locked into a territory, if I can put it that way, or into a region, with Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This kind of model has been used by Ottawa throughout the nation, and so naturally enough they were loathe to break up an approach that might be wished for by other parts of the nation.

But the matter of government-to-government is consistent with our policy and we continued to press the issue. We said if we had to be a region, it may be in view of the developments toward the North that a more reasonable region would be Alberta, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. However we sort of met halfway and what we did get, Mr. Speaker, is a senior person in Canada Manpower located here in Edmonton, and the reports from my own senior staff are that he is an excellent and competent person. We are now alone as a region so far as Canada Manpower is concerned, but he will report at the present time on these two, and through Winnipeg, though he has direct contact with the Chief Deputy Minister in the Department of Immigration and Manpower. And in our discussions on this with Ottawa, if I can be permitted just two minutes to read one paragraph from the hon. Mr. Andras, he said:

I very much agree with the views you expressed in the first paragraph of that letter and I am pleased that our officials are working closely together to resolve the problems that confront us. For my part, I can assure you that I and my officials are extremely anxious to work in the closest co-operation with your department and the Government of Alberta.

And so we came to the agreement that the new arrangements -- which are unique and only with respect to Alberta -- will pertain for one year, after which time we will review from both Ottawa's end and ours, and see whether we will confirm this arrangement or make new ones.

So in summary then, Canada Manpower should be responsible for placement services and related activities of labour mobility. Other manpower development services and other social services should be carried out by the province. And the province should be responsible for all aspects of training, counselling, testing, career planning, and other social services.

Mr. Speaker, as I said initially, while I would love to, I will not comment on labour in any detail because of the fact that The Labour Act will come before the House for full treatment.

But let me make this very brief comment. In labour relations the overall picture in Alberta, as far as strikes and lockouts are concerned, is not that bad. In 1972 there were seven strikes and two lockouts involving 12 employers and about 900 employees. This is lower than any year since 1967. However, the level of settlements remains high and in some cases appear to be inflationary. I would pause here and simply reflect that without any prejudice to any group that has settled an agreement or is in the process of working on an agreement or will soon negotiate, the matter of collective bargaining is an incredibly serious and important issue. I would appeal to those who negotiate to so negotiate that they find a capacity for fairness for the employee for whom someone is bargaining, and the employer who bargains for his association, and for the general good of Alberta -- keeping in mind such things as inflation and unemployment.

We expect that 1973 will be a year of hard bargaining for school boards. If I may pause for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I will announce to the floor of the House that the southern Alberta teachers have served notice on their association employer bargaining group that they have called a strike to commence at one minute after midnight on Sunday of this coming week. I am very hopeful that our

mediation staff will be able to work with the two parties so as to avoid the strike. I will be watching the situation very carefully on behalf of the government and the Legislature and the people of Alberta and will make any additional moves or call such meetings as I feel might be necessary to assist in a conclusion of this particular dispute.

We expect that 1973 will be a year of hard bargaining for school boards, hospitals, civic administration and for the construction industry. There are some good signs. The construction people have organized into associations; clients' groups have organized. The competence of negotiators is increasing. And I think the more competent the negotiators and the negotiating teams, the more chance for a successful settlement in the interests of both groups and the people of Alberta. There are some people who are beginning to try some of the things that I have talked about for the last two years or a year and a half, like pre-negotiation sessions in order to review what went wrong and what went well in the last round of negotiations and to get many things out of the way, so that the formal negotiations are more successful. On the other hand, there is still a great deal of the traditional approach, the adversary system, the conflict system, the muscle type of negotiation, a kind of hide-and-seek, "I know something I won't tell you until after the strike vote," and so on. This is unfortunate, but it will take some time to work out because these are attitudes of many years standing.

I would just say a few words to bring you up to date on the matter of the International Union of Elevator Constructors which began in Hamilton, Ontario on August 29, 1972, in Alberta on October 5, 1972, and prior to that date in other provinces. While there are many issues in that dispute, the main one is the question of the work to be performed in the plants of the various companies as against the work which would be performed on the building sites by employees. In other words, the matter of technological change. The unions argue that doing the work in the plants in Ontario will mean fewer jobs in the Maritime provinces and in Western Canada. I would simply assure you, Mr. Speaker, that my department and I are actively pursuing all avenues of possible settlement in co-operation with other jurisdictions at the provincial level.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the Department of Manpower and Labour will be opening up The Apprenticeship Act and the related Tradesmen's Qualifications Act and The Welding Act for public hearings this year, further to bringing forward new legislation in the spring of 1974. In this regard, it is anticipated that briefs from the public will be received during the coming May, while public hearings will be held in June. Details of this matter will be announced in the near future.

Let me conclude with a note or two on safety. In the area of safety we have the Safety Inspection Services Division, the Uniform Building Code and new fire regulations that you recall had to be brought to the floor of the House following the unhappy accidents in St. Albert -- and a comment on industrial safety. Our safety record and protection record in this province can be, needs to be and will be greatly improved. Our government intends to provide leadership that will safeguard the quality of life we enjoy in the face of rapid economic expansion and technological advances, and it will require vigilance in the field of occupational safety and health.

Major responsibilities presently appear to be fragmented among many agencies and departments. You will recall, sir, that on February 1 and 2 of this year, my department sponsored a major conference on safety and protection for people and property in Alberta. The objectives were important ones, they were studied carefully and we proceeded diligently through a two-day conference. The need for this kind of conference became clear to me as I chaired the public hearings on The Workmen's Compensation Act. It was a new experience for me.

And while there is no one set of figures for Alberta, as the Edmonton Journal so properly indicated in the editorial -- and it went on further to say that we should have such a set, and I agree entirely. I propose to set about ways of getting that kind of information. Nevertheless, information from separate organizations provides the basis for certain conclusions. Reports by the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Industrial Safety Department of the Health and Social Development Department, the Safety Council of Alberta, and other kinds of associations that provide annual reports, led me to the clear conclusion that the safety record in Alberta is just not good enough.

Our responses from labour and from industry -- we had over 70 representatives -- were excellent. They stayed right through the session and verbally, and subsequently in letters, offered their services in any way possible to assist in keeping people alive in the province of Alberta.

Our government is going forward to ensure the implementation of policies and programs that will contribute in the best way possible to make our total environment safer. As you will have noted in the Throne Speech, we will be announcing the establishment of a commission on industrial safety during this session, which will contribute in a major way to the attainment of our goals and objectives.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a real pleasure and experience for me to participate in the debate on the Budget Address. With the hon. member back in his chair, perhaps I could end where I began by congratulating him on a most excellent Address on the Budget for this year.

MR. D. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, I consider it an honour to be able to stand in my place and take part in the Budget Address, and to represent the constituency of Taber-Warner. I can say, in the beginning, that I have listened with real interest to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour, and will look forward to studying the information he has given us when Hansard comes out. He has certainly given us a lot of information we should meditate on and use.

It is interesting to note, from the number who speak in the Throne Address and also in the Budget Debate, how it affects them, how they respond to it, and what seem to be the unfavourable and the favourable points of view. All of us, in our own way, speak as we see it, as we feel it and as we interpret it. I would be remiss if I didn't tell you how I feel toward the Budget Address. In the Budget Debates it seems to me that on the other side of the House there continues to be a lot of self-congratulation and back-patting. They are also emphasizing give-away programs of kind. Surely a record of the most flagrant abuse of public funds has been established with this administration.

I agree with the public aid programs and what they are intended for -- to help those who most need them. I have no quarrel with that at all. Everyone who is in need should be satisfied and should be taken care of. Surely if we really wish to increase the income of our senior citizens in the lower bracket, it is unnecessary to include all those of 65 years and over who have sufficient incomes. Surely no one would object if those who have insufficient incomes received more -- and I am sure that in these inflated times they are not receiving enough -- without giving an increase to everyone over a certain age whether they need it or not. Those who advocate such policies as more economical, who give to everyone because it's too much bother, too troublesome to try to segregate them, are deceiving themselves and only increasing political patronage.

If the Agricultural Development Fund is to function with greater ease -- and I am sorry the minister isn't in his place, but I will get this information to him and draw it to his attention -- than at the present time, the definition of a farmer should be re-stated and clarified. The regulations must define a bona fide farmer in more practical terms. Many farmers have been struggling for years, subsidizing the farm with other means of employment, hoping that next year they won't need to have another job and they will be able to devote their full efforts and their full time to the farm operation. Such persons should not be denied farm loan assistance because of regulations, but such is the case.

I suggest that loans to farmers, or potential farmers, should be considered on the amount of available hours they are willing to spend in farm production. Mr. Speaker, it is more challenging to me to speak about the things that aren't in the budget rather than those that are.

For instance, we haven't heard any provisions for reform in the budget, or a suggestion for a change of direction in any field we are participating in. We haven't heard from the welfare state, with emphasis on work for those who are able to work -- a program of enlisting local authorities, serving organizations, churches, businesses, and teaching associations, and asking them to help create jobs and opportunities. Emphasizing creative ability -- there isn't anything in the budget about that, to produce service and kind. Regardless of the false values paraded before us, real values are measured on the gross national product and character development. If we offer inducements in any area they should be aimed at encouraging personal initiative, be it in ideas, opportunities, greater efficiency, or improved or increased production.

Mr. Speaker, we must develop a program to free us from the dole system which advances the fallacy that the state owes me a living. There are too many with this attitude in Alberta and in the Dominion of Canada at the present time. Our present system of social assistance invites abuses and misrepresentations. It minimizes the importance of moral principles, weakening family unity,

personal responsibility and personal industry, and is producing child delinquency and increased divorce.

The other evening the hon. Member for Cardston was correct when he said we need to decentralize, and he pictured decentralization in a much different way, not from city to city or from city to towns, but in so many ways. We need to decentralize, I suggest, back to the local authority, the local government. We have some basic problems in this respect which should be commanding our attention. We need to decentralize in many areas, but especially in social assistance and development, as I have mentioned. Turn this administration over to the local authorities who are the closest to the problem and who realize the need and the circumstances of those needing assistance, and I promise you that things would be quite different. Perhaps they would have to be persuaded now because they have been spoiled, and I am sure of that.

Involve the local authority in decision making, learn the problems from them. Rather than relaxing regulations to allow more artful advertising on TV to the promotion of increased sales of beer and wines, counsel with local authorities first and see how this enslaving drug of alcohol is affecting them and their problems, how it is increasing them. They will tell you it ranks first in society killing more people, wrecking more lives, breaking up more homes, causing more child neglect, creating more health care and social assistance, reducing individual efficiency and lowering national production.

With evidence all about us to substantiate this fact and others, the government closes its eyes and announces its intention to change the regulation and encourage more consumption of alcohol. Mr. Speaker, the province and the people will be strong if encouraged to do more for themselves. Let us acknowledge our problems and find a solution for them. Alcohol is a major problem. Relaxing regulations to encourage more abuse is not a solution.

In a few weeks employment opportunities will be opening by the hundreds. Farmers in my constituency and others will be pleading for responsible help in the fields of vegetable crops and in the sugar beet industry, to weed, to thin the young plants -- the maturity of which is essential to sustain life as well as to contribute so much to national production which means dollars to everyone. These industries provide an excellent opportunity to all individuals, men, women, teenagers, who will do responsible work.

I might say the most dependable people, the most successful, the most reliable, the best workers in this, are people who are already employed. Families, mothers and fathers with their children, before and after school who signed contracts for this work -- the returns from which supplement the family income -- they are at this time the most responsible and the most reliable.

Hundreds of job opportunities will soon be available, as I mentioned, to employable people of this province and usually from Saskatchewan as well, and could assist them substantially.

Many of these employees could remain on a permanent basis and become new farmers, could become new producers if they would resolve to abstain from alcohol. This is the curse, this is the problem that the local communities have as well as the farmers and those who come to contract the work.

Many of these seasonal workers come from Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta, as I have mentioned, and insisting on their wages at the close of each day, and spending their earnings on alcohol in the evening. If they return to work the next day, it is late from oversleeping and the quality of their work reflects carelessness. While the crop suffers, production decreases, farmers' housing is in shambles, unappreciated, and children neglected, with farmers and law officers frustrated.

If you haven't heard these things before, I'm not painting nearly as sorrowful a picture as it is. Did you hear anything, Mr. Speaker, in the budget about helping these people, or correcting this unhealthy condition in our province?

It is a sad situation. People who need help could give responsible service -- some do -- if they were shown the effect of alcohol in their lives, if there were some way of impressing on them what it was doing to them, how it was wrecking their opportunities and denying them the good things of life and happiness that could be waiting for them.

I fail to recognize a health care program which is getting through to these people and teaching them to become responsible citizens. I did read, however, about more money for recreation, more for parks, more for play and

entertainment, more for young and old and enlisting the private sector to help in service programs, inviting the service clubs to assist. But I can't recall a plan which condemns these enslaving drugs and helps people to improve the quality of life; a plan inviting spiritual leaders to assist with a program of family counselling; uniting and strengthening the family unit. This is something in which we are away back, we are in the woods.

I read some time ago -- I can't remember in what report, I believe it came from one of the departments -- where a year or two ago the only church group, the only spiritual group in the province doing any amount of family counselling was the Salvation Army, and I congratulate them for it. However, I did read there were some others doing some work in this regard, but nothing much to speak of. This strengthening of a family unit is basic to me for a strong healthy province and a united Canada.

We cannot develop effective programs without including the people. Give them an interest, expect them to share in the cost, challenge them to solve their problems and they will surprise you. It can't be done by just making them soft, with the government to supply everything. Governments should never try to do all -- help yes, and supervise and plan with the local government. And let them know that you expect them to carry out their part of the program.

Again I say, with the hon. Member for Cardston, decentralize, that's what we need, decentralization. It works with the family when parents involve the children in the problems before them and ask their co-operation and it will work with the local governments as well.

Don't take away from the people the management of their affairs. Reconsider taking over the total costs of any department of any service; reconsider the management of health care and the total costs; reconsider medical services, hospital services and education. If we ever take over all these services, and we are fast doing it, we will live to regret it.

How well I remember the time spent and the funds raised and the hours of planning at the local level which produced our early hospital schemes, hospital districts and our school districts. It wasn't done from the government level and with very little assistance, if any.

Now we are going to take over all hospital costs, all health service costs, all health unit costs and I maintain this is a false step. It is a wrong step. I say, "Let us challenge the people; let us ask them to show us their responsibility; let us demonstrate it; let's admit that we are in trouble." If we can't admit it now we soon will. Let us challenge the people to produce the leadership they had in the past. Don't destroy or hinder it.

Releasing the public from responsibility for the costs of schools -- we may sure see inflation, worse than it is now. It will continue to rise and efficiency will decrease. It takes the local sector, and some of the pressures that they can put on, to stop strikes, to resolve settlements. The provision of more free services with less local responsibility moves us faster into a socialistic state, and when that time comes -- and it will come if we continue -- it will be too late to save the family farm.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. D. MILLER:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot get excited and agree to the vote of millions of dollars for the possible development of a mass transportation system between Calgary and Edmonton. This, I believe, is premature. However, I feel that the Minister of Highways and Transport could bring in a few recommendations to give faster continuous service between towns and cities, and attract rates to encourage the use of such services. Rail transportation is deteriorating all about us and is non-existent to the south of Calgary. Passenger services just don't exist. This I think is lamentable in a province as prosperous as we claim to be. Bus travel takes six to eight hours to come from my constituency to Edmonton. The only other alternative, rather than a private car, is air travel, and of course that is out of sight except for the occasional trip. Surely we should be able to use these rail lines and improve service between centres at rates which will attract patronage.

Mr. Speaker, launching an early childhood educational program seems hardly necessary to me. When the birth-rate is falling and we are concerned about

sufficient starters for elementary schools, surely early childhood will benefit most from another year with their mothers.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the new Minister of Consumer Affairs. Perhaps this is a worthy and necessary department. At least it will be a place to funnel consumers' complaints.

I, too, wish to congratulate the new Minister of Telephones and Utilities, the hon. Roy Farran. We trust you will carry out to completion the many projects the hon. Len Werry was working on until his untimely passing, such projects as free toll dialing within the trading area of a district, as well as quality music and interesting educational programs with a powerful enough station to reach all of southern Alberta. I mentioned before that we have been denied this in the past. We have been discriminated against in the south, while the north has had this advantage.

Mr. Speaker, \$25 million to the Alberta Housing Corporation to expand the program to lower income groups is not the answer. With the continual rise of construction costs and interest rates, higher than they have been for some time. Even if loans to low-income groups were available, I'm sure they couldn't afford to pay the interest and let it run for 30 or 40 years before they completed their houses, and that's about what it would amount to.

I'd like to also speak more directly on one or two things that concern my constituency. Running through my constituency for 100 miles, north and south, is Highway 36. It runs through the Taber-Warner constituency. It is paved and improved, except for 6 1/2 miles from No. 1 junction northwest of Brooks to the town of Warner, about 25 or 30 miles from the U.S. boundary. It leaves Highway 4 there and comes north. As I say, it's a fair road with the exception of that 6 1/2 miles.

It's an important district road as well, and is heavily used for industry and carting cattle to the stockyards in Taber. Of course, the sugar beet and potato industries travel over a good portion of this road, every beyond Chin Coulee. They grow potatoes all the way down into Rempel.

We would really like to see this road completed. Parts of it have been completed beyond Number 1, and it is paved and oiled toward Killam and up that way. But eventually when the road for this area is completed, it will be the shortest route from the border to Calgary and to Edmonton. Last spring I asked the Minister of Highways if he had this on the program, this six and one-half miles to finish and surface to Wildwood, and he said yes, in 1972, and I am sure Hansard will record his answer as yes. But nothing has been done to it yet.

I cannot help but emphasize the importance of this road in the constituency, for the benefit of those in the trading area who live there and for industry as a whole.

I would like to say also that there is one other thing in the constituency that is pressing and that the people continually press for, and that is for a senior citizens home at Milk River. An application has been made, and all contributing authorities agreed to it, I believe two years ago --

AN HON. MEMBER:

Who was your minister?

MR. D. MILLER:

The municipal districts -- yes -- they've all agreed to it, and the County of Warner as well, and all the towns. In addition to that surveys have been taken, and I think, if my memory serves me right, that they had about 300 names on the last list that was before us. Those who were 65 years of age or over gave their intention that if the home was built in Milk River when the time came they would like to enter that home.

So, there is a hospital there and two doctors, and the County of Warner, and as I mentioned, all the towns are much in favour of it. I would appreciate it if they would give consideration to it. I've written to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and asked him -- as I notice others have been given grants and other means of finance to build senior citizens homes -- and I hope that he will give it serious consideration along with the Minister of Health and Social Development.

I appreciate the opportunity of making these remarks, expressing myself as to how I feel toward the budget, and I can say that I am pleased also to represent the people of Taber-Warner and I thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I believe the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview had the floor first.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER:

Has the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview leave to adjourn the debate?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask leave of the House to revert to Orders of the Day so the Minister of Manpower and Labour could make a very brief but important announcement.

MR. SPEAKER:

May the Chair assume the unanimous consent of the House for the purpose just mentioned by the hon. Government House Leader?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

DR. HOHOL:

Mr. Speaker, and members of the Assembly, I am pleased and happy to make the following brief but important announcement in the interest of the House and the people of Alberta.

A memorandum of agreement has been signed for the general public service by the chief negotiators for the government and the Civil Service Association bargaining committees. Both committees will submit this memorandum to their principals for ratification, and of course, no details will be released until this ratification process is completed. Thank you, sir.

AN HON. MEMBER:

About time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

[The House rose at 5:29 o'clock.]