

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Friday, March 23, 1973

[The House met at 1:00 o'clock.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

DR. BOUVIER:

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to introduce to you and to members of this Assembly, 24 students from the Dr. Swift Junior High School from Lac La Biche. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Tom Pawlik, and parents, Mrs. Aline Cloutier, Mrs. Ida Dribnenki, and Mr. Edgar Ladouceur and bus driver, Roy Pruden. They are on a study tour of the capital. They have visited the Air Force Base at Namao, are now visiting the Legislature, and plan to take in the Museum before they return. They are seated in the public gallery. I'd ask them now to please rise and be recognized by the House.

MR. KOZIAK:

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, on your behalf, to introduce to the members of this Assembly visitors seated in your gallery. These public-spirited individuals are here to remind us of a disaster which occurred 40 years ago and in this fashion to impress upon us as legislators our responsibility to prevent such an occurrence happening here in Alberta or in Canada.

March 25, 1973, has been declared "a day of sorrow," honouring the memory of millions of Ukrainians who perished in the great famine that swept their country 40 years ago. The famine of 1933 was not the result of natural disasters or war. In fact, the harvest of 1932 had been above average. The granaries and elevators were full and Ukrainian wheat was offered on the world markets. The famine of 1933 was artificially contrived by the Stalinist regime to force collectivization of Ukrainian farm lands.

The amount of grain harvested in 1932 was 463,705,500 bushels, more than adequate to feed the whole population and leave reserves for seeding. However, right after the harvest, the Russian Bolshevik government confiscated by force all the grain that was in the possession of the farmers.

The artificially created famine of 1932-33 in the Ukraine is unequalled in the history of Europe for intensity of horror and the great number of men, women, and children who died from starvation. The estimate of people who died from starvation and political murders varies between a conservative 8 million to 10 million out of a population of 30 million.

In Edmonton, the Ukrainian Canadian Committee will mark this day with memorial services in the churches and schools and has suggested to the Ukrainian population that they abstain from at least one meal on this day.

Mr. Speaker, we have with us from the Ukrainian Canadian Committee Mr. Michael Boyko, Mrs. Tetiana Lytviak, Mr. Jaroslaw Roslak, Miss Daria Porochlwnyk, Mr. Bohdan Trylowsky, and in addition, we have one individual, Wasyl Krawec, who was fortunate enough to have survived the famine and become a Canadian citizen. I ask that they stand and be recognized.

MR. HARLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce to you and to the members of this Assembly some 40 students from my constituency attending schools in Halkirk and

in Castor. They are accompanied by some 11 adults. I would ask that they please stand and be recognized by the Assembly. They are in both galleries.

FILING RETURNS AND TABLING REPORTS

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a reply to Motion No. 162 being a copy of the submission that we made to the federal food price inquiry this morning in Ottawa.

DR. WARRACK:

I am pleased to table the Return to Motion No. 134. This is a motion that had regard to the development of recreation facilities in the Canmore Corridor.

CRAI QUESTION PERIOD

The Universities Amendment Act

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Advanced Education.

I wonder if the minister could advise the House as to what extent consultation took place between the minister and the general faculties councils of the universities prior to introduction of Bill No. 23 in the House?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, my consultation with the university community, with respect to the proposed amendments, was primarily with the members of the Boards of Governors, and not specifically with General Faculties Council. I did not seek consultation with that body. However, I would have been most interested in discussing with them, and communicated an interest in doing so.

MR. HENDERSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Were the specific terms of Bill No. 23 then discussed with the Board of Governors, or the students?

MR. FOSTER:

Yes.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Were they discussed with the Students' Unions from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge?

MR. FOSTER:

The specific terms of the amendments to the legislation were not specifically discussed with the students' associations. However, bearing in mind that the specific terms are the transfer -- the dissolution of the commissions -- the transfer of that function to my office with our organization (which decision was taken some time ago) I had discussions with students prior to that time.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that I have since had a letter from the Students' Union of the University of Alberta, commenting on our organization model, saying that they had found it most interesting, and that they were looking forward to discussions with us, concerning the structure and function of the committees, which we referred to specifically to the Committee for Student Affairs. I am looking forward to meeting them and discussing ways in which students can participate in the decision-making process of this department.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, will the government be forwarding an opportunity for those discussions to take place before this Legislature?

MR. FOSTER:

I am sorry, I do not understand your question.

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that he was going to pursue discussions, presumably on Bill No. 23, with the student body, and I was asking him if the government was going to provide an opportunity for public representations before this Legislature on Bill 23?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I don't think and I certainly do not intend to give the impression that we would be conducting a series of hearings and public meetings, et cetera on the provisions of these bills. I did indicate that all of us in the department, specifically myself, are anxious to meet with the various organizations within the university and college community to discuss the terms of reference and structure and various committees. That's with respect to the organization of the department, Mr. Speaker, and not with respect to the provision of the bill before the House.

MR. HENDERSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Then the minister did not quite answer the question as to whether the government was contemplating public representation on Bill 23 before this Assembly.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I do not contemplate public representations before this Assembly on these bills. The bills have been out in the university community for some time in general form for discussion. I expect now that the bills are public we will be hearing representations from several groups and organizations. I have had a very busy time, frankly, and as late as last night was for three hours with 250 members of the academic staff of the University of Alberta in a barefoot discussion, discussing this question and many others of concern to the university community. There is a good deal of discussion, Mr. Chairman going on.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker --

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May this be the last question on this subject. We have many other questions and seeing this is a bill, it could be debated under the bill. After this supplementary -- may this be the last supplementary, and followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister in light of the wide-spread interest in this bill, is the minister prepared to recommend that the bill go before the Agricultural Committee for the Assembly for public discussion?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to recommend that. However, I want to emphasize that what we are now doing is dissolving the two commissions and transferring that function to the department. That decision was announced eight or ten months ago. In fact as I recall, when this was dealt with as a recommendation in A Choice of Futures, the hon. member opposite was reported to have said: "It's a great idea, it should be done within three weeks." Now he knows, and I know, that that kind of thing cannot be done without a great deal of discussion and accommodation on both sides.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a comment that I understand was made -- it certainly was in The Albertan this morning -- that I have somehow reversed my stand on the question of the delegation of powers --

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member could not bring into the House a matter that was commented on or made outside of this House. And it's in Beauchesne.

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, that's no point of order. The hon. minister is merely replying to the supplementary question to the hon. gentleman.

[Interjections]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May the hon. minister, in view of the fact that this was a point raised in the question period, finish off his presentation and we will move on to the question by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

MR. HENDERSON:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Nobody on this side of the House raised the question the minister is now bringing up. I feel if he wants to comment on it, it would be more appropriate to do it under Orders of the Day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I respect the point of order by the hon. House Leader, but I indicated that the subject was raised in the question period. Would the hon. minister be permitted to finish off his reply and we will move on to the next question.

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I would be quite happy to deal with this question on Orders of the Day by way of comment, as suggested.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Bow.

1972 Gaol Sentences

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. the Attorney General. How many gaol sentences of 60 days or less were given in Alberta in 1972?

[Interjections]

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, as a result of having received some advance notice from the hon. member regarding this question --

[Applause]

AN HON. MEMBER:

I should hope so.

MR. LEITCH:

-- I am in a position to answer it. The figure is approximately 5,500.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How many of these sentences included a fine option which was not taken?

MR. LEITCH:

Approximately 4,300, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. How many people, electing for an optional gaol sentence arrived at the gaol with sufficient cash in their possession to pay the fine?

MR. LEITCH:

Very few, Mr. Speaker, approximately 30.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What was the total cost in 1972 to the Alberta taxpayers for inmates serving a sentence rather than paying an optional fine?

MR. LEITCH:

It is estimated at \$1 million, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May this be the last one? It appears that the hon. member has good communication with the minister -- followed by the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray and the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

MR. WILSON:

What is the inmate per diem cost to the Alberta taxpayers for (a) the Calgary Correctional Institute and (b) the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute?

DR. HORNER:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I can't allow this to go on any further. Those are completely out of order questions for the Oral Question Period and should be made an Order for Return and put on the Order Paper as such. To expect the minister, even with advance notice, to answer those kinds of questions is making a mockery of the question period. I appreciate the opposition are running out of steam and don't have any questions to ask, but that isn't the kind of thing that should be asked in the Oral Question Period.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. The hon. the Attorney General certainly isn't objecting. He obviously has the answers and this was the last supplementary which you had permitted me to ask and I think we can do without all of the roadblocks thrown up by the --

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. It's not a question of throwing up roadblocks, it's a question of the hon. member learning what the Legislature is all about, which he obviously doesn't know.

MR. HENDERSON:

On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. We have sat on this side of the House and watched government back-benchers go through the pre-arranged exercise of questions and answers without raising a single complaint. I can only say I am shocked at the attitude of the Deputy Premier when once a member of our side has --

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I respect the hon. gentleman's --

AN HON. MEMBER:

It's a question of privilege.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Sit down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Order, order!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order, order!

DR. HORNER:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition can yell all he likes and talk about shock, but he also should have known --

MR. HENDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, if the Deputy Premier would yield the floor --

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Now the Deputy Premier raised it on a point of privilege.

DR. HORNER:

My privilege is very simple. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is using words which are intemperate and don't even apply to the situation.

[Interjections]

Well, my point of order still stands, Mr. Speaker. Those kinds of questions according to Beauchesne should not be raised in the Oral Question Period. Questions should relate to urgent public importance. The relation of technical information and data which the hon. member is trying to receive should be placed on the Order Paper.

MR. LUDWIG:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I please -- I respect the comments of the hon. Deputy Premier. It appears quite common knowledge here that the hon. Member for Calgary Bow agrees he has communicated with the Attorney General and, as I said earlier, I would beg that the hon. Member for Calgary Bow complete his final question and continue further questions by correspondence as he has in the past. It doesn't appear to be that urgent but I will permit the last question.

MR. WILSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate that very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray.

MR. WILSON:

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I had asked the last supplementary and we were just about to get the answer from the hon. Attorney General when the confusion arose from the other side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

There was no confusion. I looked over and the hon. Attorney General wasn't getting up so I had to call on the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray.

MR. WILSON:

Well, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, would you allow the hon. Attorney General to answer my last supplementary question?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Attorney General in my view has received your question, and we will follow with the question of the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray.

MLAs Insurance

DR. BOUVIER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Wednesday I asked a question of the hon. Provincial Treasurer and I don't believe he answered the question that I specifically asked. To repeat the question, it was whether the indemnity contract on the MLAs would remove the clause that excludes those that pilot their own planes. And I have discussed this with at least one other member who is in the same category. I am wondering whether the Provincial Treasurer would like to answer it now?

MR. MINIELY:

Mr. Speaker, I was advised shortly after answering the other day that I had perhaps not answered the member's specific question. I indicated at that time that we have expanded the policy, in view of the tragic accident to our colleague to cover all situations so that we didn't get in the hang up of trying to determine whether, in fact, there was business as an MLA or government business blended with any personal business because it became almost impossible.

In answer to the hon. member's question, relative to exclusion for those who fly their own aircraft even though they are licensed for that, is that up until now the policy has excluded an accident which would occur as a result of flying your own aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps to demonstrate the democratic nature of this government, I would say that the additional cost per person for MIAs who fly their own aircraft would be about \$300 so that all members would be covered, regardless of whether they flew their own aircraft or how the accident occurred. So as I say again, perhaps to demonstrate the democratic nature of this government I could take the amount of desk thumping when I sit down as an indication of whether the Legislature would support doing that.

DR. BOUVIER:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. It is the suggestion that pilots are more dangerous when they are up above the road than when they are on the road?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Agreed.

Alberta Securities Commission

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Attorney General. Last week you advised the House that the financial dealings of Cosmopolitan Life, PAP Holdings and associated companies, were under review by your department. My question to you, Mr. Minister, is can you advise the House today when this review will be completed?

MR. LEITCH:

No, I can't.

MR. NOTLEY:

Supplementary question to the hon. Attorney General. Is it the intention of your department to attempt to complete the review so that some announcement can be made with respect to the request for a judicial inquiry prior to the recess of the spring sitting?

MR. LEITCH:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can do no more than say the matter has a high priority and is being done as quickly as it can be.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question to the hon. Attorney General, Mr. Speaker. Have any warrants been issued against any of the principals of the companies concerned?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will have to expand on what he means by "warrants".

MR. NOTLEY:

Any warrants for arrest.

MR. LEITCH:

Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOTLEY:

One final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the hon. Attorney General advise the Legislature whether the government is preparing any changes in the operation of regulatory agencies in the province as a result of this case?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I think that would be premature until the matter has been completely reviewed. As I have indicated before, that is now an on-going process.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

The Universities Amendment Act (Cont.)

MRS. CHICHAK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Is your stand changed on your commitment to the province's universities with respect to the delegation of certain powers by the legislation introduced in amendments to The Universities Act, and if there is any change, to what extent?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, this was the point I was coming to when it was suggested by the opposite side that I might wish to make a comment on Orders of the Day, so I will choose to do it at that time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Wainwright, followed by the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

Elevator Constructors' Strike

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Speaker, my question was raised last Wednesday at the end of the question period to the Minister of Labour and in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Minister. Has the minister recently received any concerns as to the safety of any elevator used by the public as a result of the prolonged strike?

MR. LEITCH:

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm the Acting Minister of Manpower and Labour but didn't realize it until the hon. member was part way through his question. I wonder if you would repeat it.

MR. RUSTE:

Has the minister recently received any concerns as to the safety of any elevator used by the public as a result of the prolonged strike?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any personal information about that and will have to check it and will arrange to do so.

Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute

DR. BUCK:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the hon. Attorney General. In view of the press reports, are you in a position to advise the House if Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute is going to be phased out?

MR. LEITCH:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any press reports indicating phasing out of the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute. I think perhaps what the hon. member is referring to is a statement that there is, at the very tentative stages, planning which would involve replacement of some of the structures, and perhaps all of them ultimately, now existing at Fort Saskatchewan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Lethbridge East, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary Millican.

Highway 3 School Crosswalk

MR. ANDERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Highways. Is it your intention to review a decision made by your department to refuse a request for a school crossing on Highway No. 3 because, according to your officials, the children would be less cautious if the crosswalk is marked? For further information, Mr. Speaker, the crosswalk was requested by the municipal district and is located at Bardwell.

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I took that question under advisement the other day and neglected to put down who asked it. Since it involved No. 3 Highway and Taber, I took the liberty of passing the correspondence -- a letter that was sent from my department -- to the County of Taber and passed it over to the hon. Member for Taber-Warner.

We are not going to paint a crosswalk sign or reduce the speed in that particular area as requested.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Tartan Breweries

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Speaker, my question today is directed to the hon. the Attorney General. In view of the announcement yesterday by the president of Tartan Breweries that they were going to stop the import of Manitoba beer into Alberta, did you indicate to the president that you were reviewing importation of Manitoba beer into Alberta?

MR. LEITCH:

No, I didn't, Mr. Speaker. I should say that question had been raised earlier in the House, and in answer to that question I may have indicated that the matter was under review, which was accurate. But there was certainly no indication in the sense of personal communication either from myself or, to my knowledge, anyone within the department to the breweries that the policy then in effect would be changed.

MR. DIXON:

I would like to direct a supplementary question to the hon. the Attorney General. In view of the fact that Mr. Ginter is very anxious to have the

brewery operate in Red Deer, what action is the government taking? You, as the hon. minister in charge of Alberta liquor control situation -- I was wondering what encouragement is the government giving to get the brewery in Red Deer into production so that Alberta-made beer may be sold in the province from that brewery?

MR. LEITCH:

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it the delay in getting production from the plant in Red Deer is currently because of a labour dispute between management and the union. That dispute is in the process of being resolved pursuant to the arrangements which exist under legislation in Alberta for resolving labour disputes. I think it would be quite wrong for the government, on either side of that dispute, to play any role which would tend to put one side at a disadvantage.

MR. DIXON:

My final supplementary question regarding the Red Deer brewery, and I would like to direct it to the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce. Mr. Minister, at what stage is the loan that was going to be given to Tartan Breweries? Have they actually received any of the loan, and could the hon. minister himself indicate to me and to the rest of the members of the House at just what stage of construction is the brewery in Red Deer? How long will it take to complete it in order that once the Manitoba beer is dried up that we will be able to have the Tartan Breweries manufacture Alberta beer?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, I will answer the question about the loan. It is \$500,000. It hasn't been taken down and it can't be taken down until the brewery is in production. As far as what stage it is at, I am afraid I can't answer that.

MR. NOTLEY:

A question, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of clarification. Did I hear the hon. minister right when he said 'loan'? My understanding is that it was a grant.

MR. PEACOCK:

Excuse me. I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. It is a grant.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Continental Express Lines Personnel

MR. BENOIT:

My question, Mr. Speaker, was to the Minister of Labour, and I believe the minister in charge can answer it. What percentage of the personnel formerly employed by Continental Express lines has now been employed elsewhere?

MR. MINIELY:

I worked with the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour on it, so rather than the Attorney General answering, Mr. Speaker, I will make some comments.

When it became evident that it was impossible for the province to carry on supporting Continental Express Lines, the Minister of Manpower and Labour immediately took steps to get together with the employees to follow up on trying to relocate them in jobs with other companies. I am not at the position -- without going back and advising the Minister of Manpower and Labour if he would like this -- to actually indicate to you what the success of that has been. But I do know there have been significant attempts by the government to assist them in relocating jobs.

Sturgeon Lake Seismic Operations

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Lands and Forests. Can he advise the House if all seismic activities on Sturgeon Lake have been stopped at the present time?

DR. WARRACK:

Mr. Speaker, within the terms as approved by the government, the seismic activities have been completed.

MR. LUDWIG:

Does this mean that there are no more seismic activities on Sturgeon Lake at the present time, or in the future?

DR. WARRACK:

Yes it does, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LUDWIG:

A supplementary to the hon. minister. Has he any of the reports he spoke about several days ago for tabling in the Legislature?

DR. WARRACK:

I have information both from the staff, and as a matter of fact from the local Fish and Game Association and the report in the media that there was indeed no significant damage that occurred with the ensuing detonations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Zaradic Industries

MR. DOWLING:

Mr. Speaker, I have been rather waiting for the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview to ask me the question again. Last week he asked about a firm called Zaradic Industries and I have the answer prepared if I might have the permission to give the answer now.

Zaradic Industries, Mr. Speaker, were extensively investigated over the last number of months and their books and records were examined by a chartered accountant. As a result of this several charges were laid against them under the Criminal Code and the preliminary hearings are scheduled for the 16, 17, and 18 in Edmonton.

We are aware of the reports that a Mr. Bury who was involved with Zaradic Industries is now operating another company under another name. This is also under investigation and if there is a breach of law against either The Licencing of Trades and Businesses Act or under the Criminal Code, action will be taken.

At the present time The Licencing of Trade and Business Branch as well as the Attorney General's Department is investigating extensively the possibility of preparing legislation to curk this kind of problem.

Southern Alberta Teachers Strike

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education in the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Labour. I was wondering if the Minister of Education could report on the teachers' strike in the south?

MR. HYNDMAN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hohcl has been in Lethbridge since Wednesday evening when he flew down and it is my understanding -- the report is that he has been working almost around the clock since that time. He is expected back in Edmonton today, but not before the House rises. So it may be that he will have

some statement to make when he gets back, or report to the House Monday as an alternative.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, supplementary. What type of action would the Minister of Manpower and Labour take in participating in negotiation such as this?

AN HON. MEMBER:

That's out of order.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

No, it's a legitimate question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Olds-Edsby, followed by --

MR. R. SPEAKER:

A supplementary -- a point of order -- certainly that isn't out of order. The question that I was asking was done on a legitimate basis, asking what authority or involvement does a minister have in involving himself in negotiations such as that. The question was asked with no malice or other intent in mind.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly that is a question relating to the authority of the Minister of Manpower and Labour under the various acts which are his responsibility. I can only say that I'm sure he is exploring all options open to them and using his very substantial capabilities to the greatest degree in trying to assist in a settlement.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. What type of action is the minister taking? Is he involved directly in the negotiations?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would wonder -- it would be quite difficult for any minister here to reply to your question because you'd almost have to know what the hon. Minister of Manpower and Labour is doing in Lethbridge.

The hon. Member for Olds-Edsby, followed by --

MR. LUDWIG:

A supplementary to the -- whoever wants to take this one on. What authority --

AN HON. MEMBER:

It won't be hard.

MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, it will be hard enough for you.

What authority has any minister to order a black-out on any news in any negotiation? Take that one on.

MR. HYNDMAN:

In that question the authority is clearly there and if the hon. member will check the Statutes and regulations and practices of the province, he will find that is the case.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, has the hon. Minister of Education the authority to order a black-out on any news reporting?

MR. HYNDMAN:

The only black-out I would order would be on the hon. member's speeches.

DR. BUCK:

That's censorship.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is that a supplementary question?

MR. GRUENWALD:

OK, supplementary to the Minister of Education. Could you tell us, Mr. Minister, have there been, to your knowledge, requests from students outside the strike area to attend school in the cities of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, or Stirling, or any of those places, and what space is available? Could you give us that information.

MR. HYNDMAN:

I believe that question was discussed some time ago, Mr. Speaker. I understand that requests were made by the parents of students living outside the Lethbridge area to the Lethbridge boards. And the boards at that time, I understand, made a decision that they would not be taking their students into the Lethbridge system certainly for the duration of the present problem.

However, there is a different situation which might arise in the event that students and their parents move to take up permanent residence in the city of Lethbridge, in which event there would be a legal obligation on the board to accept them and a legal obligation on the parents to send them to school. One thing, though, that should be remembered by school boards in the surrounding area is that once this urbanization takes place, in effect there may be a permanent loss of students and loss of grants by reason of that move.

MR. R. SPEAKER:

One supplementary to the Minister of Education. Have any teachers who are presently involved in the strike made representation to you or to your department with regard to having non-compulsory membership in the Alberta Teachers Association?

MR. HYNDMAN:

No, Mr. Speaker.

DR. PAPROSKI:

One supplementary to the question that has been raised. Isn't it kind of amazing that the former two speakers on the opposite side have these questions, when in fact they were in cabinet, and don't even know what authority they had?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Order, order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Clds-Didsbury, followed by the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray.

Transmission Lines

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to ask him if either officials of his department or some firm commissioned by the Department of Agriculture have done a study of the effects of main transmission lines over land in general, especially agricultural land?

DR. HCRNER:

Mr. Speaker, I'd have to see whether or not there has been any special study and to my memory at the moment, I don't think there has been any

consultant reports made on the effects of lines. Whether or not there has been some work done within the Soils Branch within the department, I'd have to check.

MR. CLARK:

Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Minister, my question arises out of the committee report of a Standing Committee on Law and Law Amendments a year ago and a request that you be asked to do that.

DR. HORNER:

I'll check and see about a further report.

Transportation of Native People

DR. BOUVIER:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Northern Development. And I ask the indulgence of the House for a slight preamble to put it in context. This question comes as a result of a query from the Metis Association of Alberta. It is in regard to the private resolution which we passed last year after it was made very general by an amendment. However, they were wondering if any research has been done into the transportation of native people to areas of employment on a weekly or daily basis.

MR. ADAIR:

Mr. Speaker, in reference, you are referring, I assume, to the transportation of people from areas that can't be reached by road. In reference to that, once we did get some of the people from the HRDA Organization to our side we placed that before them to come back to us with a report as to what can be done in that. It's being looked into. I haven't got a report back as yet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Indian Education

MR. SORENSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Has the government made representation to the federal government to have schools located on Indian reserves operated and staffed by trained Indians with curricula that emphasize Indian history and culture?

MR. HYNDMAN:

I don't believe specific recommendations of that kind have been made, Mr. Speaker, largely because we haven't been able to assess the unanimity or otherwise of the Indian people themselves. It must be remembered I think, the Indian people feel strongly that the historic obligations which they feel the federal government has to them as set forth in years prior to the 1900s should be maintained, and certainly if representations of that specific kind were made, we'd be happy to follow them up, probably through the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs and myself.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Education. Has your department requested any information from the Alberta Indian Association on this proposal as to what their views would be?

MR. HYNDMAN:

We have specifically requested their views with regard to their interest in having Indian representation on school boards outside Indian reserves but where there are a substantial number of Indian children attending. Two-thirds of all the province's Indian children are attending out-of-reserve schools. The letter I received from the Association just yesterday, I believe it was, indicated that they have not yet decided what course they would like to follow and requested the government not to put in any legislation which might give representation to Indians on local school boards.

Earth Day Birthday

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Deputy Premier. As a result of today's Earth Day Birthday activities in Edmonton with government assistance, can we expect the provincial government to promote and aid similar activities throughout the province?

DR. HORNER:

Mr. Speaker, I have been busy in public accounts and other matters related to the government and I am not aware of the activities that the hon. gentleman has had time to go to.

MR. WILSON:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. To the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Would the government welcome additional applications for similar activities to be funded by the Priority Employment Program?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Speaker, the Priority Employment Program is running out on May 15. Of course, any time any citizen of Alberta feels that it would be worth his while to apply to the government for assistance, he is always welcome to do so.

MR. WILSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the hon. Minister for Education. Has your department taken a formal position on student involvement in Earth Day activities, such as officially proclaiming such days?

MR. HYNDMAN:

Not to date, Mr. Speaker. We would hope that the initiative there would be taken by school boards and particularly by the students and the parents, in the sense of giving more local autonomy to school boards all over the province.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Edmonton Strathcona, followed by the hon. Member for Highwood.

Law Society Trust Accounts

MR. KOZIAK:

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Attorney General. Have the members of the legal profession and the Bankers' Association been made aware that effective April 1, the members of the Law Society must open interest-bearing trust accounts and turn the interest which these trust accounts earn over to the foundation which has been created under The Legal Profession Act?

MR. LEITCH:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand that they have been, by a circular letter that has gone from the benches of the Law Society to the members of the profession.

MRS. CHICHAK:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the hon. Attorney General could tell us whether he plans any follow-up to see whether this has, in fact, been carried out by both the bankers and members of the society?

MR. LEITCH:

At the present moment, Mr. Speaker, there are no definitive plans to see that it is followed up. I would expect it to be, and shortly after it goes into operation I will review the matter and ensure that it is.

Venereal Disease

MR. BENOIT:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I would like to ask if, in the light of the rising incidence of venereal disease in the province, the minister is planning any special remedial measures on a provincial level?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a subject, of course, that touches many people. I don't want to fail to be serious in responding to the hon. member's question, though.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the statistics of rise in various areas showing greater incidence, whether it be disease or other occurrences such as crime and so on, are very often based on changes in the reporting system which create a greater degree of detection and record, rather than just a greater proven incidence.

Although the rise in apparent incidence is something that is always of concern, it may not be totally a rise to the extent that would appear to be shown, because of the considerations that I have just expressed. However, the department does support, through local health units, and I believe to some extent through the school system, although that is not universal, some public education on the subject. I certainly would want, each year, to review the situation and see that the amount of education being done is appropriate for the incidence.

MR. PURDY:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be discussing this in further length today when he meets with the federal Minister of Health?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, we had some other subjects in mind.

DR. PAPROSKI:

Mr. Speaker, did not the minister indicate in the subcommittee question period, when the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway indicated to him that in fact we need an intense program for public relations, via media and in the schools, that he would indeed follow this up for the following year?

MR. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, no doubt in subcommittee I was very agreeable to all hon. members who had things they wanted to say. If the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway gained that assurance from me, then it will be followed up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Grants Inventory

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister without Portfolio in charge of Rural Development. Mr. Minister, has your department given any consideration to carrying an up-to-date inventory of all grants available both under provincial and federal programs -- which operate within the province -- and submitting this inventory to service clubs and towns and villages within the province?

MR. TOPOLNISKY:

Mr. Speaker, our program inventory of last year is going to be updated on the provincial basis and the federal programs. It's a good idea and we will take that under consideration. Certainly they have been distributed last year to municipalities, and the organizations and secretaries of various groups I think received them as well.

MR. NOTLEY:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to clarify more than anything else. Did I understand you to say, Mr. Minister, that you would take under consideration -- specifically take under consideration -- an inventory of federal programs that operate in the province as well?

MR. TOPCLNISKY:

That, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we will take up in our rural development cabinet committee.

University Entrance Exams

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education. Has the minister ascertained yet if the universities and colleges plan a pre-entry examination for entry to the colleges and universities?

MR. FOSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of no such plans.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Grazing Royalties

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Lands and Forests. Has the government made a decision as to what the royalty rate will be this year on grazing lands?

DR. WARRACK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member asked me that question a short time ago and I indicated that that matter was before the government and it has now been decided.

MR. FRENCH:

Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister in a position to advise the Legislature what that rate will be?

DR. WARRACK:

Yes, I am, Mr. Speaker. The calculation of grazing royalty fees is based on a relatively simple formula, but in any case that formula is then multiplied by a percentage figure that indicates the value that would be paid in dollars. There had been in 1970 a remission of half of the grazing fees royalty and we are in 1973 rescinding half of that remission.

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, my question is quite simple. I want to know what the forage value is in the three different areas.

DR. WARRACK:

Well, yes. The royalty structure is calculated to be 10 per cent, 8-1/3 per cent and 6-1/4 per cent in the three districts, and it will be 75 per cent of that calculation this year instead of 50. In other words, it will be 7-1/2, 6-1/4 and 3 per cent in the three districts that I think the hon. member is familiar with.

MR. FRENCH:

My last supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What increase in royalty will this represent over last year, percentage-wise? What percentage in the three areas? Percentage wise. What percentage? In the three areas?

DR. WARRACK:

It would go from 50 per cent implementation of the grazing fees structure to 75 per cent implementation of it. So that is an increasing factor. In addition, though, the hon. member will be aware that the formula is triggered by the average price for the last six months in the Calgary livestock market, so it floats up and down with the Calgary livestock market. The figure for 1972, which is really the last six months in 1972, is 34.41 cents.

MR. FRENCH:

Mr. Speaker, I don't like to delay the House --

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May this be the last question?

MR. FRENCH:

It will be the last question if I can get the answer. What I would like to know is what is the forage value of this year over last year, in a percentage, in the south, the centre and the north?

DR. WARRACK:

As I indicated earlier, it goes from 5 per cent to 7-1/2 per cent in the south district, which is district A. It goes from 4-1/6 to 6-1/4 per cent in the central district, that is district B. It goes from 2-1/2 to 3 per cent for the north district C. I could elaborate in terms of what backs this up if the House wishes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for Calgary Millican and this is the last question.

Third Edmonton Airport

MR. DIXON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is the minister or anyone in his department having meetings with the officials of the City of Edmonton to investigate the possibility of another commercial airport in the Edmonton area?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, we have had some preliminary discussions with Edmonton in that regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce revert back to Introduction of Visitors?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (CONT.)

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Speaker, situated in the central part of this province looking out into the great plains to give them vision, situated on the leaside of the Rocky Mountains towering high, snowcapped, to indicate the humbleness and the greatness of the Creator, is situated a constituency called Calgary Currie, and in that constituency is a school called Altadore.

And Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege this afternoon to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, 60 students from Altadore Elementary School in this constituency of Calgary Currie. They are accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Nyrose, Mrs. Dick, Mrs. Vosburgh, Mrs. Dakes, and a very good friend of mine, Mrs. Redman. Would they please stand and be recognized?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Before we move on to Orders of the Day I do want to apologize to the hon. Member for Hanna-Oyen. When I introduced him a minute ago I said it so quickly that I gathered some of the members heard it as 'hanoy'. My sincere apologies.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Highways and Transport

MR. COPITHORNE:

Mr. Speaker, I was asked several questions the other day on which I was unable to give an answer at the time. I have the answer now for them if I would be permitted to refer back to that.

On Tuesday last the hon. Member for Calgary McCall asked a question in regard to the problem in the production in the 1973 licence plates. I now have the information requested by the hon. member. The member referred to "poor workmanship". There has been a problem in the painting process, Mr. Speaker, in that the rollers in certain combinations of numbers are not completely covering the numerals. The numbers in question are 3, 5, and 7 and we hope to overcome this problem shortly.

The hon. member referred to a duplication of numbers. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this occasionally happens when machines stick and process the same number two or three or more times. This is a perennial problem, however, Mr. Speaker. It is not a thing that has occurred this year only. I understand that there were 151 such duplications this year which is below the annual average.

The hon. member referred to delay in deliveries. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have been some problems in delivery but never at any time has a motorist experienced a problem of appearing at a licence issuer and finding no plates available. We have been able to keep abreast of the licence sales and have now instituted a two-shift program which will take care of the problem quite satisfactorily.

We have been plagued by illness in the gaol guard supervisory staff with one man in hospital and two men on sick leave. We are quite confident, however, Mr. Speaker, that the production problems have been overcome.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to revert to a question which was asked by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow in respect to the number of stolen motor vehicles that were brought into Alberta from foreign jurisdictions for sale to unsuspecting Albertans. During 1972 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been involved in approximately 50 such cases.

In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, it is reported that stolen car rings operating out of New York, Dallas and Los Angeles have used Alberta's lax registration system to obtain registration certificates and plates so they can dispose of stolen vehicles in other provinces and states. We have no way of arriving at that figure, Mr. Speaker. We believe that this operation was quite extensive. During the past five years the loss to Alberta residents alone is estimated at approximately \$400,000. With the tightening up of the registration system this coming year, Mr. Speaker, we are confident that Alberta will lose the doubtful honour of being North America's leading stolen car outlet.

Department of Advanced Education

MR. FCSTER:

Mr. Speaker, I suggested during the question period -- a question put to me concerning the commitments that I have made following discussions with universities. I would like to respond very briefly and say that as the House knows it appeared on Orders of the Day several days ago and reported on commitments which I had made to the university community generally, and I want to assure the House and the university community, should there be any doubt that the commitments made by me on that occasion stand, no commitment which I make will be changed until and unless there is a good deal of discussion with the parties involved and, of course, this obviously includes universities.

The commitment to which I am referring, Mr. Speaker, was a commitment that, while the powers and responsibilities of the Universities Commission will be transferred under this legislation to the department, those responsibilities will not be delegated to public service.

The question arises, Mr. Speaker, because of a provision in the bill which provides the minister with the power to delegate those powers to any other body, of course, including public service.

I would like to emphasize that the bill as proposed was provided to the universities and was, in fact, the basis of some considerable discussion between myself and the boards before being admitted to the House. We did, in fact, discuss the provisions of Section 62 and I indicated to the boards of governors that it was included in this legislation and could be withdrawn, but it was included in this legislation because I wanted to leave open the flexibility that I thought was necessary since the function and terms of reference of the Committee of University Affairs had not yet been determined, and would not be determined until such time as we could carry forward discussions with the universities. I wanted to build in the opportunity of delegating or transferring to that committee some of the decisions and responsibilities that are identified in The Universities Act.

It has been suggested to me by one university in particular -- Calgary -- that if they had their preference they would like to delete Section 62 of the Act. I have acknowledged to the university community that it is there only to provide flexibility as the basis of discussion. If the universities feel it should be removed I have no firm feelings on it and I look forward to the discussion on second reading.

I indicated to the universities, Mr. Speaker, that the bill going into the House would be exactly in the form we discussed and that I would wait second reading of the bill until I had some response from the universities. I am quite prepared to confirm, if that's necessary, my commitment earlier and to ensure that the power to delegate can be withdrawn or moved. I am quite prepared to entertain that. If it is withdrawn it then does remove some flexibility with respect to the function of the Committee on University Affairs. However, that will proceed on second reading.

I take this occasion to stand and confirm this, Mr. Speaker, because there has been some concern and discussion within the university community that relations between universities and government may become politicized. I want to avoid every occasion where that impression may be created. I regret very much that the charge as made, if it's accurate, appears to do that. I think the politicizing of these relations is both unnecessary and clearly highly undesirable.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Diachuk in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The Committee of Supply will now come to order. For the members' information the Speaker is back but he didn't want to interrupt. He will be back for us to report at the end of the day. Have no fear.

MR. HARLE:

Mr. Chairman, as chairman of Subcommittee C, we have had under consideration Vote No. 28, the Estimates of the expenditure for the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation and beg to report the same. I therefore submit the following resolution --

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I wonder, Mr. Harle, we haven't completed the other resolution, have we, Mr. --

MR. HARLE:

Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Yurko is absent and probably will be absent on Monday by reason of a death in the family. So that is why we are moving into Culture, Youth and Recreation at this time. Normally we would hope to complete each department as we start it.

MR. HARLE:

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$11,599,050 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 for the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Moved by the chairman of Subcommittee C, and seconded by the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, it is resolved that a sum not exceeding \$11,599,050 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 for the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Any questions?

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few preliminary remarks concerning this department and the budget. First of all, we have had a very interesting experience with the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation. When you ask him something that he wants to answer, you strike a gusher and it is hard to turn him off. In fact, I am convinced that he can answer a question a lot better when he doesn't know the answer than some hon. ministers opposite do when they know the answer.

We have had a rather interesting experience and one of the most serious situations which developed in that department was a matter of advertising. I am wondering, as I didn't sit in on all of the departments' subcommittee studies, but there is some advertising spending in this department that the minister advises us will be spent by the publicity bureau of the department.

I think the hon. members in the opposition ought to be forewarned of this kind of thing to make sure that the total spending for publicity for the government is not hidden in departments. We have to expose these things. We have to mention these things so when the Budget Debate is over the people will know exactly where the money goes.

I stated that the hon. minister is really anxious to give information, but I ran into a brick wall on one question. It wasn't as much of a brick wall as he might think it is, but he kept giving me little bits of information and I want to read it into the record here.

About the old court house that is still a museum, I stated a question, "...what is its fate eventually? Since you are now building a new museum, I suppose this building may become --". Then the minister was over-anxious and he said, "Mr. Chairman, all I would like to say so far, of course, is because I hope I will really have a terrific announcement by the government that great things are in store for the old court house in Calgary."

The reason I am reading this is that I asked a couple of ministers and the Premier here, and they clammed up. There was nothing they could say -- no plans, nothing. I want to carry on with the minister's response to my question. Then I said, "For the building itself or its site?" Mr. Schmid, "Mr. Minister of Public Works, can I say for the building itself?" Dr. Backus, "I would say for the building itself." I am referring to the fact there are great things in store for the old court house in Calgary.

Further on, Mr. Schmid says, "We have plans for the building itself." It means they have plans. It doesn't mean they are going to be making plans for the building itself. They have plans for it now. At least that is the impression I got and that is the way it reads.

Then further down in another question I got the impression somehow that they were at one time suggesting they might knock the old court house down. But that is not so. I am assured by the hon. Minister, Mr. Schmid, that they will not tear that building down and I am very pleased to hear that.

Then he answers me another question, and he says, "Mr. Chairman, I can assure the hon. member it's going to be really something exciting what is going to be placed into the old court house once it has been vacated by the present Glenbow Museum.", which means that they have decided what they are going to do

even though the Premier denies it. In this case I am more inclined to believe the minister rather than the Premier.

Then, I didn't quite -- there was a lot of activity in that committee so I said, "But the building will be knocked down?" Mr. Schmid, "just in order to -- of course, I should say a little bit -- " and then he kept on and on, and this is how his answer read: "if it happens to be under the Department of Youth, Culture, and Recreation to suggest what could be done with it, should give you at least a little lead, you know." And I don't know what that meant, but in any case he is hinting that he knows something. But finally the Premier tells us that neither he nor Mr. Schmid know anything about what is going to happen and I'm going to pursue this further.

Then in another question: "Then this present court house will not be demolished -- the old court house, the present Glenbow Museum -- will not be demolished until after 1975?" Mr. Chairman, this is Mr. Schmid's answer: "I think I have already stated that the Department of Youth, Culture and Recreation has exciting things in mind for the -- what he refers to -- the old court house of the present Alberta Glenbow Museum." Then he became a little gun shy when I kept pursuing these questions, and then here is another answer he gave me: "I can really state, Mr. Chairman, as I have said before that for the building we have some very exciting plans." And that is all I want, I want to know if he has them, what are the plans? Because the Premier said there aren't any plans, but I don't think I should bother with the Premier because he apparently hasn't been told by the minister as to what the plans are going to be.

So we go further down and I finally exhausted the minister but he didn't tell me -- but he still tells us there is a plan and I sometimes doubt whether he knows but I think he has one. He said, "Mr. Chairman, may I assure the hon. member -- and he'll not get any more out of me than he has already received -- that we have exciting things in mind for the building that is now used by the Glenbow Institute as a museum." And I presume that he knows what he is talking about and he'll get a chance to really elaborate because that is what we are here for, to get information. "Mr. Chairman, will the minister be announcing this in the House this year?" And Mr. Schmid says, "Mr. Chairman, we will be announcing that as soon as the government is ready to announce it." Now that is a good Conservative answer -- that's an open government answer.

Then I said, "Will the minister consider holding hearings in Calgary to determine whether they can carry the support of the people to knock down that court house?" Mr. Chairman, then he denies that. And then once more he said, "I said we're going to place something exciting into the building, Mr. Chairman," and finally, "This is the tenth time..." but I think it is only the ninth time, "that I repeat we have exciting things in store for the building."

I believe that certainly is good news for us and he couldn't blame me for pursuing a question because it is his job to answer questions and that's why we hold committee hearings so that we don't have to ask them here. But I will ask him and I will ask the hon. Minister of Public Works whether he is in on any of these plans because I believe that building is perhaps under-maintained by the Department of Public Works if not by the Glenbow Museum directly. But it may still be under the ownership of the Department of Public Works.

So between the three, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, the Minister of Public Works, and the Premier, we're going to try and get the whole truth and no nonsense. But I believe the Premier now is almost obliged to tell us what is going to happen with that building because he denied that anything was going to, he denied that there were any plans, any discussions, and so we have an interesting development again. I don't know who to believe, but right now I believe the Premier must know that something is being planned for that building and he denied that he does know.

I'd like to recommend to the hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that if he is so anxious to do something for Calgary and that building, he ought to call a few meetings in Calgary, let the interested MLAs know, and we'll have a few discussions. Get a little bit of input from the people of Calgary as to what could be done in that building. I have some suggestions for him.

First of all we could stand an arts and crafts centre in Calgary. That building has several floors, it's in good shape, it's well located, it's accessible, and it is a well-known area. So he can consider establishing an arts and crafts centre in that building. That does not have to be to the exclusion of any other activities.

I believe there should be an encouragement to use this building for more youth activities. There are three or four floors. They have rooms for offices,

rooms for meetings, room for perhaps even some other activities, so the youth centre and youth activities would be a good place to locate in that building. I think there is another recognition we ought to give in Calgary concerning this building. It is a historical site. It has served its purpose but it still has many, many years of use and we should perhaps find a place for a permanent display of Indian artifacts, Indian culture, Indian art. We should also be encouraging use of that centre by the natives who are living near Calgary, perhaps throughout the province, and who perhaps live in Calgary. This should be considered seriously. They deserve a piece of the action as far as that building is concerned.

These are three suggestions to the minister, either one is good, but all three combined would serve a good purpose. But, as I stated Mr. Minister, these are only suggestions, and perhaps a couple of meetings, and not these hit-and-run kind of operations, but let the people know you are going to be there and you're going to be calling a meeting. We'll attend and we probably can't tell you very much, but we just might be able to tell you a little about what to do with that building.

And the last suggestion I have concerning this building is the matter of multi-culturalism, a program that was so well-launched under the Social Credit government and followed up by the federal government and is now being carried on by the present minister.

[Interjections]

Yes. And also that we should look at this and meet with the multi-cultural groups of which there are a number. They would like a place to be able to operate from, to have headquarters, to have offices. It's a tremendously interesting activity in Calgary. We would like to urge you to consider that also.

These are just four of the suggestions that could be included in that great excitement that is all pent up within you, that you can't wait to tell us, but apparently you can't because you might reveal something that somebody much higher than you does not want revealed.

And finally, if there is a little cubbyhole, a sort of a piece in the corner there some place, you might sweep it out and you might find a PC headquarters. We'll allow you to have that one, preferably in the basement room.

[Interjections]

Yes. So, Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the suggestions. I hope the minister is listening. He needs a lot of input from Calgary because the Conservative voice from Calgary is rather a dead voice, so he has to listen to us. We hope that he will practise what he preaches, he wants input from the people, and so he is getting it.

Now the indication appears to be that the grants in this department have gone up tremendously. They are scattered around a bit, many grants for many people. The government feels that it can dispense these grants rather generously. I approve these grants, but I got the impression that the motto of this department was that God helps those that help themselves and the government those who don't.

I believe that with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation there should be some leadership to encourage people to do a lot of things for themselves. They want to. Given the chance these people will do many things for themselves. I see that the hon. minister is getting cautioned not to jump out of his seat before the firing shot. The hon. Minister of the Treasury likes to lead his top employees by the hand, but I don't think he should try to lead this minister.

As I stated, the hon. Minister Horst Schmid can answer questions better when he doesn't know the answers than some hon. ministers opposite when they do. So he is quite capable, but in spite of his ability, Mr. Chairman, I drew a blank on the court house, but I believe he has enough ideas now that he might sit down, think it over, and come up with a sensible answer.

One more criticism I would like to launch at the hon. minister is that he is spending too much energy, too much effort and perhaps a considerable amount of money, and even with all due respect to his energy even he can run out of steam I believe. But he is trying to create the impression there was no Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation until he got there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed, agreed.

MR. LUDWIG:

Now, I don't mind him jumping to that stupid conclusion, but when all the front line people support him, we have a job to do Mr. Chairman. We have a job to do to straighten them out that there is --

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I trust that when you say 'we', you are not including me, Mr. Ludwig.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Chairman, I cautioned you once before about interrupting me needlessly. You should have remembered.

[Laughter]

MR. CHAIRMAN:

[Inaudible]

MR. LUDWIG:

Well, you're not used to being interrupted, and you're not used to saying anything in the House either.

Mr. Chairman, I want to continue with my remarks but apparently the Deputy Premier sent me up with a point of order so that he can interrupt me. He is interrupting me anyway, so I may as well wait until he finishes. But the hon. Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation ought to be filled in that the ground work for a lot of what he is doing has been laid. A lot of meetings have been held, a lot of studies have been made, and a lot of leadership has been provided in that department.

I am not saying that the hon. minister is not doing a good job. He is continuing some of the very good programs, but to try to create the impression that nothing was here, I am here now, I have arrived and everything is now 'full course ahead'. That might be a nice political thing to do, but it isn't entirely honest. We will demand from him the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It may be hard for some hon. ministers to do that, but I think Mr. Schmid will perhaps comply.

So, don't waste time trying to say what was not done. We are looking at you and what you are going to do and, particularly as a member for Calgary, I want to know whether you were just bleating downwind about the court house or whether you really have something to give us. The challenge is either to 'put up or shut-up'.

Mr. Chairman, there is one thing I want to tell the hon. minister. Notwithstanding the increase in grants and the belief that there is a great thrust forward in his department outside of the inflationary increase, there is no additional budget in his department. Not in the -- if I may just locate the page --

AN HON. MEMBER:

Pages 180, 181, 182, 183, and 184.

MR. LUDWIG:

I was impressed that you know something and now I am convinced.

The total budget is roughly 6.9 per cent higher than last year's and this, notwithstanding the increase in grants, is not an increase if you consider the inflationary cost of everything, that -- roughly -- that department is standing still so far as spending is concerned. That may be a compliment to the minister's efficiency -- that he could probably do more with less money. Nevertheless this is one department that did not receive quite as much attention from the government, as have other departments.

I wish to impress upon the minister that, notwithstanding that a lot of work has been done dealing with heritage in this province and historical sites,

this is an on-going thing and more action in this area would be greatly appreciated.

In the south we have a number of historical sites which have not been properly recognized or marked. The minister should look at these and see what needs to be done. We will support him in that regard.

In the Dunvegan area, Peace River, I would like to urge the minister to take a good look at that historic site near the bridge -- on the north side of the bridge -- and develop it as a park for that part of the province. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the province. It has a lot of history attached to it and it deserves more recognition. I believe the minister has the type of attitude that will give this whole area a boost so that the public may enjoy not only the scenery and the recreation, but also know a bit about the history of that area.

So, Mr. Chairman, with those few preliminary remarks I would like to hear the minister respond and he can quit stalling or beating around the bush. He can give us a yes or no answer on the court house. Has he got anything in mind or not? and it is as simple as that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, with great pleasure I am going to announce to the House that we have great and exciting things in mind for the court house in Calgary once it is vacated by the Glenbow Museum. Now, with the preliminary question in the question period whether a decision has been made regarding the court house --

DR. BUCK:

Will you please slow down.

MR. SCHMID:

Anyway I am quite sure the hon. Premier did not say that a decision has been made and I said that plans were being considered, but I didn't say a decision had been made. This, of course, again is something the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View is trying to get out of me, trying to find out what plans we are considering. Once a decision is made by the government I am quite sure he will be just as excited about it as I am. That's why I'm speaking so fast.

Since, of course, the hon. member has referred to Indian art in Calgary and the exhibition thereof, I would suggest to him that maybe he should go to the present Glenbow Museum and visit there, because there is a big, great exhibition there presently and of course this would also be included in the new Glenbow Museum once it is built on the convention site.

The hon. member, of course, will also know that the report has been tabled a couple of days ago regarding the preservation of historical and archaeological sites in Alberta and I hope this to be the best legislation in North America once it is approved in this Assembly.

I agree with the hon. member that Dunvegan is one of the most beautiful sites in Alberta. I went up there before when there was still a ferry going and of course, after the bridge was built, and again as I did during the subcommittee meetings, and I am proud to say that we are way ahead of him because we are already negotiating for land up there to make this a site to be visited, a sight to be looked at.

But, Mr. Chairman, since the hon. member several times has told me how terrific the department -- what great groundwork was laid in the department before this government came in on August 31, I would like to remind him of a few things. It was the impression I had all along that someone there was looking at the jewels and gold lying around but not knowing what to do with them. I would like to give you a few examples.

The Creative Writing Division -- it was established before we came into government, but you know, Mr. Chairman, that man was given an 8 by 8 foot cubicle to work out of. He now has an office that he can work out of and according to the latest result of the first novel contest there were 98 novels submitted for judging, which indicates what a great job this government has been doing with this division.

The Arts and Crafts Centre, Mr. Chairman, was crowded, so much so that they had to stack the paintings of value on the floor because there was no other

room. Mr. Chairman, this government is now second to none in North America since they moved out to 142 street.

Mr. Chairman, this department also negotiated with private industry to at least have some support from them to get artists around the province of Alberta. We had, as a first again, the Aquitaine company cooperate with us to have the Gloria Saarinén Trio travel around the province.

Mr. Chairman, when the hon. members across mentioned that they had started all the programs we are continuing, it reminds me of a gardener who plants a seed in the ground and then forgets to water it. Of course, once someone else comes around, tends it and waters it, the first one says, well I planted the seed so it's my credit. I don't agree with that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, they knew that grants should be paid for the arts but never had the courage to establish a policy. Mr. Chairman, they also had a chance to use a shell in the auditorium for the symphony concerts here in Edmonton. Mr. Chairman, one thing about it -- I understand it was a \$23,000 shell and believe it or not, the shell was lost, they don't know where it is. Three months after we came into government, Mr. Chairman, we bought a new shell and that is now being used for the great enjoyment of symphony concerts and other concerts in that place, Mr. Chairman.

Now, let me get back to the acres of diamonds and gold I have been speaking about. And just to digress a little bit from my department, Mr. Chairman, Suffield has been there for millions of years, including the last 36 of the last government, and they didn't do anything about it, but we are doing something about it now. Mr. Chairman, the hundreds of thousands of dollars alone saved by the Provincial Treasurer in interest rates, that same saving was there before but nothing was done about it. Mr. Chairman.

MR. HENDERSON:

I think the relevant section in Beauchesne says a discussion on the Estimates must be relevant to the estimate under discussion. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation what he has got to do with Suffield and the business of the trust accounts for the Treasury? Were there some of his trust accounts transferred or did he receive some?

MR. MOORE:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, we just finished listening to 30 minutes of the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View going through things that are no relation to the Estimates.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, I spoke strictly to what is in his budget and what is in his department but if the minister is hard pressed for an answer let him wander at field a bit, I don't mind.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, may I just repeat the question that the hon. member across asked the hon. Premier:

Mr. Speaker, I'll direct a supplementary to the hon. Premier. Will the Premier be announcing the disposition of the said court house prior to the end of this session?

Mr. Lougheed:

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any intention with regard to that matter at the present time, but certainly will take the matter as notice.

And this was in answer to the question that the hon. member gave the Premier and all I can say is that no decision has been made but nothing about plans was discussed in there.

MR. LUDWIG:

Well, why did you tell us about them?

MR. SCHMID:

Plans yes, but no decision.

MR. LUDWIG:

Do you always announce plans before you make a decision?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, certainly the government does, I don't know about the member of the opposition here. We make plans before we make a decision at all times. We look at different ways of doing things.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few more points here that we could use that do not quite involve my department, but maybe I should go back to my department then. All right?

The last government allowed great treasures of the arts, of collections of Indian artifacts to remain within firetraps in Calgary. I will just mention, for instance, the library that the government museum down there uses. This government, Mr. Chairman, after only one week in office went down there realizing how bad the situation was and approved an \$8 million grant to the Glenbow Institute for building a new museum for the great city of Calgary.

Mr. Chairman, there is another problem, probably what I could also mention of course, and that is called the Multi-Cultural Conference announced about 10 or 20 days before the election was called. Mr. Chairman, there were about 50 people at the conference, maybe 100, but they were mainly from around Edmonton. We called our people, our delegates from all around the province from all the different ethno-cultural organizations and I can proudly say over 400 attended.

And another thing that maybe I should mention at this time in going through the different commissions and boards that the last government had, there were about two or three non-Angle Saxons on those boards and commissions. Mr. Chairman, this government appoints them according to their ability and not for their ethno-cultural background.

Now, talking about new programs that we have, Mr. Chairman, and not continuing on what the last government had done, may I just mention the \$11.6 million that this government approved for the British Commonwealth Games. And another thing, since we have been talking about local autonomy, this government removed the restrictions from recreational administration grants that the last government had applied. We are giving local autonomy back, Mr. Chairman, to the municipalities and the recreation boards.

Mr. Chairman, the last government surely -- and they can be given great credit for that -- approved the building of the auditoriums. But since the hon. member again mentions what has been done, what did the hon. member do when he was Minister of Public Works? He approved a parkade and a school next to the auditorium thereby spoiling one of the most beautiful views in Calgary by doing so. This, Mr. Chairman, should not have been done. It could at least have been set back 200 feet and would have preserved the view in Calgary.

MR. ZANDER:

You shouldn't have done that, Albert.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, it may be of interest also, as far as the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation is concerned, that the Art Foundation especially, had a great success in getting donated to them paintings of a value of at least \$12,000 which will be turned over to the department within a short time. Again, all I can say there is that this bill was introduced by the hon. Dave Russell in 1967-68. It was not approved, of course, because it had to be introduced then by an opposition member, Mr. Chairman. When we came into government we approved the bill and now we have an Alberta Art Foundation purchasing works of art from Alberta artists.

Just one more thing, Mr. Chairman, I should mention that when we came into office there were paintings all around the province, with artists, but nothing was done about them. When we came into office we took the photographs off the walls in this building and replaced them with at least 300 paintings by Alberta artists, thereby obviously giving them a visible proof of the solid help we hope to give them. That, Mr. Chairman, would be my answer to the hon. member across, regarding the initiative that this government is taking to do something about the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Chairman, I'm rather impressed. I told you that when we ask him a question we usually strike a gusher, except when he doesn't want to tell us something.

When he talks about some construction that I did in the vicinity of the auditorium that is true, Mr. Chairman. I don't think that whatever the Conservatives build in Calgary will overshadow anything. They won't be building anything -- at least they are not planning to at the present time.

When the hon. minister mentions the auditoriums he forgot to explain to us why they decided, when his department is the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, why they decided to zero in for a few paltry dollars and give the students something to worry about by increasing the charges for the use of the auditoriums for graduation ceremonies. I think this principle sort of backfires on all the things the minister says of how concerned he is -- it's a cultural activity, it's a part of their culture and part of their education -- although he wrote back to me and said maybe the school board ought to pay for it.

I don't think the school boards have much to do with auditoriums. The people built the auditoriums in Alberta, the parents, the pioneers built them, the parents of the students who want to use them for graduation ceremonies, so what do they do? The government that is bulging with revenue is bragging up and down as to how fat they are with money, they need a few hundred dollars more so who do they find to hit? They hit the students. So much for the minister's concern for young people.

About the multi-cultural conferences and the work that was done by the previous government, I believe that the minister knows not whereof he speaks. I attended some very fine multi-cultural meetings and functions in Edmonton. People from all walks of life and from all over the province -- including from beyond the province -- were most impressed with the lead that was taken in that area by the previous government and the report that was written. The minister merely confirms what I said that he is spending too much time and energy trying to forget about the fact that much of the groundwork of what he is doing was laid very well in this province.

He's spending much time, in fact he got taken to task by one brief from very prominent ethnic groups in Edmonton telling him to get off his fanny and quit holding more meetings because this matter of multi-culturalism is a thing that has already been settled, let's get on with the job. But he wanted to hold more meetings to create the impression that he originated something.

That seems to be a weakness by many other members in the government. They are very anxious to try and make it appear as if they started everything. I don't have to go too far to say for which the one that we have to rap their knuckles, but hard, was on their bragging that they created the Department of the Environment. That is what I am talking about and this pervades the whole attitude of the minister. They are so anxious to get their brand on something we did.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I thought we were dealing with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, not the Department of the Environment.

MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, the point is very well taken, but for the purpose of analogy and comparison I had to go beyond the department to make my point. I believe I made it and the minister understands exactly what I mean.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, I believe the minister ought to forget about trying to knock, and be positive. It is his responsibility to carry out the good work and show us some leadership, as he has in many instances. But knocking the achievements of the previous administration will in no way enhance the image or the stature of the minister, nor the government, nor the Premier. I will have something more to say about this particular matter in other departments.

One more thing that we ought to discuss under this department is the matter of censorship and dealing with objectionable literature. It was an issue that was very finely played by the hon. members when they were on the opposition. Censorship was a prime issue. We even got worked over for firing a man, oh, this was a real issue and what they weren't going to do. They set up a

committee, they set up a study, they brought in a report. They have a minister who is trying to thrust forward on any matter that he can find, and on this one they flattened out. They just came to a stall completely and they are going to continue with the way we did previously, because they don't know what to do.

That is not so bad, Mr. Chairman. But they criticized this and zeroed in on this issue so relentlessly and continually, and now when they have the problem their reaction is typical of the Conservative government. What do they do? They set up a committee. The committee told them what to do. It takes a little bit of guts to do it. They haven't found anyone to take the lead in this. I thought the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation was bold enough -- he talks that way -- but I think that since this may lose you a few friends the best thing to do is sit quiet and do nothing.

DR. HORNER:

What is your view?

MR. LUDWIG:

My view is that the sooner the people find out and get rid of you, the sooner they will get something done. That's my view.

DR. HORNER:

What's your view on censorship? Or haven't you got enough guts?

MR. LUDWIG:

Yes, I have plenty. But it's your turn. You had all the answers and what happened to you? You lost your tongue on this issue since you got into office. You couldn't stop talking about censorship when you were on this side, and now that you are there, you want me to tell you what to do. I would like to tell you what to do but it isn't parliamentary.

Mr. Chairman, the ball is in their court and they don't know what to do with it. If they do -- I am challenging them -- the hon. member, Mr. Jamison, brought in a report which was a short one. Everybody read it. That's a good report. So what are they going to do? Nothing. In fact right now the hon. minister said they are going to do nothing. That is no surprise because we knew they wouldn't do anything with it.

So that is just something to bring to your attention, Mr. Chairman. That is par for the course for this government on many many issues, some others being unemployment and inflation, and all sorts of things to which they had the answers and now they have nothing. The hon. minister ought to dive to the bottom of Sturgeon Lake and pick up the unexploded dynamite rather than interrupt me. I thought I educated you yesterday, and you should keep quiet today.

[Interjections]

Mr. Chairman, how is it that I can't continue speaking in this House without being heckled by the front line?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The only problem, Mr. Ludwig, is that you appear to be smiling all the time. You are enjoying it.

MR. LUDWIG:

So is the Deputy Premier. So, Mr. Chairman, in concluding my remarks on this budget and on this department, the minister has much to do -- burning yourself out knocking the previous administration. You will be assessed in due course for what you have achieved, and so let's hear what you are going to do. Never mind what somebody else hasn't done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. HARLE:

I wonder if the minister could indicate whether we will be seeing any legislation for the protection of historical and archaeological sites. Also I

wonder if perhaps he could indicate whether or not the draft bill which is contained in the report is the basis which might be used in preparing such legislation, or whether it might be somewhat different.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, of course we are using the draft bill which is contained in the report as one of the bases upon which we hope to build that legislation. Hopefully we will be introducing it this spring and then, in order to have suggestions and suggested changes for that matter from the members and the Assembly here and from the public, we hope to pass it in the fall if it is introduced this spring.

Just to go back one moment, Mr. Chairman, to the remarks of the hon. member across. As I have told him on several occasions, I enjoy challenging with him because it is no fun to debate with someone who is not at least able to hold his -- whatever it is -- sword as well as someone else. So regarding censorship, the hon. member well knows that this government has introduced some legislation of humanitarian value, like The Labour Act, The Workmen's Compensation Act and other things that are much more important than The Censorship Act which we will always have time to review whenever we feel there is less important legislation to be introduced here.

MR. LUDWIG:

Perhaps as a comment on that, it isn't the legislation that is passed that matters. It's what to do with it. That is the problem and has been the problem with this government.

MR. D. MILLER:

Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as censorship and pornography have been brought into the picture, I would like to say a word on it too. This has been my work for many years and I would like to say in the beginning that as a member of this committee I have several objections and have had several objections registered to me throughout the constituency and throughout the province with respect to any changes in this legislation or the regulations pertaining to censorship. They are so concerned, the people, about the recommendations of the special committee, and are strongly objecting to any means of relaxing the regulations in any degree on the censorship of motion pictures and pornography.

The motion picture trade, their attitude on censorship of motion pictures, although it varies with certain individuals, but the majority are in accord with the attitude of the citizens. If some citizens object to censorship, they feel that if they are not sticky about it at all, if the citizens of Alberta would like the name changed, why they are not objecting to that, and they would be willing to go on with whatever name the new regulations or anyone would recommend such as a board of review, or a classification board, that sort of marks it too. They feel that a board of review would perhaps be more suitable.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

Some in the trade feel that the category of "family" is a hindrance to them. It keeps people away from the entertainment theatres, entertainment halls and they feel that the title "general" would be more suitable. I can go along with that too. I would like, at this time, to quote one or two passages from the trade and what they have said:

Our association does not support the appointment of a film board whose only function is to rate films in accordance with the stipulated categories... We recommend that Alberta's board be empowered to suggest whatever cuts are deemed reasonably necessary to make an objectionable film acceptable and to ban any film which is not within the limits of Canadian standards of tolerance.

This is from the trade themselves. "In other words, films which the board considers to be obscene should not be released for [the motion picture trade] in this province. Otherwise the only method of preventing obscene movie programs would be by the proceedings..." of the law and we don't feel that this is necessary.

"We want to prevent the exhibition of obscene films which depend solely on sex, nudity, or violence for their appeal and exploitation." For that is what they do. They are just exploiting the people in this regard and furthering the idea of sensationalism. "We are equally anxious that high intellectual

standards be maintained and that artistic integrity be encouraged in the making of films."

I would just quote that much from them so that pretty well gives their attitude. They go on to suggest in the letter that perhaps the categories could be reduced.

We submit it is morally wrong to permit a prosecution for obscenity against an Exhibitor or Distributor of a film who has acted upon the judgment of a provincial Film Board...

Just to have a classification board and turn it loose with the emphasis on those who exhibit it -- there are too many involved in it and it would just be prosecution after prosecution. The exhibitors can't stand this at all because they are only one of perhaps from three to six authorities that have an interest in the production.

Generally the motion picture theatre owners along with the majority of Alberta citizens do not want to follow the laxness of motion picture review in other parts of Canada. Just because they do certain things in Quebec or British Columbia, or in Manitoba or Saskatchewan is no reason why we should be as lax as some of them. Some of them are persuaded by people with not the same standards as we have them in Alberta. That's my opinion anyway. We have a good method now and the motion picture exhibitors in the province feel it would be a mistake to sacrifice what we have now, call it what you will. That's not the point. They are not arguing that at all. But if it is the sense of people objecting to censorship and they don't like this stigma attached to it, what they see or what they read, well then call it something else.

[Mr. Chairman in the Chair]

But we should maintain, for the sake of the majority of people who are decent, honest people in the province, we should try and maintain some degree of review so that they will know what they are going to see, and not leave it up to those who are flashing their signs and trying to make them as attractive as possible. It's impossible in a way for them to know by the time they get the film whether there would be objectionable scenes in it which the people in their locality would be opposed to, and most all families are.

I would say, with my experience in the trade, there isn't anything wrong with show business. There isn't anything wrong with the exhibition of motion pictures but what good motion pictures will cure. And this I can say sincerely, because good motion pictures make money for everyone. The people enjoy them and patronize them. So let's not lower the standards just to have any junk whatsoever. And if you look over the review, the minister will tell you if he speaks on it, if you're asking the question, he will tell you. I get them every month from his department and from Ontario, the reviews, the list of reviews of pictures. And it is startling the number that are made outside of the country. The majority are; there are very few pictures made in Hollywood now. They come from Europe and you name it. So we should encourage the industry, not discourage it.

Let us not forget, too, and I'll just add this in closing at this time. If it isn't going to be debated, the report of the committee, I would say no. But I suppose if it were ever brought into the House then I would like everyone to know the mind is made up of what it feeds upon. And I am sure you have read this many times. As a man thinks, or anyone thinks, so is he. And all these things affect our thinking.

If we are going to just make anything available, magazines of every kind, suggestive in every detail, in the screen or on the bookstands, we should be concerned. We should be concerned as parents, and we should be concerned as citizens of the province that this isn't going to do us any good. If we blow up in the newspapers -- I'd criticize them for blowing it up as much as they do for hijacking. The result is until now, until they are considering now bringing in the death sentence again for certain crimes, any story that they print about the person who got away and made a traffic in it to the extent that he became wealthy -- this only provokes other people to try. And it is the same thing with pornographic literature of any kind, and it's the same thing with movies.

I have perhaps watched more movies in my lifetime than anyone in this House. And I can truthfully say that they do affect you. Good movies affect you and impress you and encourage you to do good and those that are the opposite I don't think are the other way. I don't think I am any different, I was going to say this, than the average person, because I am just an average Joe.

And I would like to say that in conclusion that we should take every -- we talk about culture, we talk about health, we should keep this in mind. The mind is the thing that we want to keep in mind. We want to remember that our actions are the result of what we think and let us not forget it. Thank you.

DR. PAFRCSKI:

Mr. Chairman, I would like also to add to the comments made by the hon. Member for Taber-Warner. I think this is a very important and critical item in our society. I want to stand on record in making comments regarding this item of censorship just in a brief way at this juncture. I would like to indicate that I, as the Member for Edmonton Kingway, certainly recognize -- as I'm sure most of the members here recognize -- that the influence of the media, whether it be the electronic media, the press, books, and so forth, is of prime importance to the development of the individual, whether it be child to adult. Of course, if a person is a child, that influence is even greater because the development is greater.

To this end I think it is important that we assure ourselves, as members of the Legislature, that a standard we have to adopt is based on the wishes of the people. But the wishes of the people have to be known clearly, and the people themselves have to understand what the consequences are if we relax or increase censorship. I would like to make it known and record it for Hansard for the people to read that the quality is important for families especially.

The calibre of movies, the contents of movies -- and this is something that I think should be looked at very, very carefully and increased in quality and quantity -- that is, family movies. We should always be cautioned in this direction. We should always aim at improving the standards for families and assist them in the development, rather than add to the destruction of that very important unit of our society -- the family. To this end, Mr. Minister, I would recommend that caution be taken, and that careful, careful, careful evaluation be done before any decision is made regarding censorship. Thank you.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make one comment and then pose two questions to the minister. One is that certainly he mentioned moving pictures to 142nd Street, or something. The main thing that I would be concerned about is that we have the pictures to move before we start a big building with no pictures in it.

The two questions I would like to pose are, one, you referred to the fact that you were using Alberta produced pictures in many of the locations where you are replacing others. I would just like to ask him, on what basis do you pay for these?

My last question is, have you had representation from those theatre producers who are concerned about the onus of censorship being placed squarely on the shoulders of the exhibitor, rather than on the distributor and the producer?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, first of all, regarding the paintings that I was speaking of, they were stored and they were paintings that were sometimes reproduced by students in workshops, or by other artists in Alberta. They were in the possession of the Arts and Crafts Centre and now some of them are hanging here in the Legislature Building. Also, some of them are on a loan-rental agreement with the artists, and are being displayed and then returned to the artists after a while. Hopefully, once the paintings of the Alberta Art Foundation are being purchased, they, of course, also would have priority -- for example in the court house, or else in the Legislature Building or other public buildings as had been suggested by the 'then' leadership candidate, Mr. Clark.

As far as the movies are concerned, it is correct. If the hon. member could tell me what the exact name is -- I think it is called the Alberta Association of Theatre Owners and Managers. Could he give me the exact name again?

MR. JAMISON:

Yes, it's the Alberta Motion Picture Theatre Association.

MR. SCHMID:

Yes, that's right. They, of course, had asked that censorship not be removed and that we should not go into classification because it would put the onus on them of being charged under the Criminal Code for the displaying of obscene material or letting obscene material be viewed.

On the other hand, the film distributors requested the opposite. They requested classification because, as far as they were concerned, this of course, is something that the Criminal Code of Canada should decide. Of course, as you realize, that is where the question presently lies. That is where the report of the hon. Member for St. Albert presently remains until we have time to deal with the whole matter.

MR. RUSTE:

Do I understand it then that the pictures you are using here in the building are basically on a rental basis, rather than a straight purchase?

MR. SCHMID:

Most of them already belong to the government. Some of them are on a rental basis.

MR. RUSTE:

Those that belong then, on what basis are they purchased? I was just getting at how they would arrive at a price for a painting.

MR. SCHMID:

The ones that are being purchased are purchased through the Alberta Art Foundation and they are purchased according to a guideline that the Alberta Art Foundation has set up as to what would be considered a valuable Alberta art, and so on and so forth.

MR. SORENSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to question the minister about one of Alberta's great treasures and that is the Manitou meteorite. It seems to be quite slow in coming and I'm not blaming the minister, but I am just wondering what is happening.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, of course, in all deference to the hon. member, since he was the one who brought it up first. I really felt that since it was picked out of his constituency at least he should have, once it arrives here, a replica of that meteor stone and this is why it was held up down in Ontario. They are making it up for his constituency and will place the original in the Provincial Museum and Archives. I understand that right now the stone is on its way.

MR. TAYLOR:

I would like to say a word or two in connection with movies and pornographic literature, primarily because it was discussed in some detail at some 19 pre-session meetings throughout my riding.

In the first place, people generally felt that a government should not tell adults what type of movies they could see, or what type of movies they couldn't see. I was rather surprised at this; I thought there would be quite a strong movement towards censorship but I actually found the reverse when it was discussed openly in meetings of a cross-section of people.

The people did divide the groups into two, adults, and boys and girls primarily under the age of 16 or 14. There was some variation between 16 and 14 but they did consider under either 16 or 14 as children and they put them in the category where they felt the parents and the government had a responsibility to make sure that their minds weren't injured because of the type of movie they were seeing, gang movies, sex movies, et cetera.

However in connection with adults, there is a very large majority of people who felt that once a person reached majority, certainly the age of 18, it was his responsibility then to decide what type of movie he wanted to see and not the responsibility of government to tell him what type of movie he could see. I say this, that quite a large majority were in favour of that type of thinking.

They did feel it would be a very heavy fine if boys and girls under the age of 14 are admitted to these movies by themselves and there was responsibility put on the movie operator in that way.

But on the other hand, the people almost 100 per cent felt that the classification, whether it is the one used now or the one recommended by the committee, that the responsibility for that classification would have to rest with the government body and not with the movie people. This is very, very strongly felt by the people throughout the area.

In connection with pornographic literature, there is similar feeling that the government shouldn't be responsible for telling the people what they could read or what they couldn't read, or what type of pictures they could look at or what type they couldn't look at if they were adults over the age of 18. Again there was a very distinct difference expressed for anybody under the age of 18 in connection with pornographic literature. They felt that if this was going to be shown in the province at all it should not be on the newsstands of shopping centres and stores, but it should be a second room -- you can call it whatever you like, the sex room or the gang room or whatever you want to call it -- but people under the age of 18 should not be admitted to that particular room.

Now those who get some pleasure out of that type of thing then of course would know that that is where they could go, and it wouldn't bother people who took their wives or their children or their girlfriends to a newsstand to see some of these pictures on the front page which are quite nauseating and quite embarrassing when you are there with women or children. There is a very strong feeling that there should be a second room if this is going to be shown, because there was a feeling that the government of course should not be telling people what type of things they could read or what type of pictures they could look at.

While I am on my feet, at the risk of changing the subject completely, I would like to say a word or two in connection with 4-H and particularly the Junior Forest Wardens clubs. I don't think the people of this province realize the tremendous benefit that the 4-H clubs and the Junior Forest Wardens clubs are doing, what a tremendous influence these clubs have on the lives of the boys and girls with whom the leaders come in contact. These leaders are not paid, it costs them money to do the job, there is a tremendous group of leaders, and I am happy to see that this vote has been increased 17 per cent. I wish it would even be more so.

I would like to suggest again the case of Junior Forest Wardens, that there is no finer organization on this continent than this club. It hasn't caught fire the way it should have, but it is for clean air and clean environment and good drinking water. The outdoor world is concentrated in this organization and these young people work towards that end. I would like to see this organization spread into our cities more and more because it is just as applicable to boys and girls in our cities as it is to people out in the country. And I am happy to see at least there is a modest increase in this vote because this vote is the type of thing that does a lot of good. You can't measure it like you measure miles of highway but we will measure it in the next generation because it does have a beneficial influence on the lives of boys and girls who have the opportunity, who take the opportunity of joining either of these organizations.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, I would thank the hon. member for the thoughts he expressed on 4-H and I am very, very proud also of the many volunteers, as he has said, who throughout Alberta really give their many hours, unpaid for the great work they are doing.

And it may be of interest to the member that we now have over 11,000 members and 2,369 leaders in 558 clubs and in 33 different districts as far as exchanges are concerned. So, all I can say is, Mr. Chairman, that the 4-H movement and the JFW movement really are growing and I am especially happy to report that we have revised now over 47 manuals to adjust them more to Alberta than they were before. Before there was more on British Columbia actually in the Junior Forest Warden manuals than there was about Alberta. We have revised that now and we have a stock now of those so I think we are going forward in this case and the 17 per cent increase, of course, definitely will help. It is a great program.

Hopefully, by the way, hon. Member for Drumheller, we are now looking at even instituting that on Indian reserves. We had some interest there and that might even be another start that we are looking into. And the Future Farmers

Program especially, of course, because any group that would apply to that program would have to come through 4-H.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Question has been called.

MR. BARTON:

Yes, I would like to add a couple of comments. Is your department doing any recreational planning as towards provincial parks or inputs with the Department of Agriculture as to land that is being bought up in my constituency and what direction it is going to be used in the future?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, many departments are involved, the Department of Lands and Forests, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, and all these departments try to cooperate to give Alberta the best possible parks policy.

MR. BARTON:

Yes, thank you. Are there any current studies going on, or will there be this coming year, as to the direction of the farmland especially on the east end and the proposed Swan Valley?

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, of course the hon. member may be aware of the present Land Use Forum going on and also studies within the department regarding the requirements for recreation in Alberta.

MR. CLARK:

One comment to the Minister and one question. Mr. Minister, you will recall in the committee you were going to supply us with a list of where the people in the service corps were last year and where you anticipate they will be this year, so if you would follow along with that we would appreciate that.

And secondly, Mr. Minister, you will recall also that some displeasure was expressed on the fact that there wasn't any consultation between the provincial 4-H advisory committee and yourself and the government before the decision was announced and made to go ahead with the Future Farmers Program. I draw that to your attention once again simply so that it is reinforced in your mind.

MR. SCHMID:

Mr. Chairman, we certainly will supply the member with the list of the Alberta Service Corps. As a matter of fact I thought he wanted it personally. I don't think he wanted it tabled -- am I correct?

MR. CLARK:

Yes, go ahead.

MR. NOTLEY:

I have one quick question, Mr. Chairman. Where do we stand on a new capital grant structure for recreation?

MR. SCHMID:

The capital grant structure for recreation, Mr. Chairman, will be announced as soon as possible after the old one expires. However, we are holding hearings with the board.

On my travels throughout Alberta I am reconfirming and also asking how it best could be done to involve all kinds -- for instance service clubs, municipalities and as many of the people as possible in that type of programming, because the more input we have from volunteers, of course, the better it is. And we will hopefully make up a program from there that the

people can count on, not only to be sometimes forced maybe the wrong way, but sometimes obligated to put up a new structure rather to be able to pay off what they presently have and then look towards greater horizons once that is done.

MR. NOTLEY:

I appreciate the minister's remarks about making the new plan more flexible. However, will it be a five year plan again? Will it be a question of reviewing it year by year? I take it that when you say it won't be announced until after the old plan expires -- which I believe is the end of June -- pardon?

MR. SCHMID:

The end of March.

MR. NOTLEY:

I see.

MR. SCHMID:

There, of course, I would say that the plan definitely will be in a way that municipalities and recreation boards can plan ahead and know how much money we have coming in the future. Whether it will be five years or three years I would not be able to state at present, because we have to get it approved first. But I understand the concern that the hon. member expresses.

MR. NOTLEY:

In view of the fact that the old plan expires on March 31, will there be some chance that you will be able to make the announcement of the new capital grant structure during the spring session before we recess?

MR. SCHMID:

That, Mr. Chairman, I am not prepared to answer since I don't quite know how the different departments that would have to cooperate with us for our proposed plan would be able to make the decisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The question has been called. Are you ready for the question?

[The motion was carried.]

MR. SCHMID:

I move that the approval of Vote 2800 be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. CHAMBERS:

Mr. Chairman, as the chairman of Subcommittee D I would like to advise that Subcommittee D has had under consideration Vote 16, the Estimates of expenditure for the Department of Industry and Commerce, and begs to report the same.

I move, seconded by the hon. Mr. Peacock that a sum not exceeding \$6,549,480 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974 for the Department of Industry and Commerce.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Any questions? Mr. Notley.

MR. NOTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the minister to perhaps explain Appropriation 1612 - Planning and Intelligence. I would be interested in just what kind of information is provided on an ongoing basis, who does it, and whether or not this information is available to the private sector and how it is available.

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Chairman, yes the kind of information that we supply, as a matter of fact, we supply to industry generally. It's available to all and sundry. It covers forecasting. It covers such research programs as the economics in the aspen industry, or aspen forest. It covers researches to whether we should be moving into a foreign market area. It identifies -- at least it is beginning to identify -- the regions in Alberta where we should put some thrust. In other words, 1612 covers that area, that is the support area, for the development part of our department. That is the economics. The actual technical research is over in the development area, and the economic research planning is done out of 1612.

While I am on my feet, it might serve, I think and I know I am taking the House's time here, but it might be interesting because this department is rather an interesting department in many ways. So I will maybe just give a quick resume of its philosophy and its objectives and identify, if I may, Mr. Chairman, what we are attempting to do. The philosophy in a free enterprise society such as ours is to act as a catalyst and it is important for the individual or companies or groups of individuals to do for themselves and to establish climates which are most economical and socially satisfactory conditions can prevail. So we are, in essence, an economic development department.

We have deleted from our department over the years, if you will notice, such things as the Bureau of Public Affairs. Licensing is moving out. We have moved the co-ops out. Those areas that are unrelated to this general economic and development program have been removed.

We have moved those things into the department that identify or develop the economic climate, and one is the economics of transportation. This is a very important part, particularly in a landlocked province like ours, of moving our products into market. So we have done that. So that we may have simplified the reading of the Estimates in 1601 to 1605, we have left that for the elected representatives or the administration end of it, I should say, in the minister's office. In 1610 to 1619 has been the finance and administration of the whole department, and it covers the very areas that you are talking about -- the economics and planning and licensing. The trades, of course, will move out of there and it will cover the financial support areas of those areas where we have liaised with such organizations as the Alberta Opportunity Fund, and the Agricultural Development Corporation, and maybe the Alberta Development Corporation or the Treasury Branches or other institutions of lending.

Then in the 1620 to 25 or 30, we have covered in here our development organization within the Province of Alberta. We have two thrusts here, to develop within the province and to develop from outside the province and bring from outside in. So that, in essence, is oversimplifying it but that covers that and covers the supporting services of transportation.

I might just in conclusion point out for those who were not in the subcommittee that we have covered our whole program with some 32 more salaried employees this year, thus increasing to 133. That is what is permanent. Of the non-permanent or the university or fill-in people, we had a decrease of actually 4. So that accounts for a net increase of 32 over permanent and non-permanent employees. We are asking for \$2,322,610. That's comparable and it's interesting to note on both sides of us of two socialist provinces or states, that in the British Columbia budget in 1973 their industrial development trade expenditures were \$6 million, plus \$1,500,000 for transportation. In Manitoba for Industry, Trade and Development it's somewhere around \$5 million in that province. I give you those because I think it's kind of interesting to get a comparison to what we are attempting to do.

MR. NOTLEY:

I'd just like to follow up on Vote 1612 if I may. The minister outlined some of the areas where research is undertaken. I'm wondering if he could advise us just on what basis the decision is made to research a certain area. Is that a decision made by yourself and the deputy minister? Or is there some ongoing agency of government which identifies the areas to be more fully researched?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, I think I'd be less than honest to say that we have any real sophisticated approach to this program as yet, but I would say this: that in the Province of Alberta we've divided it into approximately seven economic areas.

We are developing seven of what we call Economic Advisory Councils. We have an Economic Advisory Planning Board within the department that is comprised of the research council, my department of planning, the economics of planning, and my international economic director, the deputy minister, as well as the input from other departments within the government and that is what identifies the economic steps.

MR. NOTLEY:

If I might just pursue this matter. What kind of staff do you have in this particular agency? For example, how many professional economists do you have, and to what extent is there contracting to the private area of the economy for submissions and so on?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well the breakdown of personnel in the department. There are 15 economists, there are six clerks, and a chief, Mr. Sheppard. We would like to use, outside the department as much as possible in the private sector, we would like also to be -- and I might just point out here that we're attempting to develop an intelligence library of this area so that we are not reinventing the wheel on some of these studies. So we're trying to bring that together in conjunction with the universities, not only in Alberta, but throughout western Canada, and to the Research Council also.

So to answer your question directly, we have trained personnel within the department but we also utilize to the fullest extent the private sector.

MR. NOTLEY:

Just to follow that up again, Mr. Chairman, I was interested in your comments about attempting to coordinate the research of other provinces and universities and so on. I'm wondering if you have any formal mechanism to encourage direct liaison with the Economics Department, for example, at the University here in Edmonton, UAC in Calgary, the Lethbridge one. Is there some formal structure where the Department of Economics at these respective institutions feed information into your department? Then while I'm on my feet, is there any formal structure where you cooperate with other provinces in Canada on an ongoing basis to bring together this information that you are talking about so we don't duplicate information?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well to answer your question directly, no, there is no formal structure. To answer the question in the future, yes, there is going to be and we're attempting to. The Premier just had a recent meeting with the department and the University of Edmonton two weeks ago with this program in mind and we're just now formalizing how we will have ongoing communication between the Economics Department of Calgary and Edmonton and our department.

I must point out, however, for the information of the House that there are many areas in which we do have formalized and structured ongoing interchange of information. For instance, we've just been responsible for, I think, putting together in conjunction with -- to answer the inter-provincial communication area, -- the Pacific Transportation Advisory Council which is designed in the area of transportation economics to pool all the resources and all the research, not only that is done in government within the four provinces of Western Canada, but what is done in the commodity areas and carrier areas. Also, what research is going on, as matter of fact, in transportation and other areas as it pertains to the economics of what we are striving for. So this will be our pool then and related back into the needs of western Canada so it can be identified and then it can be knocked out on a provincial basis of what we require provincially. So we have that in transportation as an interprovincial program. As an intraprovincial program of dialogue we are just in the process of setting up a formally structure program.

MR. BUCKWELL:

Can you tell us how many new industries or new businesses were opened in Alberta last year? You opened quite a few yourself, I know. But the latest figures we have are for 1970. It was something like a little close to 2,000. This was some two years ago. I am just wondering if you have any to date?

MR. PEACOCK:

I can find out for the hon. member. I don't happen to have those figures offhand, but I can let you know. We report, incidentally, the new industries on a quarterly basis.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, to the minister, the matter of Licensing of Trades and Businesses. I take it that would be in Vote 1614. I had a complaint made to me in some of these smaller centres where there has been a transfer, we'll say a sale of a drugstore to a new owner. The supplier of cards said they are not going to continue supplying cards to them because they feel the volume was too small. Have you any representations on that? Or what can be done in a case like that where the original business had the agency for a certain line of cards and was denied this when the new owner took over?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Chairman, no, we haven't had any, at least I haven't been aware of any direct approach to our department on it. This whole area of licensing was under review by our department. When the government struck a new ministry under the hon. Mr. Dowling this fell into his department. Therefore we have arrested any moves that we were going to make until the hon. Mr. Dowling has a chance to review the whole program.

MR. WILSON:

Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister. Could you elaborate a little bit on the process that you had put a situation through where perhaps a new industry wanted to locate in Alberta or Albertans wanted to start a new industry and there was some research was required to be done, and it was felt it would be in the interests of Alberta to have the government do the initial research on a potential industry. How would you handle that? How would you treat a situation like that to determine whether or not the government should commission somebody to do the research on a potentially new industry?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, on a hypothetical case such as that, you appreciate it is various stages. If it's technical research that we're into, if it's economic research, we can get the viability of that very quickly. If it is of a technical nature in research, and research in development, we have a department, we bring that in. And if it were an intraprovincial promotion would naturally come through our regional office, through our director of economic development. It would pass off to the director of research and development if it were a development program, into the director of the Research Council. The Research Council would then under their committee look at it and advise whether, in their considered opinion, they had done any research on it, whether there had been any research done on it in Alberta, whether there were any library on this particular program, whatever it might be. And then, having identified that, they would then make a recommendation back into the director of economic development in my department who, in turn, would make that recommendation to me that we go ahead with it or pursue it or kill it.

MR. TAYLOR:

Mr. Chairman, there are just two items I'd like to make one or two comments on. The first one is International Marketing. I notice Vote 1621 has been increased 163.8 per cent and the --

AN HON. MEMBER:

That's all in Agriculture.

MR. TAYLOR:

The only worry that I have in connection with this is that we may well become empire building in connection with International Marketing.

I want to make it very clear at the outset that I think each provincial government does have a responsibility to take a lead in the marketing of their own products. But what worries me in connection with this particular vote is that if every province starts to become its own negotiator with foreign countries we could well get to the place where we have ten nations instead of one nation. I think that, while there are only a few provinces now that are

taking part in international marketing, this could become quite an item if every province got into this deal and every province started to carry out extensive international marketing. That's the part that worries me somewhat.

In the first place, as the hon. Minister for Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs said in the committee, there may be some duplication in what Canada is doing, but I think it is essential that this duplication be kept to a minimum, and that we avoid what might be termed 'balkanization' in this country. Because surely we are Canadians first.

The other thing that bothers me is the countries of the world are not gullible, and it won't take Japan or other countries with whom we want to deal very long to learn that if the ten provinces start an extensive marketing program in other countries in international marketing, it won't take these countries, these people very long to realize that they can start dickering with each province, and each province may then start to undermine the other to try to undercut each other in order to get the market. I am sure that the government or anyone else here doesn't want to see that develop.

Consequently, I would hope that in this international marketing, while it is essential that we let the world know what we have, the quality of agricultural products, et cetera that we are able to produce, the quality of our coal, or oil, et cetera, I think it is essential that there be some co-ordinating done by the Canadian government, and that we work as part of Canada rather than separately, as one province in ten.

As I stated before, I don't think there is too much difficulty as long as only two or three provinces are doing this. But once every province starts into the field then I see some grave difficulties arising if the Canadian government doesn't coordinate these efforts to make sure that one province is not going to undermine another, and to be sure that another country is not going to start dickering with each province as a nation in itself. I think that is the only danger and I think there are a good number of benefits to be secured through international marketing if it is done in close cooperation with the Canadian government.

Now the only other point I would like to mention -- I do it while it's entirely separate -- I will deal with it while I am on my feet, and that is just to mention two or three points in connection with The Opportunity Fund. I would like to emphasize one or two of these things.

The Opportunity Fund is not doing the job in the smaller centres -- I am talking about villages under 500 -- that I think it could do. I was quite enthusiastic about this bill last year and I still am. But I would like to see the hon. minister consider bringing in some changes that would make this bill more applicable to the small towns and villages under 500 people.

The first item is the interest rate. The 8 per cent interest rate right across the boards is not fair to the smaller towns or smaller villages. If a person is going to invest a large sum of money in a business the temptation is to do it where there is a large centre of population, where he not only has a wide spectrum of customers, but where he also has a wide spectrum of buyers if he wants to sell the business. So the 8 per cent may be viable in our large cities. I would personally like to see that brought down to the same percentage used in the agricultural corporation to keep those things too. The point I am trying to make is that it should vary, it should go down progressively so that you have the lowest rate of interest in a village of under 500 people. Then there is some incentive for a person to invest his money in that area where there isn't the wide spectrum of clientele or the wide spectrum of buyers if he wants to sell his business. I think this is the most vitally important change that could make this Act really viable in our smaller communities.

There is already provision made, as the hon. minister has already outlined, for businesses to combine. In our towns and villages we have a number of people now who are reaching the sunset years of their lives, they want out of the business and if they do get out, there is just nothing left in the town, no one to take over that business. But if these businesses can combine into shopping centres and they can get a reasonable amount from their investment, then I see this being a real viable factor in keeping our towns and villages alive.

The other point I want to mention is I think the amortization period should be increased, and while I realize the hon. minister is not enthusiastic about a forgiveness clause, I do think a forgiveness clause of five or ten per cent when the last payment is made is a really good incentive toward paying back this money and getting it back as quickly as possible.

The only other point in connection with the Opportunity Fund that I would like to mention relates to the suggestion of forming advisory committees in our various communities. I would like to commend the Minister of Agriculture in setting up the advisory committees under the farm corporation. In my view - at least after the experience I have had with them - these are working excellently. They are working excellently, they are giving the communities a chance to have some input and they are taking some of the responsibility. They are not simply passing everything on to Edmonton - they are taking some of the responsibility, realizing that they are being held responsible by the minister. I would like to see similar committees set up in municipalities or counties or even larger areas, but I prefer the county setup in connection with this Opportunity Fund. I think there is a real place there where knowledge about businessmen and farmers could be a real help to the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

The purpose of the Opportunity Fund -- one purpose -- is to keep our towns and villages alive and that is why the larger portion is allotted to our towns and villages. But if some consideration could be given to the changes I am suggesting, the act would become more viable and have a greater influence on keeping our smaller towns and smaller villages alive.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on this particular budget. The hon. minister mentioned free enterprise and he mentions it often. Someone ought to bring to his attention that the NDP government, the government in British Columbia is passing an Act exactly like his Opportunity Fund Act, almost verbatim. I am not saying that it is not good legislation, but a section in his Act which permits this government to go into business -- and it will go into business if it suits its purpose -- is not entirely in keeping with the principles of free enterprise.

I am not blaming the Socialists for doing it, because they say that is what they stand for, but when you tell us that you don't stand for Socialism and then the main section in your main Act, the Act you talk so much about, is in my opinion a step in that direction, then perhaps we are not talking the same language.

One thing that strikes me in this province at the present time is that everything is so well - we have a tremendous thrust in the industry and tourism department, lots of advertising, \$56,000 worth at least. I would like the minister to explain how much of this is going to be spent through the publicity bureau, because they have quite a big houseboat to support and the family is growing and I don't think their budget is big enough. Perhaps this ought to be looked at so that we keep everything on top of the table and that we know where it is going and what is going to happen to it. But \$56,000 takes a lot of taxpayers' revenue to pay for that so we should at least know what is going to happen to it.

One problem that the minister has spoken about and I am very much with him on this problem that I think he could level with the people of this province when he talks about freight rates. Any time that he tries to create the impression in this province that he is going to reduce freight rates, I will part company with him.

If he thinks that the Conservative MPs of eastern Canada or the Conservative Province of Ontario is going to agree to subsidize Alberta's freight rates, then I don't think that he is levelling with the people of this province because they will fight him the hardest ever, notwithstanding that they are Conservatives. They will protect their own position, they always have. If anything, don't tell us you are going to reduce freight rates, just tell us that you agree with Stanfield when he said in Calgary that he will freeze freight rates. I don't think you agree with it but at least the man is honest enough to say, "Well, I don't think we can reduce them, I will fight for freezing them." I would like to see that happen if there is any thrust to raise freight rates.

With inflation and certainly with the ill will that we now have in Ontario, don't expect anybody in this province to believe that Ontario will help subsidize Alberta freight rates because they are not going to.

The next problem that I think we ought to bring to the attention of this Committee of the Legislature is that the bankruptcies in this province have never been higher than they are now. I am not saying that is the minister's fault but he ought to look at this and he ought to report bankruptcies. Even though the bankruptcies legislation and dealing with bankruptcies is under the federal government, the problem is ours right here in Alberta. Because when bankruptcies occur, some people lose money, people lose jobs, it is an

indication that all isn't well in the Department of Industry and Commerce. I understand that there were over 400 bankruptcies in Alberta last year and there is no indication that the rate will be going down.

One more problem I have with this department is that when we hear of all the money that will be spent to help businesses, there is nothing wrong with that, but how much research is there being done to determine or to assure that we are not lending money to people to compete with other similar industries present in Alberta struggling to make ends meet? And I am tying this in with a number of bankruptcies because it isn't every business that perhaps is viable, that is well financed, even if it is a necessary industry.

These are just some of the points that I want to make and when we talk about the good things let's look on the other side of the ledger where it hurts the people of this province, where we have problems and let's find out how many of those problems the hon. minister can solve.

I think one more thing when we talk about statistics and the great things that are happening in this province, let's be honest, let's tell the statistics the way they are. And when I hear some of the hon. ministers talk about statistics it reminds me of a situation that developed in a local logging camp where they had 50 male loggers and 2 female cooks. One of the men was taking out one of the cooks and got her into trouble. So the local paper wanted to report this terrible incident and they didn't know how. So they wrote up in the paper that statistics show that in a local logging camp 2 per cent of the men get 50 per cent of the women into trouble. And that is the way some of these ministers play with statistics. If you think that is a bad joke, I got it out of the Financial Post, verbatim. So it is printable. You are not in the mood to laugh, obviously.

So when we deal with bankruptcies, Mr. Minister, I wouldn't mind hearing from you how many companies went bankrupt, what kind of businesses they were in, what was the cause of bankruptcy, was it an overdose of the Conservative government or bad management or something? But let's see whether some of your money that you are spending is not helping kill some of these businesses. I am not saying it is, but we should be very careful. But on the matter of statistics, when you brag about the great things that happened, add the inflationary impact on what has happened and tell it the way it is.

[Interjection]

The fellow has a one track mind obviously, over there. And when you talk about business -- let's look at the construction industry which is one of the biggest industries in this province. It's certainly a free enterprise type of operation and it has carried this province very well. It is a good industry. We would like to know whether they are not heading for trouble with construction costs, costs of material, costs of labour, costs of all services and whether, notwithstanding government action, they are going to have houses and buildings which are beyond the reach of not only the people in lower incomes but people with higher incomes.

Those are just a few suggestions, Mr. Chairman, that I believe the minister ought to comment on. But I would certainly like some assurance from him that we are not subsidizing competition to companies that are fighting to stay alive in this province at the present time.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, just a question to the minister. I thought maybe he would have replied to this, maybe he is going to do it later. I would just like to know what coordination is there, say between the western provinces in the international market field. I believe there is in the agricultural field and I was just wondering if there is in your department. If so are their budgets comparable to Alberta's in that field or not?

MR. PEACOCK:

Mr. Chairman, to answer some of the questions and taking the last one first, no, we have no relationship with the other western provinces in regard to a western thrust for an international marketing. But I think the hon. Member for Drumheller has raised a good point that I think the House should be well aware of, that all our thrusts as far as the international market place, as they are made, they are made in concert with the federal trade director. and they are coordinated.

Now the reason that we have provincial international marketing people, as far as industry is concerned is quite obvious. It is not only coal, sulphur and certain products that the Minister of Agriculture has pointed out, but it is to identify with the federal trade commissioner. Many of them are qualified and many of them are not; many of them are ambassadors or have a diplomatic flair, but certainly have no economic or trading flair. For this reason alone they have to be supported, particularly in the market place of areas where Alberta is very anxious to be represented in the sale of its produce. So for that reason -- and I can name a number of them.

Secondly, it is a much vaster program on international marketing than just going over and selling goods back and forth. It's an interchange of technology, an interchange of labour conditions, social conditions, an education in the area of how we best can fit in, if we are ever going to have a common market, how we, as Canadians, can fit in, today and tomorrow and many years from now into the generations that will be sitting here long after we are gone.

I think the importance of international trade and the international market place and the education that we as a province must have and the reason that we must be in it is for many more reasons than just the selling of a bushel of wheat or processed hog or processed ammonia sulphur or whatever it might be.

So it's for those reasons, as much as any, that we have international trade.

The other reason, of course, is that in the more sophisticated markets that we are getting into today no longer do you trade one and one. We might be trading conceivably, hydro-carbons to the United States and we might be bringing in titanium from Thailand, and we might be moving iron ore from Brazil and we might be moving coal from Grande Cache. In each of these cases, in order to make that deal work and get that hydrocarbon into the States, it might have gone all the circuitous route before we ended up with the deal.

This is the reason we are in the marketing place, because we are in a big league today, and no longer are we sitting around where we are just trading one and one, as I think a lot of the members on the other side are referring to the international market. So I would say that, in regard to the hon. Member for Drumheller mentioning about the review of our regulations covering the Alberta Opportunity Fund, I think some of them are very worth while and we will certainly take them into consideration when we are reviewing those regulations this year.

Naturally, the purpose of the Alberta Opportunity Fund is to do exactly and precisely what has been said in this House. It is to afford an opportunity which is not already there, either to the traditional or conventional lender, to the smaller hamlets and the smaller communities of Alberta, in order to keep them alive and functioning.

As far as the freight rates are concerned, it is appalling that anybody in this House, under these conditions, at this time, sitting in a landlocked province like the Province of Alberta is, would say that it is impossible to change freight rates.

First of all no one ever said they would change freight rates. They said they would try to change freight rates or they would effect and work towards a more equitable freight rate. Now if that isn't the name of the game we might as well, as a landlocked province, fold her up and go home. Because you are never going to get into the market place without you understand what the problem is in Alberta in regards to transportation. It is the basis on which we economically are going to be competitive in that market.

I suggest to you that until we know the facts, which has never been done in this province before, identifying from the market place back into the producer exactly what component transportation plays to make you competitive in that market place, yet there is no way you are going to effect a change in transportation.

AN HON. MEMBER:

You're becoming a politician.

MR. PEACOCK:

This is one little issue that I happen to be very enthused about. The freight rates -- I suggest to you that the National Transportation Act of 1967 is not effective in a regional area such as a landlocked province of Alberta or

Saskatchewan. There are two provinces in this whole great federation of provinces that need to understand and to convey that to Ottawa, and one is certainly the Province of Alberta. I think we are well on the way to identifying that problem and I would hope to say that we will be supplying the Premier, so that when he goes in to meet the Prime Minister on his open invitation, have dialogue and effect changes that are setting up inequities for the development of western Canada, as he suggested after the last election. He anticipates having these meetings in July or August. I would hope that we would have a very factual, concrete offer to make to Mr. Trudeau to relieve the very problems we are faced with as Albertans.

I will close with the last question in relation to bankruptcy. You know it is amazing even in the course of battling sometimes it becomes very strange that it might be of some value and it might be used to effect a reasonable review, I think, to determine why these bankruptcies are taking place. As a matter of fact I think that is a very worthwhile recommendation.

MR. LUDWIG:

Mr. Chairman, I notice the minister is quite enthused about the freight rate thing. I am not saying that we should not fight for them in this province, and other provinces have been fighting these inequities for years and rather forcefully. Now for him to stand up and say this is the first time anything worth while has been done, I say this is a lot of nonsense, and he ought to know it. But I'm saying the biggest obstacle, and we're with you when you're fighting the high freight rates and the inequities that we have suffered for years and still suffer -- I'm saying that your biggest stumbling block is going to be the preponderance of Conservatives in eastern Canada. I stated that if you're going to get Ontario and Quebec to subsidize Alberta, then I'm not believing it.

And I'm wishing you luck though, in trying to fight freight rates because the best job ever done in presenting these cases to Ottawa was done by the hon. Gordon Taylor at the time and the fact that he didn't win -- yes -- they hate to admit that anything was done in this regard and let them stand up and tell them how Diefenbaker when he was in Ottawa how he cut our freight rates -- he couldn't do a darn thing even when he was the Prime Minister.

Yes, and I'm saying that if you can keep the freight rates from going up, I think you will have won half the battle but I'm not saying that we should not fight. I think we all ought to fight, but we ought to find out what the stumbling blocks are also. It's all right to harangue this government to reduce freight rates when everything else is going up, but let Stanfield tell you in Calgary that he is going to help freeze them. So I'm saying get rid of that man and a few more people like him and maybe you'll win something.

MR. DIXON:

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two points that I'd like to have clarification from the hon. minister. I'm always amazed with his statement that his Opportunity Fund is to give the opportunity that does not already exist, and my question to the hon. minister is that some of the reviews that I've made of some of the loans that have been made under the Opportunity Fund were to businesses that were already well established, well able to get credit at any other Alberta lending institution, and I can't for the life of me see why they'd come and borrow it from your fund at a higher interest rate.

I can see where somebody was trying to establish, but I cannot understand and I think it would be better as the hon. Member for Drumheller pointed out, that it would be better to be looking at some of these smaller areas where they need the money and as the minister said, he was willing to do. I think we should be very, very cautious about loaning money to people who can well afford to get the money at lower interest rates at other sources rather than the Alberta Opportunity Fund.

MR. ZANDER:

What about Tartan Breweries?

MR. DIXON:

I can't hear what the hon. member said. The hon. member, Mr. Zander, but I guess it wasn't too important.

MR. ZANDER:

Want me to repeat it?

MR. DIXON:

But the other thing, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Minister. I was quite pleased at your saying that Alberta is in a landlocked position and, therefore, we are in a little different position. I wished you had taken that same attitude yesterday when you were talking about ARR because that was a special situation too. But apparently it doesn't apply there.

[Interjections]

MR. DIXON:

So you see -- it's a pretty good indication that there are some certain circumstances and when you have landlocked resources, and as the hon. minister pointed out you have to get them developed, you have to get transportation. And I think the day will come when we'll be happy that we did have the transportation to bring these landlocked resources to market.

The other point I'd like the hon. minister -- I tried to get time in the question period today -- but I'm really quite interested in the minister's activities as far as getting another airport for the City of Edmonton because we are reaching a situation with the heavy density of population and the use of the present municipal airport, the anxiety by not only the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, but other people, to use that property for some other purpose. So I would like the hon. minister in the few minutes that are remaining, if he would answer one or two of those queries that I put forward to him. In particular the Edmonton airport issue.

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, Mr. Chairman, to answer the question very quickly. In regard to the Edmonton airport, I think I did in the question period today state that we had some negotiations going on. The hon. Member for Kingsway is certainly following it up as far as we're concerned along with Mr. Telford.

MR. DIXON:

What are they?

MR. PEACOCK:

Pardon?

MR. DIXON:

What are they?

MR. PEACOCK:

Well, I think you have to have a little dialogue and identify what the problem is before you can move on them and that is what we are doing.

MR. RUSTE:

Mr. Chairman, a final question. The minister referred to -- or I shouldn't say referred to -- he is talking about the freight rates and I understand that he attended a meeting in Saskatoon where there were three provinces, I guess, in the main represented. What steps are being taken in your presentation to Ottawa to work with them towards this? You referred particularly to Saskatchewan and Alberta as being in the landlocked position.

MR. PEACOCK:

We had a very interesting meeting in Saskatoon. We came to a common accord and common policy which we will be tabling in the House after next weekend. The common stance that the three provinces have taken, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in regard to transportation and the National Transportation Act what we expect and what we are asking from the railroads in order to identify the problem so that we can get on and do exactly what the hon. member on the other side mentioned earlier about what we can do about rates.

Before we can do anything about transportation rates, we have to have cost disclosures, cost per ton-mile, we have to know what the variables, what the fixed costs are of transportation. We have never been able to identify that in the railroads. So before we can move, we have to have that.

We also know that the user-pays policy on the airports, that in the Edmonton International Airport, the user doesn't pay five per cent of that total cost of that great big edifice. And yet on the railroad, the producer pays the full shot out here and it carries the load. So these are the sorts of things we have to identify instead of just talking about the inequities. We have to say, "All right, if there is an inequity of user-pay here, if the philosophy of the National Transportation Act is that competition alone will predicate the rate we've got to have an original area of the landlocked provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, we have got to have a different formula for establishing that cost." And they have to be on a variable-cost basis, so that we can take, and we can't negotiate every rate, like the rapeseed case, hell, goodness sakes, we've been out for a year on that thing. Excuse me.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

One final question.

MR. RUSTE:

Will the Prairie provinces be making a joint submission on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Question has been called.

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. PEACOCK:

I move the resolution be reported, 1600.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Is it agreed as moved by the hon. minister?

[The motion was carried.]

MR. HYNDMAN:

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

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Is that agreed?

[The motion was carried.]

* * * * *

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.]

MR. DIACHUK:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration the following resolutions, and begs to report same and asks leave to sit again.

Resolved that a sum, not exceeding \$11,599,050 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974, for the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

and

Resolved that a sum, not exceeding \$6,549,480 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974, for the Department of Industry and Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN:

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, in the afternoon, the House will go into Committee of Supply and on the evening of Monday, the House will also go into Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of those departments that have been considered in subcommittee.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

[The House rose at 4:01 o'clock]