

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Tuesday, May 20, 1975

[The House met at 2:30 p.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 204 The Alberta Social and Economic Planning Act

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a private member's bill, 204, being The Alberta Social and Economic Planning Act.

The purposes of the bill, Mr. Speaker, are to set up an Alberta social and economic planning council, to look into the expenditure of funds under the heritage trust fund, to make sure there are public hearings, and that before any expenditures are made, there be open and full discussion in the Legislature.

[Leave being granted, Bill 204 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill 4 The Medical Profession Act, 1975

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill. This is Bill No. 4, our old friend, The Medical Profession Act. Most hon. members will recognize it as being a reincarnation of Bill Nos. 4 and 62, introduced in previous sessions.

The principle of the bill is that it's a major rewrite of the existing Medical Profession Act. One very important principle is that, for the first time, there will be lay representation on the council, and the membership will be increased to include 13 representatives. Another important principle, Mr. Speaker, is that there will be a special register, so that under certain circumstances physicians who have been trained outside the Province of Alberta may be registered. This is indeed an important principle of change. Another is that it will make, for the first time, some changes in the process of medical professional discipline and will also provide for the registration of professional medical assistants.

[Leave being granted, Bill 4 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill 9 The Hospitals and Medical Care Statutes Amendment Act, 1975

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Hospitals and Medical Care Statutes Amendment Act, 1975. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to reflect one of the many reorganizations of government and the split of responsibilities between the new Department of Social Services and Community Health, and the Ministry of Hospitals and Medical Care.

[Leave being granted, Bill 9 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill 20 The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1975

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 20, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1975. This being a money bill, His Honor the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, once again, this is a bill with which many hon. members will be familiar. In its substance it provides for a significant increase for widows and dependants benefits pursuant to The Workers' Compensation Act. The new levels, effective April 1, will be at levels previously announced.

As well, the bill raises the maximum earning ceiling upon which contributions can be made and raises the amount of minimum compensation that could be paid to a disabled worker, either for a permanent total or permanent partial disability.

[Leave being granted, Bill 20 was introduced and read a first time.]

Bill 21 The Unfair Trade Practices Act

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being Bill No. 21, The Unfair Trade Practices Act. Mr. Speaker, this is the same bill that was introduced February 13, 1975. I will be presenting amendments at the committee stage of the bill which will respond to the submissions that have been received since February.

[Leave being granted, Bill 21 was introduced and read a first time.]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the House, students from Sacred Heart School, which is located in my constituency. They are the Grade 5 class accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Spadafora. They are seated in the members gallery. I'd like to ask them to rise and be recognized by the Assembly.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you to the members of the House, some Grade 4 and 5 students from the Port Saskatchewan Elementary School. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Sprague; bus driver, Mrs. Durran; some parents, Mr. Curry, Mr. Balanko, Mrs. Klassen, and Mrs. Dewart. I'd like them to stand and be recognized by the House.

TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file with the Assembly a copy of a pamphlet entitled Water Management for Irrigation Use. The pamphlet outlines areas of responsibility between Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment with regard to the expansion of irrigated areas and rehabilitation of existing irrigation works. In addition, it outlines a breakdown of expenditures between Alberta Environment and Alberta Agriculture with regard to \$200 million new additional funds for irrigation in Alberta.

Incidentally, copies are available for all members and will be passed around.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I have two matters. I'd like to file the annual report of the Alberta Automobile Insurance Board as required by statute, and also to file the submissions on Bill 21.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, as required by legislation, I wish to table an order in council approving a guarantee under The Government Emergency Guarantee Act with respect to the borrowing by the Edmonton Exhibition Association.

As also required by legislation, I would like to table a report on MLA committee allowances.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Investigation by Provincial Auditor

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Premier, in light of the announcement made Friday afternoon that the Premier has asked the Provincial Auditor to look into certain matters regarding Dr. Glen Purnell. I wonder if the Premier would be kind enough to table in the Legislature the terms of reference that he has given the Provincial Auditor for the investigation?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it was a verbal request to the Provincial Auditor.

MR. CLARK: Supplementary question then, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. Is the Premier in a position to indicate to the House that outside-government groups who have expressed concern to the government, and I know to other people in the Assembly, will have an opportunity to meet with the Provincial Auditor prior to the conclusion of his report?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I believe, but that would have to be subject to checking, that the Provincial Auditor has been accessible and has, in fact, done some checking with persons outside of the government service. But to be definitive I would have to await advice from the auditor.

MR. CLARK: Further supplementary to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Those individuals who in fact would want to meet with the auditor in light of the announcement, I would assume from the Premier's announcement, should contact the auditor's office directly?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the answer definitely would be: yes.

MR. CLARK: Further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. Can the Premier give us some sort of time line, that the Provincial Auditor perhaps indicated to him, when this report would be finished? As a second part of that question, will the report be tabled here in the Assembly or made public?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I can be definitive about either question the hon. leader has raised. Certainly I've asked the Provincial Auditor if he'd make his advice available to me as soon as possible. He is involved in other matters at the present time, and he did not set any particular date. As to the tabling of the advice I receive, it would depend both on the form and nature. I would make an assessment of that when I receive it.

MR. CLARK: Further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact the Public Accounts Committee will be looking at the public accounts of this province for the year '73-74 and that that is during the period of time the Provincial Auditor will be looking at, does the Premier see any way in which the review being done by the Provincial Auditor will hamper the work done by the Public Accounts Committee? Because in fact we will be going over, in all likelihood, the same areas.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, that would certainly be a matter for the committee to resolve. But it would be my feeling it might work out, depending on timing, that if the Public Accounts [Committee] desire to look at the matter as well as the Provincial Auditor, they would have the benefit of the Provincial Auditor's review. Certainly, I think that would be beneficial for a full public awareness of what occurred.

Federal Review of Corporate Power

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and ask him whether the government intends to make any representation to the federal inquiry investigating the extent of corporate power in Canada, and whether a similar inquiry is planned by the Government of Alberta at this time?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that under advisement, and inquire.

Pricing of Petroleum Products

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House whether or not the government is monitoring the current investigation by federal anticommones investigators into alleged price fixing by the major integrated oil companies in Canada?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, again I would have to take that as notice.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the government satisfied that present methods of wholesale pricing of petroleum products in Alberta are consistent with genuine and open competition?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Perhaps we should return, a little more closely, to the ordinarily accepted principles governing the question period. The hon. member is clearly inviting the minister to launch on a matter which might be debatable and on which other hon. members of the Assembly, including the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, might have no opportunity to respond in kind during the question period.

Municipal Election Act

MR. TAYLOR: My question is to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. A short explanation is necessary first.

Recently an election was called in the Big Country, and after nomination day one of the two candidates died. The Department of Municipal Affairs ruled that the election must go on. As a result, and this is not taken from Ripley's Believe It Or Not, the dead man was elected.

My question is: is the government planning to bring in amendments to The Municipal Government Act which would permit the postponement of an election in an event like this?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, our department is proposing amendments to The Municipal Election Act which will preclude this possibility. In the proposed form, it is suggested that should a by-election be called, a new nomination be ordered.

Financing for Retarded Children

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Minister of Social Services and Community Health could inform this House, and some of my constituents, if consideration is being given to alternating the means of financing retarded children's sheltered workshops which are currently facing severe financial difficulty?

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the House on Friday, I recently met with several organizations which are interested in that matter and have listened to their submissions. At the present time we're assessing them, and will be doing whatever we can to assist them in this matter.

MR. STROMBERG: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is there a timetable as to when they would know?

MISS HUNLEY: Well, part of it is a budgetary matter, Mr. Speaker. Some of the issues they raised will be dealt with at budget time. The balance, of course, is an ongoing thing because as prices rise and costs go up, inflationary pressures are even greater on such organizations. I'm mindful of that.

Auto Licence Plates

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the hon. Solicitor General. Could the minister respond to my question of Friday last regarding the legality of non-dated licence plates?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, a licence plate is simply a marker and a means of identification. [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I hear some murmurs from the opposition side of the House. It's true that the question, in the form in which it was put, asks for a legal opinion. The Chair took a broader view of the matter, and thought that perhaps the minister might deal with it from the point of view of regulations which might possibly be made to cover the situation.

MR. FARRAN: I was just planning to do that, Mr. Speaker.

The Highway Traffic Act, Section 37(1), was amended on November 6, 1974, removing the words, "and the year of issue". This amendment was presented to the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, in view of this multiyear plate being prepared for 1975.

On March 7, 1975, a sample of our licence plate was mailed to every licensing authority on the North American continent so that all jurisdictions would be officially aware of the format of our 1975 plate. As a follow-up, a letter was sent to each jurisdiction on May 15.

So far as multiyear licences are concerned in North America, 19 out of 62 jurisdictions do not have the year of issue on them and are similar in format to the Alberta plate. These plates are completely valid and there is no need for the registration certificate to back them up, but if there is a point of contention, this would obviously be a good document to produce.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Was this a planned mistake, or was this planned that there would not be a year on the licence plate?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, the only mistakes are planned on that side of the House. I think I've made it quite clear that it was a deliberate design, and it is a design that is followed by 19 out of 62 jurisdictions in North America -- a very economical one because it saves making a plate every year. This plate is designed to last four to five years.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. minister considering giving the business back to the prisoners at Port Saskatchewan so we'd have a half decent licence plate?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, we have more meaningful things for the prisoners at Port Saskatchewan to do, with a view to their rehabilitation and to civilian life upon discharge.

Hospital Care Costs

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Does the minister propose to put a ceiling on hospital expenditures to deal with the government's concern about rapidly escalating costs of health services?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, it's certainly too early for me to be definitive on that. As we have indicated, the separation of hospital, nursing home care and medical care fields is a recognition that we will be taking -- a minister will be able to devote more time to this particular area.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say at this time is that I'm looking into the area and educating myself in the field. It's far too early at this stage for me to be definitive on a question of that nature.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Will the minister be preparing a policy paper on health costs or health services for this session or, say, the fall session of the Legislature?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, again I can't be definitive. I'm sure over the period I am responsible as the minister and this government is responsible there will likely be a variety of papers on a wide variety of matters, but I cannot be definitive at this stage as to what those may be or what time they may be.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Could the minister advise me, on behalf of the government, why that statement was put into the throne speech then, if nothing's going to be done?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think I've indicated it's our intention to devote a substantial amount of time to in-depth study. I hope to get around the province, and already have, looking at our hospital facilities. I'm sure all hon. members would agree that we should first devote the time to analyse the situation totally, fully understand and investigate all aspects of the hospital delivery system in Alberta, and if we are going to recommend changes to the House from the government, be in a position to recommend the best kinds of changes for the people of the Province of Alberta.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Can the minister assure the House that one of the options the government won't be considering or will rule out is any change in the 100 per cent funding formula for hospitals in Alberta?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, again I have to say that I don't think any of us in the House or in government are inflexible on any matter, that all policies we have now would be reviewed on a continuous basis and an in-depth analysis made. But I'm not in a position, nor is the government in a position at this time, to be definitive with respect to these policies until we look at the policy in total perspective.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for clarification. Do I take it then from the hon. minister's answer that one of the options which will be reviewed at least, will be a change in the funding formula from 100 per cent to perhaps somewhat less than that?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I said that at all. I said that I think, when you're looking at the total area of hospitals policy, we will look at a wide variety of parts of that policy. But I'm sure hon. members would agree we have to look at the total policy perspective before making any individual decisions.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Is the minister considering any budgetary procedural changes in the hospitals, such as program budgeting, as has been done with the municipalities?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had indicated that over a period of time we'll be looking at a wide variety of policy initiatives and policy alternatives. But I cannot be definitive on an individual policy alternative until we have looked at the total policy situation in the hospital field.

Hospital Construction

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. Is the government policy of decentralization applicable in the construction of new hospitals?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think all hon. members are raising individual public policies that may be desirable when we're looking at the total policy of hospital and health care services in Alberta. All I can say is, there are many, when we assess a total public policy, that must be taken into consideration, one of which I think the hon. member has touched upon.

Rural Gas Co-ops

MR. GHITTER: My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones. I'm wondering if the hon. minister would advise the House as to whether or not there has been a slow down by his department in approval of submissions by rural gas co-ops of their programs and, if so, the reasons why?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, we have been dealing with a large number of applications and approving them as rapidly as we can. As a matter of fact, I think it would be fair to say that in looking toward the coming construction season we have been in a position to accelerate these approvals.

MR. GHITTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the hon. minister is aware of the fact that U.S. producers, extruders, are stockpiling pipe in Montana in contemplation of the market opening up in the Province of Alberta?

DR. WARRACK: There has been a certain amount of U.S. pipe marketed for this program, particularly during 1974 when there was such a shortage of pipe, and that particular difficulty was a serious one for rural gas co-ops. While they may be stockpiling in the manner the member suggests -- although I'm not sure and would have to check that -- if they are, it's on a speculative basis.

MR. GHITTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the hon. minister would contemplate considering protection for Alberta extruders who are fearful of American extruders flooding the Alberta market?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, we have had some requests to pay more for American pipe than [for that] from Canadian sources. We have not agreed to that request, on a basis that the competition ought to be open and fair. In terms of the future development of such processing opportunities in Alberta, I would have some concern at shutting out the flow of pipe from the United States inasmuch as the Canadian manufacturers might very well wish to expand their markets in the United States in the future.

MR. GHITTER: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Assuming the price of the Canadian product is equivalent and the product is as good as the American product, would the hon. minister consider, at the time being, protecting Canadian and Alberta extruders in their market?

[interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

DR. BUCK: [Inaudible] is assuming, and assuming, and assuming. That's very hypothetical.

MR. GHITTER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's your prerogative to determine what is hypothetical, and not the prerogative of the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the hon. member's prerogative to raise a point of order, and I would have to agree with him in this instance.

MR. R. SPEAKER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Has the minister approved an expenditure from government to local co-ops for pipe that was brought in from the United States prior to the department's policy decision whereby payment would not be made for pipe from the United States? Has there been a retroactive policy in force?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, I think that would have been in a time frame before my responsibility. As a result of that, I would need to check. As a matter of fact, I'd appreciate the assistance of the hon. member in nailing down the details he might be thinking of as a specific case.

MR. PURDY: A supplementary question on the same subject, Mr. Speaker. Are Alberta co-ops that are now using American pipe eligible for the provincial grant?

DR. WARRACK: They are, Mr. Speaker, but not to a price level above what pipe could have been purchased for in Canada.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. With reference to equipment other than pipe required in the rural gas program, does the hon. minister expect the market conditions to ease this year? Will equipment be more readily available than it was last year?

MR. SPEAKER: We're getting again into the field of market prognosis, which isn't readily tied to the minister's responsibility in his department. Perhaps the question could be put in another way.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Can the minister advise whether or not his department has any ongoing market analysis as to input cost for rural gas co-ops?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, we have not established a section of provincial employees to do that kind of additional work. But at the same time, the people who are involved in the program, including myself, have been in a number of very useful and helpful meetings with all of the people involved in the implementation of the program, particularly the rural gas co-op boards themselves. Their comments in that area, and others, have been most helpful.

Secondary Highways

MR. ZANDER: My question is to the Minister of Transport, the Deputy Premier. Is the department considering taking in some of the major secondary highways of the province and including them in the Department of Highways maintenance?

DR. HORNER: Well, Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member, I would say that we are reviewing the priorities of the highway systems in Alberta. Indeed, as we reach some of the objectives that we set out in general policy, that is, diversification of our economy, we will have to have a look at the transportation routes and bring them on a par with that diversification.

Bill 20

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Labour. I understand the provisions of Bill 20 are retroactive to April 1, 1975. This particular inquiry is from a constituent. Is there provision for additional benefits under the bill for a workman disabled previous to that date?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, there are catch-up provisions in other clauses of the bill that hon. members will be able to review at the time the bill is before the committee.

Irrigation Program

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. In regard to the information tabled this afternoon, I would just like to ask the minister when they are going to begin the expenditures of the \$200 million irrigation program?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Environment, the minister responsible for native affairs, and I visited with all of the district irrigation boards in southern Alberta about two weeks ago. At those meetings, there was general agreement between

ourselves and the irrigation boards that the spending of that \$200 million of additional resource revenue funds, which are depleting and which we wanted to see used in a way that would benefit generations to come, should be the subject of some considerable planning and thought. In that regard, and particularly with respect to the \$90 million we are suggesting be spent by Alberta Agriculture for rehabilitation and expansion, there was general agreement that we ought to use the balance of 1975 in planning our priorities, not only in the department but within each irrigation district, with a view to beginning the implementation of those funds in 1976.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, then, Mr. Speaker. What powers will the local boards have towards establishing priorities for spending this money? Will local boards have some input, or be setting the priorities?

MR. MOORE: What I said, Mr. Speaker, to the local boards as we visited them was that I wanted them to sit down, over the course of the next few short months, assess what their priorities were, both in regard to rehabilitation and to bringing additional new lands within or adjoining their areas under irrigation. We asked all of them to provide us, during the latter part of this year, with their priorities within individual districts in that regard. It's a matter then of myself, and the staff of the district irrigation division, sitting down and looking at the priorities they have outlined, and making some decisions with regard to which ones will start in '76, '77, and so on.

New House Warranty

MR. TAYLOR: My question is to the hon. Minister of Housing. Is a system of warranties on new houses now in effect in Alberta?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, to my recollection, there is a system of warranties introduced by HUDAC, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. Whether or not there is an additional guarantee with regard to this matter, I would have to check and find out.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary. Would the hon. minister also check to see if these warranties have been completed with commercial and consumer groups.

Self-Serve Gas Stations

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It concerns the self-serve gas bars. My question, Mr. Speaker, is: has the government met with officials of the Alberta Automotive Retailers' Association on this matter? Are any plans being considered now to deal with some of the problems created by the self-serve bars?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I have not.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is it the government's intention to introduce any form of legislation during the present session of the Legislature to deal with what some retail automotive dealers feel is unfair competition by the major oil companies?

MR. HARLE: I know of no such legislation.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary . . .

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could respond to the hon. member's question. A week and a half to two weeks ago, we did meet in my offices with the president, vice-president, and secretary of the ARA, along with other members of the Legislative Assembly, to discuss matters of great importance to them.

They have changed their position considerably since I last met with them a year and a half ago. However, they made their position clear relative to the integrated operation, to rentals established by the parent companies, and other items.

We agreed to contact the presidents of the major companies, invite them to meet with us, in Alberta, at their earliest convenience. Those letters have gone from the offices of the department very recently, and we have yet to receive a response from the majors.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, this time to the hon. Minister of Business Development. Could the minister advise the Assembly whether or not, at the discussions which took place, consideration was given, or legislation discussed which would restrict the amount of sales by retail self-serve gas bars owned by the integrated oil companies -- in other words, a quota system allocated to the bars?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, the ARA principals did present a draft piece of legislation which they proposed we introduce. Since we haven't discussed any of the problems of the ARA with the major companies, we do not at this time anticipate introducing such legislation. However, we did have an excellent discussion on the matter, and I'm sure it won't be the last we'll have with the ARA.

Heritage Trust Fund

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the hon. Premier a question that arose out of the question period in the last election. The question was the proposed heritage trust fund of \$1.5 billion. Will that be just for the current year, or will there be additional funds put into that in ongoing years so that the fund will keep getting larger and larger? Or will it remain just at the \$1.5 billion?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to answer that question in the course of the question period and prior to the budget. But I think it's fair to say, without being definitive about precise numbers -- I'm sure the hon. member recognizes that the variables involve not only pricing but timing of price increases, the future of world oil prices and production levels -- that the proposed amount that would go into the fund initially is an initial amount. It would be contemplated that subsequent amounts of money would be allocated to the fund. But it would be difficult for me to be more precise than that at this stage.

Recreation Grants

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and it pertains to the \$200 million recreation program as announced in the last session. I was wondering if the minister could inform the House as to how the applications are coming in, whether any have been approved, and if there are any major changes contemplated in the regulations?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I believe we've received 11 applications to this point. We're reviewing them and getting into discussions with the various applicants as to pressure points, if I may use that term, that may occur. Some of them at this particular point have caused us to take a look at some other methods we may use in the future. We haven't approved any as yet, and we'll be looking at them and approving them as quickly as possible.

DR. BUCK: Supplementary to the hon. minister. In the applications that were received, are the communities asking for the entire 10-year amount for the loan, or are they just looking at a 1- or 2-year period?

MR. ADAIR: No, they're by project, Mr. Speaker. At this particular stage some are for -- I think one of them was for \$37,000, one for as high as \$800,000.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is: does that constitute the entire amount the community can borrow?

MR. ADAIR: No, it does not.

Hog Production

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and relates to the serious decline in hog production, probably due to unstable prices. What action is the government taking to stop or reverse this decline and encourage greater production in the hog market?

MR. MCORE: Mr. Speaker, I believe it's fair to say there were a number of initiatives taken by government over the period of the past couple of years with regard to loans, feed/freight assistance programs, and other things to encourage people to expand or maintain their pork production.

However, the determining factor in the case of almost any production is the profit they might receive. The returns hog producers have received over the period of the last couple of years have been generally, on average, probably below production costs. The situation has turned about quite a bit in recent weeks. We expect some improvement with regard to the numbers of hogs which will be marketed because of that.

One avenue the government has been involved in very recently is the Alberta pork congress, which is an organization that's trying to point out to individual producers the opportunities that exist in hog production and trying to improve the production in western Canada.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. minister. Is the government assessing its various programs designed to get greater hog production, to see how effective they have been?

MR. MOORE: Yes, I think it's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that there is a continual assessment of programs such as the one we had two years ago which paid a per-hundred-pound amount to each hog producer on the basis of hogs marketed. There's been an assessment of our freight assistance programs with regard to feed and that kind of thing.

I'm also involved now in assessing the whole question of income protection for farmers in a variety of fields, not only hogs but vegetables, poultry, and a great number of other areas.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister tell the House whether he plans to make any representation to the federal government with respect to the hog stabilization program, i.e. the formula that is used to compute whether or not payments are made?

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I've made representations in a general way to the hon. Mr. Whelan, federal Minister of Agriculture, with regard to Bill C-50 and the provisions under the new legislation requiring that the federal subsidy amount to 90 per cent of the previous 5-year average. I've made specific recommendations with respect to the formula which was used in the payments to the beef industry. I have not made any specific recommendations with respect to the formula in computing payments to people in the pork industry.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. In the light of inflation which is current in the Canadian economy, is the government of the view that 90 per cent of the last 5-year average is an adequate support price, or has any consideration been given to perhaps using a 100 per cent figure or some different method of computing?

MR. MOORE: Well, Mr. Speaker, the position I took at the last meeting I attended in Ottawa with regard to Bill C-50 was that really an agreement using the previous 5-year average prices was not the appropriate way to try to stabilize farm incomes. As a matter of fact, we would much prefer that we get involved in using a cost of production formula which is real today. In that regard, I guess it's fair to say we don't agree with the federal government in their approach.

I would point out, however, that Bill C-50 requires that a minimum payment of 90 per cent of the previous 5-year average be made. But it does not place any limit on the maximum. In fact, the federal government could, if they were prepared to do so, raise that 90 per cent to 100, 110, 120, or whatever figure they want.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. minister. Has the hon. minister yet had an opportunity to assess whether the hog production decline in Alberta is greater or less than in other provinces?

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's approximately the same in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. It amounts to about a 27 per cent reduction as compared to, I believe, about 10 per cent in eastern Canada. So it's generally fair to say that the three western provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have had a greater decline than eastern Canada. I think that's reflected somewhat in the opportunities which exist for farmers in the prairie region to develop better incomes by the sale of grain. It could also very well be reflected in the continuing problem we have of getting equitable freight rates for red meat products going to eastern Canada.

Downey Report on Library Services

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Government Services advise what plans he has for implementation of the Downey report for improved library services throughout the province?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, we are presently gathering all the submissions, reports, and suggestions which have been sent in from all over the province. Once that has been done, [we will] try to arrive at a consensus of the many librarians and the public. Right now in my office, the letters and submissions are about that high. Once that is all done, we hope to . . .

DR. BUCK: They just want grants, Horst.

MR. SCHMID: . . . we hope to come to a conclusion as to what can be done with library services in Alberta.

Highway 16 -- 118 Avenue

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation, the Deputy Premier. With the announcement last night of your department contemplating tying 118 Avenue into Highway 43, are there routes that could be considered for taking the traffic off Highway 16, such as a southern route, other than going through 118 Avenue which is a subdivision, and the terrain is very expensive to build a highway through?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, we're having a look at all the highways coming into Edmonton, particularly from the northwest area, because we appreciate Highway 16 has had the largest increase in use of any highway in the province, and as such it has to have some relief. There is a variety of alternatives, and we're having a look at those.

MR. ZANDER: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the knowledge of some of the local government councillors in the County of Parkland certainly should be recognized, that they are considering tying 170 Street into the Stony Plain interchange?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member that the local councils can have a great input and indeed have had. To my knowledge, the department has, in fact, met with them on three different occasions, the most recent one at a public meeting in Spruce Grove two or three days ago. The question of whether or not an extension to 118 Avenue would become more than just a two-lane highway has not been resolved.

MR. YOUNG: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise in what time frame he anticipates the discussions and the decision will be finalized?

DR. HORNER: Well, I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, I can't give a time frame. Surely the question of what you do on 118 Avenue also ties into the other policies required with regard to the City of Edmonton, and their aspirations and hopes for additional assistance on some of their major arterial roads.

Imperial Oil Refinery -- Calgary

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Business Development and Tourism and ask whether or not he and officials of his department met with officials of Calgary Refining last week to discuss the disposition of the Imperial Oil refinery which is being phased out or closed down in the City of Calgary?

MR. DOWLING: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister tell the House whether or not the government has developed a policy with respect to this matter? Is it the view of the government that Imperial Oil should, in fact, sell the refinery to a joint venture of, I believe, Calgary Refining and Turbo?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, there were a number of alternatives proposed to us regarding a prospective purchaser. In discussions with the people from Calgary Refining, we did ask them for a prospectus -- an indication of what the requirements of the Department of Environment were, what the problems were relative to the City of Calgary expanding in a residential way or as a park or something of this nature. The discussions bogged down slightly; however, we did indicate to the group which met with us that we would be contacting the principals of the Imperial Oil Company to discuss the matter from their standpoint as soon as possible. That meeting has not been arranged yet, but we hope it will be within the next short while.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise the House whether or not the government is prepared to take active steps, including legislation, to require the company to sell if necessary?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I would hate to think we pushed a budding company into a position where they could not be equitable. Our concern is that whatever operation, whatever happens to Calgary Refinery -- if it does progress and continue, that it is a viable operation, profit-oriented, does have a marketing arm, is producing enough oil so the people involved are in a position of profit.

MR. NOTLEY: Final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House whether or not he has asked the Alberta Energy Company to review the proposal of Calgary Refining, and perhaps consider investment in the project?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I personally have not asked the Energy Company to become involved. It is my understanding, however, that they have considered the matter. I'm not sure what their position is on it at the moment.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. King proposed the following motion to the Assembly:

That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta as follows:

To His Honor the Honorable Ralph G. Steinhauer, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Alberta:

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

[Adjourned debate: Mr. Clark]

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in the throne speech debate, while I was waiting for this particular motion to be called, I couldn't help but think back to 1960, the first opportunity I had to speak in this Assembly, when I'd have to say the tables were turned somewhat. I was sitting back in the seat now occupied by the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray, and I recall a rather sizable number of government members on that side and a sizable number of government members over on this side, but the government hadn't got to this stage yet.

I would have to say at the outset that I'd certainly be remiss if I didn't say to those members who were elected, congratulations. I think it's fair to say that those of us in the official opposition, at least knowingly, did little to help each of you get elected. And to be quite frank, we don't plan to do a great deal to help you get re-elected next time, in the course of the next four years or however long this Assembly sits.

Regardless of where members sit on their particular side of the Assembly, I'm sure we all recognize the responsibility we have now that the election is over. We're here to deal primarily with the business of the people of this province.

I would also be remiss if I didn't say to the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands that I enjoyed his remarks in moving that a reply be sent to the Lieutenant-Governor. In fact, I was almost becoming enthusiastic about the hon. member's remarks, because I thought he was going to become involved in an area that's rather dear to my heart. That's the real concern I think he was trying to express, and many other Albertans have, of trying to work through the variety of government bureaucracies and not necessarily the provincial government bureaucracy either, but federal and local government bureaucracies, and so on. The hon. member stopped somewhat short of there, nevertheless I commend him on his remarks.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't say to the hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest, congratulations on a very fine contribution to the Speech from the Throne. I'm sure all members, especially members who have been in the Assembly for some time, have gone through that rather awesome experience of getting up for the first time. Might I say to the hon. member that I feel you did a very commendable job.

I was somewhat disappointed, though, that we heard no reference to the Crowsnest Pass symphony orchestra. During the course of the past eight years, there has been somewhat of a tradition in this Assembly that from time to time, quite often in fact, reference has been made to the Crowsnest Pass symphony. So, in the future, I would trust you'll look after that rather small but important detail.

Moving on now, Mr. Speaker, to the opposition itself. I want to say for the benefit of not only the members of the Assembly but for the public of this province, that we are attempting, or will attempt, to use four guidelines in the reaction and action we take in the Assembly regarding programs put forward by the government. We plan to support good legislation. We trust that that will happen fairly often. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we will be bringing forward amendments to improve legislation on a number of occasions, I'm sure.

It will also be our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to propose alternatives. Later in my remarks this afternoon, I plan to deal with four alternatives that members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition will be presenting to the Assembly for its consideration early in this particular session.

Then, being very candid about it, there'll be times when, in my judgment at least, the government will be taking the wrong direction or doing the wrong thing. On those occasions we will oppose with all the vigor and fortitude that the members in the opposition have.

Perhaps to set the tone, as far as the last comments are concerned, I might read a rather short quotation from a book entitled, Parliament Under Attack [from the section] "The Role of the Opposition". The author is the hon. Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, who I'm sure all members in the Assembly have a strong affection for, at least almost all the members.

Only a strong and alert Opposition can hope to check and control the [excess] powers, contrary to the constitution, that may be assumed or conferred upon [government] administration, the so-called bureaucracy. Only an alert Opposition can prevent the short cuts through democratic procedures that cabinet ministers and bureaucrats frequently find attractive. It is only the Opposition, functioning as [an organized] part of parliamentary proceedings, that stands opposed to the degeneration of the [government] system into a form of [anarchy directed] public affairs by the executive and the bureaucracy. Without [the opposition] minorities would stand unprotected. Freedom would wither, individual liberty would be in jeopardy. Unwarranted and oppressive invasion of private rights would grow unchecked.

So I say to the new members of the Assembly, when from time to time you feel the opposition may be harping at some length on a particular matter -- I refer you to the writings of John Diefenbaker.

While I'm passing out congratulations, perhaps it would be an appropriate time to make some remarks with regard to all the new cabinet ministers. Because as the session goes on, it may be that I won't be in quite as charitable a mood as I am this afternoon. I say congratulations to the new ministers, with particular reference to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs.

I note that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is sitting in the second row. I feel confident that must be because there are no new members of the Assembly sitting in the first row of the cabinet. I would genuinely hope that's the case, because from talking to some municipal authorities across the province over the period of the last two or three years, and certainly not specifically since the new minister became the minister, we wouldn't want to have the feeling develop that municipal affairs might be going to end up in the second row. Perhaps during this session the new Minister of Municipal Affairs will have some opportunity not only to share with us over here but with people across the province -- in fact, to earn your stripes, if I might put it that way.

I'm sure the new Minister of Consumer Affairs will find his experience there a consuming affair. I wish him the best of luck in an important portfolio.

The new Minister of Agriculture isn't here, and neither is the Deputy Premier. I should almost reserve these comments for some time when they are both here, but I think it's important they be on record now. I'm sure I'll avail myself of the opportunity to do it again. But as far as the new Minister of Agriculture is concerned, if there is a minister who has taken on an extremely difficult job, I think it's the new Minister of Agriculture.

For the benefit of honorable members, especially those of you from rural Alberta, you'll know that banks in rural Alberta have a habit of sending in a banker who gets money out of the community. Then they take that banker out of the community and bring someone else in who has the job of pulling in the reins and pulling it back in. With no disrespect, I think that's the difficult situation the new Minister of Agriculture may well find himself in. His is going to be a difficult portfolio. Agriculture in this province, in fact any agriculture portfolio, is extremely difficult.

As far as the new minister of native affairs is concerned, I wish you good luck in a very difficult area. But I would say to you, and I'll say this later on in my remarks, time is running out. The former administration of this province and the present administration for too long have been saying, we're going to pay increased recognition to the native people in this province. You may say that's damning to the former Social Credit administration and to the present administration. I would urge you not to let time run out in the particular area of your responsibility.

To the new minister of rural development, who I know has had a broad municipal experience: it's because of those broad shoulders that later on in the course of the afternoon I plan to give the minister of rural development some additional responsibilities, at the expense of one of the other cabinet ministers, because I feel he could carry the load well.

To the new Minister of Education I perhaps would only say this: it has been my experience, having sat in somewhat similar situation, that school boards across the province are perhaps much more interested in ministerial announcements with regard to additional amounts of educational finance than with regard to Canadian content. As much as we may welcome the announcement the minister made in the House last Friday, I would urge the minister to quickly make some announcements in the area of educational finance.

On the matter, Mr. Speaker, of the whole cabinet shifting, I'm not impressed with the concept. I hope to be convinced, in the course of this session, that this was a good move. But I hope at the same time that ministers in new portfolios, or new ministers, won't really take the opportunity [to say] this session when we become involved in the estimates in some detail, well, the matter is under review; I'm considering it, or I'm setting up a committee; we're going to look at it, we'll report back in the fall.

I see hon. Mr. McCrae, the hon. member from Calgary, the area around the university in Calgary, sitting over there somewhat forlorn, Mr. Speaker. It's likely because I forgot to give him some recognition as a new minister -- I'm not quite sure of what -- from Calgary. But I'm sure he'll have an interesting experience with Calgary and the city council in Calgary. I would say very frankly to the hon. member that we would look forward very much to a rather detailed look at what the minister sees as his responsibilities at this particular session, because it seems to me that a new responsibility like he has, a new office which has been developed -- that this first session would be a very appropriate time to outline those things he sees himself being

involved in and, in fact, getting accomplished in the next four years. So we, perhaps, would be using his terms of reference for an assessment rather than our own.

When I look, Mr. Speaker, at the Speech from the Throne, I'd like to look at it from three standpoints: first of all, from the standpoint of those programs that we're prepared to support, and I think rather enthusiastically. We may be bringing forward some amendments in some areas, but will generally support those programs. Second is the area I'd like to refer to as errors and omissions, and my list is somewhat longer there than it is in the area of programs we plan to support. Third is a number of positive proposals that we feel would strengthen a rather weak Speech from the Throne.

As for those areas that deserve our support, there's no question that we support the Alberta assured income plan. We wonder somewhat why the figure of \$234 was in the Speech from the Throne before the election and why a new figure wasn't in the Speech from the Throne. I understand the figure of \$250 has been rather mooted around, at least it was during the election campaign. But we would hope, before long, that the figure would be announced and that it would be in addition to that particular amount. Certainly as to the senior citizens rebates, we support that move.

We naturally support the move to reduce income tax. I was going to take the opportunity to tell the new members in the Assembly that it took us one full session and two part sessions to get the government to this point where they have now moved on this matter of reducing income tax. But I'll save that story for a later time during the course of the estimates.

On the question of increased pensions for recipients of workers' compensation awards, we're pleased that the government is moving on this quickly during this particular session.

As for new initiatives in the area of housing, we look forward to this with some enthusiasm. We hope that these new initiatives will be laid before us during this session.

Particular reference is made in the Speech from the Throne to the Kirby report. It's my understanding that the government will be receiving the Kirby report before long. I would urge the government to move, once the recommendations are received, to make them public quickly and to have a short period of time for public reaction; then, in fact, to move on to what I'm sure many of us expect to be some rather startling recommendations from the report. If the public comments that have been made by some members of the commission come to fruition, indeed I think we'll see a rather fresh wind in this particular area, and I'd urge the new Attorney General to move with some dispatch in those areas once there has been a short period of time for public response.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move into the second area, the question of errors and omissions as far as the Speech from the Throne is concerned. Perhaps we could start with senior citizens once again and relate it to the comment asked in the House on Friday by the new Member for Calgary Mountain View with regard to the \$1,000 home improvement plan. We were advised at that particular time that it will be some time before the government is able to have this program in place, and likely next year before senior citizens are going to be able to have the benefits of this. I think the minister implied that it's rather a difficult area and so on. It may be a difficult area, but remember, members of the Assembly, that we're dealing with people who are senior citizens, to whom one year is a very, very long time. I'd also say to the hon. members: this is the same government that was able to make a deal on Syncrude in the course of one weekend. It might do us well to spend a weekend on getting this \$1,000 in the hands of senior citizens much earlier than next year. When we're talking about the \$1,000 for senior citizens, remember we're talking about likely \$400 of material and \$600 of labor, or some breakdown like that. I remind the hon. members on, shall I say, both sides of the House that this is the same government which was able to make a decision and buy PWA for some \$35 or \$36 or \$37 million in a very, very short period of time. Surely, then, we can give the same kind of priorities to the \$1,000 improvement for senior citizens.

I remind the hon. members, too, this is the same government that was able to draw up plans, which were needed, that made \$400 million available to the petroleum industry last fall. That was done in a relatively short period of time. It was needed. But it was needed no more than this \$1,000 is going to be needed by senior citizens who, in fact, are counting upon that. So I'd have to say we're disappointed that the \$1,000 home improvement plan was not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. We're disappointed that we're now hearing that it's going to take some months to get this kind of program in place.

As far as the assured income plan is concerned, it's a fact that in Alberta the assured income plan will be the highest. But really it's not much to brag about when one considers that increases have not even brought many of our senior citizens from the poverty line.

The second area I'd like to comment on as to errors and omissions, Mr. Speaker, deals with the new Ministry of Hospitals and Medical Care. My colleague, the Member for Little Bow, raised this question this afternoon. The Speech from the Throne said, "it will seek to ensure quality and health services at reasonable cost." This is a very admirable sentiment. But we are extremely concerned here that what this may mean is, in fact, belt-tightening as far as health care facilities are concerned in this province.

This province at this particular time, thanks to governments over the past number of years, has perhaps the finest health care facilities any place we can find on this continent. And if the purpose of the new Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care is, in fact, to be the 'reiner-inner' as far as medical costs, hospital costs, senior citizens

costs, auxiliary nursing home costs and so forth are concerned, then that kind of department we can do without.

We would have been much more enthusiastic had we talked about the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care; if we'd talked about preventative health programs, home care, community health services, aid for the blood-pressure testing clinics which may have to be phased out; if we'd talked about dental clinics for youngsters and things in those particular areas.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I note that in the Speech from the Throne reference was made to the Report on Industrial Health and Safety. It indicated that steps would be taken to implement appropriate recommendations. It is my understanding that small changes have already been made, as far as administration moving some personnel from one department to the other. But let us remember that the real guts of this report centre around support shown by workers, the unions, management and government, to a consolidated approach into an area that frankly has been badly organized for a number of years. I'm dubious that implementation of appropriate recommendations will take place. It seems to me, when one looks at this report somewhat closely, that basically it's a commitment to move in that direction or it isn't. To make little adjustments with regard to whom people report, and so on, simply doesn't get to the guts of the recommendation as far as the report is concerned.

We were very surprised that the area of law enforcement was not mentioned in the throne speech at all. Members who were in the Assembly before will recall that during the early session this year the question of law enforcement came in for considerable debate. Frankly, during the course of the election campaign some of us took credit for the fact the government made \$12 million of additional revenue available to municipalities, or said they would. But now, after talking to municipalities, we get into the situation of who is going to make the decisions as to how the money is going to be passed out -- the local municipalities or provincial government? What portion of this money is going to be spent on prevention, and what portion is going to be spent on putting more people on the beat? I think it would be an appropriate area for the Solicitor General to comment on, either during this debate or certainly during the estimates, to get some indication of the government's priorities, especially in the area of the preventative activities.

We were, Mr. Speaker, also somewhat surprised there was no reference in the Speech from the Throne to bargaining rights for civil servants.

As far as native people are concerned, the Speech from the Throne talks about "increased recognition by my government of the concerns and needs of Alberta's native people." It's admirable, but recognition does not imply action, action which is desperately needed. According to some individuals I have spoken to from the native community of northeastern Alberta, something like 60 per cent of the male native population in that area of the province is unemployed.

It's an extremely difficult area. At a period of time when Syncrude is now definitely going ahead, when we see headlines such as "Chief warns on oil sands training" -- when one of the chiefs from the Fort McMurray area expresses those kinds of concerns, I don't think it is being unrealistic to say we had hoped we would see more in the Speech from the Throne with regard to that area. That's why I say to the new minister, time is running out and running out quickly, because if the native people in northeastern Alberta don't have the opportunity to participate, frankly, on a better basis than they had in the GCOS proposition, we'll have missed a real opportunity. I say to the new minister and to his colleagues, both in the front row and members of his caucus, that his is a difficult job, and he will need all your support, starting very soon.

Another surprise, Mr. Speaker, as far as the Speech from the Throne was concerned, dealt with the Environment Conservation Authority and any reference to the eastern slopes. In recent weeks, it seems the Environment Conservation Authority has become the subject for more than its just amount of criticism. It's rather interesting that the Deputy Premier would be making some comments concerning the Environment Conservation Authority's recommendations on the Paddle River hearings. We recognize the Paddle River is in the constituency of the hon. Deputy Premier. We recognize there may be one or two NDPers in that particular area -- not many more, I would trust, but that may be the situation. But the fact is, when the Minister of Transportation, the MLA for the area and the Deputy Premier, suggests that the Environment Conservation Authority has really not lived with its mandate, it seems to me that is a very, very major knock, to say the least, at the Environment Conservation Authority.

It isn't only we over here who share that concern. I'd like to quote from the Edmonton Journal, which has its biases, but on this particular occasion I would agree with its point of view at least. It's talking about dissenting views. On May 10, 1975 it says:

Deputy Premier Hugh Horner has displayed irritation at the report of the Environment Conservation Authority on proposals for flood control in the Paddle River basin.

Then, going down some paragraphs, it says:

The whole thing would be laughable, if it were not for the important principles of the democratic process called into question by Mr Horner's position.

What the deputy premier has said, in effect, is that the integrity of a government-controlled body must be in question because it has dared to voice an opinion contrary to the government's.

[interjections]

Well, it's not quite that bad, but almost. It's a very, very serious commentary on the future of the Environment Conservation Authority.

Then add to that the report by the Energy Resources Conservation Board that just recently gives a commentary to the government on the eastern slopes and raises some valid points. Nevertheless, today another Albertan talks about the need no longer for the existence of the Environment Conservation Authority. I would say to all hon. members that if the Environment Conservation Authority is to be emasculated, wiped out, or in fact removed, that would be a very, very retrograde step as far as Alberta is concerned.

I was also surprised, Mr. Speaker, that the Speech from the Throne had nothing in it with regard to industrial development. I shouldn't say nothing in it. It had no broad general statement with regard to an industrial development strategy for Alberta.

Dr. Stephen Peitchinis, the former dean of the Faculty of Business at the University of Calgary, was quoted as saying not long ago that:

[The] government [has declared its proposal] to implement an industrial strategy that will radically change the industrial structure of the province -- regardless how radical -- must [recognize] it will inevitably result in some very serious social and economic implications Doesn't the government have a responsibility to inform the people of the nature of the industrial structure it visualizes, the extent of the change to the present industrial structure, [and] the nature of the social and economic effects it expects to result from the implementation of this industrial strategy, and how [does it propose] to cope with these effects?

This isn't a member of the opposition speaking. I don't even know what his political leanings are. I'd have to say this: it isn't unreasonable at all to ask the government to come forward with a position paper, as it used to three years ago, and say, not only to the Assembly but to the people of Alberta, look, this is the industrial development strategy we see for the next 10 or 15 years. Politically, how can that hurt any party, especially a government that has got this kind of domination in the Legislature? Think of the input you can get from Albertans. Think of the opportunity and the commitment Albertans would have then to the industrial development strategy which develops in the end.

I would strongly encourage the government to reconsider its position and to come forward with such an industrial development strategy reduced to words, so that we don't have municipalities -- not just Edmonton and Calgary, but Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and smaller areas -- having no idea at all as to their futures from the standpoint of industrial development.

But I would like to move on, Mr. Speaker, to the question of energy, and simply make some rather brief comments here. In the question period on Friday, it was established, I think beyond much doubt, that a sizable number of rigs have left Alberta. This exodus has been going on for some months now. We really haven't felt the effects of this exodus, at least from the standpoint of the economy, because of Syncrude, because of the exploration for gas, and also by the proving out of a number of fields in the province.

But hon. members from southern Alberta, coming up Highway No. 2, when you come to the Riviera Hotel, if you would just go straight north -- don't jog to the left but go straight north -- when you get up about five or six blocks, you'll see a large sign, the kind that used to have Conservative election signs on them during the campaign. One of those signs talks about a drilling firm known as Santa Fe -- foreign jobs, exploration. That, pretty obviously, should say something to all of us, regardless of where we are in the Assembly.

The Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated in the House, Friday, the government was looking at options. Don't look too long at these options. The options have been open now for some time. Admittedly, we have the hazard of a very unpredictable federal government, but within the power and within the jurisdiction we have in Alberta, there are some steps we can take to prevent this exodus of rigs from the province.

When one looks at the energy situation and I in no circumstances proclaim myself to be an authority in this area -- one can't help but get the feeling that, really, last year the governments in Canada were concerned about capital. That was the almost unquenchable thirst of the governments, federal and provincial. This year it seems that the rather in thing, as far as governments and energy are concerned, is self-sufficiency. It is the key consideration, and well it should be.

I'd be remiss if I didn't say to the government that I appreciated very much the opportunity to attend the first ministers conference at Ottawa as an observer. The actions of the Province of Ontario somewhat amused me. It became pretty obvious during the course of the conference that an election might be in the offing in Ontario. On one hand we had the Province of Ontario arguing most vehemently for no price increases at all, and at the same time we had the Province of Ontario tied into the Syncrude agreement. Now they want everything to go to the world price by 1979.

We have to recognize in this Assembly that we now have an additional complication as far as Ottawa is concerned, the petroleum administration act. Nevertheless, it appears to me Ottawa now recognizes that to a very great degree Alberta has the trump card. Even Mr. Macdonald seems to recognize that the Province of Ontario will run short of gas as a fuel within the next two winters unless more is exported to that province. I'm sure all members recognize that once the export licence is approved, it comes under the auspices of the new legislation. But while the gas is still in the ground and no export licence has been granted, it is solely under the jurisdiction of the province. It seems to me that this has finally dawned on the federal cabinet. The federal government has finally

realized that they can't force Alberta to export further gas from this province. It seems to me that's why they're now moving in the area of a political compromise.

In looking at the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I noticed the fourth-last paragraph in the speech, which was very interesting. I'd like to repeat it for the benefit of the hon. members:

My government recognizes its special [responsibilities] to carefully consider sound advice, to seriously weigh constructive criticism, to encourage thoughtful debate regarding its policies and, above all, to listen to and be responsive to Albertans in every walk of life and in every [province of Canada].

That's very commendable.

I assume that "special responsibilities" refers to the fact that the opposition has dwindled to six members. It's fair to say that we over here intend to use our time as efficiently as possible. Being quite frank though, six individuals aren't going to be able to cover every area, certainly not as effectively as a larger opposition would. This places a greater responsibility on the government members, and on the leader of the government party, to carefully consider their own actions and those of their fellow members.

I had the opportunity to sit on the government when there were 60 on the government side and 3 over here, after the 1963 provincial election. That was not good for Alberta. It wasn't good for the government. It may be one of the reasons that some things have happened to the party which was the government at that time. It is not good for the legislative process. It wasn't good for politics in this particular province.

This kind of tremendous sweep in the province and imbalance in the Legislature is not unique. A number of Social Credit governments had majorities similar to the one presently enjoyed by the Conservative administration. I hope it's fair to say, and that most members would agree with me, that those administrations were amazingly free of corruption or dishonesty. In fact, perhaps the strongest tradition the Social Credit era left was a tradition of integrity and morality. That, I think, speaks well for the past.

I want to be very clear and very honest with all honorable members in the House. I'm not insinuating that this government has been or is becoming a corrupt government at all. To date, there is very little indication of this happening. I would, however, point to the dangers that exist for any group, regardless of its political stripe, which finds itself in a position of virtually uncontested power. Further, I would challenge each of the members on the government side to acquit themselves as well as Alberta legislatures have done in the past when we had this kind of imbalance.

The main danger, it seems to me, is the potential for abuse of power. I'm not for one moment suggesting that there are corrupt men, or shall I say corrupt women, sitting in this Assembly. But the potential lies more in the areas of carelessness, arrogance, and unconscious misdemeanors. Government members obviously have the right to feel proud of their accomplishments in the recent election. But pride mixed with power rather than with humility is an explosive combination. The only effective antidote is humility. I must admit that there are occasions when I would like to pass out some additional doses of humility to the present administration.

I would say to the members on the government side that those people in the official opposition represent something like 37 per cent of the people in this province, even though we don't represent 37 per cent of the members in the Assembly. We earnestly trust our comments will be taken the way they're meant and they'll be given due consideration.

Now Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move on to the third portion of my comments. These deal with a number of proposals that we would like to have seen in the Speech from the Throne, that we feel would have strengthened the Speech from the Throne considerably. I start in the area of local governments: cities, towns, villages, counties, MDs, IDs educational organizations, and hospitals. The problems are very simple. The grants they are getting from the present administration are not keeping up with the operational costs. If the budget comes in the same as it was before, we're looking at something like a 15 per cent increase in grants.

The second problem is that government assistance isn't known in time. We have unheard-of school boards, hospital boards not as bad, but school boards and municipal councils which are in fact making decisions at this time of the year as to what their budgets are going to be for this year. Many of you know this. You've been on municipal councils and school boards yourselves.

The third problem that municipalities have, as I see it, is that they are not taken into the confidence of the government when decisions are being made which affect their particular area.

We in the official opposition would like to make three proposals. First of all, that at a very early date, this government implement the concept of revenue sharing. We've talked about it many times in this Assembly. Revenue sharing, as far as income tax or personal and corporate income tax are concerned -- and let's for pete's sake forget about talking about sharing motor vehicle tax or liquor tax.

Secondly, we'd like to see revenue sharing, as far as the total resource revenues are concerned. That's the revenue sharing portion of the proposal.

Secondly, we're advocating that supplementary estimates come down in the Assembly in the fall of each year, and that in those supplementary estimates the Provincial Treasurer indicate to educational and municipal governments the amounts of money they can be looking at for the next fiscal year. This would allow our municipal governments to do the kind of planning they need to be doing.

As I've already said, we have a number of school boards across the province right now which are still wrestling with their budgets for 1975. The only period of time they can have any influence on that budget is the last four months of 1975. The rest of the year is already committed. The decisions they make by September of this year are going to tie them in for the first six months of next year.

The very least thing we could do is bring in for the fall session supplementary estimates which would let municipal governments know what amounts they are going to have for the next year. At the same time, it would get us away from over \$300 million of special warrants -- \$300 million. We could take a week of the fall session to debate those supplementary estimates.

The third proposal, we have in the field of municipal government deals with the restructuring of the Provincial-Municipal Finance Council. We'd like to restructure it not only to be concerned about the dollar sharing but to make it a vehicle by which municipalities, regardless of how large or small they may be, go to various government departments or cabinet committees and get, if you'll pardon the expression, "clued in" on what the government's plans are for various areas.

We can't expect not only large cities, but smaller centres too, to make the kind of decisions that are going to stand us in good stead if they have to act in a vacuum, which they have in the past while.

The second concrete proposal we'd like to put forward is for guidelines that clearly set out the relationships between senior public civil servants and their personal businesses, or government departments in which they themselves work or have any dealings.

Thirdly, we think it's appropriate at this time that we review The Legislative Assembly Act from the standpoint of MLAs and their involvement with government agencies.

Fourthly, we'd like to see and propose a firm commitment to Albertans to guarantee that large areas of the eastern slopes be left intact for generations to follow. This can be done by a number of means, but certainly one is a zoning kind of approach.

Shortly in the session, my colleague Mr. Speaker, the Member for Little Bow, will be introducing a private member's bill, the Alberta heritage savings trust fund. We introduce that legislation . . . Hopefully, at least we'll have one hour during the session, at the very least one hour, to talk about the kinds of things that are going to be involved in this Alberta heritage savings trust fund, because if we wait until the fall, a very sizable portion is already going to be committed. We've already committed over \$200 million as far as irrigation is concerned, and we haven't had one iota of discussion in this House about it. Then we have the Minister of Agriculture standing up today and giving us the guidelines as to how it's going to be spent.

Mr. Speaker will also, shortly in the session, be introducing legislation dealing with denticare, by means of amendments to The Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, to provide services for youngsters under seven years of age so they would have denticare on a basis that would be in their best interests.

My colleague, the Member for Brooks, Mr. Mandeville, already has a motion on the order paper dealing with housing and grants being made to municipalities for the provision of utilities and services. We feel that such a proposal, if it were to be accepted by the government, would go some distance toward cutting the costs of housing not only in Edmonton and Calgary.

The information we've looked at indicates such a proposal would cut the costs of housing in Edmonton and Calgary from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a home, and to a lesser amount in the rural areas. Certainly, all of us can agree with the desirability of virtually every family that wants the opportunity to own their own home, to have that kind of opportunity.

My colleague, Dr. Buck, will be introducing legislation, shortly, regarding foreign control of agricultural land in the province.

I will be introducing legislation dealing with the concept of an auditor general. In addition to the present terms of reference of the Provincial Auditor, [it will] in fact incorporate a new concept to determine if reasonable value for money has been obtained in expenditures of public funds.

The last area, Mr. Speaker, that I want to talk about deals with the question of individual citizens and their fight with various governments, and how in the world they get answers.

I hope very genuinely that one of the comments about the Department of Government Services, toward the end of the Speech from the Throne, means that this government is really going to have a serious look at the problems that hundreds of thousands of Albertans have when they try to deal with a government agency -- not on purpose, but it's the facts of life. I can give you several examples that have happened in my own particular constituency in the course of the last months.

We can start with the Agricultural Development Corporation, the long period of time it takes them to deal with loans and applications. We've been told repeatedly in this House that this is going to be speeded up -- 90 days, there just isn't a hope that a corporation can deal on that time frame. Yet we go on telling people that it's going to.

You will recall the advisory committee that was set up to look at dam sites west of Red Deer on the Red Deer River. The advisory committee recommended one dam site. That site didn't meet with the approval of the government, so it was told to look at other dam sites. It's going to be some time before you get those people who were involved in that advisory committee to get involved in another effort like that.

I cite the example of an individual in Didsbury: it has taken him over six months to get his land title cleared through the planning commission, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Highways, and the Land Titles Office -- over six months.

I cite the situation of a mother, a divorced lady who has three sons, and the second son is mentally and physically handicapped. She was told by the social workers the youngster in all likelihood shouldn't stay at home. So she explored the possibilities. Education said, well we provide the programs, but Health and Social Development doesn't have the residences. And Health and Social Development said, well we would supply the residences, but they haven't got the program. While this great old merry-go-round goes on, here's a family that's just finding it more difficult all the time to keep body and soul together.

You rural members are all aware of the problems of getting trailers, mobile homes, on farmland as a second residence. I can give you an example in the Sundre area, where people who moved into the area wanted their retired parents to come and live on the same quarter-section, in a trailer. Better to live there than in the new senior citizens accommodation that's going to be built in Sundre. They want to look after themselves. And the county says the province says they can't because of an interpretation from the Attorney General's department. So we write -- don't shake your head, Mr. Minister, I'll give you the letter -- the provincial planning appeal board and they say it's up to the county. You get hold of the Red Deer Planning Commission and they say, well all the other planning commissions in Alberta aren't interpreting the law right, but we are.

It isn't confined to just this provincial government. I say, regardless of its political stripe, the situation would, unfortunately, likely be the same.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Worse.

MR. CLARK: Yes, you're right, it makes it a little worse. But I can give you a situation as far as the federal government is concerned: an individual who has unemployment insurance problems, long delays, and phones at least a dozen times to Calgary. This person happened to be from my home town. I called back and in a kind of nice gentlemanly manner asked them what in the heck was going on. Within two hours this person got three telephone calls back from employees of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in Calgary giving this particular individual hail Columbia for going to his MIA.

It's about time, it seems to me, that this Legislature really seriously considers the kinds of problems we foist upon individuals, not knowingly perhaps, but it would do all of us good to spend two weeks out in the boondocks and those of us from the boondocks to spend two weeks in the city, in really recognizing some of these problems.

It's for that reason we would like to propose a number of steps in this area which we think would help people cut through the red tape at least a little bit, at least a commitment in this direction. We see no commitment like that at all in the Speech from the Throne.

First of all, if it please the Ombudsman, to all new members I'd urge you to go back and read the ombudsmen's report for the last two years. The two ombudsmen say in there one of the biggest complaints we have are people who can't get answers from government departments. Well hallelujah, it's about time we did something about that. Even if we have to have some heads roll.

There's the Legislative Committee on Regulations. We would like to see their recommendations implemented forthwith.

As far as the Department of Consumer Affairs is concerned, I think a lot of the stuff could be done away with in that department if we went the route of a consumers advocate who really was prepared to be an advocate.

I think we should also do some reorganization in the government structure itself. It is likely high time we recognized Alberta's third largest industry, the tourist industry, and a department of tourism by itself.

At the same time, it is likely high time we phased out the Department of Manpower and Labour. In fact, we would advocate the phasing out of the Department of Manpower and Labour, put the responsibilities under the Minister of Education and go from there. We would also advocate the phasing out of the Department of Telephones and Utilities and have the Minister of Labour look after telephone problems, and the minister of rural development look after the problems of utilities.

We would also like to see in this Speech from the Throne, or in the budget, or some place during this session, a firm commitment by the government that it is prepared to really come to grips with the question of the growth of the bureaucracy. Maybe we have to go the conventional, rather crude route of a freeze on public service positions. Okay, let's do that.

Those of us in the official opposition are going to try to view things this government brings forward from the standpoint of the individual in society and the problems that individual has in coping, not the very well-to-do individual, not the extremely well educated individual, but perhaps those individuals who are members of the lunch-bucket brigade. We are going to view our responsibilities from the standpoint of strong support for the responsible, competitive enterprise system, mellowed with a strong social concern.

In the course of this session, in fact in the course of this Legislature, we'll watch with interest the growth of the government's humility and hopefully the growth of our own humility on this side of the House as all of us have the opportunity to serve our constituents and Albertans.

MR. FLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, I'm very honored to speak to this Legislature on behalf of Calgary Glenmore, and to express our support for the speech given by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honorable Ralph Steinhauer. The implementation of the throne

speech proposals will unquestionably provide a full schedule for all the members in this House.

The contents of the throne speech are indicative of this government's record of responsiveness to the problems of the people of this province. The bold and imaginative ideas and legislation, and the fact that the responsible members have openly stood accountable for their actions, were certain ingredients in my constituents' decision to return a Progressive Conservative candidate to this Assembly on March 26.

It may be of interest to you, Mr. Speaker, to hear a little of the make-up of Calgary Glenmore. The constituency generally covers the southwest corner of Calgary and registers about 25,000 people as being eligible to vote. While some families of modest means are included, in general they are middle-income, white-collar workers with a proportionately very large affluent group having upper management and entrepreneurial skills.

Having lived in Calgary for most of my life, and in this constituency for 10 years prior to the election, my experiences campaigning only confirmed my previous feelings that the people in this constituency are accustomed to earning based on initiative, and are against too much government involvement in their affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw on these experiences at this time perhaps to offer a different point of view to this Assembly. The following remarks are meant to be a variety of issues that we can expect to become involved in, and are being presented in a general way to illustrate the business community's overview of the interrelationship between themselves and government. In that my experience in this legislature is almost non-existent, the presentation will only be a framework and will not deal in specifics.

Because many of these people are either able to invest in Alberta's future themselves, or in one way or another influence investment in Alberta from other places, we'll have to come to grips with some of these suggestions very soon, because if left unattended they will cause these people to hesitate.

Our social legislation, Mr. Speaker, is at a stage where in most cases, with constant review and upgrading, the people who for one reason or another are without control over their economic destinies will be able to live in comfort and dignity. The question now seems to be, with the disparity between the good fortunes of us in Alberta and the rest of the North American continent, how long will it be before this area becomes a haven for all the less privileged people who can gather transportation costs and arrive in Alberta to enjoy also the fruits of our good fortune.

For the foreseeable future, Alberta will need to attract talented tradesmen, professionals, and managers. But we must be on guard against becoming a magnet for the indolent, the lazy, and those who come only to enjoy our social assistance and relatively high living standards. These migrations have taken place in the past, and it might be well to draw on this history and address ourselves to residency laws or some other type of preventive legislation.

The Calgary Glenmore constituents believe we must also begin an informative public relations campaign to explain that while we do have enormous sums of money available at this time, the implementation of some extensive social assistance programs is an ongoing obligation, and in the future, without our depleting resources to subsidize the taxpayers' input into these schemes, the burden would be onerous, so onerous, in fact, as to wreak havoc on business and individuals alike.

There would appear to be an abundance of money in 1975 to undertake this wide variety of social programs. Unfortunately, once these programs are initiated, they are rarely cancelled, and the public might well be forced in the future to honor these commitments with funds acquired from personal and corporate tax.

Mr. Speaker, we can applaud the forward thinking of the Premier and his cabinet for establishing the Alberta heritage savings trust fund so that just such an eventuality may be avoided and the sudden accumulation of funds in these next few years will be applied to areas with long-range benefits to Albertans at large.

Mr. Premier, my constituents' overview is that our industrial legislation is going to encounter some very rough going for the following reasons. In the first place, we have an economy in Alberta where several of our basic products will be in sharply increasing demand simultaneously, so that we could have rapidly changing circumstances in agriculture, coal, forestry, and petroleum all at the same time.

In the second place, we have inflation not only with its obvious problems, but with its more subtle influences. Inflation has in many cases changed the three ingredients of success from skill, tenacity, and courage to luck, blackmail, and speculation. In doing this, it has caused class to confront class, professions to confront trades, labor to distrust management, civil servants and the people to turn against each other, and all manner of labor unrest. It has caused enormous erosion of security and terrible disparities in income. Investors who would normally have planted trees are now in the time frame of planting turnips.

The trick for the legislators, as my constituency sees it, Mr. Speaker, will be to review priorities, upgrade legislation, be in concert with industry, and still offer investors consistency in the rules so that meaningful projections can be made and adhered to.

The main problem in the oil and gas industry over the past many months is not only who will participate in the sudden price increases and windfall profits, but that rapidly changing economic considerations have caused a lack of consistency as it applies to forecasting the profitability of a new investment. This has become particularly bewildering to people from outside the country who are being solicited for investment funds. The investment community is not so concerned with which regulatory body caused the

problem, as with when it will become stabilized and for what term. The eyes of the electorate, and particularly those in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, will be more keenly on this body than ever before, less tolerant of trivia, and more assessing of our ability to fulfil the obligations we have been entrusted with.

Mr. Speaker, we must also exercise care to see that the burdens of national interest in the future do not fall on the very few. While the governmental bodies at all levels are assessing the impact of a decision on the people at large, the cost of waiting can become unbearable for an investor. Unfortunately, these investors are often also the ones whose courage and foresight will be invaluable in the inception of new industry and exploration for minerals and petroleum products in the future of Alberta.

Many people in Calgary Glenmore, Mr. Speaker, have spent their working lives in Alberta since leaving school, and their specific knowledge about one specialized area of our provincial economy can be irreplaceable in the short term. There must be steps taken to ensure interim financing, or some kind of relief, so that we do not allow economic forces to cause their exodus from our province.

We must be vigilant also, Mr. Speaker, so that the small businessman is not subject to unfair short-term competition from our politically and economically less fortunate neighbors to both the east and the west. A case in point is the small trucker who cannot accumulate an equity, or indeed sometime even a profit from his efforts, as we have no enforced residency protection for licensing against pirating independent truckers from British Columbia who flee to Alberta and smash rates to continue a cash flow until their home market rights itself. My information is that there are in the order of 20 United States trucking permits allowed for hauls into Alberta for each permit allowed on an Alberta truck into the United States. The health of our alternate freight haulers is a matter of tremendous importance to us if we are to seek our destiny while being a landlocked entity.

In the opinion of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, the concept of equal opportunity to share in Alberta's future, whether in rural or urban centres, is an exciting challenge. As many before me have said, the amenities will have to become available. A man might well happily move to a small centre because of his work involvement, but his wife and family might, in the final analysis, make his decision an unhappy one. To this extent, a third-level air carrier will have to be encouraged to bring the urban amenities into easy access. The third-level carrier will need to have a guaranteed load factor, while the economic viability of the route is determined. Usually, smaller centre populations do not create the load; the load is created by people flying into the centre in the morning and out in the evening. Definitive studies for load capacities and economics therefore, before the fact, are exceedingly difficult and often inaccurate. In addition, fundamental navigational equipment, runways, airports, and ground carrying systems will have to be initiated in these smaller centres.

Housing will have to become available. This involves tradesmen relocating or existing manpower being trained. It involves delays caused by upgrading sewer, water, roads, and creating developed serviced lots. Utilities, Mr. Speaker, I submit are no longer considered to be luxuries.

Recreation, fish, and wildlife will have to be dramatically upgraded. As an aside to this theme, many small towns' eating, drinking, hardware, and hotel accommodations would get a very real boost from a much improved fish and wildlife inventory. Being an avid bird hunter and fisherman in Alberta for many years, I can tell you that the opportunity for a family or visitors from out of the province to enjoy the thrill of successfully acquiring their bag limit in upland game or birds on a modest budget has diminished unbelievably. With the influx of new people and the diversity of population to small towns, game management and supplementation is going to be a much maligned department in the months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Calgary Glenmore see the Alberta business taxation and incentives paper, presented by Mr. Miniely, January 29, as a most exciting document. The possibility of guidelines for type of industry, location of industry, and funding of industry being directed with incentives and tax relief, is exactly in keeping with Calgary Glenmore's philosophy of creating the environment to prosper and leaving the success of the venture to individuals in the private sector. Tax incentives might well be devised so that Alberta industry can defer tax by investing in rural mortgages, funding oil and gas exploration programs, or a myriad of tax deferral schemes that will pick up the slack in provincial funding when some of our present funding sources are depleted.

As a final point, Mr. Speaker, I sensed in my campaigning a strong surge of bitterness and growing intolerance of the effect labor strife is having on our daily working lives. A CBS editorial says of Britain's trade unions: "It is now a debatable question whether Parliament or the trade unions are calling the political tune." The London Times says it will take a great actual crisis to effect any reverse action. The question of who will be the master is present today in Canada, citing the Montreal construction trades, the Post Office, and an endless list have grown in power to where they feel free to defy all governing bodies, civic, provincial, and federal.

My information is that Canada's labor record is second only to Italy for unrest. Our productivity is lower than our neighbors to the south, and in many cases our wages and benefits are higher. The question of what our position will be, whether we endorse civil servants' rights to strike, what our alternatives to striking as a labor weapon will be, all will come forward in the coming months if this unreasonable attitude persists.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again offer the whole-hearted support of Calgary Glenmore for the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech from the Throne. Let me thank all the

people who have allowed me to realize my ambition to sit in this Legislature, and I look forward to serving my constituents with all members on both sides of the House.

[applause]

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the members of the caucus for the privilege of addressing this Assembly on the third day of my sitting as a member. I know my constituents will be honored and pleased that their representative has the opportunity this early in the present sitting, to express their concerns and problems to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the session we heard statements about the youngest and second youngest members. Well, today you're about to hear from one of the older members, particularly on this side. I hope I may express myself as well as those young fellows did. My congratulations to them.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent Highwood constituency. Highwood is a large constituency. It's bounded on the west by the Rocky Mountains and B.C., on the north by Banff constituency, on the east by Little Bow constituency, and on the south by Macleod constituency. Federally, Highwood is represented by two constituencies, by Jack Horner, the brother of our Deputy Premier, and by Joe Clark, a native of Highwood constituency. It's imperative that this Legislature knows exactly where Highwood is, because you're going to hear plenty about it.

The problems of Highwood are varied and complex: small acreages, large farms, large ranches, dryland farming, mixed farming, ranching in smaller ways, the valley oil fields, mining, lumbering, and recreation areas, plus a large wilderness area. I'll have more to say about those concerns a little later.

I, too, enjoyed the campaigning, and I appreciated the other three candidates in Highwood. They were sincere people and conducted their campaigns as true ladies and gentlemen. I may appear biased, but Alberta has to be the greatest place to live, and if one is fortunate enough to live in Highwood, one is that much more fortunate. I visited some of the most picturesque areas in Alberta. The views from some of the beautiful modern homes were fabulous. Many of these homes, Mr. Speaker, have not destroyed the beauty of the area but have been located with driveways and construction to blend with the terrain.

I truly enjoyed meeting and visiting with the people of Highwood. I'm sorry that I'm unable to generate the same attitude towards some of the animals I encountered, for instance, the dog that took the knee out of my pants, I assume to see if I was wearing long johns; or the ram that decided to see what a Progressive Conservative candidate looked like in the horizontal position, and then to see if he could keep him from gaining his feet. One thing, Mr. Speaker, if that ram believed everything I told him, he isn't going to brag about his ancestry. However, it was a great experience, and I want to thank the Highwood Progressive Conservative Association for giving me this opportunity.

Highwood has a proud and exciting history. Early settlers began ranching in the late 1800s, while eastern parts were having sod turned for grain growing. One of the first undertakings of the RCMP after establishing Fort Macleod was to find and put an end to an illicit still and bootleg operation southwest of Nanton. I hope they didn't have as much trouble locating it as a service club in Nanton has in order to erect a cairn to commemorate it.

We also have the legend of the Lost Lemon Mine. It is an interesting story; many people have tried to find it. Lost Lemon Mine Days is the annual parade and Little Britches Rodeo in Nanton on the August holiday.

A little bit about the town of Nanton. It has an unusual water and sewer operation. There are no pumps in the main system. Spring water flows to a reservoir on the west side of town and the difference in elevation between it and the town gives the pressure in the taps. The sewer runs by gravity to its disposal. Nanton also lays claim to Canada's finest drinking water. Large taps on either side of the divided highway are a favorite water stop for travellers. The town also has a Lancaster bomber mounted at the north entrance to town.

The residents of Nanton worked hard and long to get senior citizens accommodation. I'm pleased to say that arrangements and plans are under way for construction this year.

High River has its Medicine Tree grounds, famous in Indian legend, and is the home of the famed Little Britches Rodeo. The High River Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1909 and records in its minutes that the transition from Indian dances to baseball tournaments was a first. Also chuckwagon races were a provincial first, recorded in the minutes. Another first was an air show which followed World War I when High River was an active peacetime flying base. Bob Edwards started the first newspaper in Highwood in 1902 and he called it the High River Eye Opener. The cowboy artist Charles Russell made local hotels his favorite winter headquarters.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we have the oil fields where oil riches really started for Albertans. This area of beautiful valleys and rolling hills has a real heritage of early settlers days. Then the oil boom came. After the oil boom the town suffered severe setbacks. Like the early pioneers the people of that area persevered and are recovering. Many in this area feel the oil riches of their area started Alberta on its way. They feel they should receive special consideration from the present financial condition of Alberta.

Then there's Okotoks at the northerly portion of Highwood, and it has growing pains. The increased population wishing to forsake the concrete jungle for the comparative quiet of small-town living has created many problems, particularly with schools, sewers, and water services.

Then there's the Millarville area. It is one of the most beautiful parts of Alberta. There is a real concern amongst the residents of this area regarding sour gas lines running down beautiful valleys, and more deep-well drilling.

From the early days of ranching in the western part of Highwood some unique ranch names, still operative, are: Seven U Brown, Two Dot, Anchor P, Pitchfork, and Bar S, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I've tried to outline the proud heritage, and the hard-working, pioneer type of people in a wonderful part of Alberta. I'll now try to relate to you their concerns and problems, also to mention how many of these concerns are dealt with in the Speech from the Throne.

Part of the throne speech deals with citizens and the significant improvements for them. I'm really pleased that recognition to this extent is shown for the people who helped pioneer this country and made it the great place it is for us live, especially the improvement towards keeping our senior citizens in their homes, or at least in their home surroundings. I'm glad this concerned government realizes that senior citizens should not be treated like old horses and put out to pasture somewhere, anywhere, to spend their last days.

I'd like to quote from a study of Care for Senior Adults in Alberta, May '73-74 initiated by the Alberta Council on Aging. Incidentally, the towns of Nanton and Highwood were selected as project towns. First was the choice of residence. Conclusion No. 1 was: "There is a need to find ways to assist senior adults to remain in their residence of choice for as long as possible."

The next was home support programs. Conclusion No. 2 was: "There is a strong indication that in order to provide the opportunity for senior adults to remain in the community and residence of their choice, a wider range of support services and programs should be developed, on a permanent basis."

Then there was finance. The conclusion was: "Those concerned should be looking at ways to substantially assist the relatively few senior adults who do not have a basic financial minimum. Such a minimum should reflect not merely a 'poverty line' figure but should realistically include the prevailing standard of living."

Then there was political interest. The conclusion to that was: "The senior citizens of Alberta are a sizable minority group and are becoming increasingly aware of their potential to make their position clearly known to those of decision-making positions."

Then there was the attitude toward aging. "There is a need to change societal attitudes towards the aging process and the elderly themselves. Until society rediscovers the intrinsic value of its older citizens, and returns to them a meaningful role in society, the success of any program will be minimal."

These are a few of the conclusions in that report, Mr. Speaker, with which I heartily agree. Personally, I would recommend this report to anyone interested in senior citizens' welfare and involvement in their community.

A proposal to effect a major reduction in personal income tax will be appreciated by everyone, especially those striving to get established in business or agriculture and, of course, senior citizens whose pensions and life savings seem to dwindle too rapidly. The Workers' Compensation Act was greatly needed. It shows the thoughtful concern of this government.

As a former member of the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission, I'm a great believer in planning, especially for the future. While I'm on the subject of planning, Mr. Speaker, I would urge those drafting the new planning act not to rush it, but to consider all input and suggestions, especially as to land use, because this needed document will be very important to the future development of Alberta.

Although as Albertans we enjoy the highest standard of hospitalization and medical care in the nation, I will be interested in the debate on these issues. I hope we make worth-while constructive contributions on behalf of my constituents.

Because of a large recreation area in the west of Highwood, many of my constituents are interested in the new fish hatchery and hope that stocking of fish in our lakes and streams will be escalated. There are many areas where recreational buildings are needed. In one area of Highwood, in the hockey playoffs, two teams of young boys had to travel approximately 45 miles to settle who was the better team.

Mr. Speaker, as a new MLA, there are proposals in the Speech from the Throne that I feel I'm not familiar enough with to comment on. So I'd rather appear stupid than to speak about them and remove all doubt about it.

One last item, schools: the financing, the curriculum, and the balance of courses for rural areas. In Highwood, some schools are experiencing a population explosion while other areas are very thinly populated; [students] have to travel quite a distance to get some of the better courses. I realize it's difficult to get a happy medium, but by careful analysis and thought I'm sure we can improve the situation.

To those who would criticize the throne speech, may I offer, it contains great potential but will only be implemented as we do it here in this Assembly.

May I express to you, Mr. Speaker, and to members of this Legislative Assembly, my sincere thanks for the consideration and attention you have shown me during this, my maiden speech.

Thank you.
[applause]

MR. BUTLER: Mr. Speaker, let me first congratulate you on your election as Speaker to the 18th Legislature. I'm sure the House is in good hands.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of great responsibility and humility that I rise to speak for the Hanna-Oyen constituency. The Hanna-Oyen constituency is a very rural constituency with essentially an agriculture-based economy, with some strip mining, oil wells, and gas fields. The Hanna-Oyen constituency is an area of approximately 187 townships, including parts of Starland Municipality, all of the MD of Acadia Valley, and large portions of special areas 3 and 4. To some, the name "special areas" may mean areas of the province that receive special treatment. Mr. Speaker, this is not the case. The special areas are located in that part of the province known as the Palliser Triangle. Captain Palliser designated this triangular part of the province as being land unsuited for agriculture.

It is a long and interesting part of our history, how this land was settled and later abandoned through the 1920s and the early '30s. Nearly all parts of our province were enriched by the hardy pioneers who were forced to leave their farms and move to other parts of the province with more arable land. Many farmers were forced to lose their farms for taxes. Then the municipalities went broke, leaving large parts of the east-central part of the province as a dust bowl with no form of local government. The special areas were formed in 1937 or 1938 on the recommendation of a study made by Dr. Longman. Dr. Longman was deputy minister of agriculture for the old UFA government. The study was made in 1933 and 1934, and was not acted upon until 1937.

When the land was lost for taxes, title went to the municipalities. When the municipalities went broke and the special areas were formed, the titles were put in the name of the special areas, where they remain today and are let out on long-term leases.

Mr. Speaker, just over 70 per cent of the just over 5 million acres of the special areas are under leasehold. Just under 30 per cent are held by freehold. So, Mr. Speaker, leasehold has become the common form of tenure. By far the larger part of the lease land is tax recovery land with the titles in the name of the special areas. Part is Crown land which is under loan to the special areas by the province. All lease land is administered under The Public Lands Act by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Through special areas administration, a great deal has been accomplished in rehabilitating the abandoned farmland. Through the use of grazing leases, the carrying capacity is set at varying amounts by grazing appraisers, from a low of about 30 acres per animal unit to a high of 80 acres to an animal unit. Between 45 and 50 acres per animal unit for 12 months is about the average. It has been proven that some of the abandoned land can be farmed under modern methods. This is let out on 10-year crop-share leases.

Through the years, farming and ranching in the special areas has become about the same as the rest of the province. Economic units have been established; rural life, except for being very sparsely settled, is much the same as in the rest of the province. Mr. Speaker, the towns and hamlets throughout the MDs and the special areas are starting to make some progress.

All welcomed the Speech from the Throne, especially those measures to help the towns with water and housing. Both are badly needed. I hope to speak more to the Legislature about the development of water, the need for domestic water in our small towns. In the area of water development for recreation and irrigation, there are many possibilities for very good reservoirs. The Blood Indian reservoir draws people from all over the province, some from Saskatchewan, and even some from the United States. It's interesting to note that at the Blood Indian reservoir last Saturday, there were 6 high school students counting people. There were 3,000 people at the Blood Indian Reserve last Saturday. And I think a third of them were stuck on the road between Youngstown and the Blood Indian [reservoir] on Monday.

The announcement of the new Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife was welcomed by most of the constituencies. During the life of this Legislature, I plan to work for the formation of three provincial parks in the Hanna-Oyen constituency.

Mr. Speaker, railroad abandonment is of great concern to many of the farmers and businessmen. They welcome the formation of the Department of Transportation. The north-south roads and highways are very important with the prospects of trucking grain and other freight longer distances.

Senior citizens are happy with the announcement that there will be a number of new units added to the senior citizens home in Hanna. We still have need for additional nursing home space. Meals-on-wheels, implemented not too long ago, has been a real help to some people who, in my opinion, should really be in a nursing home.

Mr. Speaker, the preventative health services in the Hanna-Oyen constituency have been well managed and well received. I hope the shortcomings in the mental health field will soon be overcome. In my opinion, there should be a resident psychiatrist and a speech therapist connected with the health unit.

I'm sure all my constituents are looking forward to having the lowest income tax in Canada. Also, the farmers are thankful for the lowest fuel costs in Canada.

In summing up, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Hanna-Oyen constituency showed their faith in our government on March 26. Our government has completed many things. When you look back on the Speech from the Throne last January, there are many more things planned.

I pledge my term in the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, first to my constituents. I hope I can always be positive in my thinking, and work for positive action. I thank the caucus for allowing me to speak this early in the Legislature. I am sure my constituents will appreciate the opportunity of their member speaking this early, and I am looking forward to [speaking] many more times.

Thank you.

[applause]

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. member adjourn the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, insofar as we still have some time left today, I propose that the Assembly now move to second reading, consideration of Bill 4, The Medical Profession Act. I therefore ask leave of the House at this time to proceed to second reading of Bill No. 4, notwithstanding Rule 63(1).

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the proposal by the hon. Government House Leader, does the Assembly give unanimous consent?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS
(Second Reading)

Bill 4 The Medical Profession Act, 1975

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege this afternoon to introduce, for second reading, Bill No. 4, and I therefore move that Bill No. 4 be read a second time.

This is not a stranger to us, as I said on introduction of the bill earlier today, Mr. Speaker. This is the third go-around for The Medical Profession Act, and I've become quite attached to it during the past 18 months or so, since we first had a look at it in this Assembly. But for those who have perhaps forgotten earlier comments that were made, and for those who are hearing the bill debated for the first time, perhaps we should historically recap some of the events which have led to its presentation again to this House.

I believe The Medical Profession Act was first introduced in 1906, and this is the first time that it has had a considerable and almost total rewriting. We originally got involved in its development by working with the College of Physicians and Surgeons who presented their ideas to us, and their request for a rewrite of their act. And after some debate and a good deal of consideration, we arrived at the bill in the format of No. 62.

It was presented to the Legislature, and I believe it received generally favorable comment from both sides of the House. There were some concerns expressed about the bill, and certain areas of it, and perhaps I could touch briefly on those this afternoon. But before doing so, I would like to say that our working arrangement with the College of Physicians and Surgeons during the past 44 months or so that I have been involved, has indeed been most interesting and most pleasant. I believe we do have a very good understanding of their cares and concerns, and we are supportive of their aims and objectives. They are saying to us, when they ask for a rewrite of their bill, that good is not good enough, that they are seeking to achieve the highest possible standards for the people of our province, but without taking away from those areas which desperately need physicians to serve their people.

And so, as part of their development of the bill, and in consultation with our caucus and, of course, with all members of the profession, and I believe supported by members of the opposition, the special register was adopted. This register makes it possible for physicians coming to this province to write their exams, and rewrite if necessary, in order to become fully licensed, and for their names to appear on the register of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. This has proven to be very useful, particularly of late, when the Department of Immigration has been very restrictive about those who can enter this country. We are able in Alberta to point to specific areas where there can be employment, and this has assisted some of our rural areas in obtaining physicians which they sorely needed. They can be secure in the fact that they will be governed by The Medical Profession Act and that if their qualifications are somewhat less than we require of our own graduates, they will be able to upgrade their standing by taking special training and will have two years to do so. I think this is something that's sorely needed and can be supported by all members of this Legislature.

For the first time, the College of Physicians and Surgeons has indicated to us that it is prepared to have lay members on its council. It has also broadened the council to include those recommendations by the deans of both of our medical schools. I think this should be reassuring for the people of Alberta because, in many cases, people have the opinion that their complaints against the medical profession are not truly assessed. From the observations I have made over the past few years, I disagree with this opinion. That does not necessarily mean that for those who have those concerns, the concerns are alleviated. So I think it's important that this College of Physicians and Surgeons has indicated that it wishes to have lay members as part of its council.

On the introduction of Bill 62, there was some concern about the intent of the emergency medical technicians. Some concerns were expressed to us by other professions, that it was a power play whereby they would be controlled by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. This is not so. The introduction of emergency medical technicians is an acknowledgment by the government that there is a need to be met, and it can be filled by those who have been trained with special skills at a course in the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. These people are trained and ready to work, and they will work directly under the supervision of a physician. Some doctors in Calgary have indicated to us that they are prepared and are willing and ready to make use of emergency medical technicians, and I can see a broadening of this use as we get a little more comfortable with it. As it's developed, and as we have time to observe it, I can see it becoming very useful to us in northern areas where it's difficult, if not impossible, to get a physician on a permanent basis.

And so, to those members of other professions who are concerned about the emergency medical technicians portion of this bill, I would say there is no intention of the college usurping the authority of those professions which have their own bill. One that comes readily to mind is the Association of Registered Nurses which operates under the authority of its own act, and there are others. But this is bringing into modern times, attempting to solve problems of distance, and solve them in the most expedient way. So I would commend to hon. members their support of this particular concept.

I think it's excellent that the college was prepared to establish its special registry -- I've alluded to it before in my introductory remarks -- because of the shortage we have in rural areas. In a recent discussion with the Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he commented on the fact that this had been very helpful to the college in trying to help fill the need we realize exists in some areas. I think this bill is important, it's timely, it can be supported by members of the medical profession as well as by the public at large, and I would urge all hon. members to support Bill 4, The Medical Profession Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, in making one or two comments on the second reading of Bill 4, The Medical Profession Act, I would like to say, maybe rehearse, some of the comments I made earlier in two other sessions. First, I'd certainly want to support this bill in principle, and support the concept put forward by the college and the government. There are one or two areas which, I think, are very significant in our development. The first is with regard to the special registry and the effect it will have on rural health care. At times when people want to congregate in the larger centres where facilities are better, we have to have a technique that will push people into the rural areas to take advantage of some of the excellent facilities that we have in those areas.

Secondly, the placement of lay members on the council certainly is a good idea. Often in professional attitudes, we forget some of the very basic and very obvious things to look at, so I would certainly want to make a commendation there.

The third area I wanted to comment on, and would like the minister to comment on in closing the debate, in second reading, is with regard to the concerns of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. As I recall, in our earlier discussion, they were concerned as to how they fit into this definition of medical technician. They were also concerned that their act was not being brought into the Legislature at the same time, to bring about amendments they felt were needed, and also to clarify certain definitions as to their roles as nurses. I was wondering if the minister has had discussions with the Association to clarify that and also I was wondering if their bill is going to be brought before the Legislature?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a comment or two on this bill. First of all, I'd like to say it is certainly timely that there be a lay member on the council. I think it is a responsibility of the self-governing professions that, for the want of a better term, the consumer be involved in some of the professions. As far as the special registry goes, I'd just like to indicate to the members of the Legislature some of the problems we had as members of the dental profession when I was a member of the staff at the university. You do get people, in spite of your best screening processes, who are incompetent to practise a profession. This does happen. We have this happen even with our own graduates in Canada. Some of these people come over, and they are incompetent. I've seen dentists who have been there as special students, as we call them at the university, for two years. They were qualified dentists, they'd been practising dentists in the old country. But when they came over here, you had to start from scratch. Well, I mean just how much longer than two years can you keep a practising professional? After two years you have to decide what to do with him, so you turn him loose.

I'm sort of disturbed when you say we will solve the problem of a shortage of medical doctors in rural areas because we'll let the foreign doctors go out there. Now that seems to indicate to me that we are saying, well you people out in the rural areas, we'll send you special medical doctors. They're not quite as good as Canadian Alberta doctors, but because there is a shortage we'll let them go out there. I just don't appreciate that connotation. It used to be, in the old days, that you apprenticed as a doctor or a dentist out in the rural areas. When you got good enough, you came into the city. But Mr. Speaker, I can solve the minister's problem very simply: how you get doctors out in the rural area? It can be done with the stroke of a pen. You just say to the medical doctors, the dentists, you get a 25 per cent higher fee schedule out in the rural areas

than you do in the city, and you watch it, you'll get killed in the rush. It's just that simple. Give them an incentive bonus to go out there.

One other factor I'd like the hon. minister to look at is a provision we have in the Dental Profession Act. Over a 5-year period you must get x number of points before you can renew your licence, in refresher courses, post-graduate courses, even in convention. I don't know what you learn at a convention -- but -- well I do know what you learn at a convention. I think anybody who has been at a convention knows what you learn at a convention.

I think that this is an important point. I know there are too many self-employed professionals who graduated in 1929, be they a dentist, be they a doctor, be they a lawyer. They never go back to a university. All the doctors and dentists learn if they never go back is what they learn from drug salesmen. So that just proves that druggists are smarter than doctors and dentists. But I think it's a point that should be looked into, and I'll make some other comments on it clause by clause.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word or two in connection with the bill. I do support the bill and I appreciate the comments of the hon. minister. I was of the opinion this bill should have gone through the first day, the first time it was introduced, and was very disappointed when one of the Sacred members prevented that from happening. Perhaps his own people were too, because he's no longer here to speak for himself. But I told him this, so I have no objection to saying it in public. The doctors in my riding were also very disappointed. They felt they were entitled to the act, that the act was reasonable. I'm glad to see the House agree that the second reading will be held the same day the bill is introduced, as I think this is wise.

There are two or three comments I'd like to make in connection with the bill. In connection with the double register for those coming in and writing examinations, I think this is an excellent thing. I can't say that this is any blight or any suggestion that the people of areas which don't have a doctor are getting second-class doctors. People coming from various countries of the world are generally highly qualified. Otherwise they wouldn't be medical doctors. When they come, they are required to take special examinations to prove they are medical doctors. They have their certificates from the university and the hospitals at which they have practised and graduated. I think this is a very fine way of getting medical men into the rural parts of this province.

I'm not quite as optimistic as the hon. Member for Clover Bar that there would be a rush to the country if the fees were raised for medical men and doctors. In connection with dentists, close to two-thirds of the dentists are practising in Calgary and Edmonton today. I'm not so sure that this is entirely for money reasons because today, the dentists in rural Alberta just simply can't keep up with the demand. So they could make as much, if not more, in the country. But there are other concerns, cultural concerns, and so on, that have an effect on this. So I'm not sure that money is the only answer getting medical people into our rural parts. I think one of the answers which affects doctors a great deal, in connection with rural areas, is the lack of hospital facilities. If there are hospitals, even smaller hospitals, or the hospitals suggested by the hon. Deputy Premier, where you had some active beds and some for those completely bedridden, some for those who were not quite as bad as that, all in one building, I think you'd find that medical men would be more inclined to go to the rural areas, and I can understand that. I would much rather teach school in a city that has an excellent lab than I would in an old country school, as I once taught, where the only piece of science apparatus was the pig's bladder with which you proved osmosis would work. It's not the modern way of doing it. And naturally a doctor dealing with human life wants good facilities for hospitalization.

So I think an expansion of our hospital facilities would be one of the greatest things we could do. The decentralization of our hospital facilities, which the hon. minister said today in the question period was being considered along with many other things, would be one of the best ways of getting doctors into our rural areas. I hope that comes to pass as quickly as possible.

I would like to say also that I find the medical men who come from other countries have rendered a very excellent service to our people in rural areas. I wouldn't want anyone to think or suggest that these people, men and women, haven't given tremendous medical service to the people of Alberta. I hope this will be even more so under the provisions of this act. I can't see where it would be less so, and I certainly hope it would be more so.

I'd like to deal for a moment or so with this matter of laymen on a council. I believe this is a real advance. I commend the hon. minister and the College of Physicians and Surgeons for taking the attitude that even they, highly trained as they are, can learn from ordinary everyday citizens who have a practical view of life. I think this will strengthen the council. I think it will bring a point of view that could not reasonably be expected to come from medical men. In that way I think it's going to be better for the people of the province, medically, to have laymen on their council.

There's one point that I would like the hon. minister to deal with, something that has been hitting the airwaves lately, particularly down in the United States: medical men have been sued to such an extent that they now find it difficult to secure insurance for malpractice. I believe the positive approach in this -- and I don't think it's difficult today for medical men in Alberta or, as far as I know, anywhere in Canada, to get proper malpractice insurance. Perhaps the medical men can add something to that. I've never heard anyone say it was difficult, but in parts of the USA, particularly California, it has become almost prohibitive. Doctors can't afford it, to the point where they are

thinking about marching on their legislatures to try to get some action with regard to this particular item.

When medical bills were low, most people were quite prepared to accept the odd mistake by a doctor and let it go at that, as something that happens to anybody. Nobody's perfect. But today, when there are fairly high medical fees -- and I'm glad they're not as high in Alberta as they are in California or in other parts of the United States -- people aren't prepared to accept mistakes so readily. When they find the opportunity, they are prepared to sue for very high sums. And the courts have been issuing very high sums.

I think this is something we can learn up here. I think the positive approach is to endeavor to make sure we have no malpractice in this province, to the greatest possible degree. I think this method of registration, the special register, as far as I am able to see, is a means of making sure that we do not have malpractice in the province. Issuing very heavy fines, as I see in this act -- and they are quite heavy -- for anyone who sets out to pretend he's a doctor when he actually isn't a doctor. Everything I've been able to read in the act, before and today, leads me to believe the act is designed to make sure there is no malpractice.

Now, the odd mistake might be made by anyone. Doctors are human beings, and mistakes can be made. I hope it will always be possible for a doctor to secure malpractice insurance so that if somebody is injured by mistake by a qualified man, as qualified as he might be, there would be recourse through the courts so that person himself would not have to suffer. I can't see this particular section covered in the act. Perhaps it's in here, and perhaps the hon. minister would comment on that.

I think it's important to make sure we try to remove any impediments towards a positive approach to making sure we have no malpractice in the province, or as little as possible, and where it does occur, that compensation is available by means of the courts.

There is one other section I would like to comment on, and that is the idea of specialists. In my lifetime, I have seen doctors leave the Drumheller area and go to the city, and the next time I go to the city, I see that they have a specialist sign on the door. I don't know how they suddenly became a specialist from the time they were an ordinary practitioner. As a matter of fact, in just a few days he becomes a specialist. So, I'm glad to see in the act this section is going to cover that. I think it's a principle that is there to protect the people.

When we go to a specialist we should have every right to believe that that person is more than just an ordinary practitioner, more than what you can get from your own doctor in your own town or city or village, wherever it happens to be. Even in Edmonton, if I go to a specialist, I expect that man to be more highly trained than my everyday physician. As highly trained as I want him to be, he is still not a specialist, and he refers me to somebody who has more training and more experience.

This section setting out special qualifications for specialists, in my view, is an excellent thing indeed. I think this too will assure the people of the province when they pay extra money to go to a specialist, they know they are going to somebody who is more highly trained than the ordinary practitioner.

The only other thing I would like to comment on is the section that deals with the double register, where a person is given the right to practise, and where people who are not completely qualified may practise, providing they don't charge fees and so on, in the case of an emergency. I believe that is right. It's not conflicting with the double register where you must be a doctor and where you must meet the requirements, but in the meantime you can provide service if you have reasonable qualifications. But the other one where people may give medical aid in case of emergency without leaving themselves open to charges, providing they are not making charges for it and not expecting any remuneration or favors from it, I think is an excellent thing.

In 1963, it was my privilege to be chosen to represent Canada at the opening of the Pan American Highway. When we were driving along the road one day, one of the trucks hit a chap who was in a cart. He was lying on the sidewalk. As a matter of fact, I helped to pick him up and put him in the back of the truck. But I was amazed that the American physician who was accompanying the group would not even touch the man. As a matter of fact I said, aren't you going to give this man medical aid? He is dying. He says, no sir, no sir, I'm not leaving myself open to a \$100,000 suit, and he says that's exactly what would happen if I put a hand on him, and he happened to die. Well, I thought this was a pretty callous attitude.

I don't think that could happen in the Province of Alberta, or anywhere in Canada. But this section of the act that makes it possible for a person, whether he's a doctor or not, to render first aid or some medical attention to somebody who is an emergency, or in a critical condition where there are no medical men around, I think is another very excellent thing in this act, and I commend the minister for bringing it in. I plan to support this bill in second reading, and throughout third and final reading.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there's such a brief period of time between the first and second reading of this bill, I, too, intend to be very brief, as a matter of fact, three minutes.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate some of the remarks I made in both second readings of the previous bill, and just for the record, congratulate the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the medical profession, and of course the minister of that time when he brought it in for second reading, and the present minister.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's a very contemporary and up-to-date bill with respect to how I feel, of course speaking as a medical doctor and as a member of the Legislature, a very important profession. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, it will set a tone and a direction for other professional acts to follow.

With respect to the registration for medical doctors, in that they will require to write their LMCC's, and for the members of the Assembly who may not be aware of what LMCC's are, it means Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada. It's a world-recognized type of examination, and I can assure you that the foreign or non-Canadian graduates who write this examination, and pass these exams, will indeed have a degree of qualification that is certainly acceptable not only in Canada, but in other parts of the world.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the bill clearly states that the members, non-Canadian medical doctors, will have an opportunity to upgrade themselves if they fail these exams initially. This will, of course, not place our present medical graduates in a discriminatory position, in that they have to write, or usually do write these exams.

With respect to the council and having lay persons on the council, I think this is a very contemporary thrust, Mr. Speaker. It assures not only lay input, but it also appears to be right, and I think it's so important in this contemporary time when we have so much talk about bureaucracy and people not responding to the lay person's wishes.

The third point I'd like to make, Mr. Speaker, is the emergency medical technician registrar for a special group of people for a special time, that is the ambulance attendant. Mr. Speaker, this is the intention of this particular clause and section. I hope, Mr. Speaker -- and maybe the hon. minister will respond to this as the previous minister did in this area -- that legislation will be brought in to assure that the registered nurses, and possibly the other health professionals maintain their autonomy as they so desire, and not be in any way threatened by an over or superceding legislation that may take place by virtue of this section. I'm confident that the minister does not intend that, and I'm sure this will be brought out in her closing remarks.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding I refer the hon. members to the previous second readings. The debate was rather extensive, and I think it is worth while reading in view of the fact that this particular act is such an important one, involving all of us in day to day living. Therefore, I commend the Legislature to pass second reading of this act.

DR. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, as one of those imports in medicine to Alberta, I would just like to say a few words on this bill. It's a long way from the Hippocratic or as some of us like to call it, the "hypocritic" oath, to Bill 4. The two years on the special registry is not unknown in Canada. It has been used in Ontario and in B.C. for many years, and it does not stop people from coming to the province.

The lay people on the board -- there has been a lot of controversy on this in the profession itself. Eventually it was conceded to, a couple of years ago, and felt to be the right thing to do. I feel it is too.

The rural areas, contrary to what Dr. Buck thinks, do not need any special inducement. Being one of them, I feel that rural doctors are just as good as city doctors. In many ways, they have to rely much more on their own ingenuity. They don't have a specialist in everything standing at their elbow ready to help whenever things go wrong. They have to cope with it themselves. I was very glad to hear the hon. Member for Drumheller say that the doctors are at least as good as the city doctors. I would also like to point out to him that not all the specialists from Drumheller go to Calgary. At Fort Macleod we stole one from you a year ago.

As regards the malpractice suits in Alberta, the cost of our malpractice insurance in Canada, I believe, is around \$80. That compares with the sum of \$4,000 paid by my counterparts in Kalispell, Montana.

Upgrading of hospitals in rural areas is one way to encourage more doctors to the rural areas. It's also, by the way, much more economical, the average cost per day being around \$40, compared to \$140 in the cities.

On specialists -- it was interesting, one person described a specialist as somebody who learns more and more about less and less until he knows a hell of a lot about damn all. The general practitioner learns less and less about more and more until he knows damn all about a hell of a lot.

Gentlemen, I thank you.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the time, and in view of the fact that the hon. Member for Macleod has answered most of the questions which were raised, I move second reading of Bill No. 4.

MR. SPEAKER: I regret not having drawn to the attention of the House that the rebuttal of the minister closes the debate. Perhaps in view of that, the House might extend to any member who might have been caught unaware the privilege of speaking.

[The motion was carried. Bill 4 was read a second time.]

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

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion for adjournment by the hon. Government House Leader, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

[The House rose at 5:30 o'clock.]