

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Wednesday, May 21, 1975

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

## PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

## Bill 24 The Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act, 1975

MR. GHITTER: I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act, 1975. The principle of this bill, Mr. Speaker, has been enumerated in the past session of this Legislature. It is the same bill which requires the giving of six months notice to tenants of the conversion of residential premises from an apartment to a condominium.

[Leave being granted, Bill 24 was introduced and read a first time.]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 24, The Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act, 1975, be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[The motion was carried.]

## Bill 205 The Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Act (No. 1)

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Act.

There are three basic principles in the bill. First, the amendment provides for dental care services for children under the age of seven years. Secondly, it prohibits any expansion of the program without legislative approval. Thirdly, it's a bill of prevention and not particularly one of rehabilitation.

[Leave being granted, Bill 205 was introduced and read a first time.]

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to have the opportunity to introduce to you and through you to members of the Legislature, a Grade 12 group from Chestermere High School in my constituency. They are 13 members strong, 12 of them ladies and 1 young man -- what better year for that? Also, I want to do something I neglected to do on a prior occasion. Once when they visited I forgot to introduce the teacher. Today I'd like to introduce Mr. Marvin Pickering, their teacher, and ask you to join me in welcoming them to the Legislature.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## Driver Demerit System

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the first question of the day to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The question arises out of the reports yesterday of the Alberta Automobile Insurance Board.

First, to the minister, I'd like to ask: in light of the report, is it the government's intention to make a number of revisions in the demerit system so that offenders would be brought to the attention of officials much earlier?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I would refer that matter to the minister responsible for the Department of Transportation.

DR. HORNER: The demerit system is now under the Solicitor General.

MR. CLARK: And who is the acting Solicitor General?  
[laughter]

AN HON. MEMBER: If the Premier doesn't know, how do we know?

MR. CLARK: Perhaps I'll redirect the question to the Premier then. Is the government giving consideration to serious revisions in the demerit system so that those drivers who in fact have bad driving habits will be brought to the attention of the department much more quickly?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations we did receive with regard to the report the hon. leader is referring to are matters within active consideration by the government. The acting Solicitor General, by the way, is the Attorney General, Mr. Foster.

In responding to the matter on behalf of the Solicitor General, it is something on which he intends to give a report to the Executive Council within a matter of weeks.

## Check Stop Program

MR. CLARK: A further supplementary to the Premier. With regard to the [Check Stop] program, is the government prepared to beef up this program at an early date in light of the recommendations from the Alberta Auto Insurance Board?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, subject to checking and perhaps clarification by the Solicitor General when he returns, it's my understanding he's already held discussions with regard to the Check Stop program in both continuing and developing it, and action has been taken in consultation with the various police forces and municipal governments to do so. But I think to expand upon that answer, I'll take it as notice, refer it to the Solicitor General, and have him elaborate when he returns to the House.

## Compulsory Vehicle Inspection

MR. CLARK: One further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, with regard to compulsory vehicle inspection and the recommendation made by the Alberta Auto Insurance Board. Does the government have under serious consideration at this time a move in the direction of compulsory vehicle inspection?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is, we do not.

## Canadian Cane Equipment Ltd.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, the second question I'd like to ask the minister in charge of the Export Agency, that being, I assume, the Minister of Agriculture. I'd like to ask him if the Alberta government still holds rights to patent held by Canadian Cane Equipment.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the Alberta Export Agency is now the Minister of Business Development and Tourism.

MR. CLARK: Very fortunate.

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I might respond to the question. Yes, we do have some rights regarding the patent rights for Canadian Cane Equipment.

MR. CLARK: What type of rights are they?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, they are rights we have with the federal government. We understand from conversations with the federal authorities that we would really have first right to those patents.

MR. CLARK: A further supplementary question to the minister. What is the status of the government guaranteed loan of \$640,000 to Canadian Cane Equipment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. leader is asking questions of considerable detail. However, if the minister wishes to undertake an answer, I suppose the Chair shouldn't object.

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I could probably respond to that question. But I think in view of the nature of the question, I would prefer it to be on the Order Paper because it is rather detailed, and I'd hate to mislead the House with an incorrect answer.

MR. CLARK: Could I rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker. Is it true Canadian Cane Equipment filed a bankruptcy, and the Alberta government's guarantee of \$640,000 has been called upon?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I understand they have. However, if the patent rights on the equipment we referred to in an earlier question are realized, we will be in a fairly good position from a financial standpoint.

MR. CLARK: A further supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. In addition to patent considerations, what step is the Alberta government taking to recoup the \$640,000?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, the patent rights are our initial route which we have under investigation at the moment. If others present themselves, of course we will investigate those as well.

MR. CLARK: One last supplementary question to the minister. Has the minister himself had any discussions with the federal government with regard to who has priority on these patent rights? It is my understanding from the federal government that they feel they have priority.

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, they do have prior rights, but I was under the impression, as a result of conversations held with them earlier, that they would waive their priorities in favor of the provincial position. However, I would say that's a matter for negotiation with the federal authorities.

MR. CLARK: Has the minister, or perhaps one of his predecessors, had discussions on that specific question with the federal authorities?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for my predecessor. I have not had any direct conversation with federal authorities, but certainly members of the department have.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the minister give assurance to the House that once these negotiations have been completed, assuming they'll be under way right away, he will in fact report the result to the House?

MR. DOWLING: Of course, Mr. Speaker, there will be an annual report from the Export Agency and that will be a part of it.

#### Union Activity

MR. MANDEVILLE: My question is to the hon. Minister of Labour. Does the government plan to intervene in the dispute between the Teamsters Union and members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers who work for K & [R] trucking?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what type of intervention the hon. member is asking about. As far as I am aware, on the basis of information brought to my attention to the present time, there is no basis for intervention.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What action does the government plan to take to ensure that large foreign unions and corporations do not dictate the extent to which smaller Canadian unions may work on Syncrude-related jobs?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think there's a large measure of presumption in the hon. member's question. I know he is referring to facts which have been reported in the press. However, those facts are in dispute among the parties, and I think if I were to comment on

the sorts of statements that have appeared in the press, I would be either confirming or denying the statements made by the parties.

#### Retail Gasoline Prices

MR. ZANDER: My question is directed to the Minister of Business Development, in view of the fact that page 1 and page 6 of the Edmonton Journal today reveal the price of gasoline across Canada. Although we have the lowest tax in the Dominion of Canada, we are still third or fourth highest as far as the basic price of gasoline across Canada is concerned. Can you explain?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, the latest statistics I have at my disposal come from the Department of the Provincial Treasurer. They indicate that we do, in fact, have the lowest taxation on a gallon of gasoline of any province in Canada. We also have the lowest tank-wagon price of any province in Canada. We also enjoy, contrary to what the newspaper reported, the lowest average retail price at the pumps of any province in Canada. We are running together with Regina, I think it is, that has a price equal to Edmonton's at the moment.

The additional feature I think the member was inquiring about was, why our price is as high as it is. The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is that the retailers in Alberta enjoy the highest markup from a wholesale to a retail level of any retailer in any province in Canada.

#### Highway Strengthening Program

MR. TAYLOR: My question is to the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation. Is the federal government now contributing any money toward the construction costs of the Yellowhead Highway?

DR. HORNER: My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that some of the money that was allocated for road strengthening throughout the province is being used on the strengthening program going on now on the Yellowhead. We've had preliminary discussions with the Yellowhead Association, and we'll be helping them make their presentation with regard to additional funds to upgrade that highway.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. Deputy Premier. Were there any strings attached to the grant from the federal government for strengthening highways in the province?

DR. HORNER: To be specific, Mr. Speaker, I'd have to check on that. I'll do so and advise the hon. member.

#### AHC Loans

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Public Works. Is the minister considering raising the limit on the Alberta Housing Corporation as far as the obtaining of mortgaging is concerned? I know to be able to buy a modest home you have to pay at least \$40,000 under the present conditions. The limit is not there. I wonder if the minister could answer that question.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, there is no actual fixed limit in terms of mortgage money supplied to the market today. I might indicate that about 55 per cent of our loans is for new construction, and the rest is for existing homes. Every application is considered. I've seen loans as high as \$41,000, so there is no top fixed limit although every situation is reviewed individually.

The general policy and practice of the Alberta Housing Corporation is to lend money for the construction or purchasing of very modest housing rather than for the more expensive type.

MR. KUSHNER: I wonder then, Mr. Minister, if I could follow this up. Is this for private homes? I understood differently.

MR. YURKO: Yes, the Alberta Housing Corporation administers a direct loan program to the extent of between \$60 and \$70 million per year.

DR. BUCK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Is the government considering using part of the heritage trust fund to help Albertans with housing, using, say, \$200 or \$300 million so we can go into competition with the conventional lending institutions?

AN HCN. MEMBER: That's a good idea.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, during the course of this session I hope to be speaking at some length with respect to the housing situation in Alberta. I would point out that during that very excellent event which occurred on March 26, the Premier did point out that \$200 million of the heritage fund was going to be used for the starter home program. We are at this time looking seriously at the extent Alberta Housing should be involved in the direct lending program in Alberta to stimulate housing where necessary within the province.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, can the hon. minister indicate when this starter home program may start -- '77, '78, '79 . . .

MR. CLARK: '75.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, the starter home program has been pursued by the Alberta Housing Corporation for some time. Most of its direct lending program is directed towards what might be considered starter homes or low, modest homes.

The Premier announced, in connection with the \$200 million program, additional funding in this area of providing starter homes for first-time home buyers. Determining what level of funding Alberta Housing Corporation should assume through the direct lending program is under very active consideration by government at this time.

MR. NCTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Will the \$200 million allocation from the heritage trust fund to the starter home program be a one-shot deal, or may we expect additional allocation in future years from the heritage trust fund?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta Housing Corporation is, with some of my staff, examining very actively the manner in which the \$200 million can best be injected into the direct lending program in Alberta with respect to the total housing program. Various regimes are being examined in terms of the injection of this money into the housing program. We have not yet made any decision as to the manner or direction, except the fact that it is going to be for starter homes. But we have not as yet made any decision in terms of the manner in which this money will be injected into the Alberta housing market.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. Will this \$200 million duplicate or relieve Central Mortgage and Housing of any responsibilities that are properly federal in nature?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, no, this will not relieve any of the federal responsibilities for the programs they are conducting throughout Alberta. We hope the federal government will treat Alberta as it treats any other province, irrespective of the fact that the Province of Alberta will be injecting additional funds into its housing programs.

#### Housing Survey

DR. BUCK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is this door-to-door survey, which many people have indicated to me is an invasion of privacy, part of the government program to find out what they're going to do with the \$200 million? Is the minister aware of that?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that the Alberta Housing Corporation is conducting a door-to-door program of any type.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. Premier or anybody in the cabinet aware that there's a door-to-door survey, asking some very leading questions, going on under the auspices of the Alberta Housing Corporation?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of what's occurring. I would take issue very clearly with the view the hon. member suggested, that it's an invasion of privacy. I think most of us in this House at least have some experience in going door to door, and I thought we were welcomed quite well.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the Premier can play his little games if he wants to.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, he didn't answer the question. I just want to know if the hon. government members, front bench members, are aware of the survey being conducted by Alberta Housing Corporation.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, I indicated I was not aware, but I certainly will check to find out the nature of the survey being conducted, and will report to the House.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the hon. Premier. Was this survey conducted under his auspices? If the hon. minister doesn't know, and it's his department, who does know?

MR. LOUGHEED: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite clear the survey was undertaken under the auspices of the minister responsible prior to April 3, and, being undertaken at that time, was certainly under the auspices of the government for which I'm responsible.

We think it's a valuable approach for us to get as much information as we can before we embark on programs that involve a vast amount of public expenditure. I anticipate the citizens of Alberta will co-operate fully with such a questionnaire, recognizing that the information we receive will help and guide all legislators here in making sound decisions with regard to policy.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. Premier be kind enough to table in the House the questionnaire being used?

AN HCN. MEMBER: Put it on the Order Paper.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, the results also?

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe we have the questions coming almost simultaneously. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, would the Premier be prepared to give the same undertaking as far as the results of the survey are concerned?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why not. The exact form is something I would have to check into.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question. If the hon. minister in charge of housing is not aware of the survey, I'm wondering under whose auspices or whose direction or whose responsibility the survey is taking place at the present time. Or has it already taken place?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it's in the process of being completed. When it is completed I'll provide the information to the House.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, on that very point. If it is in the process of being completed, under whose responsibility does it now come if it formerly came under the responsibility of the former minister of housing?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, quite clearly under the Minister of Housing and Public Works.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Premier. Was the survey initiated prior to March 26?

MR. LOUGHEED: My understanding was that it was initiated prior to that date. I'd have to check and advise the hon. member.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works. Has the hon. minister received any preliminary report on this survey at all?

MR. YURKO: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I have already indicated I didn't know about the survey, but I will check and report to the House. What more can I say?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the former Minister of Municipal Affairs. Was an interim report received by that minister prior to the present date, or prior to March 26?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I said I would provide that information, and I will.

MR. CLARK: Oh, let him speak for himself.

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly we have surveyed this survey to a considerable extent, and we might . . .

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting survey when no one knows about it.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . we might get on to another topic after this final supplementary.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my second question is different from the first. The first question made a request to the Premier to give me the date on which the survey was initiated.

The second question refers to an interim report which may have been presented prior to March 26, or after March 26 prior to today. I'm asking the second question with regard to an interim report.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we take the view that the former minister is not obliged to answer these questions in the House. If the new minister charged with that responsibility doesn't have that information, we will take it as notice or I will respond myself if I can.

#### Misericordia Hospital Strike

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour, or the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Has the minister received an invitation on behalf of the management or employees of the Misericordia Hospital for his or the government's intervention in the present stalemate?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, my office has not received any such invitation.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Would the minister be open to contacting union and management representatives in the dispute to see if his direct personal involvement would be of assistance?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member would agree that the number of disputes where a minister would become personally involved in a mediation role would not be that many.

What we have done, up to the present time, is offer conciliation and mediation services. At the present time, my understanding is that parties are not meeting, but that is open to them at any time. At such time as they are about to meet again, of course, the department, through the Labor Relations Branch, would provide all the services we could.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. In light of the inconvenience of the issue -- it is costing the taxpayers something like \$40,000 a day without hospital service -- does the minister not claim any responsibility in solving this particular issue, or is he going to sit back?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think the complexities of the collective bargaining process require a great deal of understanding by hon. members. Some effort is required in addressing ourselves to it, to do our best as publicly elected people subject to the various approaches made to publicly elected people, not to violate as a result of that the rights of parties involved in the collective bargaining process. They are aware that members of the Assembly in their various capacities will no doubt be approached by one or the other of the parties, when really, quite the best procedure would be for the matter to be left to the parties themselves. I think that's the situation at the present time.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Recognizing the rights of the parties involved, what about the rights of the people lined up to get into hospitals in Edmonton?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the earlier question, I would like to supplement my colleague's answer and correct the impression left regarding the \$40,000 a day with respect to the hospital.

First, in the case of those employees who are on strike, the Hospital Services Commission demands the funds back for those who are on strike. That calculation is being made at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, the other thing I think important for all hon. members to remember in this situation is that the nursing staff of the Misericordia Hospital, the nursing staff of many hospitals in this kind of negotiation, carry the hospitals when other staff are outside the hospitals. In fact, some of the nursing staff of the Misericordia Hospital are working at the Royal Alex Hospital; others are at the University Hospital. And through management, some of them are taking their vacations at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thought it important for the information of all hon. members that we do not leave an erroneous impression with regard to the budget of the Misericordia Hospital.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Labour. Has the government compared the management rights clause at issue?

Further, in view of provincial funding of hospitals -- and perhaps this could be to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care too -- is the government studying the overall question of management rights, or will this be left to individual negotiation?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think the provisions of the bargaining agreements are clearly matters for the parties.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Labour. Is he, at this point in time, studying the feasibility of invoking the essential services provision of The Alberta Labour Act to settle the dispute, and referring the management rights clause to arbitration for settlement?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, there's no intention at the present time of taking such a step.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. Has either management or labor asked the minister to intervene in this dispute?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that's one of the more relevant questions that could be asked in the circumstances. I might have volunteered it without being asked, because it's important information for the members.

Although there are continuous communications between the Labor Relations Branch and the parties, so far as I am aware no request for such intervention has been received.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister responsible for hospitals. In light of the fact that many of the R.N.s are working at other hospitals, does this mean there is going to be a shortage of nurses when the hospital does open?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking a question which is somewhat hypothetical, and is also one that perhaps is very much a question of opinion rather than of fact.

#### Eastern Slopes

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. Minister of Energy, I'm going to direct this to the hon. Premier and ask whether the government has reviewed the Energy Resources Conservation Board assessment of the Environment Conservation Authority recommendations concerning the eastern slopes?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I can answer that question. Certainly it hasn't been a matter for Executive Council consideration at this point. The matter may be before the cabinet committee on energy. I'll have to take the question as notice and refer it to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

#### New House Warranties

MR. TAYLOR: My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the hon. Minister of Housing. Has the hon. minister had time to check into the matter of warranties on new houses?

MR. YURKO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention to reply a little more fully to the question asked yesterday.

First of all, I would like to say that the Alberta Housing Corporation now requires all homes built by AHC builder loans to be covered by a home warranty plan. Currently the only plan available is the HUDAC plan, which is supported by the Alberta Housing Corporation.

The HUDAC plan, or the Housing and Urban Development Association plan, very briefly is as follows: any builder can get the following if he qualifies with respect to reputation and so forth. It costs \$350 to the builder to join and \$80 per unit. This provides a guarantee on the down payment and covers major structural deficiencies for five years and minor repairs for one year. This applies to owner-occupied dwellings and covers condominiums up to two storeys and town houses, but not rental units or mobile homes. The warranty is transferable.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary. Would the warranties apply to house trailers that are stationary or built in one place, and not made available for moving?

MR. YURKO: I'm not at all certain, Mr. Speaker, if that would be classified as a mobile home. I think it probably would be, and I indicated that it did not cover rental units or mobile homes.

The program is actually under the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I'm sure he would be prepared to supply you with the full details of the guarantee program.

MR. TAYLOR: One further question then, Mr. Speaker. Are contractors obliged to join, or is it completely discretionary?

MR. YURKO: I believe it's discretionary with the contractors. However, on all loans from the Alberta Housing Corporation, it's a matter of policy that they do, in fact, come under that guarantee policy.

As I indicated, I'm sure the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs would be prepared to supply the full details of the program.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, one last supplementary. Is the minister considering making it obligatory to have this warranty for all builders of homes in the Province of Alberta?

MR. YURKO: Again, I think it would probably be fair to refer that question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Our control is through loans made by the Alberta



Housing Corporation, and as a matter of policy this is required. However, whether or not it should be extended to all home building on other than a voluntary basis, I think the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs might wish to answer that.

MR. HABLE: Mr. Speaker, there's no decision yet to make it compulsory for all builders. I would add that if the members are interested in the plan, I can have it packaged, tabled, and delivered to all members in the House.

SOME HCN. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. TAYLOR: I'd certainly appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering, too, if the hon. minister would include information as to how the general public will be protected if they don't know who is or who is not covered by warranties, and if he might suggest there be some sign required where a house builder does not come under warranty, where the house does not come under warranty?

#### Natural Gas Pricing

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. It's a matter for clarification purposes, arising out of statements made by the hon. Premier and the hon. Mr. Getty at the energy conference in April. It relates to the phasing in of natural gas prices to eastern consumers.

I'm wondering what mechanism the hon. Premier is proposing to phase in the prices considering the arbitration decision in the Gulf Oil Canada Limited situation at \$1.15 per MCF, and the binding nature of that arbitration. How do we propose to phase in gas pricing to eastern consumers as a result of that decision?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question really lies in a final decision with regard to legislation. It may be proposed to the House, as referred to in the throne speech debate relative to natural gas marketing, and the terms and nature of that legislation, which at this stage is merely in the process of being reviewed. The legislation, when it comes before the House can, I think, appropriately answer the hon. member's question in terms of its impact upon the arbitration award and on the provisions of The Arbitration Act; in short, whether or not the legislation would take precedence over the arbitration award under The Arbitration Act. I'm certain, though, that whatever decisions are made would be made in light of the fact that that arbitration award is there as a target, and it would only be a matter of timing as distinguished from what ultimate price the producers might receive.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Is it the government's intention to introduce the legislative changes he refers to -- I assume to the Petroleum Marketing Commission -- during the spring session of the Legislature, or will this be deferred until the fall?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it's impossible to answer that question in a definitive way. It depends, because of the complexities involved, the vast number of contracts and the different ways of doing it, whether or not the legislation could be introduced in the spring session; or, if introduced, whether it would have to hold over to the fall session for final enactment, in which case we will have to give some consideration to the effective date of the arbitration the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo was raising, which was, to my recollection, November 1, 1975.

MR. NOTLEY: Further supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Can the Premier advise the House whether the government is, at this time, obtaining special legal advice concerning the constitutionality of the arbitration in question, in the light of, shall I say, prospective federal legislation that is in the House of Commons at the present time?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is aware -- this matter has been raised before -- that all of these matters are subject to review and legal advice both from the law officers of the Crown and by outside legal opinions. To anticipate a possible future answer, it would not be our intention to table legal opinions in this House.

#### PWA

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation. It concerns Pacific Western Airlines. My question to the minister is: has he received any information concerning hearings, or possible hearings, by the Canadian Transport Commission on Alberta's purchase of PWA, and the definition of a "person" as such?

DR. HORNER: No, Mr. Speaker, the information I have is that, until a day or two ago, there hadn't been any notice of people that were going to intervene.

#### Wage and Price Controls

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Premier. In light of the statements by the Prime Minister and the federal Leader of the Opposition, what is Alberta's stand with regard to Mr. Turner's concept of voluntary and mandatory wage and price controls? To limit my question, does the Alberta government support that particular position at the present time?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I had some difficulty with the question. I believe the hon. member said "voluntary mandatory" or "voluntary and/or". I'm not clear.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I'll limit the question to mandatory wage and price controls.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the present understanding I have, arising out of the last meeting of first ministers, is that we were to hear from the Prime Minister and the federal Minister of Finance with regard to the efforts the federal government was making, on a consensus basis, in terms of meeting the problems of inflation in Canada today. We're still awaiting advice. It would be our view that any response by the Alberta government should await further discussions with either the Prime Minister or Mr. Turner.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Has the federal government initiated any discussions regarding the economy with the Government of Alberta, which would take place before May 30 this year?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, other than the discussions that took place at the first ministers meeting in April and some discussions that may have occurred at the official level, I would think the answer is, no.

MR. CLARK: For clarification, Mr. Speaker. From this date until May 30, has the federal government not initiated any discussions with the Alberta government with regard to mandatory . . . well, with regard to the economy? Let's leave it there.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure there will be discussions, ongoing as they are, between the governments with regard to the economy. I don't think I can be more specific than that.

With regard to the whole question of consensus that was raised, as I mentioned in the prior answer, I'm not aware of any specific discussions with the federal government that are going to occur between now and May 30. That's not to say the situation might not change as it often does, daily or hourly.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question for clarification. I noted when the hon. Premier answered the question he distinguished between mandatory wage controls and voluntary price and wage guidelines. My question to him is: has the Government of Alberta taken any position with respect to the proposals for voluntary wage and price guidelines, as enunciated by the federal Minister of Finance?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, no, we haven't. We thought it would be much more appropriate for the Alberta government to have a clearer outline of the nature of the voluntary price and wage guidelines, or consensus as the federal Minister of Finance referred to, before we made any decision as to the approach and response of the Alberta government. We would want to do that, of course, in concert with other provincial governments because, quite obviously, they would be successful only if they had the full support of provincial governments rather than in isolation in Alberta.

#### AGT/Edmonton Telephones

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address this question to the Minister of Utilities and Telephones. I'd like to know if the members of his department have been negotiating with the City of Edmonton as far as the long-distance revenue, that now goes to AGT, going to the City of Edmonton.

DR. WARRACK: I think it would be fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that there has been no negotiation on the matter. The matter has been raised with me by the mayor, and I understand that on a near-future council agenda some discussion is contemplated on behalf of the city.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister. Is the minister or anybody in his department looking at the feasibility of AGT buying Edmonton Telephones?

DR. WARRACK: No, we are not, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as we have had no such offer from the City of Edmonton. Certainly, if such a proposition were put to us, we'd try to examine it carefully in the interests of the people of Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Then there has been no feasibility study whatsoever, looking at the practicalities of buying ET?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm not really in a position to say there never has been, because I know that this particular matter had been raised with the previous government as well as during the first term of the present government. It may very well be that at a time distant enough in the past, a feasibility study might have been conducted by the previous government. I wouldn't be sure about that. I have not become aware of one, and I have not asked for one to be initiated.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

1. Hon. Mr. Hyndman proposed the following motion to the Assembly:  
Be it resolved that, pursuant to Standing Order No. 50, Donald J. McCrimmon, Member for Ponoka, be elected Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

[The motion was carried.]

#### 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. Notley]

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity of taking part in the Speech from the Throne debate. In doing so, I wish to congratulate you on once again being chosen Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly. I also welcome the opportunity of being the first person to congratulate our recently elected Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

During the debate so far, I have enjoyed the contributions of all the hon. members, whether I agreed with them or not, and I hope and trust that this debate will be useful and interesting for the duration of it.

Before dealing with some of the issues that I believe are important and relate to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I must take just a moment or two to express some personal regrets on the death of my Progressive Conservative opponent in the Spirit River-Fairview constituency.

Mr. Alex Woronuk, a native of the Rycroft area, was a successful businessman in his own right in this province and a very active individual. He will be missed by people throughout the Province of Alberta, and by his family. So I would like to put that on record, Mr. Speaker, because in the loss of Mr. Woronuk we have lost a very vital and active Albertan.

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue, not of provincial note but of local concern, which I intend to deal with before moving into the larger issues. That is the question of roads in northwestern Alberta. My former opponent was very accurate when he described the road conditions of the constituency, and generally of northern Alberta, as being totally inadequate. I would trust and hope that action will be taken to deal with the roads in that part of the province.

Highway 49 is an example. I think it's a scandalous situation that we have a major, numbered highway which still has 26 miles which are not hard-surfaced and which indeed present a real challenge to the initiative of any driver to go over them.

The same is true on the north side of the river with respect to secondary Highway 964, stretching from the Town of Fairview through to the B.C. border. We have a road, Mr. Speaker, which goes over a large portion of country, where many people have to come as far

as 60 miles to deliver their grain over roads which are totally inadequate. I hope, Mr. Speaker, we are going to see some action in the next short time, preferably this year, dealing with these concerns.

Turning to the general issues which I believe we face, as Albertans, it seems to me, when we take stock of the recent election campaign and the results, with a 69-seat Conservative win and 6 lonely little members on the opposition side of the House, that we must ponder for a moment what this means to the future of Alberta. I would fear there is a rather serious danger that we're going to fall into the trap of one-party government unless we take steps, and I say this quite honestly to the government, unless the government takes steps as well to ensure that this doesn't happen. One-party government has been a rather unfortunate tradition in the Province of Alberta, and I believe it just isn't workable.

Over the 36 years of the Social Credit administration, we suffered from that malady which has been described rather well, I think, by Mr. C. B. MacPherson in his book, *Democracy in Alberta*, as 'plebiscitarian' democracy. That means that once every four years, the people of the province have an election. The election becomes more or less a plebiscite on whether the people agree with the ultimate objectives of the government. Then for the next four years, any criticism, any debate is stifled because the people have rendered their decision, and opposition is locked upon as being somewhat anti-Albertan.

Professor MacPherson describes 'plebiscitarian' democracy as a system "in which people give up their right of decision, criticism and proposal, in return for the promise that everything will be done to implement the general will."

[interjections]

Mr. Speaker, that sort of concept, which unfortunately, notwithstanding the interjections of the hon. Member for Clover Bar, has existed in this province for many years, is not a good one for the democratic process. I would trust that during the coming four years, we're collectively going to try to take steps to avoid that happening in Alberta again.

What can be done? Let's look at the various components of the present political scene. I would suggest that the government must not only acquire the humility which the leader of the Opposition talked about yesterday, but more important, there must be a commitment to engage in ongoing debate. One of my regrets, in watching what quite clearly was a very successful election campaign on the part of the hon. Premier, was the failure of the Conservative Party to really engage in an ongoing debate on the issues during the course of the campaign itself. I would hope that will not be the situation, and that we will have a continuing debate over the major objectives of this government, the direction it plans to take, and the options which are available to Albertans in the four years ahead.

It's important as well, Mr. Speaker, that the government not look upon the opposition as somehow being anti-Albertan and a bogeyman. I wish the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation was in his place at this time, because I regret the statements he made concerning the supposed NDP presence in the public hearings surrounding the Paddle River control scheme.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I had to laugh when I read the Deputy Premier's statements in the newspaper, because, of the 400 people who signed the petition only 6 were members of the New Democratic Party. As leader of the party in an election campaign, I found New Democratic Party supporters on both sides of the issue. Depending on what particular geographic location they happened to be in, they were either for the project or against it. So the suggestion that this was somehow a nasty effort by the opposition to undermine the process of public hearings was just total nonsense.

I have, Mr. Speaker, a statement issued by the secretary of the Paddle River Headwaters Protective Association. It says:

We resent Dr. Horner's unwarranted attempt to impute unfounded political motivation to widespread opposition to dam and reservoir constructions on Connor Creek and Little Paddle River above and below Mayerthorpe.

Not partisan politics but the high cost to benefit ratio of the dam project and its effects upon community environment together with preservation of our homes and farms as viable economic units constituted and [constitutes] our opposition.

Well, Mr. Speaker, under these circumstances it seems to me rather regrettable that the second person in the government has seen fit not only to make comments which are wildly inaccurate to say the least, but in fact I believe, seriously to question the competence of the members of the Environment Conservation Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and trust that that sort of attitude does not prevail in the future, because if it does, the whole concept of public hearings will be of no value. Mr. Speaker, there is no reason, when public hearings are held, that active members of political parties should not, for that matter, be able to make submissions whether they be New Democrats, Social Crediters, Independents, Liberals, antivivisectionists, prohibitionists, or what have you. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that in a democratic society, the right to make submissions to public authorities, especially when hearings are held, is a basic one, and the competence of the people who are conducting the hearings is called into question when we raise the threat of the opposition bogeyman.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a responsibility on the part of the opposition too, to ensure that Alberta does not become a one-party state. We have the continuing watchdog role, and that is a role, in my view, where there will have to be a good deal of close co-operation among the six opposition members in the Legislature. Part of that watchdog role as well, Mr. Speaker, involves dealing with the many people who feel that they have been

unjustly treated by the government, who come to the opposition as a court of last resort. They've been to their local MLA or they've perhaps even gone to the minister or they've gone to civil servants. They've written the Ombudsman. Finally, they've come to the opposition as the court of last resort. We're going to find ourselves with many additional cases, at least a higher case load, as a result of a shrunken opposition.

But the major role of the opposition is not its watchdog capacity, but rather the task of focussing political debate on major issues. Here, quite frankly, there will not always be unanimity, nor should there be, because in a society as complex as Alberta's is becoming, there are going to be differences. It is important that the political process reflect the differences that exist in society, not stifle them or gloss them over.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the components of democracy in Alberta, the government is obviously one, and the opposition is another. But a vital part of the process is the news media. I believe that the press must stimulate and encourage, as never before in Alberta, the role of the investigative reporter. Many of the government members, perhaps even including the hon. Minister of Government Services and Culture, were a little chagrined the other day at the release of some information concerning a grant. But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that sort of investigative reporting, which has been typical of other jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere in the western world, is basic to the democratic process. I would hope that the major media in this province encourage that sort of thing by press people in Alberta.

Also, it seems to me the press must not fear an adversary role with government on those issues where an adversary role is required. When I think back, Mr. Speaker, to the United States in 1972, when President Nixon won perhaps the largest mandate in the history of the United States of America, he had almost everything going his way except that the press saw an important role to play. I'm not suggesting that the rest of the analogy holds true, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure it doesn't.

I am saying that the role of the media is not simply to endorse the government, but frequently must be to take on the government when it needs it or, for that matter, to take on the opposition. But with only six of us over here, we are such a lonely little group that it is really questionable whether we are worth taking on.

Mr. Speaker, another point while I'm handing out advice to the media: I would hope they would not see the shrunken opposition as a reason for downplaying the reporting of the Legislature. Because if we are to ensure the existence of a vital democratic system in Alberta, the Legislature must be fully and adequately covered.

Mr. Speaker, let me deal with some of the issues I believe are of critical importance to the people of Alberta. Perhaps the first and most important is: what will be our rate of growth and the emphasis on industrial diversification in the years ahead? To date, we don't really have any guidelines. Oh yes, members of the government can point to the odd paragraph in a speech by the hon. Premier. But as yet we really don't have any guidelines on the direction we are going to take in this province and on the pace of development in Alberta. That is crucial, because if we decide to opt for rapid growth, we are foreclosed on many other things. We are going to have to accept a large degree of foreign ownership of our economy once we accept the principle of rapid growth.

If we opt for rapid growth, we are going to see serious inflation. You can't have rapid growth and not engender serious inflation. If we opt for rapid growth we are going to have serious shortages, and that's going to be a special problem for the rural areas and the more remote districts of the province. On the other hand, if we decide to opt for a somewhat slower rate of growth, we face, perhaps, the possibility of some unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, what we have not received as yet from this government is any clear picture of how quickly they plan to proceed. We see a change in attitude. Last summer the emphasis clearly was rapid development of the oil sands. After the difficulties encountered by Syncrude we saw a change, and one would get the impression that the Syncrude venture would stand by itself for some time. But in recent weeks I detect, once again, a shift to expanding -- perhaps going ahead with the Shell proposal, again with very substantial concessions from the people of Alberta in the form of direct investment or concessions of one kind or another.

Mr. Speaker, you can't go ahead with another major oil sands development simultaneously with Syncrude and not create an enormous impact, some of it very adverse, on the rest of the Alberta economy.

Where do we stand on the question of freight rates? Right now in the Province of Saskatchewan, one of the major issues in that election campaign is the role of the federal government in the freight rate issue, and in particular, whether or not the government is going to retain the Crowsnest Pass rates. We've discussed this from time to time, Mr. Speaker, but not in any major way in the Legislative Assembly.

Clearly, there is a move afoot by the railway companies and the large grain companies, to do a number of things: remove the Crowsnest Pass rates, encourage inland grain terminals, and abandon thousands of miles of track in the rural areas where the railroads claim they simply don't have enough traffic to justify maintenance of these lines. Mr. Speaker, that may be all right for the railroads, it may be all right for the major grain companies, but it is not all right for rural Alberta. It is not all right for provincial or municipal governments who suddenly have to come in and pick up the pieces where the railroads leave off, by spending more money on grid roads than would otherwise be the case, or stimulating development in some of the smaller centres once the elevators and rail lines are abandoned.

I find it just a little hard to take when the railroads slyly suggest that they have to have an increase in rates in order to haul grain. I think it's important that we

remember how the Crowsnest Pass rates came into effect. The original rates were initiated in 1892 in return for a government grant to the CPR equal to 40 per cent of the cost of a rail line from Lethbridge to Nelson, B.C., through the Crowsnest Pass. Those were the days, Mr. Speaker, when companies had to give something in return in order to get a grant.

Subsequently, the CPR also received the franchise for a railway in southern B.C., and 3.75 million acres of land. Mr. Speaker, this is rather important. The minerals on this land led to the Cominco resource empire, also owned by the CPR, indeed one of the most valuable parts of the CPR empire. In short, the CPR agreed to freeze freight rates on grain in perpetuity in return for the grants outlined.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have the move by the rail companies to do away with the Crowsnest Pass rates, to abandon rail lines, to encourage inland terminals; and the people who will be paying the price for this, in my judgment, nefarious scheme will be the farmers of western Canada.

I would like to see the Government of Alberta take a much stronger stand than we have seen to date on this matter. I noticed that just before the last session opened, there was a news release talking about some breakthrough on the freight rate question. To date, Mr. Speaker, there has been very little practical breakthrough. The anomalies in the freight rate structure still exist. In my judgment, Mr. Speaker, as western Canadians, whether we live in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba, we have this problem as one of the most important items on our agenda, but not at the price of doing away with the historic Crowsnest agreements.

It seems to me that if the people in Ottawa want to ensure unity in this country, they have to recognize that a fair freight rate system is a must in this country. And that would probably have to require considerable subsidy from central Canada, especially Ontario and Quebec. But unless it's done, Mr. Speaker, as long as we have a freight rate system which is based on the notion of competition, a totally antiquated concept at least as far as inland provinces like Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta are concerned, we're always going to have trouble.

Mr. Speaker, I want to deal, too -- as I discuss this question of the development and diversification of the economy, and relate freight rates very directly to what I mean, because we have talked at some length in the House about the need to encourage agricultural processing. It has almost become a motherhood issue. But there is no doubt that one of the chief obstacles to maximizing the development of agricultural processing in Alberta still remains the anomalies in the freight rate structure. So it seems to me that our objective of dealing with that problem must be placed very high on our agenda if we're going to encourage the maximum development of agricultural processing in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with some of the more contentious issues in developing the future of Alberta. The hon. Premier spoke in the House a year ago and issued a paper on petrochemical development. At that time, I suppose most of us felt that moving ahead in the petrochemical industry was wise. I still think there's, indeed, some merit in doing so. But we must be much more cautious, it seems to me, than we might have been a year ago.

I'm afraid that the heritage trust fund and the subsidies thereunder might very well be our 1975 answer to Macdonald's 1878 national policy of tariffs. I don't like to see the forced feeding of an industry which may not be practical otherwise. It is abundantly obvious, Mr. Speaker, that to encourage a world scale petrochemical industry in Alberta, the major companies involved are asking for very sizable concessions from the people of Alberta in the form of subsidized natural gas rates, equity participation, low-cost loans, even moving expenses and front-end costs.

Mr. Speaker, what concerns me is that we are not the only people in the world who are looking at developing the petrochemical industry. In the March 1975 issue of the Petroleum Economist, they have an article which goes into some detail on what the Arab countries are doing in this field too. It's astonishing. Already under contract, the Arab countries are committing themselves to \$17 billion toward the construction of petrochemical plants; but in addition, they have under study an additional \$23.5 billion for world scale petrochemical plants, for a total of \$40 billion.

Mr. Speaker, what concerns me is the market situation that will occur once we see going on stream the petrochemical proposals and projects already under way in the Arab countries. Are we not, as we attempt to force feed an industry in Alberta, also going to have to face the very real possibility of competing not only with industries in North America, but indeed with petrodollars; petrochemical industries that can be subsidized by the vast new wealth of the Arab countries so they could undercut us in the markets of the world, including the Canadian and U.S. markets. Mr. Speaker, these are the sorts of things we have to look at before we go running off after industry which may very well falter in the vicissitudes of world trade.

I want to say something about the role of an activist government. During the campaign there were some in this province who suggested that we should get back to the good old days of free enterprise. Not too many, however, accepted that proposition, because government involvement is a fact of life today. But, Mr. Speaker, government involvement does not necessarily mean we are going to change the structure of society. That's one of my concerns, as I see the government involvement emanating from the government side of this House.

We see all sorts of initiatives, but the initiatives are not really designed to change the structure of society, rather to prop up the existing power structure. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the larger the corporation, the more they seem to like government involvement, not government involvement that implies 51 per cent control, but minority

participation. So they have got the public treasury so deeply involved, so deeply committed, that the politicians in office have to listen very carefully, lean over backwards, and in fact tailor their public policies to meet the interests of their partners in joint ventures.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we have talked very glibly in this House about the values of joint ventures, without recognizing the dangers and the pitfalls of joint venture. I can see the argument of the old-fashioned traditional free enterpriser who says, separate the state from all sorts of individual enterprise and we'll just have the state being an arbitrator down the middle. But once the state goes into partnership, especially a minority partnership, with large foreign-controlled corporations, what we are really doing, Mr. Speaker, is taking the risk out of free enterprise. But we are leaving the opportunity to manipulate the profits, at least, to the owners of the concerns involved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pose another question in the remaining moments I have. I believe we have to ask ourselves quite seriously, to what extent do we temper the opportunities for the strong with a sense of responsibility to the weak? There is really no doubt about it. Every government is under some pressure to increase public expenditures in the area of health and education, but as I see it, there is also a strong move, especially by middle- and upper middle-income people, at least to qualify the amount of money spent on social services. That's one of the reasons, when I read the Speech from the Throne, why I must frankly confess some concern when I see that they're going to try to bring hospital and health costs under control. I wonder what that means. What, in fact, is going to be the net result? Are we going to qualify the right to health, which in my judgment is a basic unconditional right in a civilized society, or are we going to ensure that commitment and expand it?

There are a lot of things we can do in this Legislature and in this province, Mr. Speaker, to expand equality of opportunity and to make sure that at least minimum conditions exist for the less fortunate among us: extended coverage under Alberta Health Care for such things as wheelchairs and other aids and devices for the handicapped -- they have requested this, Mr. Speaker, but have not received it as yet. The handicapped would like to see the physically handicapped included as a specific group in a revised Individual's Rights Protection Act.

Even that evil socialist Province of Saskatchewan has a scheme to aid transportation for the handicapped. The province pays 75 per cent of the capital costs and 50 per cent of the operating costs for municipal transportation systems in that province. I believe the same sort of scheme, perhaps a more generous one, should be developed here. But most important, there is no guaranteed income for the handicapped. At least in British Columbia the guaranteed Mincome scheme, which is available to senior citizens, also applies to the physically handicapped. I would like to see that sort of commitment undertaken in the Province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, in closing, I want to stress one of the most important issues, as I see it, and that is the public's right to know. Every government, whichever party is in office, tends very quickly to keep secret information which should be made public. Frankly, I see very little evidence that there is much, if anything, that the Alberta government does which is of such importance it must be kept under wraps. There is, I suppose, the occasional case where individual confidentiality is a reasonable argument. But the danger of extending this to the point where vast sums of money are spent without public knowledge, in my view, Mr. Speaker, far outweighs the so-called advantages.

We have some rather frightening examples. The Loram report, the most important report on the Syncrude project, the report which analyses whether or not we're getting a good deal or a bad deal on the construction costs -- and after all we're now putting millions and millions of dollars into that project -- has not been released in this House, on the basis, says the hon. Premier, that it would violate the confidentiality agreement with Syncrude.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in my view, when we are expected as representatives of this House to put up millions of dollars, there is absolutely no reason at all why that information should not be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

I would simply say that the price which must be paid by any group which wants assistance from the people of Alberta, must be to table that information, and to make sure that the ground rules by which the money is allocated, and the technical data if necessary, are available in the Legislature so that the people have some access to it, and the members elected by the people can examine it carefully and decide whether or not it is a reasonable expenditure.

In the case of Syncrude, perhaps the most important single expenditure ever authorized by this province, we have not as yet received the most important information of all. No member of this House can in good conscience say he supports the project, or knows enough about the project, until that information is available. I would call upon the government to release it during the course of this spring session.

We have, as well, the interesting case of the Alberta Export Agency. I want to close my remarks dealing with the Export Agency. A motion for a return was requested, and granted in part by the government, last year. But an important part of that motion for a return was to itemize the names of the companies or firms which had benefited as a result of the work of the Alberta Export Agency. That motion for a return came back, and it was clearly indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the information would not be made public on the grounds that it would offend the rule of confidentiality.

Mr. Speaker, let me just stop and analyse that issue for a moment. It is one thing for us to spend government money and send people on trade commissions to Brazil or Mexico

or Tokyo or around the world in order to drum up business for Alberta. If, as a result of this business, it is available to everyone, equally available to everyone on a pool basis, almost like the Wheat Board, obviously the information doesn't have to be made public, because the opportunities are equally available to every single person or every single producer.

But when you get into the rather grayer area, Mr. Speaker, of expanding opportunities which are not equally available to everyone, which may be available to some producers and not to others, it is clearly in the interests of the people of Alberta that that information be made public in this House. It is wrong for us to spend public money to assist anyone's individual enterprise, however worthy a general issue that may be, unless that information is tabled in the House. If, Mr. Speaker, individual enterprisers don't want that sort of thing to be issued, there is no rule, no law that they have to seek the assistance of the Alberta Export Agency.

It seems to me an unconditional position, Mr. Speaker, that if people are going to receive in their own individual business enterprises, assistance from a government agency like the Export Agency, which travels around the world, the fact that they have received the contract or expanded their sales should be made public in the Legislature. I say that not in an abusive way, not in an accusatory way, but because unless we do it, there are all sorts of opportunities for the most questionable kind of procedure within the government agency as such. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that if the Export Agency is going to continue to play its role, and I can see it playing a useful role in the future, it must be clear and understood by everybody that the information will be made public.

In general, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the spring session, and later the fall session. It is pretty obvious that some of the major issues are going to be held over until the fall session of the Legislature, most particularly some of those issues dealing with the future of the petroleum industry.

In concluding my remarks, I simply say again that this is a time for review by Albertans, not just on the government side but on the opposition side as well. In the future, in the next four years, with the challenges that we face there are opportunities, and indeed beyond the opportunities there is the responsibility of all of us in the political process to make sure that there is a vital and interesting dialogue on these issues and that the people of Alberta take part in that dialogue.

MR. KIDD: Mr. Speaker, I rise for the first time to speak to you and to this Legislative Assembly with a very great awareness of my responsibilities toward the people of this province, toward my constituents, and toward this Legislative Assembly, and with a great awareness of my shortcomings. I have no illusions concerning my election. First, the people in my constituency fully appreciated the excellent government provided to them over the preceding three and one-half years. The outstanding leadership of the Premier had been well served by my predecessor, Mr. Clarence Copithorne, and I was helped by a great number of vigorous and wise people, God bless them. Under those conditions even a goat could have been elected, far less a Kidd.

However, Mr. Speaker, time does not stand still, and we go forward from here. The Banff constituency -- that is the official name, I prefer Banff-Cochrane -- is a truly representative portion of Alberta. I shun the word "microcosm". Recreation, tourism, agriculture, industry: all are present. I respectfully submit that the most beautiful mountain country in the world, and probably the best recreational area is included in my constituency. The mountain area extends from the B.C. boundary on the west, with Peyto Lake in the north and the Kananaskis Lakes in the south. Banff and Lake Louise are at the centre. Then eastward it extends through the foothills, Morley, Cochrane, Priddis, Bragg Creek, to the grain lands and dairying areas at Airdrie and Springbank.

Industry is represented by the coal mines at Canmore; the cement and lime plants near Exshaw; the several gas plants and gas fields, such as at Jumping Pond which is a primary source of natural gas for Calgary; and the many small- and medium-sized businesses located in the several towns.

Also included in the constituency are two major Indian reserves, at Sarcee and Morley; and a large and growing number of people of varied occupations who live on small holdings within the constituency on the north, west, and south of Calgary up to the city limits.

An outstanding characteristic of the Banff-Cochrane constituency is the increasing number of people who wish to live within its boundaries or play within its boundaries. Therein lies the basis for an area of major importance to my constituents which, I suppose, can best be called "land use". Farmers, ranchers, and many others within and without the constituency are concerned about the subdivision and removal of land from agricultural use. Those who desire nothing more than to continue farming or ranching face the fact that the rapid escalation of land values often makes doing so an economic sacrifice.

But are those who desire to own a small holding in the country to be denied that privilege? Yet we do not wish to have here what has happened in many parts of North America, notably the Niagara Peninsula. Do you know that 26 acres an hour are estimated to go out of agricultural production in Ontario? Twenty-six acres an hour!

Let me hasten to acknowledge that the municipalities of Rocky View, Foothills, and Improvement District No. 8 are fully aware of and are monitoring the situation, based primarily on the quality of land involved. But much more total planning must be involved so the situation does not arise that only those owning poor land reap the economic gain.

Further to the same subject, the development of recreational facilities in the mountain areas, including the Canmore corridor, requires a considered forward plan that



provides recreation for any citizen of Alberta but does not disregard the wishes of those who are not residents of these areas. The matter of land use has been an active concern of this government for some time, as evidenced by the in-depth study and progress which has included public land forums. Therefore, I look to the timely and thoughtful solution of the many matters concerning land use and hopefully will provide an effective contribution toward these solutions.

Mr. Speaker, let me touch on another broad area of major importance to my constituents. They are primarily enterprisers and are totally committed to obeying the laws of this land and accepting the responsibilities that are necessary to maintain their freedom as individuals. Therefore, you might say they are free enterprisers, old-fashioned types according to the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview. That is, they believe that the opportunity for profit results in the highest productivity and the most efficient use of people and materials. Surely all thinking individuals agree.

Therefore, in conformity with their desires, my own beliefs, and those of this government, it will be my objective to contribute toward monitoring legislation so that:

- (1) only that clearly required is made law;
- (2) legislation is not promulgated which provides for government involvement in activities better left to private industry or private individuals;
- (3) taxation policies legislated are those which encourage, or at least do not dampen, private initiative.

Having spoken about matters which surely concern all the other constituencies and the other members of the Legislative Assembly, let me now speak of some matters which concern either only my constituency or, at most, a few other constituencies. As already described, there are a large number of my constituents who reside on small holdings: 2 to 5- and 20-acre parcels. By provincial law, the lands in Alberta must be reassessed at an 8-to 10-year interval for purposes of establishing a tax base. This reassessment is now progressing in the Municipality of Rocky View. The method being used for the small holdings is to assess the land at about 25 per cent of the retail value. Due to the dramatic increase in land values over the past few years, this can result in a sharp rise in land taxes for these small holders in the 1976 taxation year.

The method of assessment is provided by the province first, through legislation, and secondly, through the manner in which this legislation is interpreted. It is my belief that the assessments methods, as developed over the years and interpreted from the legislation, now need careful consideration: toward simplicity, toward equity, and most importantly toward uniformity.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs is fully aware of the concerns of the small holders in this regard, and through him the Provincial-Municipal Finance Council whose terms of reference include considering assessment methods. I am confident that this matter will receive early and careful attention.

On another specific matter, I respectfully request that the hon. Minister of Transportation consider, as a priority item, the upgrading of the 1A Highway through Exshaw to Canmore, preferably from the Seebee cutoff. This is a narrow, treacherous, winding road, heavily travelled by lime trucks, by people who live in Canmore and work in Exshaw, and by tourists. This is puzzling, but it's one that Clarence missed.

Through the lack of an intelligent long-term plan, the Town of Banff has a critical lack of proper housing for those who work there. The residents are in the unnatural position of living in Alberta, but being largely under the control of a government which apparently is uninterested. It will be my intention to identify those areas in which the province can provide additional effective assistance to this important community, so that the citizens can more clearly identify with the other citizens of Alberta.

Let me say a word about the natives in my constituency, most of whom reside in the Morley and Sarcee reserves. Surely this province must assist in providing a challenge to the people on these reserves, particularly the younger people, so that they will have appealing opportunities to leave the reserves in an honorable fashion. Why not western Canadian Indian high-steel workers, or an equivalent challenge? I entreat all those hon. ministers who either generate or have under their wings suitable job opportunities for these native people to consider making jobs available. Because of the Indian culture, jobs where groups may work together are desirable.

In my view, the Speech from the Throne outlines important action and vital matters requiring legislation in a clear and concise manner. The people employed in industrial activity in my constituency, and particularly miners and outside workers at Canmore, will be gratified with the increased pensions, benefits, and allowances through the proposed changes in The Workers' Compensation Act.

I believe it to be of particular significance for all Albertans that transportation in all its facets will be consolidated in one department. Perhaps my background in the energy business over many years makes me more acutely aware than many other members, of the blood, sweat, and toil required to find and produce a barrel of oil.

Surely the days when one person drives an eight-cylinder car from Calgary to Edmonton, as I've just done, must be numbered. It just can't continue to happen. So the hon. Minister of Transportation must, among many other matters, look to needs for mass transportation in this province in the not too distant future -- and I say, in the next four years.

The creation of the Housing and Public Works Department and the Department of Business Development and Tourism are welcomed since they will help facilitate the development of burgeoning towns such as Cochrane, Airdrie, and Canmore. Specifically I would commend

attention to the present housing requirements in Airdrie to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works.

The terms of reference of the Department of Business Development and Tourism are admirably suited to the needs of Canmore, which does not wish to develop as a bedroom community to Banff. The Department of Government Services -- great. Their first job, of course, will be to air-condition this building.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed reduction in income tax in this province is simply another reason to support the positive conclusion that this is the best province in Canada in which to live.

And so I come to my final point, Mr. Speaker. We must all realize and be ever aware that what we do here, this year and in succeeding years, is watched by the rest of the world. This province is the most attractive in the world for investors from everywhere. It is because of our resources, but also because of the sanity and stability of this government and, hopefully, this entire Assembly. Let us ever remember that and act accordingly. And let us ever ask for help from the Almighty in so doing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[applause]

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, it's a distinct honor for me to join today in the throne speech debate of this, the 18th Legislature of the Province of Alberta.

I am indeed proud to be a member of this Assembly, and I bear in mind those members who have been here before and those who sit in this Assembly at the present time.

In this throne speech debate, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with the members some of the aspirations, problems, concerns, and challenges faced by the people of Alberta and the people of my constituency, Lesser Slave Lake.

Lesser Slave Lake region has a very romantic history. Many of you have heard of the Klondike Trail of '98. It passes through and into the constituency. At the point known as Grouard, there was a famous staging area for the gold rush days. Just after the turn of the century, Grouard was a town bigger than many of the towns in Alberta at the present time. It had banks, saloons, and many of the features our modern towns have.

The home of Twelve-Foot Davis -- who, incidentally, the Peace River constituency stole from Lesser Slave Lake -- was Grouard. But we're proud and pleased to be able to share Twelve-Foot Davis with the people of Peace River and Alberta.

The homesteaders, who settled the area after visiting on trips to the gold rush as well as travelling up the Alaska Highway during the Second World War, have continued even to the present day. We still have land being developed and pioneered by homesteading, spirited Canadians and Albertans.

Our constituency is the third largest, geographically, in the Province of Alberta. Centering this constituency is Lesser Slave Lake, a beautiful lake of approximately 460 square miles. The whole constituency and some of the features, I think, remind me a little of the Indian legend about when this country was first formed. The Great Spirit instructed his eagle to spread his blessings over the whole country. And, as you have probably heard in the legend, most of his blessings were bestowed upon Alberta. But I would contend that a great many of these blessings were bestowed upon my constituency, Lesser Slave Lake. It has great forests with timber potential and production that is just now gaining stature in the recognition of the rest of the province, fertile farm and agricultural land producing the finest barley in Alberta, the finest beef. I may get some argument from some of the other members . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Milk cows?

MR. SHABEN: Yes, even dairy cows. Beautiful rivers and streams, and broad wilderness areas. It has oil sands potential, large deposits of lignite and sub-bituminous coal, and minerals including calcium and magnesium brines.

The greatest asset of our constituency is its people. The people are of diverse backgrounds, the largest single group being of Native and Indian ancestry. We are pleased, in responding to the Speech from the Throne and the government's intention to decentralize and encourage the growth of the rural parts of Alberta, because this new vitality in the North is something I hope everyone has an opportunity to take part in, and that the northerners have an opportunity to grow with Alberta.

The changes that are envisioned for the North have, of course, the attendant problems of growth and change -- the problems related to housing. I'm pleased indeed that the government has taken the initiative in the housing field to provide \$200 million for housing. The need in our area is extremely great. There are other areas where the action of the government [to provide] transitional housing for people moving from the rural areas, from the isolated communities into the more heavily populated areas, and this is of extreme benefit to the people in the area.

One of the basic needs, a need we all recognize and probably it's extremely important in our constituency, Mr. Speaker, is in the area of education. There is an extremely high, and it has been extremely high, drop-out rate among high school students. Now the government is taking action with CVCs. These are community vocational centres operating at the present time in 12 communities within my constituency. One of the attractive features of the CVC program is that there is a great deal of community input in these programs. The community is involved in the school and in helping in the running of the school and setting the curriculum. It's extremely important to the people of our area.

The vocational centre at Grouard is a definite asset to all the people because of the technical age in which we live and the upgrading and training required. It's going on, and it is heavily used.

Another attendant difficulty resulting from our change in ways and our industrialization is the free time people have and the change in life styles. One of the most effective ways of filling that gap and providing help for people who have difficulty in adjusting to changing times is in the field of recreation. I'm pleased with the formation of the department, and that there will be attention given to the recreational needs of the people in our area. The capital grant program is extremely attractive, because there is a need for programs and facilities.

In the matter of transportation, it goes without saying that roads are very important. I'm pleased, in the formation of the new ministry, that highways and transport are combined with air travel and airports. It's so important to the isolated communities in the northern points. The people of these isolated areas deserve a type of transportation convenience similar to that of people in Edmonton, Calgary, and the heavily populated centres.

Decentralization, as I mentioned earlier, and the emphasis on rural growth is, I think, extremely important and far-looking by this government. A lot of people have said it couldn't be done, but I'm pleased I'm able to say that I've been watching it happen within our own constituency. It's a combination of investors, free enterprisers, working with local communities and government in seeing that this sort of development takes place.

As I mentioned before, industrialization, change, and social change naturally go hand in hand. But I think probably the key thing in my mind, and I think my constituents would agree, Mr. Speaker, is that we must at all times ensure that there is local input, that the people in the communities have a say in what is happening. I could give you, and would like to give the members of the Assembly, an excellent example of the kind of local initiative I think we can all be proud of. In our area is functioning an organization known as the Treaty Regional Council, made up of 11 Indian bands, 7 of which are in my constituency. This group of men, their chiefs, and their councils have been working very hard. They have developed business enterprises on their own initiative. They have joined with other companies in developing and making jobs available for their people. I think this is an example of the kind of local initiative we'd like to see throughout the province.

There is more that can be done in this area, and probably it could be pursued by following the lead of the Treaty Regional Council and giving support to the establishment of a Metis regional council to pursue the same sort of objectives.

I'd like to repeat that I feel the important thing for the government to remember at all times is to encourage and foster local initiative, local involvement, and local autonomy. In reviewing this last item, I'm pleased the government has seen fit to name a minister responsible for native affairs. It will certainly help in the co-ordination of the activities of the North and of those constituencies which have attendant problems.

One of the problems could best be stated by comparing some statistics. The average provincial income per person per year is \$7,216. The average income in the Lesser Slave Lake constituency is \$2,878 per person. So the people in our constituency welcome the initiatives of this government in pursuing a program of decentralization and helping develop the rural areas.

The potential in the area is really huge. It's even mind boggling with the recent growth of the forest resources industry in that area. The boom many of you are aware of in one of the towns in my constituency, Slave Lake, is a result of the development of the forest industry. The potential in agriculture is in pursuing the stated policy of the government, in assuring manufacture or refining of agricultural products in Alberta.

The fishing industry is an area I'd like to touch on. The lake I mentioned, which centres our constituency, has great potential. In addition to this lake, there are several other northern lakes which produce the finest whitefish in Canada. I would like to see efforts made towards the processing of our own products, fishing as well as agricultural products. Tourism: with the history of our area, the Klondike Trail of '98, the lake, the wilderness areas, the tourist industry can do nothing but flourish.

One of our concerns is Lesser Slave Lake, which occasionally and periodically floods, causing serious damage to farmland, to reserve land. It takes agricultural land out of production and has an effect on the spawning of fish. It would certainly help the tourist industry if efforts were made towards stabilizing the level of this great lake, the largest in Alberta.

I'd like to touch briefly on some of the benefits that could and will accrue to the people of the North, and in particular to my constituency, Lesser Slave Lake, Mr. Speaker. The recent signing of the Alberta north agreement is of particular interest to us because in it is articulated the planning with the federal government in areas of drinking water supplies for isolated communities, roads to isolated settlements, airports and airstrips, electric power for communities which don't have it, land tenure problems that I know the government is actively working on right at this very moment, and finally, economic development. This agreement is an important document and will, I'm sure, over the next several years, mean a great deal to the welfare and well-being of the people of the North.

Another area I'd like to touch on, Mr. Speaker, is the area of health care. I'm pleased that the areas of health and social development have been redefined into Social Services and Community Health, and Hospitals and Medical Care. This is an area of deep concern in our part of Alberta, and as an example of the kinds of things that can be done is the Preventive Social Services program which has been extremely beneficial in serving

the needs of the people and in getting community involvement. That's the thing that you've noticed I've repeated throughout, and I think it's so very, very important that the people be brought in to what is happening. And I'm pleased that this is the way it is happening.

I've mentioned briefly the Town of Slave Lake with its growth and rapid boom. At the other end of the lake, the west end, is the Town of High Prairie which is my home. These two towns enjoy a friendly rivalry, somewhat similar to Edmonton and Calgary, and sometimes it isn't too friendly. But I'm pleased to be able to work on behalf of all the people within the constituency and draw to the attention of this Assembly some of their needs, some of their wishes, and some of their aspirations. As a result of the pressures of growth, they do have growing pains. We look forward to working with the government and helping these towns grow in order to support their areas around them.

I think government is needed, particularly in the North, and I've mentioned that the Alberta north agreement is an excellent example of the kind of government input that can be useful and helpful to the people. But there is a concern among people, and that is the growing bureaucracy, the kind of thing where they're afraid that decisions affecting them are made in ivory towers. I'm sure the people throughout the province, particularly in our constituency, Mr. Speaker, are pleased that the government is pursuing this policy of decentralization and getting a maximum input from the people where they live.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to working with this Assembly on behalf of my constituents, and I hope and trust I'll be able to make a contribution on their behalf.

[applause]

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I feel very privileged and honored, as the representative of the constituents of Calgary Bow, to address this esteemed Assembly. Since my predecessor was an active opposition member and worked very hard, my constituents are expecting active participation from their new representative. Thus, it is a pleasure to be among the first few new members to speak. I too, Mr. Speaker, offer my congratulations to my colleagues for their eloquent deliveries when moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mix a description of the Calgary Bow constituency with an outline of some of the concerns and problems of my constituents. While doing this, I will also comment on topics as they relate to the throne speech.

Calgary Bow is situated in northwest Calgary, adjacent to the Bow River, and includes the communities of Bowness, Montgomery, Parkdale, West Hillhurst, and Hillhurst. The Foothills Hospital, the Foothills nurses residence, and a portion of the University of Calgary married quarters lie inside the northern boundary of my constituency.

A sociologist may describe the 18,000-voter, 5,400-household constituency as a middle-to low middle-class area. The occupations of a cross section of the residents would include: carpenters, caretakers, mechanics, store clerks, electricians, teachers, nurses, plumbers, construction workers, hairdressers, waitresses, and salesmen. There are some 200 small businesses as well as several legal and medical practices.

Using 1971 census figures, Mr. Speaker, the estimated mean household head income was \$6,400 per year, as compared with an estimated city mean of \$7,100 per year. As you might expect from this description, my constituents are concerned with such things as rising food costs, rental or mortgage payments, property taxes, their own and their children's financial future.

Since the communities in Calgary Bow are among the older communities in Calgary, there is a large senior citizen population, the largest concentration of which is in West Hillhurst where nearly 20 per cent of the residents are age 65 or over.

By and large, our senior citizens are pleased with the programs their government has initiated over the past four years. Nevertheless, there still are some concerns related to pensions and housing. Mr. Speaker, the concern most often brought to my attention is the situation where a couple has an income consisting of the single pension of one of them. These couples feel that either they both should get a pension when one of them reaches pensionable age, or the provincial and federal supplements should reflect their needs more realistically. It is true that some of these senior citizens could apply for social assistance, but as you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens are a very proud group and have lived with the view that you try to earn your own way in this world. The pension is a right they have earned. They feel that any added moneys to a pension, that would realistically take their dependent spouse into account, is their due. However, to have to go to the social services office and apply for assistance is a degrading experience for them. They do not want to be on welfare. Certainly, the Alberta assured income plan and other senior citizen programs in the Speech from the Throne will be welcomed and will be of great assistance to many of our senior citizens, but they only partially solve the problem just outlined.

With respect to senior citizen accommodation, Mr. Speaker, Calgary Bow has currently two private nursing homes and a small senior citizen housing complex. Our government and the City of Calgary have recently taken steps leading to construction, or hopefully to construction, of a 65-bed senior citizens lodge on the St. Bernard School site in the Montgomery community. In addition, St. Bernard School may be converted into 20 senior citizen units. Adjacent to this site, the community is working on a creative playground as a centennial project. Here we will have senior citizens and children adjacent to each other, and this provides an excellent opportunity for interested senior citizens to be involved with co-ordinating and supervising playground activities. I think that we have, with the Montgomery complex, Mr. Speaker, an excellent example of the community use that

can be made of school facilities which have had to be closed as a result of declining student enrollments.

Mr. Speaker, generally our retired citizens want to remain in their own communities in order to be near longtime friends and associates. When they are no longer able to care for their homes, or do not want to take care of their homes, they want to live in senior citizen accommodation available within their own communities. Mr. Speaker, my constituents view the Montgomery project as just the beginning for senior citizen accommodation in Calgary Bow, considering the lack of such accommodation in the other communities of the riding.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands pointed out earlier in the debate that senior citizens do want to be involved in the determination and planning of their futures. On May 9 I had the privilege of attending a banquet at the annual convention of the Alberta Council on Aging. This representative group of the aged should be commended for its commitment of encouraging the participation of older people in all aspects of community life. It behooves us to create a climate of understanding and recognition for the ability of senior citizens to contribute to the life of our society. Certainly the launching of the senior citizens community services program will provide opportunities for our senior citizens to get involved.

Mr. Speaker, urban growth, with its many associated problems including annexation, housing, transportation corridors, and property taxation is, as we are all aware, an extremely complex area that needs attention by our governments. Of course, the problem of urban growth is but a part of a larger problem of land use in Alberta. My constituents look forward to the upcoming recommendations of the Land Use Forum and, on the basis of these recommendations, anticipate our government providing guidelines for the future growth of our cities. Any growth plans arising from the guidelines, however, must be subject to the needs and concerns of individual communities. Our communities must be allowed to retain their unique characteristics where residents can determine the course of their development within the framework of the growth plans. At the moment, the residents of Calgary Bow are worried about the resulting effects on their community if the proposed annexation of 2,400 acres of land in the northwest portion of the city is approved. The Trans-Canada Highway and the CPR line, the Shaganappi, Crowchild and Bow Trails are transportation routes presently cutting through the constituency. We fear the possibility of further corridors such as the proposed Sarcee Trail which would bisect the community of Bowness.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a few moments ago that Calgary Bow contains some of the older communities of Calgary. As such, many of the homes need improvements and repair. Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens were pleased with the announcement by the Premier, several months ago, of a fund to be established for senior citizens home improvement grants. This is fine for our older constituents. But what can be done to entice our younger families to buy and improve these homes? Two major problems facing our young people with respect to buying their own housing are, of course, the high land prices and increasing building costs. Incentives are necessary to overcome these problems and to encourage our young people to settle or remain in our older communities. Possibly, Mr. Speaker, if the previously proposed \$200 million mortgage fund for starter homes would also apply to the purchase of homes in our older communities, we may have an excellent approach toward having many of our older homes upgraded and improved.

Mr. Speaker, I have just commented upon several areas of concern related to city growth. We face a tremendous challenge in Alberta today in striving to solve these urban problems and others such as municipal financing, increasing juvenile delinquency, increasing traffic accident rates, and environmental problems. As a member of this government and with the leadership of our Premier, I am very happy to have the opportunity to be involved with this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne stated that the previously outlined improvements in basic education will be carried out by our government. These should be welcomed by parents and educators alike. As well, the restructured Department of Advanced Education and Manpower should be lauded by our vocational centres and technical schools, and by the community colleges whose primary focus is directed toward career programs. The predicted manpower needs of the future in Alberta would suggest the continued importance of these institutions with respect to training highly skilled individuals in the career-oriented areas. It would be my hope, however, that we have some form of balance in our educational system between training people for jobs and educating people so they will be able to cope with the changing and uncertain world.

In his address, the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands referred to Mr. Alvin Toffler. Mr. Toffler, in his book entitled Future Shock, relates expected behavior problems of individuals in our society, which will result from the constant changes taking place. These stress problems are apparent today with the increasing incidence of mental disorder. Thus, Mr. Speaker, the appropriateness of the establishment of a mental health research fund as a priority for our government.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to educating for change, there are those who agree with Bertrand Russell, the noted British mathematician and philosopher. Lord Russell felt that education is, as a whole, the strongest force on the side of what exists, and against fundamental change. Even though we may tend to agree with Russell and believe that educators have never come to grips with what education should be, I believe our educational system needs to be geared towards helping people progress toward their own goals of self-fulfilment. Included in this is a view to support research in our universities and colleges for the improvement of the quality of learning, to support well-

planned programs for early childhood education, continuing educational opportunities for adults, and specialized programs for the handicapped and the gifted. Often our gifted are handicapped by the educational programs. In our future plans regarding the formation of the Alberta heritage savings trust fund, we cannot overlook the challenge to provide for future generations the best educational opportunities possible.

As I was leaving for Edmonton the other day, Mr. Speaker, my two eldest daughters, who are 17 and 15, reminded me that 1975 is International Women's Year. They suggested that I should not pass up this opportunity to pledge my support to the removal of sexual inequities as they exist in our society today. Alberta has a history, an excellent history, with respect to championing women's rights and individual rights. My hope is that we shall continue in this direction. To this end the initiatives to be announced regarding matrimonial property will be most welcome.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. members for their attention. I'm looking forward to a fruitful session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[applause]

MR. TESOLIN: Mr. Speaker, to be elected for the first time as a representative of the people of the Lac La Biche-McMurray constituency, to this 18th Legislature of the Province of Alberta, is a special privilege.

To hear His Honor, Ralph G. Steinhauer, open this session was of particular interest to me, for he has been a longtime friend of the family. His sister, now retired from teaching, still lives in Lac La Biche.

It is of added interest for me to be sitting in the building that my grandfather, who was then a recent immigrant from Italy, helped construct.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency I represent has changed from where's that at, to where it's at. From Alberta's northern border to Briereville -- where's Briereville? Well, that's where I was born. From the Saskatchewan border to Highway 63, the Lac La Biche-McMurray constituency is some 400 miles long, and 4,000 square miles in area. It's not an easy area to represent, but it is one of the most exciting places to be in North America today.

Northeastern Alberta is rich in Alberta history. Peter Pond, Simon Fraser, Peter Fidler, and David Thompson are but four names that denote the importance that my constituency's natural waterways played in the early fur trading routes. The settlements that followed claimed two interesting statistics: first of all, Alberta's oldest permanent settlement, established in 1788 at Fort Chipewyan; and Alberta's first wheat, grown by missionaries at the Lac La Biche mission in 1855. Much of the tradition of northern hospitality has been revitalized in the Lac La Biche Pow Wow and Fish Derby, and the Fort McMurray Blueberry Festival.

My expectations, as a novice to this Legislature, are twofold: first, as a newly elected MLA, I bring to my new role the ambitions I expect are common to first timers, principally the desire to solve most of the problems and fulfil many of the needs of my constituents. However, the necessity of establishing priorities brings me to the realization that not all of my area's needs can be rated number one. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, my constituency has been represented on the opposition side of this Legislature for 17 of the past 20 years. It is my expectation and intention to work hard for improved representation from the province's largest riding.

The synthetic crude oil resources of the Athabasca tar sands have given Fort McMurray and its development worldwide attention. This estimated 600 billion barrel reserve will become increasingly important to the needs of an energy-starved world. Through this, Alberta has the opportunity to exercise leadership of international proportion.

Mr. Speaker, the problems are many. Our growth is mind boggling. I wish, first, to speak to the development of the tar sands itself. I am pleased that it is the government's intention to develop a broader economic base, utilizing the synthetic crude for the planned energy corridor developments. My constituents are also pleased with the government's efforts in shortening the time line for paving Highway 63, and in constructing a second bridge to span the Athabasca River. One problem that may continue to be of concern is the manpower shortage, particularly of skilled workers needed to build and operate tar sand plants, as well as the municipal centres and support services. Advanced Education and Manpower is to be complimented for the training programs it offers at Keyano College in Fort McMurray, and at the Alberta Vocational Centre in Lac La Biche. But it will be important to maintain recruitment programs that will inform and attract young Albertans to the many vocations that await them. In meeting environmental concerns, my constituents will seek assured guidance from the government with special consideration for the Athabasca River.

In addition, I wish to compliment the labor unions for hiring northern Albertans. It is my concern that tar sands development offer opportunities first for Albertans, and secondly for Canadians, before alternate sources are considered. A special interest is the McMurray Independent Oil Workers Union, an all-Canadian independent union established in 1967. This union is democratically controlled by an elected board of directors.

Secondly, I wish to speak of the growth problems of Fort McMurray itself. In order to keep pace with the tar sands development, the municipal problems of providing services to the people of the community are serious. Housing, schools, hospital space, recreational facilities, and housing for senior citizens continue to be in short supply. I wish to recognize the significant contributions already made by government towards housing and urban development, but much remains to be done. Continued cabinet assistance will be

required in giving municipal officials the strong leadership needed to meet the needs at hand.

The importance of the problems of Fort McMurray point to the need for Alberta, and indeed the nation, to examine the necessity of planned economic growth and the effects on the quality of life of our people. Ball diamonds, nature trails, hockey arenas, municipal parks, curling rinks, music societies, further education courses: these are all essential to produce a happy family. For it is the happy family that works for the community rather than just in the community. This kind of consideration is especially true for Fort McMurray since such a large number of people live in mobile homes. A sense of permanence for the mobile home-owner must come true.

Moving north to Fort Chip, our government must pay special attention to construction of an all-weather road, so the citizens of this picturesque community will have highway communication to other parts of Alberta. Also, and very important, our water and sewage installation is a most necessary priority. The problems in doing this are extensive, but we must find ways and means to complete such a system so these people, too, may enjoy a better quality of life.

The other major population base of my constituency is centred around Lac La Biche. The communities of Plamondon, Kikino, Rich Lake, Hyle, Venice, Craigend, Wandering River, Caslan, and Atmore are primarily supported by those who formed the backbone of Alberta's agricultural industry, the family farmer. With the impending developments of the energy corridor, the market potential for agricultural products to the corridor area and Fort McMurray looks very promising. It is my expectation that the government will work closely with farm organizations to assist with research into new products and methods, production volumes, and market stability.

Besides agriculture, the Lac La Biche region offers great recreational potential to my constituents and to all Albertans. Having 50 well-stocked fishing lakes within a 25-mile radius has prompted community leaders to call this area "land of the lakes". To see this region developed further for recreational use is compatible with the recommendations of the Stewart Weir corridor study relevant to the energy corridor studies, and has been acknowledged by government officials when meeting with community municipal officials in the fall of '74.

Consistent with these findings, and with this government's policy of decentralization, is the recently announced provincial parks workshop to be located at Lac La Biche. In keeping with the development of the area for recreational purposes, I will be asking that the government, through Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, do a study on the growth cycles of natural fish species to ascertain the need for a fish hatchery to maintain the long-range needs of both the sport and commercial fisherman.

I am also pleased that Transportation has endorsed the woods and water scenic route as an east-west artery, designed to span the western provinces' northern areas. I look forward to the construction and upgrading of Alberta's portion.

The reopening of the Alberta Vocational Centre in Lac La Biche under Advanced Education and Manpower has given a boost to the local economy, but more importantly, has greatly increased the learning opportunities for many Albertans living in northeastern Alberta.

My constituents appreciate the assistance received from Industry and Commerce in establishing an economic development program, designed to assist those in the Lac La Biche region to develop and attract primary and secondary industry in the area. Although only nine months old, the program is already producing some positive results. The ultimate success will hopefully create meaningful employment for my constituency's unemployed and underemployed.

Reference in the throne speech to the government's increased recognition of the concerns and needs of native people is most heartening, and I am pleased that the Hon. Bob Bogle has already seen fit to visit my constituency. Isolated communities, such as Fort Chip, Chip Lakes, Janvier, and Conklin have special problems that are not easily solved in other portfolios. For example, the land tenure rights in Anzac and other communities need solutions. Government assistance to the new dawn housing operation should prove most effective in helping this industry get off the ground. Certainly, new dawn will have a role to play in alleviating the serious housing problems of the province and this constituency.

Mr. Speaker, as an educator by profession, I wish to express my hope that professionalism among teachers will be allowed, fostered, and nourished. Teachers must be given a vital role in formulating policy and in developing programs. Mr. Speaker, this is a necessity if we are to have greater classroom initiative. Direction is most necessary, but we require continual input by what one may call, the field staff. Let's not allow the education of our youth to become lost in a bureaucratic jungle at all levels of government. Early Childhood Services have been a blessing, and much can be done in this area, especially in rectifying readiness deficiencies.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming four years of office I have four major areas of concern for which I seek government policy, legislation, or action. First and foremost, I feel all Albertans must develop renewed respect for the law and courts of the land. I wish to compliment the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the fine work they have done in communities in the north. Their continuous sincere labors are too often not recognized and little appreciated. Their job is often thankless, when they arrest and then re-arrest the same offenders because our system has no real solution on rehabilitation, in particular of the young offender. Additionally, methods must be devised to protect the larger society from the leniency of some courts with what I consider misplaced sympathy.



Secondly, I am committed to the government's approach to a planned, balanced economy, but one that considers the quality of life for this province's people. The heritage trust fund is but one example of this government's dedication to the cause. Since much of our Treasury's additional revenues will be coming from the resources of my constituency, I wish to propose that this government consider establishing a brain trust of the world's top thinkers to be attached to some university, to recommend to governments at all levels policies to help solve existing and emergent problems.

Thirdly, provision of housing, hospital, and education facilities in Fort McMurray has to keep pace with the economic development of the tar sands.

Fourthly, I will work for the upgrading of my constituency's road system and particularly the paving of Highway 36. Betterment of the road system for the agricultural communities is a necessity if we are to better the quality of life for our family farmers. Recreation facilities are being centralized in the service communities, and rightly so, because this makes for better facilities. However, the lines of communication to these centres are in need of improvement.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, and from my constituents, I would like to extend an invitation to all the hon. members of this Legislature to partake of the beauty and splendor of northeastern Alberta. Sharing the hospitality of such events as the Fort McMurray Blueberry Festival and the Lac La Biche Pow Wow and Fish Derby are experiences one will long remember.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[applause]

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Speaker, it's indeed an honor and a privilege today to speak on behalf of the people of Calgary McCall. From a point of view of population, Calgary McCall is the largest constituency in the province. It's certainly one of the fastest growing and, I would say, one of the most challenging constituencies in this province.

Before I go any farther, may I pay tribute to the countless young, and others not so young, men and women, who made this moment possible, the men and women who formed the campaign team. The 39 days I spent with this dedicated group is an experience that can never be duplicated. Mere words can never adequately express my feelings of deep gratitude to them. I would also like to thank the people of Calgary McCall who, by their vote of confidence in the PC party and myself personally, have simultaneously granted a mandate and issued a challenge. This challenge is one that I will strive to meet head-on. And I must not forget my wife, Vi, who walked with me in fair weather and foul, knocking on thousands of doors. At the end of the campaign I had the feeling that many of the constituents were disappointed that my wife was not the candidate.

If you will permit me a moment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell of one of the more interesting situations that took place on the campaign trail. One afternoon it was about 20 below, which is rather unusual in Calgary. I was knocking on doors. I came up to this door, and here's a lady with two bags of groceries. I present my card and tell her something about the party. And she said, I want no part of your politics. She said, my husband has dropped me off at the door, left me without keys; if you can think of a way of getting me into this house I'll be listening. Now while she's talking, out with the credit card, slipped the lock, opened the door, and . . . I had to . . .

DR. BUCK: Was that a case of, it takes a thief to catch a thief?

MR. LITTLE: No, Dr. Buck. I had to quickly explain to her that I was not a retired burglar but a retired policeman.

When I state that Calgary McCall is one of the most interesting constituencies in the province, I must explain. It is at the same time the oldest, yet the youngest. The most westerly boundary of that constituency is formed by the confluence of the Bow and the Elbow Rivers, the point where a hundred years ago Inspector Briscoe of the North West Mounted Police constructed the fort that was later to form the nucleus of Calgary; while in the northeast section of the constituency we find the newest, and yet the fastest growing, section of the city. Within the boundaries of the constituency is Calgary International Airport, McCall Field, so named after Captain Freddy McCall, who was Calgary's air ace of the first war. The road that leads to the airport from the downtown area is called McKnight Boulevard in honor of Flying Officer Willie McKnight, Calgary's air ace of the second war and a school chum of mine.

Calgary McCall is a vibrant, fast growing and cosmopolitan constituency. Over 10,000 voters were added to the lists since the 1971 election, and I hesitate to estimate the number for '79. Several of the communities which make up this large constituency were originally separate towns, and some of the residents did not favor annexation. Even today, they feel themselves isolated and neglected. I hope to convince them that they are not neglected, and to this end I recently organized the constituency into six separate zones, with a representative in each zone who is well known and highly respected in the constituency. While the House is in session, these six volunteers are answering the constituency concerns, in many cases solving them themselves. Where they consider it necessary, they convey these concerns to me. In fact I have already had two this week.

As you can well appreciate, Mr. Speaker, a constituency with a background which I have described has many needs and concerns, which they hope will find a sympathetic ear in the person of their new MLA.

Certain areas of this constituency, in particular the older section, have large concentrations of senior citizens, many of whom have lived a lifetime in one house, have



raised successful families, and in many other ways have contributed significantly to the development of our city. It is only right that these people live out the balance of their lives in a climate of dignity, security, and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I was most happy to hear the Lieutenant-Governor announce that substantial benefits for senior citizens may be expected in the forthcoming budget. In particular, the older residents of the established districts look forward to the homeowner grants. Senior citizens and minority groups not infrequently become victims of the system because they don't know the rules. This situation offers a most challenging yet satisfying opportunity for their member of the Legislature to be of considerable service. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I would say that constituency service would seem to be the top priority item in this particular constituency.

I was also most gratified to hear the new portfolio under the hon. Dr. Horner is to include expanded terms of reference to encompass all facets of transportation. Calgary McCall is in a rather unique geographic area, bounded on the west by both the Nose Creek valley and the CPR tracks. As a result, they have a feeling of separation from the rest of Calgary. Three overpasses connect the constituency with the main part of the city, namely the Trans-Canada Highway, Memorial Drive, and 17th Avenue South, all of which are badly choked at rush hours. I can give you very direct evidence as to this concentration of traffic, because I was waving at cars at all these intersections both early in the morning and in the evening. I find that even Crest doesn't scrape the road grime off your front teeth.

I believe it is possible, Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances which I describe, that the automobile does not provide the best means of mass transportation, and I sincerely hope that the minister will give due consideration to the alternatives.

We must also address ourselves, Mr. Speaker, at the earliest possible opportunity, to the extension of the Deerfoot Trail south of 17th Avenue, with regard to the best interests of the constituency and the best interests of the city at large. The present abrupt ending at 17th Avenue South has merely transferred the problems we formerly had at the Trans-Canada Highway, down to 17th Avenue, and has presented many new problems in that area. The Deerfoot Trail, and in particular the intersection of the Deerfoot Trail with Memorial Drive, became one of the major issues in that constituency during the election.

Many dedicated people in this constituency give freely of their time and their skills to develop programs for youth. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that you will agree this is a most worthy cause. We cannot put a dollar value on these programs. What is it worth to point one young person towards good citizenship and success rather than towards brushes with the law? Any investment made for the advancement of youth must be applauded. Grants already arranged by the Minister of Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife have been gratefully received and faithfully applied in this constituency.

Many people in my constituency could also be directly affected by the provisions of the Workers' Compensation regulations. Indeed, four of the six victims in the recent tragedy at the CIL plant in Calgary lived within Calgary McCall. I also know from personal experience that there is a real need for more attention to industrial safety. Very frequently, victims of industrial accidents are young men with young families. I'm sure that many of the people of this constituency look forward with great anticipation to the implementation of the recommendations in the report on Industrial Health and Safety.

As I mentioned in the introduction, Mr. Speaker, Calgary McCall contains the fastest growing area in Calgary, so any assistance in housing must be welcomed. Young couples who have spent several years accumulating a down payment for a house have found to their dismay that inflation has eaten away the buying power of the dollar, and their dream of a home of their own is once more out of reach. This group eagerly looks forward to the new incentives of the Housing and Public Works Department.

The most frequent questions addressed to me while I was knocking door to door, concerned justice and law enforcement. From talking to the constituents and many others, I sense that the citizens of this province are feeling less secure than they once did, that their faith in the criminal justice system has been eroded, and that they have lost a great deal of respect for their law enforcement institutions. Mr. Speaker, I would recommend that we not ignore these danger signals.

The final concern to which I would draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, is the plight of the mobile home dweller. There is a total of five mobile home parks in my constituency. At least one of these has recently been the focus of a great deal of attention because of excessive rents, an unreasonable entry fee, and evictions without cause. I firmly believe that the only viable solution to these unfortunate persons' problems is the opening of sufficient facilities to create competition. However, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime it might be useful to review legislation pertaining to mobile home dwellers and to determine whether amendments to the present legislation could provide at least temporary relief.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Calgary McCall, as I am proud to be part of a free enterprise government with a social conscience, a government concerned not only with the security and life style of its citizens, but also with its economic welfare. In order to support the social programs which are so necessary, we must maintain and nurture a buoyant economy. Quoting from the speech of the Lieutenant-Governor: "Although North American and world economic indicators give cause for concern, the economy of our province has continued to remain generally strong".

This is quite true, but we cannot remain complacent. No man is an island. If this deep recession or depression -- and incidentally if you don't know the definition of a recession or a depression, I understand that any unemployment that exceeds 10 per cent can be considered a depression. The more popular one I'm sure most of you have heard: if your

next door neighbor is out of work, that's a recession; if you're out of work, that's a depression. If this deep recession or depression continues to plague North America and continues to escalate in the manner it has over the last several months, we in Alberta cannot possibly escape its consequences.

Many of the gray-haired and the hairless in this Assembly remember all too vividly the tragedy and the heartbreak of the thirties. And we're all aware of the remarks of the federal Minister of Finance who recently expressed great concern for the economic future of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the government for the provisions of the heritage trust fund which will hopefully help to maintain the high quality of life style which we now enjoy, for our children, our grandchildren and many succeeding generations. I feel certain that sometime in the future succeeding generations will approve our foresight.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[applause]

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely proud and honored with the opportunity of representing the constituency of Lethbridge West in this Legislature. Lethbridge is the third largest city in our province and has done much in the past three-quarters of a century in contributing to the tremendous growth of Alberta. Lethbridge was represented for 25 years by a member of the Social Credit Party. When he left to retirement in 1971, he made the remark, and I quote, that it would take two men to replace him, one for Lethbridge West, and one for Lethbridge East. For those members who can remember John Landeryou, Mr. Speaker, it was certainly a truism, because that was about the size and stature of that gentleman in physical proportions. I share the responsibility, and it's an honor to share it with the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, in representing the City of Lethbridge.

The hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest, in his address the other day, made reference to a highway which shall remain nameless, except that it lies somewhere between the digits 2 and 4. He neglected to say, in mentioning the highway running from Hope to Hell, or Hope to Hades, that it passed through the irrigation capital of Canada.

Lethbridge is unique in other ways, Mr. Speaker. Not only is it the third largest city in Alberta, it has the third largest university, notwithstanding the fact there are only three universities in the province. The U of L offers an exciting program in higher education, plus alternatives to both Calgary and Edmonton. Its people are unique, not only because most of them come from the Province of Saskatchewan, but because they represent a true ethnic background. Undoubtedly, the largest single group of Japanese people outside of Vancouver are resident in the Lethbridge area, as well as a strong ethnic group that came primarily as a result of coal mining and other mining in the area.

Lethbridge West has a tremendous number of pioneers, Mr. Speaker. Over 25 per cent of the constituents are senior citizens, and they are people to whom work never was a dirty four-letter word, but who spent their lifetimes raising their families, building their communities, and arriving at a position in life today where, I believe, surely they are entitled to some benefits for that working lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, they say times are changing, and that term sounds mundane. Not only are times changing, Mr. Speaker, but the rate of change is increasing very rapidly. I learned the other day, for example, that a youngster at the age of 6, upon entering school, spent more hours watching television than that youngster will spend in the full 12 years of instruction and formal schooling. Governments must not only respond to these changes, Mr. Speaker, they must anticipate them. They must act and not react. And I suggest that this government has done more acting than reacting in the past four years.

In this view, Mr. Speaker, I should like to mention the role government must share with the private sector. Traditionally, government has been the silent partner with business. The only time it's noisy is at tax time, and it's always been quite prepared to share the profits, without the risk. But times have changed, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest that just as surely as it takes two to fight, or two to love, or two to hate, it's going to take two in the future -- government and business -- to get the best results for all Albertans in Alberta.

The government, I believe, has taken some very positive steps in that direction. Although I was not a member of the government at the time, and I tended to disagree in principle with the purchase of PWA, somewhat facetiously referred to as the Premier's World Airline, and other times . . .

DR. BUCK: Please Wait Awhile.

MR. GOGO: Peter's World Airways.

DR. BUCK: Peter's Western Airline.

MR. GOGO: Although I would suggest to you members who know the Deputy Premier, not to lightly disregard the term "world".

I opposed the acquisition on the principle that the private enterprise system and the private sector could probably do a better job in the interests of the people than the government could. However, I heard the arguments pro and con, and the reasons given by the Premier, and I'm convinced at this point that the Government of Alberta made an extremely wise move in acquiring the air line, if you view it in the larger context.

It's been said, Mr. Speaker, that Alberta is really an island surrounded by land . . .

DR. BUCK: Did you write his speech, Hugh?

MR. GCGC: . . . that in effect, it is landlocked. Surely in this day and age, Mr. Speaker, we in Alberta must be responsible in some measure for our own means of transportation, and not at the mercy of a transportation system in which the authority to run that system is 2,000 miles distant.

DR. BUCK: It's in Vancouver.

MR. R. SPEAKER: That's 1,000.

MR. GCGC: Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago I mentioned changing times and the rate of change. This causes me, for a moment, to reflect upon the resources of Alberta, depleting both in terms of what's under the ground, and the agricultural resources above the ground. Sometimes in the short term we get extremely hung up on looking at short-term goals, and forget about the proud history of this province, Mr. Speaker. The basis of this province, the lifeblood of this province, and I suggest the future of this province in the long term is going to remain its agricultural base.

So much has been said about natural resources of the depleting type that I feel I would like to make a few comments about those resources. Although I'm no expert on the constitution, about all I know about it is that the constitution in effect is the BNA Act, it seems to me very clearly laid out that the ownership of natural resources is the responsibility of the province. Now, I don't know who put those resources in the ground, Mr. Speaker. I suggest there may be a few members in this House who don't know either. Only the Lord knows for sure. However, I suspect very strongly there are a few in the House, Mr. Speaker, who may lay claim to prior knowledge. But of this I am sure: the policies announced and acted upon by the Premier of this province point out very clearly that the time has arrived when Alberta must -- I repeat, must -- get fair share for the resources it sells to the rest of the world.

In the interest of time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on a few points mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. First and foremost is the significance of the Alberta assured income plan which would allow senior citizens -- the real pioneers who have raised their families, perhaps paid off a mortgage, certainly served their province well, tucked away a few dollars either in debt securities or other forms of bonded investments, have discovered that no longer can they live in dignity by clipping a couple of coupons. I believe, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, they are too useful to our country and too valuable to society to be forgotten. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the present government has taken the correct move in the assured income plan to provide these senior citizens with sufficient dollars to live out their golden years in dignity.

Another major point, Mr. Speaker, has been the major reduction in personal income tax for our citizens. I think this is important and significant for two reasons. First, Alberta at this time -- and I repeat, at this time, not for all time perhaps, but at this time -- can afford it. Secondly, the Government of Alberta and the citizens of Alberta have really no control over the daily products they consume in getting through life, whether it be a tin of soup from Oakville, Ontario or other materials purchased outside Alberta and shipped in. The residents of Alberta have very little control over increased costs in production, shipping, or the ravages of inflation, that are somehow attached to them.

The only way the Government of Alberta can assist these people, I believe, and I agree with the government, is the reduction of the personal provincial income tax. This way, Mr. Speaker, allows those Albertans who need it, the lower-income people in particular, to have a few more dollars left in their pockets to offset the increased costs of living.

Also, Mr. Speaker, an area that I feel extremely concerned about, not only in my constituency of Lethbridge West, not only in the Province of Alberta, but indeed in all of Canada, is housing. The Government of Alberta, I believe, has recognized the importance of housing in establishing a Minister and a Department of Housing. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that if we, as Albertans and Canadians, can accept the principle and the philosophy of the family unit as the backbone of society, then we must ensure, indeed guarantee if necessary, that adequate housing is made available for our citizens.

It seems a little odd to me that in less than five years, Mr. Speaker, we've seen a little plot of land called a lot, escalate from 5 to 10 per cent of the total package of a housing unit to up to 50 per cent in many parts of our province, not to mention the ever increasing cost of the actual construction. This indicates to me, Mr. Speaker, that there must be some provisions made by this government, and I believe they're long overdue. I'm extremely gratified that the government is taking action by creating a new ministry.

We come now, Mr. Speaker, to an area that has become increasingly important in the last year or two in Alberta. That is the area of transportation. There is no sense, in my opinion, and perhaps in the opinion of other members, in diversifying our industry in Alberta, through the millions we spend in irrigation, to produce something if we're going to have difficulty getting it to market. Mr. Speaker, half the world needs food, and Alberta can certainly do its share to provide it. But we must get it to the consumer. Too often the producer of food has been at the mercy of perhaps up to a dozen unions between him and his consumer, via a rail system or other delivery system. Something must

be done, and I believe we'll look to the new Minister of Transportation for the alternatives, Mr. Speaker.

We in Alberta are faced with many types of problems. We have seen the acceleration, here in the province, of rail line abandonment. We have seen that communities, particularly in southern Alberta, have no public transportation of any kind. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this government must, in addition to providing transportation for the products we produce for other people to buy, pay attention to some of the problems of transportation within our province.

I'm obviously not qualified to talk about the highway system, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to make a comment about a certain highway in the southern part of the province, of which mention has already been made. I would suggest, perhaps in the next cabinet tour, Mr. Speaker, that members of cabinet find a suitable vehicle, and ride over that highway.

Briefly, Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes remaining, I should like to mention what I think turned out to be most effective, in terms of getting elected, and most important in terms of interest in the election: the proposed Alberta heritage savings trust fund. Some people seem to find the concept of the heritage trust fund difficult to conceive. I don't find it difficult, and I would like to explain it this way, Mr. Speaker, as an analogy. If a couple reaching their golden years have decided to sell their home and use the income from that home, by a wise investment, to produce income by which they could have rent, they could live out their days and on their passing, leave the capital to the youngsters. The alternative to that, Mr. Speaker, is that they could sell their home, blow the money, and end up having to lean on the public purse for assistance. I think they have two choices, and I think we have two choices, Mr. Speaker. One, we can go on a heavy spending binge now and spend all the money in this fund, or we can consider our children and their children and invest it wisely.

DR. BUCK: You haven't looked at the budget.

MR. GOGO: It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that everyone wants to eat at the government table, but very few want to do the dishes.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I believe we have seen where government and private enterprise can function in a most meaningful manner in the interests of all Albertans. It would appear to me that we, as representatives of the people in our respective constituencies, have a particularly important role here in the legislature. If in all good conscience, Mr. Speaker, we will do our duty, bearing in mind the responsibilities we were charged with on swearing-in day, I would suggest that surely we are embarking on the bright day of an entirely bright new tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[applause]

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the debate.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

[The House rose at 5:30.]