

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Friday, June 13, 1975

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: Might I just briefly draw to the attention of hon. members that because of examinations we have only two pages here this morning. Perhaps we could postpone some of the traffic for an hour and a half or so.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present the petition of employees of the Foothills Hospital concerning the salary negotiations under way.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. ASHTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce some 25 happy young Albertans from the Edmonton portion of my constituency. They are in Grade 5, attending Braemar school, and are accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Thorn, and two parents. I would ask that they stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like also to introduce several students from Salisbury Composite High School in Sherwood Park. They are accompanied by Mr. Johnston. I spent an enjoyable hour with them a week and a half ago, going through the usual question period. I would ask them to please stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 69th annual report of the Department of Education. I will be prepared to wait for the page, because I think the progress of the pages in our educational system is very important.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, did we bypass Introduction of Bills? Very good.

Oil and Gas Pricing

MP. CLARK: The first question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier or the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Did Alberta agree to a price before the national minister of energy announced that the federal government has agreed on a price for crude oil?

MP. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, there's no agreement by the Alberta government with respect to that matter. There are ongoing discussions between the Prime Minister and myself. Nothing has been resolved, and I'm in no position to make any further comment to the House.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Has the Alberta government a contingency plan should the federal government choose to use the Petroleum Administration Act to ram a price down Albertans' throats?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I would have to consider that a hypothetical question.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further question. Does the Government of Alberta have a contingency plan should the federal government choose to use the Petroleum Administration Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hypothetical.

MP. CLARK: Further supplementary then, Mr. Speaker, to the minister or the Premier. Has the Premier or the minister been in contact with the Government of Saskatchewan since the announcement yesterday by Mr. Macdonald?

MP. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. leader is aware that discussions between premiers in our federal state are on a rather continuous basis, some more than others. I have had discussions on a number of subjects, but at the moment I am not in a position to advise the House of the nature of those discussions with other provinces.

MR. CLARK: Further supplementary then, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier or the minister. Is it the intention of the government, in fact, to meet with the minister of energy or the Prime Minister in the course of the next few days at the request of the Government of Alberta, in light of Mr. Macdonald's rather unseemly comments, or announcement, yesterday?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, if it appeared a meeting was necessary, we would certainly want to go ahead. As of right now I don't see the need for one. The hon. minister of energy for the federal government is, I understand, on a trip to Japan. If it appears he would like to meet me there, I would try to avail.

[laughter]

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. Is the July 1 date for the increased price a target date for both the Province of Alberta and the federal government, as indicated by Mr. Macdonald?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, as the Premier mentioned earlier today and in other sessions, the matters are now under negotiation and while we might like to, we find it very difficult to assist the negotiating process by discussing them in detail.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. When the federal minister, Mr. Macdonald, said he has decided on a price, what was that price? Shouldn't Albertans know at this point in time? Can the minister advise if he has or has not decided the price?

MR. GETTY: He'd have to ask Mr. Macdonald that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question. Could the hon. minister report to the Assembly whether the reports are accurate about a price being decided by the federal government?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Supplementary to the minister. Is this another case where Alberta is being had and is going to be told July 1, we've got a new price? We just say we're negotiating behind the scenes, and really we're going to be told. Is it the case, that we've been had again? [interjections]

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. When was the last time the hon. Minister of Energy had a discussion with Mr. Macdonald on the question of petroleum pricing, and can he report the substance of that discussion?

DR. BUCK: It doesn't have to be the exact minute.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I had discussions with the hon. minister several times last week, and not this week. The discussions this week have been between the Premier, as he mentioned, and the Prime Minister.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. During the discussions which took place with the federal minister, did he give an indication to the provincial government here that Ottawa had, in fact, decided on a price?

MR. GETTY: Again, Mr. Speaker, it's going into discussion on the details. The hon. members should be aware, though, that it might very much be possible the federal government is considering agreeing to something Alberta initiated.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question for clarification. Was there any indication by Mr. Macdonald or in the Prime Minister's discussion with the hon. Premier that, in fact, the federal government had come to a decision as to what the price of petroleum should be in Canada?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think, as I said on a number of occasions here in the House, the matter of oil and natural gas pricing is the subject of ongoing discussions between the Prime Minister and myself. Presumably, the federal government is reaching some tentative conclusions of its own as to the position of the federal government. That doesn't necessarily mean they will be conclusions that will be acceptable to the Government of Alberta. We will have to see the course of discussions to resolve that.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Premier. Was the Alberta government aware that Mr. Macdonald was going to make the announcement he made yesterday?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it's a question of interpretation of the announcement, if you want to use the word "announcement". My understanding of what Mr. Macdonald said is that the federal government had reached a conclusion as to their position, that there would be ongoing discussions with the provinces between the Prime Minister and the premiers. That's exactly what's occurring.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Did the Prime Minister give any indication as to the timetable the federal government had in mind before resolving the matter from a national perspective?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, I think the only discussion regarding timetable was the Alberta government interest in the federal budget.

DR. BUCK: Supplementary to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend, when the Premier was in Halifax -- there's a possibility one or two Tory premiers were there -- were there any discussions with the premiers of some of the eastern Maritime provinces on the pricing of oil?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, no, nothing that I could report to the House.

MR. CLARK: Has the Premier been in contact with the Premier of Quebec in, let's say, the last week concerning this question of oil pricing, in light of the stance the Province of Quebec took at the national energy conference which was supportive of Alberta?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, not at this stage, but that would not preclude such discussions within the next few days.

Industrial Health

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to either the hon. Minister of Energy or the hon. Minister of Labour in charge of industrial health, and ask whether the government is aware of recent studies by the United States National Cancer Institute which show a rather dangerous statistical correlation between certain types of cancer and geographical proximity to petrochemical projects?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not personally aware of the particular American studies the hon. member is asking about. However, the report or information source he is speaking of is the same sort of material routinely examined by the industrial health services branch. I don't know what more I can say about it. I could perhaps learn more of the report from the branch, if the hon. member would like.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question for clarification. Can the minister assure the House, then, that the industrial health branch will in fact be reviewing this particular report by the National Cancer Institute? Will he be undertaking to the House that if this is not done on a routine basis, he will ask that it be undertaken and the information made public?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be in touch with the branch about it. I would consider it a matter of judgment on the part of the head of the division as to which types of scientific studies are most useful to occupy his time and the time of the others in the branch at any particular time. I have no reason to doubt the value of the report the hon.

member refers to, but I still think it very important that the director of the division take the responsibility for choosing which particular reports they examine.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question for clarification. Can the minister advise the Assembly whether any departments, the Energy Resources Conservation Board or the various agencies which have some responsibility for industrial health, are in fact examining, not necessarily this report but this question of the proximity of major petrochemical plants and the occurrence of cancer?

MR. CRAWFORD: Once again, Mr. Speaker, I'm satisfied that under the new leadership of the industrial health division, that is precisely the sort of thing which will be on Dr. Buchwald's timetable and that he will not make any mistake in respect to the gravity of this type of potential risk.

I indicated in my estimates the other day that, because of the government's great interest in this, I asked Dr. Buchwald to be available over the summer months, after the Legislature rises for a couple of substantial discussions on this subject of industrial health and safety. This is the sort of thing we will definitely be discussing.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. What will the government's approach be to making public the studies conducted by the various agencies and allowing the public to assess the accuracy and importance of these studies?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the sort of study we're speaking of, being one which originates in another jurisdiction, our people would be examining that along with whatever other literature on the subject is presumed or deemed by them to be of value on a continuing basis. In other words, if the agency that created it hadn't already made it public, conclusions which were of particular significance to Albertans probably could well be made public.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, could I ask one supplementary to the minister. Have there been any geographical studies in the Province of Alberta with regard to the incidence of cancer independent of industrial growth or industrial problems?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty detailed question. I know the great interest of the Provincial Cancer Hospitals Board in regard to matters like this. I know the great interest of the chief of epidemiology in the Department of Social Services and Community Health in respect to that sort of matter too. But to identify whether the particular type of study has been made, I simply don't know and would be happy to get information of that type for the hon. member.

Canadian Dollar Value

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. It's premised on the fact that the Canadian dollar is progressively being reduced insofar as buying power is concerned.

In considering uses to which the Alberta heritage fund may be put, has the government given cognizance to this erosion of the Canadian dollar?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, that's an extremely difficult question to answer in the question period and has some implications for the country.

One of the major implications, of course, involves the balance of payments situation with regard to Canada and the difficulty we have there relative to maintaining our dollar. It certainly puts some limitations on any potential thought of investment in other areas because of the volatile nature of the international monetary position at the present time.

I think all I could say to the hon. member is that we are watching that situation closely. It is possible the balance of payments situation with regard to Canada may become more serious economically for the nation and have some bearing upon our future plans regarding the Alberta heritage savings trust fund.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. Premier. Has the Canadian government asked the provincial governments for any assistance in trying to maintain the Canadian dollar?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we've made it very clear to them that one of the most important ways in which the Canadian dollar can be strengthened is to assure that we reduce our billions of dollars of expenditure on foreign imported oil. That traces back to 1957 and the Montreal pipeline when that debate was made by the former government here, and we've continued it. It's the very large cost for imported foreign oil to the Atlantic provinces and Quebec that is the major drain and major weakness of the Canadian dollar today. Without that, I think our currency would be perhaps as strong as any in the world.

Petro-Canada

MP. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Has the provincial government been approached by the federal government in regard to part ownership in PetroCan?

MP. HYNDMAN: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I would have to say I think we would have difficulty generating any enthusiasm for such an approach.

Foothills Hospital Labor Dispute

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. What new steps, if any, have been taken by the minister to settle the dispute with regard to the support staff of the Foothills Hospital?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I've been looking at the situation of the four hospitals together and, of course, each one in particular. The hon. member would know that the labor relations branch made its good offices available some time ago for the use of the parties to that dispute. Up to last week, mediation attempts using an independent negotiator, who is not an employee of the department, were not successful. The present situation is that there appears to be a willingness on the part of both parties to make further attempts. We're trying to facilitate that.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Have contingency plans been established should support staff walk out of the other hospitals -- the U of A, the Glenrose, or the W.W. Cross?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think I should answer that question. I think the question is hypothetical, but . . .

DR. BUCK: Contingencies always are.

MR. MINIELY: . . . in my conversation with the boards they certainly realize that possibility, and do have the hospitals under control.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Labour. In light of the present walkout at the Foothills and the dispute about the legislation these people work under, has the committee studying the legislation for public servants in Alberta been instructed by your department that there is a greater sense of urgency to bring their report in as soon as possible?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the short answer to the question is, no, they have not. The more full answer would be, of course, that my colleague, the hon. Provincial Treasurer, primarily would report to the House on the question of the progress of that task force.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Is he in a position to report to the Assembly on the progress of the task force, and when we might, in fact, have a report to resolve this rather difficult and vexing problem facing public servants?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member would know, the task force is considering a number of matters. It would be difficult to say that one is more important than another. My latest reports from the task force are that they're working as rapidly as one can expect. I cannot give the House any definite dates as to when we might expect recommendations and a report from them.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In light of the fact that injunctions have been granted in the case of the Foothills Hospital, has the hon. Provincial Treasurer asked the task force to give this question of public service legislation priority?

MR. LEITCH: No, Mr. Speaker, I haven't. I will take that matter under consideration, although I do want to respond to the hon. member by saying the matter is under consideration. I would ask the task force to consider whether they would like to treat it as a priority. But basically, I think the procedure and timetable are for the task force, which has on it representatives from the provincial government, the Public Service Commissioner's office, and the CSA. Essentially, Mr. Speaker, I think they are the masters of their procedure, and I wouldn't want to unduly interfere with their decisions as to how they ought to proceed.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Government House Leader. What steps will the government use in handling the petition with regard to Foothills submitted today by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would refer the hon. member to the rules of the Assembly in respect to future procedures.

PWA Operations

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the hon. Premier. Has the government given permission for PWA to purchase several DC cargo transport planes?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I certainly have no knowledge of that, and I presume I would if it had. I would have to take that as notice and discuss with the Minister of Transportation, who is responsible, if there may have been some preliminary discussions, but nothing has reached the cabinet for consideration at this stage.

Day Care Funds

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Community Health and Social Services. This is a follow-up to a question posed in the estimates.

Is the minister in a position to advise whether there is backlog of proposals for funding day care centres under the preventative social services program?

MISS HUNLEY: I'm not sure I clearly understand the hon. member's question, Mr. Speaker. Would he mind advising me clearly whether he's asking if there are some proposals for which no funds are provided, or whether there are some proposals which have not been cleared by the department and authorization given?

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted just a word of explanation. The question revolves around whether there have been requests for assistance under the program and that sufficient funds are not available in the program to fund those requests.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, none have been brought to my attention as they relate to day care centres.

Eastern Slopes

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Is there a proposal he knows of, either before the Minister of Environment or Executive Council, regarding a large recreational development in the eastern slopes?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Environment, I should take that as notice. We have pretty continually a number of proposals regarding expanded recreation needs in the province. Certainly there is a desire by our citizens to have greater access to recreational requirements. But I can't be specific in answering the hon. leader, so I will have to take it as notice.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. Is the Premier in a position to indicate whether a group which wants to develop a large recreational complex in what's commonly referred to as the eastern slopes has met with the Premier?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'm stretching my memory. I certainly don't have any specific recollection of a meeting of that nature. The meetings are fairly frequent, and as part of them somebody, as he leaves the door, may have raised something of that nature with me. I have no recollection of it, but I will check.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the House would revert to Introduction of Visitors. I have two distinguished gentlemen I would like to introduce, if I may.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, we have two distinguished gentlemen who will probably never be in the House again or may not have the opportunity. They are two men I have known for some time: Bryan Baxter, branch bargainer for the Foothills Hospital, and Tom Minhinnet. I wonder if they would stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair.]

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COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of Supply will come to order.

Executive Council

Appropriation 1401

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, in regard to 1401, I thought it might be useful for the members if, as a preliminary -- in my answer to the hon. Member for Little Bow, earlier in Committee of Supply, I discussed the reorganization of the government to some extent, but I did not deal with the question of the cabinet committee system, which I think was an oversight. I think, with regard to 1401 and 1402, I should elaborate to some extent on the situation with the standing committee system of the Executive Council.

There are essentially six standing committees of the Executive Council. The first is Committee of Priorities, Finance and Coordination, chaired by myself, with the secretary being the deputy minister of the Executive Council, with a number of ministers -- the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Provincial Treasurer, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, and the secretary of the Treasury board, who is also the deputy minister of the Department of the Treasury.

The function of this committee is threefold. First, it operates as the treasury board for the government, in a statutory sense. So it has the responsibility, within the legislation, as the treasury board for the provincial government. Within that responsibility, it involves aspects of finance, of a preliminary review of budgetary and fiscal policies to move to Executive Council. The second aspect is one of priorities, in terms of handling any matter which may be of an emergent nature, between formal meetings of the Executive Council. Thirdly, it endeavors to resolve disputes which may occur and do occur between government departments.

The next committee is the Committee on Energy, which is chaired by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and has a number of ministers involved. The purpose of this committee is to consider policy questions and strategies concerning the conservation and maximum utilization of energy resources.

Mr. Chairman, there are two companion committees which are involved in matters from a geographic point of view: the Committee on Rural Development and the Committee on Metropolitan Affairs.

The Committee on Rural Development is chaired by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation, and involves 10 ministers. It meets to consider policies and matters of concern to rural Alberta. The committee is to consider social and economic matters and services having a unique effect upon rural Alberta.

The companion committee is the Committee on Metropolitan Affairs, which is chaired by the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. It has a number of ministers, as well, including in particular the Minister Without Portfolio, Mr. McCrae. It considers matters of concern to the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, and social and economic matters having a unique effect upon the two metropolitan areas.

The final two committees are essentially involved both in longer term planning for the government and with requests for decision by cabinet which require an initial vetting by a group of ministers, before they reach the full cabinet agenda.

[One is] the Committee on Social Planning, chaired by the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, to consider policies in the fields of health, social development, human resources, education, human rights, justice, and equality of opportunity. It includes co-ordination of programs for the native people of the province. The committee will function in close contact with the other cabinet committees on rural

development and metropolitan affairs. It will consider social planning matters having a total provincial impact.

The companion [committee] to the social planning area is Economic Planning and Resource Development, chaired by the Provincial Treasurer. The terms of reference are assurances that economic and resource development with the established industrial strategy of the government -- and in that context to develop medium- and long-term policies to build and diversify the economy of the province and to assist in developing job opportunities -- to balance industrial and natural resource development policies with environmental concerns, and to develop ways in which an increased share of the Alberta economy is owned and controlled by Albertans without diminishing employment prospects for Albertans. The committee will consider economic planning and resource development matters having a total provincial impact.

There are, in addition to the six standing committees, special committees which are involved from time to time. For example, the business taxation and incentive policy pursuant to the position paper by the former provincial treasurer, tabled in the Legislature January 29, is now the subject of a special cabinet committee chaired by the Provincial Treasurer, with the hon. Mr. Dowling and the hon. Mr. Miniely. There is one with regard to the legislative committee report on regulations, chaired by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and there are a number of other standing operating committees of the cabinet which involve legislative review, management policy, government land purchase, and northeast services.

I thought, Mr. Chairman, as a preliminary to 1401 and 1402, and because I did not deal with it earlier in reviewing the reorganization, that it would be important, perhaps for the record and for the benefit of hon. members, to describe the cabinet committee system now in operation in the government.

MR. NOTLEY: I would ask the Premier if he could advise us what the support staff is for the committees? Also, I am interested in the demarcation between the Economic Planning and Resource Development committee and the role and function of the Department of Business Development and Tourism.

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, the last question first, Mr. Chairman. The Economic Planning and Resource Development committee is essentially the standing committee of the cabinet which would take matters in which there would be a difference between development and environmental questions, and attempt to thrash out a position. As the hon. member can anticipate, it involves long and extensive hours.

It is not the sole matter facing the Economic Planning and Resource Development committee, but it is an area where a considerable amount of time is spent in terms of matters that might be proposed by the Minister of Business Development and Tourism which the Minister of Environment would have a different view on, and on which it's necessary to try to strike a balance -- or the reverse: the initiative may come from the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Business Development and Tourism may respond the other way.

The support staff is essentially within Appropriation 1402. As for the people involved, there are a number of vacancies at the moment. In 1402, there's an aggregate of 21 people; there are now 12 on staff, 5 professional and 7 secretarial and clerical. There are 9 vacancies, 2 of which are in the process of being filled.

The balance of the vacancies will be reviewed after support requirements of the cabinet committee structure have been determined. We've put them in the budget for provision if necessary. We will be assessing on an ongoing basis the need for filling these positions as we see the necessary support staff required for the cabinet committees. We're conscious of the problems if the support staff in this area gets too extensive. We would perhaps reflect in the budget next year our conclusion as to the need or otherwise for the nine vacancies, some of which may be filled, but I can't say at this time that all of them will be.

MR. NOTLEY: What is the nature of the professional staff? Are you looking for particular types of positions? Is it largely research in nature? Are you looking at professional economists or public relations? What is the nature of the professional support staff, the five people you've outlined and the nine vacancies that exist?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, essentially the staff is administrative people. They are not policy advisers; they are not research people. They are administrative people. The function of the cabinet committee is an administrative function to assure that the decision-making process is improved, and when the decision is made, to assure the necessary follow-through, which I find one of the most important and difficult matters in government. A decision is reached in cabinet, then what happens? It's the follow-through responsibility that they have. So the people who are involved are administrative people. That is, we use the phrase "professional" in the sense of administration.

With regard to the various people who are in the vacancies, [they] are people who would fit the area essentially of the contingency regarding support. There would be one person in the Calgary office, three in the cabinet committee secretariat, three as a contingency for the cabinet committee secretariat, and one in a wage category.

DR. BUCK: I have a question, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the indulgence of the committee, if I may, to revert to Introduction of Visitors.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

DR. BUCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I take great pleasure in introducing 47 Grade 5 students from the Lamont Elementary School. They are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Kitura and Mrs. Judy Kuzio. I'd ask them to stand and receive the welcome of the House.

Executive Council (continued)

DR. BUCK: Do you want to start on appropriations now, or just on general . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll clear up the Premier's Office and have the general discussion, then we'll go to the definite appropriations.

DR. BUCK: Okay, fine. I'll wait for the appropriations.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, to the Premier. Number one, I appreciate the committee structure. From my past experience, I think it's a good idea to use them effectively. A lot of the decision-making in cabinet can certainly get bogged down if the total cabinet has to make every decision. I hope that within those cabinet structures, they have a certain element of authority in the decision-making. I'm sure the Premier recognizes that fact.

My question, though, is with regard to the Committee on Priorities, Finance and Coordination. It would be the committee which makes recommendations to yourself with regard to the departmental reorganization. Certainly this committee made recommendations with regard to the restructuring that has gone on at present. Would that be correct?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is an area which that committee was involved in, although I would have to say that essentially in the reorganization, simply because of the nature that it came after an election and prior to establishment of new individuals and new portfolios -- I take the responsibility for the ultimate decisions, the reorganization being mine. The input came from a variety of sources, some within the public service, the personnel administration, certainly the deputy ministers of Executive Council and of provincial Treasury. But there was an input from the priorities committee. Having the basic reorganization done, though, the priorities committee then did play an important role in specific questions, for example the transfer of the motor vehicle branch from the Department of Transportation to the Solicitor General. I can recall the priorities committee felt that was a good move. I think the ultimate recommendation to cabinet, as we make it eventually, with regard to the lands division of the former Department of Lands and Forests, now the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, would be hashed out in the Committee on Priorities, Finance and Coordination first, then taken to cabinet.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Does this committee or yourself have a group of people, seven or eight or six or so, under the chairmanship of the deputy minister of Executive Council? Is there an ongoing committee of people working with him in reorganization and functional changes?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, there is, Mr. Chairman. They show up within the provisions of Appropriation 1402. They involve Mr. Cal Lee, Mr. Craig, and Mr. Richardson. These individuals are working under Mr. Hobbs, the deputy minister of Executive Council. They involve both the cabinet committee secretariat and the reorganization function.

I should bring to the hon. member's attention the 1406 appropriation. I realize I'm jumping here on project management, but it does stem from the hon. member's question. The historic nature of the project management under 1406 -- as the hon. member will be familiar -- its basic long-term origins are the Human Resources Development Authority, which then became the office of program co-ordination, and has now swung into a project management group which is the 1406 group. That is a group that would take special assignments of an expediting or analysis nature, under direction of the deputy minister of Executive Council, from the priorities committee of cabinet. It would be a group we hope would be flexible enough to shift with and meet any matter of a major nature that doesn't fit a particular department. It stems back, as the hon. member knows, to the philosophy within the statute which is still on the books of the Human Resources Development Authority and provides a nucleus of people which we hope we can keep small and flexible enough to meet these matters as they arise. That's the basic nature of 1406.

The support people in 1402 are ongoing people working on matters involving cabinet committees and the cabinet administration. 1406 is a special project group which would be involved in a particular situation as it develops.

MR. R. SPEAKER: I certainly appreciate that direction in that area. I think the act under the authority that gave us power earlier was, admittedly at this point in history -- certainly we took that function into a different area. I think this is the proper use of it.

The question I have with regard to this -- and it may be a special assignment -- is consideration being given to reshuffling the senior level of administration, for example, the deputy minister level? I often felt that at times changing certain deputy ministers from one department to another, if they have good administrative skills, would certainly enhance the outlook of that person, plus maybe completing some new objectives within a different functional area. Is consideration being given to that?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, without getting involved in personalities, to some degree we have done a fair amount of that. There are always limitations. We have, I think, five or six deputies now who formerly carried on responsibilities in other departments. There has been that lateral shift, which I certainly endorse. However, the practicalities of it are that it just doesn't come all at one time, and there are limitations. We have made a number of them, though, and the list of deputy ministers as they exist today in the various departments I think, historically, reflects the fact that about a third have come on a lateral basis from other departments. We think that's a good thing for government, because I'm still convinced the basic weakness of government in terms of its operation is that we are established on a departmental basis. To get the interdepartmental co-operation at the various levels of government down into the field, starting with the ministers, the deputies, the branch heads -- well, I haven't met yet the government leader who thinks he's solved the problem. We certainly don't think we have.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, this keeps going up every year it seems. Can the hon. Premier indicate to the committee the number of full-time employees in his office?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, I can, Mr. Chairman.

DR. BUCK: [inaudible] responsibilities.

MR. LOUGHEED: . . . in my office, which is 1401, there is now a net position of 10, compared to 9 last year. So there is an increase, but it's not an overwhelming one. It's an increase which essentially involved a secretary to the executive secretary.

If I could run through the various positions, I think that's what the hon. member is looking for. There's the executive director, who is responsible for the total operation of the Premier's office. There's the executive secretary, who is responsible for my schedule and my appointments. There's the special secretary to the Premier, who is responsible for my private secretarial work and private work which involves such matters as travelling with me and the preparation of speeches, the preparation of documents and the important correspondence involved. There's the secretary to the Premier, who is, if you like, the second person involved to the special secretary to the Premier. There's a research assistant who assists me with regard to general matters of research. There are two correspondence secretaries and stenographers to the correspondence secretaries; and there's a secretary to the Executive Council. I believe that is the total number.

I'm not sure what this proves, but I have a document which says, mail count comparison. They average in 1972, 59 a day; in '73, 63 a day; in '74, 59 a day; and in '75 they've gone down to 55 a day. I won't read any interpretation into that . . .

DR. BUCK: Time to go to Ottawa.

MR. NOTLFY: The question is, where are the letters coming from?

MR. LOUGHEED: As a matter of fact, there is a fairly heavy number of letters coming from outside the province and not all those are favorable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Appropriation 1401, are you agreed?

MR. NOTLEY: Just before we move on, I wonder if the Premier could break down the positions between fees and commissions and salaries?

MR. LOUGHEED: I guess there are three on fees and commissions, and the balance are on salaries. The fees and commissions are the executive director, the executive secretary, and the special secretary to the Premier.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier could comment on the use of contracts within the government. For example, the other evening the minister referred to the use of contracts, particularly in the area of senior administrative positions. I think I would be interested even more with regard to the hiring of deputy ministers on contracts. Maybe back in 1969 or '70 you can remember some of the remarks I had with regard to that.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, that's a very important subject. We've been evaluating it, because we feel it would be desirable for the people of Alberta and the government if there was a greater degree of movement in and out of the senior public service in the

province. That's not to say we shouldn't assure there are good opportunities within the public service for advancement and promotion to the highest levels. However, we also think the people of Alberta would be well served if people in the private sector, people in the professions, people in labor organizations, people in our society generally involved in institutions and other areas, were able to come in and come out of the public service.

If I could use what I think is an excellent example, we had under contract for two years as the Deputy of Minister of Health, Dr. William Cochrane, who was the Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary. He was prepared to come only under a contractual arrangement, and now has moved on as an outstanding president, I'm sure, of the University of Calgary. That's the sort of thing I think is desirable for the people of this province.

I think it will help within the professions. I guess, since I'm on my feet, I should say I have not been impressed with the way the professions have responded to our efforts to attract people to come into the public service generally. There are exceptions. But I think we can do more. I think it's part of my responsibility. I intend to do more to communicate to professional groups, and this involves the universities as well, the need to have people come on contract with the government in senior management positions for a couple of years. I think it's a desirable thing.

We haven't had a tradition of doing it in this province; we've essentially followed the British tradition. But I think an important balance needs to be found here. I'm pleased the hon. member raised that. There have been some good examples, as I've mentioned, where it's occurred, but it could occur more frequently than it has in the past. I intend to endeavor to have it happen.

But I don't want the remark misconstrued. If you look, for example, at the deputy ministers, the chairmen of boards, and the acting ministers, the vast number have come up through the ranks, if you like, of the excellent public service in this province. There has been full opportunity for them to have served the people and to have had advancement and promotion.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, just on this question. Is there an effort to make the contracts, the fees and commissions, comparable in remuneration or wages to that level in the public service? It seems to me this is one of the most serious problems developed by the contract system. If X person comes in at \$50,000 a year on a contract, and Y deputy minister is getting \$37,000 to \$38,000, you're going to have some problems.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, there's no question there are difficulties in that area. On the other hand, you have to keep in mind that the people coming in under contract are not involved in the pension situation to the same degree. They lose other benefits, relative to pensions, that would be involved in the public service at the senior management level. We have to recognize the fact that at times the private sector in certain areas is going to be in a position where its compensation is generally higher. We have to look at our compensation levels, as the hon. Provincial Treasurer has been doing, not relative just to the public service here. We have to look at it in terms of municipal and federal government and other provincial governments, and keep a balance.

There's no question, though, that there are times when that creates a problem. You bring somebody in on a short-term contract where the aggregate amount at first blush appears to be significantly higher. When an evaluation is done though, when we compare all the facts, it seems that hasn't been as large a problem for us as we would have thought, although there have been times when we felt we couldn't go beyond a certain upper limit, which I think is what the hon. member is getting at. We've had to forego a particular situation where a person could have served the government well, but we simply didn't feel it was appropriate to pay what was being requested.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, to the Premier. Has the Premier or part of his staff and personnel established a cafeteria type of program? What I'm referring to in using that particular word is that if a person is to be taken on contract, we could say to him, here's the basic salary you'll get, but here are some alternatives -- maybe 10 alternatives. Out of those 10, you can choose 5 different areas. For example, maybe you would like this kind of pension return, this type of travel expense, this type of benefit. When you sum up the benefits of this cafeteria type of approach, it would be somewhat equivalent to a position in the public service. I was wondering if a plan or program like that has been established so we could defend our position with regard to the public service as a body, relative to contractual arrangements?

MR. LOUGHEED: We try to do that to a degree. But our experience shows that you're involved in situations where a standardization is very, I think I would have to say, impractical. For example, if you're getting a highly technically skilled engineer to come into what is essentially a management position, you are going to have to make those adjustments. You are going to have to recognize them. We do try to look at what the upper limits of those contracts might be, in our judgment, in terms of the other benefits the hon. member refers to.

I don't want us to get into a position of standardizing it to any degree in this area, because the ability to make these decisions as they fit the position and need of the public has to exist. If at times we err, and we probably will and probably have, I would be just as happy that we make a few mistakes and we bring into the senior public service

on short-term contract basis people who, I'm sure, will with their effort more than overcome any costs they have. The problem has more to do with assuring there is an appropriate morale [within] the balance of the senior public service. To us, that is the important point.

The other side is to make sure we don't lose someone who is prepared to come and serve the people of Alberta for a couple of years and who can provide a very important contribution.

MR. NOTLEY: [Inaudible] of contracts for fees and commissions with the senior people in the public service done exclusively by the elected person, by the minister? To what extent is it delegated occasionally to senior civil servants, members of the public service?

MR. LOUGHEED: That's a difficult question for me to answer. I have been referring in this conversation to those signed and approved either by myself or by a minister, in particular the Provincial Treasurer. I'm sure, within the fees and commissions flowing through the total estimates, there are a number of cases where officials are entering into fee arrangements. But I was taking the questions as involving senior management positions, in which case -- subject to checking -- it would certainly be the policy that an elected minister would be involved in concluding that contractual relationship.

Appropriation 1401 agreed to: \$215,206

Agreed to:

Appropriation 1402	\$573,944
Appropriation 1403	\$38,575
Appropriation 1406	\$654,200

Appropriation 1407

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask either the Premier or the Minister of Energy for some indication as to the percentage of the cost of the operation of the Energy Resources Conservation Board borne by the public and the portion from industry, and if the government sees this kind of approach continuing and the basic percentages remaining somewhat the same?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, it's our intention to refer a number of these appropriations to various ministers. I would refer questions in regard to 1407 to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Chairman, parts of the responsibilities of Energy Resources Conservation Board are properly distributed between government and industry. Parts of its operations are 100 per cent financed by the government.

The total expenditures of the board for the coming year is \$6.9 million. Of that, as the hon. members can see, \$4.66 million is the share of the government.

MR. CLARK: Would the minister be in a position to indicate what areas the public paid for completely, as to operations of the board, and what areas industry and government share?

MR. GETTY: The government pays completely for all coal related responsibilities of the board and all hydro and electric energy related operations of the board. The oil and gas related operations are split 50-50.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could tell us what particular branch of the Energy Resources Conservation Board is responsible for industrial health and what the expenditures are, because the Minister of Labour has indicated it does have certain responsibilities in that area. I'd like to know where those responsibilities show up.

MR. GETTY: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I don't think I could just quickly pull out of the total board appropriation that amount which is specifically related to industrial health. Essentially, the board's main area of participation in industrial health is its responsibility for The Coal Mines Safety Act. However, I could get the breakdown for the hon. member. In some cases they could do it specifically and say, well, that is related to industrial health. In others, parts of the costs might be within appropriations where certain individuals have responsibilities in part for industrial health, but in part for other matters.

Appropriation 1407 agreed to: \$4,660,000

Appropriation 1410

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the hon. minister several questions on the Alberta Women's Bureau. I notice there seems to be a high percentage increase, but the actual expenditure by the Women's Bureau is still very small: \$88,000.

I'd like to have the minister respond to some suggestions which have been brought to me by several women's groups. Then I want her to comment on the whole question of maternity leave legislation. I think this kind of general debate offers her some opportunity to give us her views and also the views of the government.

As far as the Women's Bureau is concerned, there are essentially five suggestions which have been brought to my attention. I'd like the minister to respond to them.

The first is to act as a central store of information for women's groups looking for funding sources and organizational resources. There is, I'm sure, money available in the different line departments which various groups could take advantage of, but they need an inventory of grant opportunities.

The second: fund a regular information newsletter to inform women specifically about women's activities, both in this province and across the country, about potential legislative changes which particularly affect women and about the labor force.

Third: fund studies, surveys, and research into specific aspects of the status of women in the province.

Fourth -- and I think this is an important one -- establish an advisory body to bring to the attention of the government, discrepancies within its laws as they pertain to women. Mr. Chairman, I think, perhaps in expanding upon this point, I might just make some observations about the present dispute at the Foothills Hospital where, as the minister is aware, at least one of the problems is the feeling that women are being discriminated against. So the proposal here is for an advisory body, under the Alberta Women's Bureau, which would be doing a continuing inventory of the entire government operation, its agencies and boards, to make sure the rights of women are upheld.

Fifth: actively solicit ideas and support from women, individually and in groups, to propose legislation and policies to improve the position of women in Alberta.

Now that's with respect to the Alberta Women's Bureau, Mr. Chairman. I would also like the minister to advise us where she feels we should go on the question of maternity leave legislation. As I'm sure the minister is aware, some of the other provinces in Canada have moved on this matter. I believe even in our own public service there is provision for maternity leave. But I think many women's groups are interested that there be legislation that would set this out as a right, and that women who leave due to maternity can come back and retain their seniority. They don't have to go to the bottom of the totem pole again and climb up.

So if she would, I'd like the minister to respond both about her views as to the function and role of the Alberta Women's Bureau, whether it should be extended, whether it needs additional staffing, and to the question of where the government sits, at this juncture, on the issue of maternity leave legislation.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to discuss briefly the role of the Women's Bureau. As the hon. member has just commented, it is very small in staff. We have a director, and the director has a secretary. This was the situation in 1971 when it became my responsibility.

In reviewing the role of the Women's Bureau, I brought to it the philosophy which I have and which I believe our government has, that there should indeed be true equality. For that reason, I didn't see any great need for building up a large staff and, clearly in the minds of everyone, segregating women as being different and having different needs. Surely, the various departments are responsible for that. That leads me into the comment about maternity leave, which does not come into the activities of the Alberta Women's Bureau, except as it monitors, gathers, and disseminates information as it relates to women in other areas. We have looked at what women's bureaus have done across Canada. Some are nonexistent, some have a specific role. In some, the director of the women's bureau reports to the minister of labor, because the main areas of concern have been that equality does not exist in the labor force.

All hon. members are aware that we have made quite substantial strides with the passage of our Bill of Rights and The Individual's Rights Protection Act. Whether that is indeed adequate -- in law I am sure it is adequate, but philosophically, I am not convinced that on every occasion a woman has equal opportunity. But that cannot be legislated. I think it has to be developed as a philosophy in industry as well as in the provincial government.

The hon. member went rather quickly, and I didn't get an opportunity to jot down all the notes. He wanted my personal opinion on maternity leave, and I have to say that is not part of this responsibility. It is a matter that has been discussed. I would prefer that the status of it be conveyed to the Assembly by the Minister of Labour. I believe it would fall in that particular category.

The advisory body is one we have given a great deal of thought to. We have been asked for it. We have considered it. We thought if we had one, what would its mandate be? What would it do that has not already been done by the special committee we had advising us on the women's rights commission? That was gone into very thoroughly on legislation, and as a result of their recommendations, many changes have been made in our laws. We are interested in it. We have not negated it completely, but I can't bring myself to be really enthusiastic, anxious to have it, or I would have been trying to promote it long ago.

One of the problems I have with it is, what would I ask them to do specifically that is not already being done in the various departments that are of interest to all Albertans, not only to women. This is one of the reasons I have not been able to come up with a mandate. In talking to many women's groups, some have asked for this, and I have

then asked them if they would give me a suggestion as to what they see themselves doing. It's quite interesting, Mr. Chairman. I have never received that. Many are anxious, and think it would be useful, but when it comes down to helping me draw up the guidelines, it has not materialized.

I think probably the biggest problem with it is that if we accent the thing many people are striving for too strongly by having a women's bureau, we almost tend to say that women are not equal and need special treatment. Many women I talk to say, we just want an opportunity to participate on equal grounds and, thank you very much, that's the way we'll do it. It's a philosophical thing, depending on the individual and sometimes the groups with whom I'm discussing it. It's not a closed matter by any manner or means, but I just feel it would be an affront to busy people to ask them to go on an advisory body unless I had clearly defined what I wanted them to do, or they helped me outline how they could be of use.

I know there are groups advising other ministers on legislation, particularly in relation to labor. Also, we attempt, through the Women's Bureau, to ensure that all recommendations we receive do get brought to the attention of the various departments. Concerns of women are not that different from concerns of men, because many of them have similar concerns. I think that eventually, if we achieve our objective in Alberta, the Alberta Women's Bureau will become redundant. It will no longer be necessary as a focal point, because women will have reached the proper plateau which they must indeed sometimes reach, which they deserve to reach, and that's true equality.

We are presently doing some research. One of the contracts here is for summer temporary help to do some specific work on women in the labor force. Some has been done already by the Department of Labour. This is an updating, it's a special review done on our behalf for background information on women in the labor force as well as in government employment. One of the assignments that researcher also has is to assess the ideas of the various people she meets about an advisory body and how it could best function.

MR. NOTLEY: Just to follow that up. I appreciate the minister's comprehensive answer. I would like to draw from her, if I could, more of a commitment on the maternity leave legislation, but perhaps I will wait for the question period and raise that with the Minister of Labour.

The minister didn't really respond to the question of what role she sees for the bureau in being, if you like, a monitoring agency and a watchdog to keep an eye on equal pay for equal work within the public service. I know that one can say, well, we have a Human Rights Commission which has this responsibility. But is there some role, in your view, for a watchdog committee under the direction of the Women's Bureau, to take this kind of assignment upon itself within the purview of the government operation? Of course, I use the example of the alleged discrimination that has existed in some of the hospitals, but there are many other examples too. I wondered to what extent you see a role for the Women's Bureau in keeping an eye on this sort of thing and expanding the bounds of equality within the public service?

MISS HUNLEY: I would find it very regrettable if I found in the Women's Bureau the necessity to set up a watchdog committee for one of the other government departments, because equal opportunity was not permitted. It occasionally comes to our attention, and we do indeed arrange for individuals to have interviews in the Department of Labour or with whomever it concerns, but we still feel that they should not be treated differently from other Albertans. If they have a concern, they should observe whatever the regulations are as they relate to other employees, male or female. I just do not see expanding the role of the Women's Bureau to become a watchdog on other government departments.

I just feel that my colleagues and people in the government are very cognizant of this, and we are anxious to see it doesn't occur. We do take action when it comes to our attention. Then, of course, there are other procedures which are already laid out for individuals to follow.

I realize there were a couple of questions I omitted answering. One was a comment about the need for a newsletter. We did fund a newsletter. It was called the Alberta Women's Newsletter, but there wasn't sufficient interest to sustain it. So that has been tried. There are a number of things which have been tried through the Women's Bureau, but we were able to monitor them quite carefully because it's small. We see ourselves in a role of plugging in where other information and other things are available rather than adding more staff. We feel the staff in other departments, if made aware of the concerns, should be able to deal adequately with them.

Appropriation 1410 agreed to:	\$88,000
Agreed to:	
Appropriation 1411	\$33,735
Appropriation 1416	\$40,335
Appropriation 1418	\$85,760

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, just before we move from the total ministers without portfolio, I would like the Premier, perhaps, to take just a moment. When he spoke to the bill some time back, he talked about the line departments and the cabinet shuffles that related to

the line departments. I wonder, perhaps, if he would go into some detail on the role and function of each of the ministers without portfolio?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to do that. Our central view with regard to cabinet operation is that there is a very important role for ministers without portfolio. Our own history in the past four years, I think, has shown that, in the circumstances that involved a number of the ministers and what they did over the course of the four years, in the challenges we presented to them. We felt we did not want a department of native and Indian affairs. I think all are aware of the reasoning for that. However, we think it desirable to have a minister around the Executive Council charged with liaison. I presume the hon. members would like to raise some questions directly with the hon. minister under 1420, as they have in subcommittee. That's the purpose of that particular assignment.

The other two ministers without portfolio are there in the context of an Executive Council which has ministers around the table who are not burdened with administration and departmental assignments. Hence they are free to be given special assignments from time to time by the Executive Council and its president, and can represent the Executive Council point of view without being involved in the responsibilities of a particular line department. We feel this is an appropriate way to have an Executive Council operate. We think, too, those ministers bring a point of view to cabinet discussion and debate which again is unencumbered by the limitations of being involved in a particular departmental responsibility.

We recognize there's a limit in terms of the number who can be so involved. We felt that in addition to one responsible for native affairs, there should be two. We asked Mr. McCrae to handle certain responsibilities which I will be assigning to him from time to time, to assure a greater feeling of liaison between the various government departments and the provincial scope of activity within metropolitan Calgary.

There has been some misconstruction of that, because there is no intention to reduce in any way the importance or responsibilities of the Minister of Municipal Affairs within the City of Calgary in dealing with the city administration. But as a member who happens to represent a Calgary constituency, over the years I am aware as are most Calgarians, that in the second city in the province, with the capital here in Edmonton, there are a number of times there can be improved liaison in situations involving more than one minister or department. We've asked Mr. McCrae to hold a watching brief on those situations and to work with the ministers, sometimes essentially in an associate minister status on a particular matter, to create an improved liaison when there is more than one department involved in a particular matter in the City of Calgary, the metropolitan Calgary area.

I've advised Mr. McCrae, however, that he should not consider his responsibilities limited to the City of Calgary. In addition, we've asked him to assist the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources in terms of communication and dialogue with the oil and gas industry in its headquarters -- I had better be careful how I word this -- in its administrative headquarters within the City of Calgary.

The Minister Without Portfolio, Mr. Dallas Schmidt, of course, as members are aware, has broad experience in rural Alberta. We felt the cabinet Committee on Rural Development would be well served by having a minister without portfolio who had no specific assignments on a departmental basis which would burden or tie him down. He could therefore act in a capacity with the cabinet Committee on Rural Development to the same degree that Mr. McCrae would act with the cabinet Committee on Metropolitan Affairs: on call by that committee to take a particular special assignment.

I think that's some effort to answer the question of the hon. member, an important need for clarification. It is particularly important to clarify that there is no intention that the Minister Without Portfolio, Mr. McCrae, supplement the responsibilities of the Minister of Municipal Affairs with the city administration in Calgary.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask the Premier if he could elaborate somewhat on the responsibilities assigned to the Minister Without Portfolio responsible for rural development? Have, in fact, any assignments been given to him?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, I told Mr. Schmidt he might have, I think I said, a four- to six-month period for gaining an appreciation of how the legislative process as well as government operates. Probably in early fall the assignment list will begin, and he will look back to these days of June 1975 and wish at times he could return to them.

It is my intention, and that of the chairman of the Committee on Rural Development, not specifically to call upon Mr. Schmidt at this immediate point in time. But I would think within a year he'll have far more assignments than I would like him to have.

Appropriation 1420

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, Subcommittee A has given consideration to the following resolution and recommends the same to the Committee of Supply:
Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$1,357,760, contained in the Executive Council appropriations 1418 and 1420, be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976 for native affairs.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. KIDD: For the long-term future of the Indian population in Alberta, and particularly on reserves, I strongly encourage this government in every case to give consideration to employment, to providing the opportunity for those Indians, and particularly the younger ones, to leave the reserves, because I think that is their long-term future.

Is it the minister's intention, in view of his role as liaison with the Executive Council, in every case to encourage the ministers who directly employ people, provide employment for people, or control the employment of people, to consider what employment opportunities there may be for our native people?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Chairman, in answer to that question, I'd like to bring the hon. member's attention to an organization known as ANDCO, the Alberta Native Development Corporation. The sole purpose of that organization is to assist the native people, both treaty and non-treaty, in getting into the employment field, particularly in northeastern Alberta. They are working toward that end at this time.

I might also bring to your attention the fact that there are a number of native people working both in the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant and for Bechtel, which is creating the Syncrude operation. We are attempting to assist native people wherever possible to better themselves through greater economic involvement.

Appropriation 1420 agreed to: \$1,272,000

Agreed to:

Appropriation 1440	\$932,306
Appropriation 1441	\$20,000
Appropriation 1460	\$83,334
Appropriation 1470	\$6,000,000

Total Income Account agreed to: \$14,697,395

Agreed to:

Appropriation 1481 \$2,000,000

Total Capital Account agreed to: \$2,000,000

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Chairman, I move the total income account for Executive Council be reported and the capital account be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

Department of the Solicitor General

Appropriation 3401

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, as we adjourned the discussion last day, the Member for Spirit River-Fairview had asked some questions in the area of organized crime in the province. I think it was rather left on the assumption the minister would see what he could find out and come back and report to the House. We're now waiting for the minister's report.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, although the question of organized crime is very much in the public mind, and it would be wrong to say there's no reason for remaining on the alert in any country that borders on the United States, my information is that while organized crime undoubtedly exists to some minor degree in Alberta, it is not a major problem. Where it does exist is mostly in the field of illegal bookmaking and so on.

However, since the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview was pointing to possible problem areas, I thought by citing a few statistics I could perhaps give you a better picture of where attention should be directed. Thirty-six per cent of our prison population is under the age of 21, 42 per cent is 21 and under, and 58 per cent is under the age of 25. Forty-four per cent of our prison population is of native origin, Canadians of native ancestry. Seventy-nine per cent of our jail inmates are sentenced to 6 months or less. We have 60 prisoners at present on day parole; 1,342 adults are on probation or parole in the province. The consumption of alcohol has increased 50 per cent in the past 10 years. Thirty per cent of our prison population is incarcerated for non-payment of fines; 40 per cent of our prison population is incarcerated for alcohol or drug-related offences. The incidence of violent crime is alarmingly high. I think you can draw from those statistics the conclusion that one's attention should be devoted more to young offenders than to anything else.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that answer. I think it is important that we do shift more emphasis than perhaps we have in the past toward dealing with the young offender, and perhaps looking at some of the basic causes that lead to people getting into

the sort of trouble the minister talked about when he told us that 30 per cent of the people incarcerated are there because they weren't able to pay their fines. When he talks about 40 per cent related to drug or alcoholic excesses, or the dangerous figure of 44 per cent of people incarcerated being of native origin, I can certainly appreciate the concern, and I think we have to remedy that sort of situation.

I raised the organized crime question, though, because there was some concern -- I don't know where that sits at the moment -- over laundered money coming in and setting up an investment. That would, in fact, be money that has been generated by questionable sources. I realize that's a very difficult situation for any government department to monitor, but I think it is one of the concerns when one looks at the question of the expansion of organized crime throughout North America. That's the sort of way it moves in: people move in and set up a finance company or some sort of perfectly legal operation, but you don't know who in fact is behind it. I don't raise this saying there's some easy answer, because I know perfectly well it's not easily resolved. I suppose we could do this if we were prepared to set up a police state. But by paying that price, the solution would be worse than the problem.

I wanted to ask the minister if he would respond, Mr. Chairman, to the recommendations of the Harradence inquiry into the Spy Hill affair. It's my understanding that a number of recommendations have been made, and I'd like him, in his general remarks, to give us an indication of the government's response to the Harradence report. The Harradence report, as I gather, made a pretty searing indictment of our penal institutions in the province, suggested that rehabilitation was not really possible within the present custodial environment, and a number of other recommendations I have summarized before me. I'd like the minister to respond specifically to where we now stand in June 1975 in terms of dealing with the Harradence report.

The other thing I'd like to ask the minister to respond to -- again I realize this is a sensitive question, but it has been brought to my attention by one of the members of the Human Rights Commission -- concerns alleged police brutality against a minority race in the City of Edmonton. Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to make it perfectly clear that this is an isolated example, and I don't think it would be fair to the police force to make a sweeping statement that there is this kind of conduct. Nevertheless, I just want to quote from one of Canada's great newspapers, an excerpt that brings the matter into focus, and again it was . . .

[interjections]

Pardon? Yes, the Commonwealth from Saskatchewan.

[laughter]

This actually is our daily, Mr. Chairman, dated May 12, and it deals with one of the constables. I just quote one particular section here:

Down here, (in the Boyle Street area, where many of the calls deal with drunk Indians) they know if they step out of line they're going to get a smash. And I have no qualms about doing it.

Now this was one individual, but it revealed a mentality and an attitude which is disturbing -- disturbing, obviously, to people of that minority racial group, and disturbing, too, as far as the Human Rights Commission is concerned.

My question is: are there any steps that can be taken to deal with the implicit racism that obviously exists in a minority situation, in the police forces? I just emphasize what I said before. I don't think we want to sweep with a broad brush, because we know that is not the rule; it is the exception to the rule. But what steps can be taken in a situation like that to weed out people who have that kind of mentality?

MR. CHAIRMAN: May the hon. Member for St. Albert have leave to revert to Introduction of Visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure this morning to introduce to you, and through you to members of this Assembly, approximately 120 Grade 10 high school students from the . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: They've gone.

AN HON. MEMBER: They're over here.

MR. JAMISON: They're not here?

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, they're in the members gallery.

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Chairman, this morning we're honored with about 120 students from Paul Kane High School in the Town of St. Albert. They're here viewing and listening to the

Committee of Supply go through the Executive Council's and the Solicitor General's estimates. I would ask these students now to stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

Department of the Solicitor General (continued)

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. minister answers, I'd like to raise another point that he could possibly deal with at the same time.

I'd like to find out how many psychologists and psychiatrists we have in our prisons in the province. I was amazed when I visited the Drumheller penitentiary, following the Gagnon incident in Calgary, to find they didn't have even one. For 200 to 400 prisoners, they were sharing one with another penitentiary and making part-time use of one of the provincial men.

I'm also concerned with the classifications. When the hon. minister gave his classifications, I noticed he dealt with those who are there for liquor and the various ages and so on. But, maybe properly so, he didn't indicate how many there were who were considered to have some mental instability. From my observation of some prisoners, while some are brilliant, there is certainly a percentage who are mentally unstable, and who are in prison because that mental instability prevented them from choosing proper friends, et cetera.

But when I look into the incident of Gagnon, who was released from the Drumheller penitentiary, a federal penitentiary, and later killed some officers, and may have killed many people in Calgary, I find that his condition was of very serious concern to the people in that prison. As a matter of fact, they had sent him to the Alberta Hospital at Ponoka for observation. I'm told he would sit for hours and simply stare, which isn't the attitude of a normal person. But when the period of time was up, with the percentage deduction, he was simply released. I think that's irresponsible on the part of the federal government, and I have advised the hon. minister in Ottawa to that effect.

I think this man should have been taken before a provincial judge and taken to a hospital in Alberta for attention. I don't think it was fair to him or to the general public to release a man who was so mentally unstable as was Philippe Gagnon. You may say, it's very easy to say that now, after it's all over. It is, and I recognize that. But the truth of the matter is that no attempt was made to give this man attention by people who may have been able to help him before he was released. He was simply sent out as a threat, and I say a "threat", to the general public.

I don't know how many times this is happening in our prisons, but from some information I have, it's not at all infrequent. Prisoners are released who are mentally unstable, who are unable to cope with the routine of everyday life. While I don't at all agree that they should be kept in prison, I do think we should have a mechanism where a prisoner who is of concern to the warden and the guards should be taken before a provincial judge, so he will have his proper rights, and committed to a hospital if the judge finds it is in his interest and in the interest of the general public to do so.

Had that happened in the case of Philippe Gagnon, the policeman in Calgary would not have been killed, and the other would not have been wounded. This would never have happened. We never know when these things are going to happen, but I do think it's very irresponsible just to release and [allow] to cope for himself a man who is mentally unstable, who while he's in prison shows that instability to the extent that they even send him to the Alberta Hospital for attention.

So I hope there is some set-up in our provincial correctional institutions where people who are mentally unstable have an opportunity of securing attention so they can get better or their conditions can be improved before they're sent out into a bustling world where they have a tough time even at the best of times.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, the matter we wanted to raise doesn't really deal with this area. It deals with another portion of the minister's responsibility. He may want to respond to the two members, then I'll become involved in the area of alcohol.

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I mean Mr. Chairman -- I was going to say Mr. Alderman -- but Mr. Solicitor General, I notice in your budget, generally speaking, especially on page 251, we have \$942,000 in fees and commissions, compared to \$337,000 last year. It seems to be all the way through. What's the cause of such an increase in the fees and commissions? I know you're very sensitive in that area, sir.

MR. BATHURST: Mr. Chairman, the minister stated the consumption of alcohol in the last 10 years has risen 50 per cent. I was wondering if he could advise the percentage increase in price over the last 10 years?

DR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Solicitor General if he would consider paying extra to municipalities. I realize they're getting extra for law and order. But there are municipalities in specific areas which are shouldering very, very heavy financial responsibilities for itinerant alcoholics who are held overnight and discharged from the jails the next morning. In the Town of Fort Macleod, the rate per capita is almost 10 times that of the City of Lethbridge, due to the surrounding population.

I would also like to add a note regarding police brutality. I have never ceased to be amazed at the absolute tolerance and restraint of the RCMP in our area in dealing with

alcoholics and criminals. I don't think I could exercise as much restraint as they do under the very, very trying circumstances they're under at times.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll deal first with the question of incarceration for non-payment of fine. The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview really misinterprets this. It's not necessarily incarceration for inability to pay a fine; it could be incarceration for refusal to pay a fine. However, I should say that I'm aware of the situation and have spoken with provincial court and Supreme Court judges on the matter to see whether the problem arises from the offender not being advised that under Alberta law, which is very liberal in this regard, people can be given time to pay fines, and this might be an oversight by Legal Aid or his defence counsel, also the possibility of introducing some sort of work-for-fine alternative where a body will remind the individual that he hasn't paid his monthly instalment on the fine. We are seeking alternatives to the general fine/imprisonment route.

So far as the Harradence inquiry is concerned, Mr. Harradence -- for whom I have great respect; I thought his report was an excellent one -- has recently visited Calgary's Spy Hill institution and has expressed appreciation in very glowing terms of the changes which have been made since the time of his report.

Let me just give you the picture, as I see it, at the Calgary prison. The immediate and big relief was the opening of the Calgary remand centre, which took the more difficult to handle type of prisoner who had not yet been sentenced or was a long-term prisoner awaiting appeal. These are now in a separate institution in Calgary.

The relief at Spy Hill was immediate. They had more room to move. They were not so overcrowded. The dormitory has been cut down in size, and is used only by very well-screened prisoners who can move progressively through the institution according to degrees of security required. My honorable predecessor, Miss Helen Hunley, arranged for certain mobile homes to be installed just outside the walls of the correctional institution proper, close enough for them to be under supervision, to house day parolees. One of the problems was that prisoners going out on day parole could be pressured by more serious offenders to bring contraband into the prison. They are now in this separate little mobile home camp, and it's functioning extremely well. We've had no breaches of day parole since this has been instituted. The situation in Calgary, in my opinion, is good.

It's different at Fort Saskatchewan, because we have not yet built the Edmonton remand centre. It's an ancient prison, built around the First World War, on 19th century lines. It's very overcrowded. We have no relief in a remand centre in the City of Edmonton. The new one is just about to go to the architect stage. It will be two to three years before it can actually go on stream. While I feel pretty happy about the Calgary institutions, like lots of other people I continue to have concern about Fort Saskatchewan.

So far as police brutality is concerned, I really welcome the remarks from the hon. Member for Macleod, in that it's very commendable that our police by and large show such fantastic tolerance and restraint, sometimes in the face of extreme provocation by offending citizens. Of course, the police themselves are very conscious that law enforcement depends directly on co-operation of the public, and they're always trying to lessen the rift that might exist between the good guys and the bad guys. They depend on people as witnesses, for evidence and general co-operation. Certainly, we would have a much better society if the public generally understood the tremendous strain under which policemen operate. They're human after all. They are sensitive if the public is generally hostile towards their endeavors, which are really on behalf of the people themselves.

Of course, there are occasionally bad apples in any barrel, and things will go wrong. This is very much the exception and not the rule. When they do go wrong, there are adequate channels for discipline in Alberta. The case is first referred for disposition to the chief of police. If the complaining citizen is not satisfied, he can go to a Law Enforcement Appeal Board, which is chaired by Mr. Justice Legg. I'm confident, despite the provocation of people who may be violently drunk, that policemen are generally extremely restrained.

Psychiatrists -- and I'm not pretending that I inherited a rose garden here, and don't want to lull anybody into a sense of false security. There is no doubt that in this area of government involvement, we're a long way from the perfection only achieved in heaven. We are short of psychiatrists. We only have one forensic psychiatrist on staff at Oliver at the moment. We had two, but one of them unfortunately fell off the wagon himself.

[laughter]
So now we're left with one. Dr. Hellon has been endeavoring to find a replacement. I understand he now has one.

Despite the prosperity and big volume of work psychiatrists appear to find in the public at large, not too many of them are keen to go into the forensic area. In Calgary, we have intermittent visits from Dr. Pearce, who is the leading psychiatrist in that city, and Dr. Morris Carnat.

I would certainly like to improve the whole area of forensic psychiatry, and to try to persuade the psychiatrists themselves to visit our institutions, at least on a rotation basis. I think it's a duty they owe to the public at large. Of course, they're paid fees equivalent to those they receive from citizens at large, and I believe the profession could work out some sort of rotation system to give us better service in the correctional institutions. It is an area of concern, and the hon. Member for Drumheller is quite right in mentioning it.

Of course, so far as Drumheller and the case of Philippe Gagnon are concerned, that was a federal matter. The whole science of medicine is very inexact. When you release into society at large a prisoner who has served his sentence, it is always a value judgment whether he is dangerous enough to be permanently incarcerated. I feel some sympathy for the people who were responsible for that psychiatric judgment at Drumheller.

On the question of fees and commissions, raised by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View, the increase is due not to extravagance, but to shifts from other departments. We have inherited the native court worker program, a pretty large program costing some \$600,000, whereby counsellors of native origin assist Canadians of native ancestry to understand the tortuous process of the courts -- to hold them by the hand, so to speak, and to let them know their rights. This has been a most successful program. It formerly came under the minister responsible for native affairs. It is now directly under the Solicitor General's department. That is the main item. Of course, psychiatrists, doctors, and so on are also covered by fees and commissions. They're not on permanent staff as a rule. Each institution has a visiting doctor.

We also pay lay counsellors in the corrections field, such as personnel from the Salvation Army, the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, and so on, on a fee-for-service basis.

Price increase relating to the increased consumption of alcohol -- certainly rationing by the purse doesn't seem to have much effect. But the price increases that have taken place because of the general inflation in the world economy have not had any significant effect on the consumption of alcohol, obviously. Actually the price increase in beer, a sort of staple item in the liquor field, has not been as dramatic as the increase in the price of milk.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, one of the comments the minister made was with regard to the consumption of alcohol being up 50 per cent -- I think that's a correct statement -- and 40 per cent of the people in jail being there because of drug and alcohol problems. I think those are two correct statements.

My concern is that we see that increase, but at the same time, as a government, we see other statistics. The Check Stop annual report in 1973 shows 52 per cent of traffic deaths because of drinking.

We also recognize that the government collects \$15 million in tobacco tax and \$101 million from the Alberta Liquor Control Board. On the other hand, we spend \$43 million on policing and correctional institutions, and \$5.7 million on the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission. We make a profit of something like \$116 million. We push the advertising of these products -- we allow it over the media, television, radio -- and the problem is still out of hand.

You're playing both ends against the middle, as I observe the thing. You are pushing the cause out into the public, and on the other hand, you are collecting revenue. The problem is on the increase, and you are concerned about it, trying to build a bigger bureaucracy to control the thing. What is the direction of the province? How are you weighing this human loss against the profit of government?

I feel, at the moment, the minister really hasn't any clear policy or direction or grasp of that problem. That's the way it is, and we are going to continue. Has the minister got himself geared in a certain direction? Instead of trying to play both ends, is he going to go to one side and say, I think it's time we got tough in the whole area of alcohol use, got tough with the sentencing, got tough with the cause? Or are we just going to carry on? That seems to be what is happening right now.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, certainly there is no intention to revert to the prohibition era, if that's what the hon. member is suggesting.

MR. CLARK: No way.

MR. FARRAN: However, the Liquor Control Board is not merely a marketing agency. The word "control" is a very important one in that nomenclature. I am in a position of reviewing and studying the recommendations of the Gitter report. I expect that within a short period, less than a year, I'll be able to come to some firm conclusions as to what sort of reforms are desirable in the area of liquor consumption.

The main thrust of the Gitter report, of course, was that we should encourage a more civilized attitude towards drinking. This we will certainly be studying and making quite certain that we handle this thing in as knowledgeable and wise a way as possible. The changing of life styles by arbitrary enforcement of so-called blue laws has never proved very successful in the past.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, we certainly recognize that drinking and smoking cause problems. But sometimes I think we do it behind closed doors, or we have a fear of the possible public reaction to these particular problems. We try to dry out the drunk and rehabilitate him later. We set up our cancer hospitals and alcohol and drug centres to handle the problems of drinking and smoking. I think the action has to be in preventing these things from taking place. As has been indicated here, we are increasing alcohol consumption very dramatically not only in Alberta and Canada, but all over the world.

We do hear a lot of young people say that we should legalize marijuana. I don't think marijuana is really that bad. But I don't think we should legalize it, because it's just opening another door to add to the problems we already have. So I think this is an area

which has to be given a lot of consideration, because there are lots of pressures towards legalizing marijuana. We certainly don't want to add to the problems we have. It has been indicated here that so many of the deaths on the highways are involved with alcohol. There are also many homes broken up as a result of alcohol.

I have the feeling that sometimes prescribed drugs are leading to some of our problems as far as drugs and alcohol are concerned. I think at times they do start in this particular area.

We do have some good programs, and I commend the hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House for starting the Check Stop program. I think it did a terrific job in the area of preventing highway accidents. But I do think they are understaffed. I don't think we have the staff to run it as efficiently as it could be handled.

I don't smoke myself, but as I look across, I see the hon. doctor from Fort Macleod and the hon. doctor from Grande Prairie smoking pipes. Maybe that's the answer. Maybe we should be smoking pipes. I look over on this side and see our professionals smoking cigarettes. Maybe the answer is to smoke pipes.

DR. FAFROSKI: Don't mention names.

AN HON. MEMBER: Chew snuff.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Right, chew snuff. That might be the answer. The hon. Member for Medicine Hat started that just the other day.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have to have more preventative programs to stop our young people from smoking. It's really hard to stop them after they start, but if we can stop them before they start smoking -- this is where we need to stop our alcohol and smoking problems.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make one comment on the government's lack of responsibility and, I think in one special instance, their contributing to the problem. The present Minister of Energy and Natural Resources is probably the man who should take the blame. It was under his jurisdiction or direction, I believe, that the mechanism was set up that liquor, wine, and beer advertising was allowed on radio and television. For a government that talks about its record of open government and participation and things happening in this Legislature . . .

I would like to inform the new members of the Legislature exactly what happened. The Ghitter report came in, and in the spring sitting of the Legislature we asked, would liquor, wine, booze advertising be allowed on radio and television? Of course, the government said they would be looking at the thing and would let us know. Shortly after the Legislature closed that spring, booze was allowed to be advertised on radio and television. We came back in the fall and said, oh.

MR. GETTY: Just beer and wine.

DR. BUCK: That's booze, Mr. Chairman.

In the fall we said, why was the Legislature circumvented? Well, the hon. Premier said, put it on the resolution paper. That seems to be about the way this government acts, after the fact. After something has happened they say in their arrogant fashion, we did it. Try to do something about it.

Mr. Chairman, in questioning the hon. minister responsible for the area of concern at that time, we were told all the advertising was going to do was sell brand names. But what do we see? We see the subtle sell. I'm no puritan. I can put away as much as any member in this House, I'm sure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed. More.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that a challenge?

DR. BUCK: The only man I wouldn't challenge is the Solicitor General.

Seriously, Mr. Chairman, I think the government has to take some of the blame, because that's one product we don't have to push. The consumption goes up every year. When we see the beautiful colored ads on television about the good life, don't tell me we're not pushing the product. Mr. Chairman, if we're seeing the good life, let's see some of the bad life: the falling-down drunk or the father who comes home and beats up his wife and kids. So if we're not doing a selling job, if we're not promoting the product, let's take it off.

Mr. Chairman, because the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution is in my constituency, I periodically tour the place and, as the minister said, the large percentage of those people are in there because of alcohol-related problems. So, Mr. Chairman, I accuse this government of contributing to the problem, because of the action it took.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, [inaudible] this debate, but I do feel a little speech coming on that I'm going to have to get off my chest or I won't enjoy the weekend.

I don't think the alcohol and drug problem is any worse in Alberta than in any other province, and not nearly as bad as in some of the states. The thing which many times rather irks me is wanting the government to tell people how they should live. Our people

are not illiterate. I can go for this for juveniles, but once people have reached the majority age, whether there is advertising or not I don't think makes one hoot of difference to whether you drink or not. I don't want a government telling people what they can and what they can't do. I believe in the sanctity of the individual, and I believe in his right to decide. I think he should hear all sides. I just don't follow the argument that the government is going to take the responsibility for how many drink and how many don't. Because if that's so, and the government starts taking policies telling people they can't drink, we're getting into a society I don't want to live in.

We live in a permissive society. Our people are not illiterate. We have minds of our own. We can decide ourselves whether we want to drink or not. That's our decision, not the government's. I think we better get back to the theory that the government should stay out of people's lives. Let the people decide themselves. It's not the use of alcohol or drugs which is causing our problem. It's the abuse of alcohol and drugs. If we could settle our educational programs to show the abuse, it would certainly go a long way.

The advertising -- I don't know, I have checked with many young people and they don't even know the advertising is there. But I'll tell you, they do notice the TV ads. And sometimes in the theatre, when a hero comes on he does a great deed. He flies a jet, comes through a storm and lands. What's the first thing he does? He lights up a cigarette. That incidental advertising, to my mind, is far worse than any printed page, because hardly anybody reads that anyway. If they'd show some of the heroes getting out and not bothering to smoke right afterward, maybe it might not lead some of our young people to think they have to smoke to be a hero. Again, I don't know how far that goes, because in my association with young people I'm amazed at the number today who do not smoke, who made their own decision.

Isn't that the kind of society we want, where our people make their own decisions, where the government doesn't tell us what's good and not good for us? At least, they can tell us, but we come to our decisions ourselves on what we do and what we do about it. I think in this whole matter of liquor and drug abuse we better try to get down to the individual instead of trying to hold governments responsible for that type of thing.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I, too, wouldn't rest very well on the weekend unless I got one or two things off my chest.

I have to say, first of all, that I agree with many of the points made by the hon. Member for Drumheller. But we also have to keep in mind that the government has now permitted -- in fact, the ALCB and the government are involved in -- this advertising. We also must recognize that drinking and increasing drunkenness are here with us. I suppose I'm somewhat like my colleague from Clover Bar. I don't profess, by any stretch of the imagination, to be a saint either in that particular area.

Let me say this: let's not kid ourselves. It's the public which has to pick up the very unfortunate results. For any member who doesn't think that's the case, go spend some time looking at and talking to some of the people at Spy Hill, at the Fort Saskatchewan institution the minister also referred to. Worse than that, go to Peace River where the situation is just as bad. You can go to Oliver and Ponoka. It's society which has to pick up the casualties. Really, what we're trying to impress upon the minister here today is that this government introduced or approved advertising of beer and wine on television at the same time that we started the Check Stop program.

Now I suppose we can say that's one for and one against. The only thing we've really had since that has been an announcement by the government that it wouldn't be moving on the Gitter report for another year yet. The reason we're involved in this particular discussion this morning is that the minister himself has pointed out there are tremendous problems in the institutions as a result of alcohol and alcoholism.

Last year, we spent at least two or three evenings in the committee on health and social development with the chairman of the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission. He readily admitted to the members of the committee the horrendous problems that organization is having. We're looking at a situation of I don't know how much profit from the ALCB this year, but certainly -- I suppose it isn't far from \$100 million, Mr. Minister. Is that right?

The fact is, we are taking that amount of money in. What we are trying to emphasize here this morning to the minister and government is that we've had the Gitter report for more than three years now. The problem is getting worse each year. It was a problem when we were the government, too. We are trying to urge you into some action, not hasty action that you will announce tomorrow morning, but not to wait another year, either. When you move, for pete's sake, let's not please one group and then the other. Let's not approve more advertising and, at the same time, try to clamp down in some area. I think the public can justifiably expect some rather decisive action by the government. Let's tell the public once and for all whether we're really going to move on this particular matter. That's really the exercise we're going through right here.

MR. FARRAN: I neglected to reply to the question from the hon. Member for Fort Macleod, concerning the heavier police costs in that jurisdiction. It is true that Fort Macleod has a particular problem in that. Apart from Calgary and Edmonton where police costs are much, much higher than in any of the other centres in Alberta, Fort Macleod probably numbers about third in per capita cost. However, the hon. member should remember that grants are made for the overnight incarceration option, the 24-hour option under the

liquor act. They get a grant of \$7 for each person who is held overnight in the cells. This offsets the costs to a great degree, since most of the infractions in that area are connected, again, with liquor.

As far as Check Stop is concerned, this is a highly successful program of my predecessor, as the hon. member from Brooks mentioned. Some \$25,000 per year was spent in the early stages of the plan. This year it is proposed to spend \$300,000 on advertising support for Check Stop. It's not a question of shortage of personnel, because Check Stop is a supportive program to the established police forces. It's an educational program for the public, and there are not too many personnel involved. It's really an expenditure directly on advertising to alert people to the dangers of impaired driving.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister one question. Did the minister say that it wasn't a matter of a shortage of personnel at all? It's my understanding that is one of the reasons, in fact, there are many more stops made in the rural areas of the province than in Edmonton and Calgary, and especially Edmonton. In fact, one of the reasons the Edmonton police force hasn't been more involved in the program is that it doesn't feel it has the personnel available. If I am wrong, I wish the minister would correct me.

MR. FARRAN: I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition probably is wrong. Although the two metropolitan areas perhaps have a bigger crime case load than the rural areas, they do have a ratio of 1 constable to 550 as compared to 1 to 800 in the rural areas generally, outside the two main cities.

The government has announced, and I will be tabling a position paper before the end of this session, that \$12.7 million will be transferred to municipalities to assist in law enforcement.

MR. CLARK: Is that the unconditional grant?

MR. FARRAN: That's in grants.

MR. CLARK: The unconditional grant?

MR. FARRAN: I will be tabling the position paper before the end of the session, Mr. Chairman.

Appropriation 3401 agreed to: \$76,870

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3402	\$2,603,960
Appropriation 3404	\$189,210
Appropriation 3405	\$66,670

Appropriation 3406

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the minister, on that estimate, whether these funds are for policing outside the area of the RCMP?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, rural districts generally and municipal districts, counties, IDs, and special areas are policed at total provincial expense and at no charge to the municipalities. This also applies to urban centres with populations under 1,500. Above a population of 1,500, the local government is required to furnish its own police force. So these grants will be for relief of those areas where municipalities are charged with the fiscal responsibility for law enforcement.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. minister would tell us what the pay rate is per day for inmates, and what type of work are they paid for?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, by order in council we recently amended the inmate incentive pay, which is a small amount of pocket money to enable them to buy such things as tobacco. The revised rate for grade one, that's the bottom rate, is \$4.20 a week. Previously it was \$2.10 a week. This goes up gradually as the prisoner progresses through four grades to a maximum of \$7.70 a week as compared with the old scale of \$5.25 a week.

Prisoners working in work camps such as Nordegg and the smaller forestry camps attached to each of the institutions get \$2 a day. They work on such projects as government campgrounds, clearing the deadfall on forest trails and forestry roads, and so on.

Appropriation 3406 agreed to: \$13,789,000

Appropriation 3407

MR. COOKSON: I'll make it short if I can, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps it covers part of 3406 too. Maybe the problems I have in my area are unique, but I am continually receiving correspondence about the problems of policing.

We have an area of about six villages, one town, and a fairly large county. We have no RCMP stationed within that particular area. Therefore we are actually policed, in my constituency, by a detachment at Red Deer, another part by a detachment at Bashaw, and part I think by a detachment at Ponoka. I wouldn't be surprised if part of the detachment from Rocky Mountain House overlaps into the area. So what we have is the policing by outside detachments of a pretty big area, about 70 miles by 30.

In addition, we have two major tourist resort areas, and they require special consideration during the summer. It creates, I think, a rather difficult situation for the RCMP, in that they work on a hub system from these outside areas, and the local yokels seem to know when they're coming and going. They seem to work out their hub system. That's where all the problems come from. They come in particular from senior citizens, who are good taxpayers, pay their taxes, obey the law, but don't get protection by the law. I've had correspondence regularly over the last two or three weeks from one village in particular. I've referred it to your office.

It may be -- and I offer this as a suggestion in view of the extra grants we hope to be getting for policing -- that you might consider locating a one- or two-man detachment in that particular constituency to see if we can't reduce this kind of problem. We have a county policeman in the county. He was stripped of his gun. He's probably as capable, or more capable, of handling a gun than most RCMP. He's a returned Second World War veterinarian -- veteran -- he might even be a veterinarian, I don't know. He does night patrol with a police dog, because he says there's just no way that I'm . . . That's the other problem. I hope your department might lend itself to that problem.

I'm not in favor of guns -- I would like to see them piled in front of this Assembly and burned -- but if we are going to let people carry guns around in the backs of their half-tons, and yet won't let the people who are trying to enforce the law carry a sidearm, there is obviously a pretty bad inconsistency in what we're trying to do. I haven't heard the answer to this yet. Would you address yourself to that problem? On behalf of the people in the Lacombe constituency, maybe you could solve this dilemma.

As I say, there must be a solution. It may be that we have to put a one- or two-man detachment in the area. It may be that we again have to have another look at these by-law officers and reassess what their responsibility is. The particular person I'm referring to tries to enforce the by-laws which the RCMP won't touch. He faces the situation which comes under the Criminal Code and, as I understand it, he can't do anything about that. At least, that's what he tells me and most of the people he talks to. He then has to locate an RCMP officer somewhere. Someone says, why don't you make a citizen's arrest? If you can, visualize this man out at 12 o'clock in the evening or 1 o'clock in the morning. He's stripped of his side arm. He has no authority under the Criminal Code. He has by-laws which he has to enforce. But this is a Criminal Code situation. We're asking him to enforce the law? It's utterly ridiculous.

I'm in total agreement with an overall police enforcement in the province. We can't have a number of separate police forces and so on enforcing the law. There has to be continuity, and there have to be certain standards set. Would you please address yourself to this problem? It would sure solve a lot of problems for me.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just before the hon. minister replies. Because this is the centennial year of the Mounties coming to Fort Saskatchewan, I would like to introduce someone in the Speaker's Gallery who works for Hansard. That's Nancy Ridgely. She designed the Fort Saskatchewan centennial logo. I would like Nancy Ridgely to stand up and take a bow because, I think, not only does she work here . . .

In light of the fact that it is our centennial year, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say on behalf of our community how much we appreciated the co-operation we had from the former minister Bob Dowling's department, and the government. They appreciated the fact we were left out in the cold because of an accident of history, in that the North West Mounted Police who came to Fort Macleod and the ones who came to Fort Saskatchewan were the same group. The group which got to Fort Saskatchewan got there a month later than the one which got to Fort Macleod. They came to Fort Edmonton, then went out to Fort Saskatchewan in the spring. It is the same trek of Mounties, but the two events occurred in two different calendar years. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, that was an advantage because it gave us two years to celebrate the centennial of the North West Mounted Police coming to Alberta. Any of the hon. members from the Legislature who may be out Fort Saskatchewan way, we certainly welcome them to take part in our centennial celebrations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to strongly support what the hon. Member for Lacombe just said about side arms. I think we are putting our men in a most ridiculous position. I'm afraid, if things don't change, one of these days one of our town or village constables is going to be killed by some Mafia who carry guns and so on. This is a real possibility.

Take the Town of Gleichen, a small area policed by the RCMP. They carry side arms when they're out on patrol. But the police in Strathmore, a much bigger place, are not permitted to carry side arms. Strathmore is closer to Calgary, and Mafia and thugs out of

Calgary many times journey to the first town, with all respect to the hon. members for Calgary. It's fortunate the constable there is still alive. As a matter of fact, I'm doubtful if he's going to be there very long if this matter of side arms isn't corrected. It's a very serious thing.

I can understand those who say, let's not give side arms to every town constable. That's fine with me. But let's give them to those who are trained to handle guns. Some of these men are just as ably trained as the RCMP or any other police force with regard to side arms. I just can't follow the argument that they shouldn't be permitted to carry side arms. If we're going to make a differentiation, let's make it for those who haven't had any training with regard to side arms. Those who have should be permitted to have a weapon to protect themselves and the people they're trying to protect.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong the debate other than to say that the members for Lacombe and for Drumheller made the point very well, I think, of the problem that local policemen have. The hon. minister is well familiar with the problem the County of Mountain View has. He even has some holdings in the County of Mountain View. I understand the reeve of the county has spoken to him about [the problem.] Certainly, the Ombudsman has been involved in this area, and I believe he's made recommendations to the government.

For the life of me, I just don't know why it's taking so long to arrive at a decision here, to change the regulations so that, in fact, at least those members of municipal police forces who can satisfy the Solicitor General's department with their competence can have side arms. We have the same kinds of problems in Mountain View in the park areas. Frankly, the county is now considering getting rid of the three parks it has, because it simply isn't able to administer them; that's Westward Ho, the one west of Water Valley, and one other. One of the real problems, in addition to money, is the enforcement of by-laws in these parks. These are mainly people not from the County of Mountain View, but from Calgary and surrounding areas who come out on weekends.

MR. NOTLEY: I hope the minister will respond to the member from Lacombe, particularly with respect to policing in some of the smaller centres. The Member for Lacombe mentioned several of the hamlets and villages in his constituency. I just recently had a case in my constituency brought to my attention, which I related to the minister, concerning a community where some real problems have developed in the last little while because the policing has been spasmodic. That's not the fault of the local detachment. It has an area of 10 or 15,000 square miles to cover. It's just not possible for it, at its present size, to provide to some of the remote or smaller communities the police protection which I think these people have a right to and deserve.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, the RCMP, I think, are recognized by everybody in Alberta as a very well-trained police force of very high standards. Of course, it has a close historical attachment to every Albertan. In deployment of a police force, one has to take into account the general fiscal responsibility of the government. Certainly there would be a number of people who would like their own bodyguards, a one-on-one situation, something analogous to the teacher-pupil ratio in the schools. Teachers would probably like to get to the point where there's one teacher as a tutor to every pupil. But this has to be balanced with fiscal responsibility.

If individual members feel their area is not adequately serviced with law enforcement personnel, they should get in touch with me and I'll have a look at the general deployment of the RCMP across the province. In saying that, I have to remind you it's not possible to have enough men to have a one-on-one ratio of policemen to public, even one to every village is not possible. The RCMP, I think, can be said to be adequately covering a huge area in Alberta.

In this we're not entirely our own master. For this year, for example, we asked for 68 more Mounted Police. Because of considerations across the nation, we have only got 38 of those 68. We're still negotiating, trying to increase that complement. It's a question of the output of trained recruits in the Mounted Police, and they are of a very high standard. So, if individual members will get in touch with me, I'll have a look at the way the police are deployed in their particular area.

On the question of side arms for by-law enforcement officers, there is another side to the argument. I appreciate the points made by the hon. Member for Lacombe, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, to me formerly by the hon. Member for Stony Plain, and so on. First of all, it's obviously wrong to have dual policing in the same area. You can't really have two forces superimposed on each other, all rushing to the same incident. So, there must be good liaison between the by-law enforcement officers, who are not charged with enforcement of the Criminal Code, and the Mounted Police.

Now, the hon. Member for Drumheller mentioned one policeman in his area. I should remind the House that his nickname is "Hands-up Harry", and that we do not really want to get to the point where somebody pulls out a side arm at the same time he delivers a parking ticket.

There is a popular misconception, which probably comes from television, that the side arm is really an efficient weapon to protect the person. We just had a tragic event in a prison in Vancouver where one of the staff was shot by the good guys, not by the bad guys. There was also some pretty wild shooting in the Gagnon case in the City of Calgary. There, it involved trained policemen.

Really, very few people can put 6 rounds in a playing card at 20 yards. Most allegedly trained pistol shots find it difficult to put a shot in a haystack at 20 yards. Although I may not have much experience in correctional institutions, I have some in this regard. If it's a question of self-protection, really if the truth were known, policemen would be better off with rifles. However, the pistol has become symbolic in our culture because so many people watch western movies and think you can pot a gopher from the saddle.

Well, the problem is there. We do not think it's good public policy for such people as security guards, tribal policemen, and night watchmen to be armed. Often the existence of weapons on the guard provokes violence on the part of the offender. It can escalate the degree of conflict, especially if they're too ready to use this weapon.

I do recognize the points made by the hon. Member for Lacombe. In an area where there is a large number of summer villages and what is called urban overspill from the metropolitan area, special conditions do exist.

The problem is, first of all, to ensure that the people who carry the side arms are well trained and responsible, and for the municipality to understand they are legally responsible if they're used improperly. The second point is that we must avoid the dual policing. So, until I'm able to sit down with the new commanding officer of the Mounted Police, who won't be arriving for at least another month, to work out possible co-ordination between these county policemen and the mounted police, I cannot arrive at a fair decision.

It's easy enough for the Ombudsman to hand out gratuitous advice. The proliferation of weapons is obviously undesirable, yet special instances are involved. I'm still studying the matter and hope to be able to report, within the very near future, to the hon. members concerned.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to make one comment in connection with the Town of Strathmore. The constable there, who is held in very high respect, carried side arms for quite a number of years, and with dignity. He's a well-trained man. The former government said he could no longer carry side arms when the new Police Act came in. I argued it with the former Attorney General, but of course lost out. Even the RCMP were at the town council meeting, and they agreed it was ridiculous to ask this man to police the town at all hours of the night without side arms.

You say he's just enforcing by-laws. A car comes speeding through and he stops it. Who knows who is in that car? Sometimes they're violently drunk. Sometimes they're real thugs. He hasn't even got a club to protect himself with. Sure, he calls the RCMP. But that takes time. I say again, this whole matter of side arms should be reviewed realistically. If a man is trained to handle side arms and is enforcing the law, surely he should be permitted to carry side arms. If he's irresponsible even though he has had that training, he shouldn't be policing; he shouldn't be on the police force at all.

The people are depending on him and he should have the weapons to protect himself, the same weapons the thugs out after him have.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Chairman, I feel a speech coming on too and I'm not sure yet which of about four stimulating points the minister mentioned I'll make it on. I think I'll just select the topic of transfer of responsibility for policing from the municipal to the provincial area, which is really what, in my view, The Police Act did to some degree, and make the point that I would like the minister to consider that from my perspective as an urban member, fiscal responsibility has to be equated to responsibility for adequate protection and law and order in all the province. I would welcome, on behalf of my rural neighbors, some review of this portion of our budget next year to make sure we can adequately balance fiscal responsibilities with law and order, and that we adequately take care of the responsibility we assumed when we passed The Police Act and removed certain policing functions from the municipality.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. He answered the question first of all from the Member for Lacombe, indicating the balancing of the requirements for police protection on one hand with fiscal responsibility on the other. I thought perhaps a more important point he made was the request for additional men. The request was for 62 constables. Apparently we've received 38.

My question to the minister is: to what extent is this a serious problem? To his knowledge, is the RCMP at the present time having serious recruiting problems? Has he had any discussions with them to see whether we can bring that up to the full complement of 62 this year or whether we'll have to wait another year in order to fill it out? I think this really gets back to the crucial issue. If we have sufficient constables in the RCMP to do the job, it makes the by-laws officers a less critical or controversial local issue.

MR. FARRAN: Negotiations on the whole RCMP contract are still continuing.

MR. NOTLEY: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

MR. FARRAN: Negotiations on the RCMP contract are continuing.

MR. NOTLEY: When you negotiate for the contract, do you have any input at all into such things as recruitment policy? Further, do you have any input in terms of salary

arrangements for the RCMP, or is that exclusively the jurisdiction of the force, on which no discussions take place with provinces like Alberta?

MR. FARRAN: In recruitment, yes; in salary negotiations, no.

Appropriation 3407 agreed to: \$14,700,600

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3408	\$2,568,200
Appropriation 3420	\$869,250
Appropriation 3421	\$583,260
Appropriation 3422	\$3,064,900
Appropriation 3423	\$3,725,050
Appropriation 3424	\$1,491,470
Appropriation 3425	\$1,539,030
Appropriation 3430	\$1,309,890
Appropriation 3431	\$489,200
Appropriation 3435	\$783,600

Total Income Account agreed to: \$47,850,160

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I move this resolution be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise, report progress, and beg leave to sit again.

[The motion was carried.]

[Dr. McCrimmon left the Chair.]

* * * * *

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

Resolved that a sum not exceeding [\$16,697,395] be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Executive Council.

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$47,850,160 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Solicitor General's department.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to a request by the hon. Leader of the Opposition for leave to revert to Notices of Motions to give notice of the motion to be debated next Thursday, I would like to ask leave of the Assembly to revert to Notices of Motions at this time.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS (reversion)

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, first of all, might I thank the Assembly, then give oral notice of resolution:

Be it resolved that the Assembly urge the Alberta government to prohibit all forms of development in the eastern slopes, which are not for the purposes of reclamation or reforestation, until such time as a comprehensive land-use policy for the eastern slopes has been presented to and approved by the Legislative Assembly; the eastern slopes being that area so defined in the report tabled in the Assembly entitled, Report and Recommendations of the Environment Conservation Authority on the Public Hearings into Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 1 o'clock.

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

[The House rose at 1 p.m.]