

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Wednesday, June 18, 1975

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, 100 strong, bright, young students from Westglen school, grades 5 and 6. They are in the public and the members galleries and are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Armand Wilcer and Mr. George Dwernychuk.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome them to the Assembly. I congratulate them on taking an interest in the elected lawmakers and policymakers of this province. I ask them to rise and be recognized by the Assembly.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my honorable colleague from Camrose, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you and this Assembly, 25 students from the Camrose Composite High School. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Bob McLean, who is originally from my home town of Nanton. They are in the public gallery. I ask that they rise and be recognized by this Assembly.

TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the financial statements and auditor's report of the Alberta Opportunity Company.

I would also like to table the response to Motion for a Return No. 156, proposed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the annual report to March 31, 1975, of the pensions benefits branch.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Income Tax Amendments

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct the first question to the Attorney General -- I'm sorry, to the Provincial Treasurer -- the Attorney General's next -- and ask when he will be in a position to introduce the amendments to The Alberta Income Tax Act, having regard for the fact that we're getting close to the end of this session.

AN HON. MEMBER: How do you know?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I anticipate probably being able to introduce that legislation next Tuesday.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question to the minister. In light of the representation to the federal government by the Minister of Housing regarding the question of interest payments being exempt from income tax, will we have that provision included in the amendments to the income tax act the minister will be bringing forward?

MR. LEITCH: No, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't anticipate that provision to be in any amendments we currently propose to the provincial income tax legislation.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Is the government giving consideration, as far as the income tax amendments are concerned, to making advertising of alcohol and tobacco taxable for the purpose of provincial income tax?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that question is, no. But I suspect, without having had the opportunity of checking it, there would be some difficulties in our moving on our own in that area.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary to the Provincial Treasurer. Have there been discussions between officials of the Government of Alberta and the federal government with regard to a move in that direction?

MR. LEITCH: Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker. I would expect to be aware of them if there were any serious discussions on that subject between officials of the two governments.

Wiretapping

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Attorney General and ask if he's in a position to indicate whether either he or his designate approved wiretapping to be carried on in a lawyer's office in the City of Calgary in the past six months.

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I am not at liberty in the House to answer questions which may relate to inquiries and investigations by police authorities leading to the laying of criminal charges, or to give any indication until a decision has been taken as to whether charges will be brought against any person. The question the hon. Leader of the Opposition asks, Mr. Speaker, is not necessarily in that category but may be in that category were I involved in any such activity.

I have had no request to my office on the matter of wiretaps since assuming office, however.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question. Is the Attorney General made aware of applications for wiretapping that would be made to a superior court judge and approved by a member of the judiciary under the protection of federal privacy legislation?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that my office has not been contacted with respect to the matter of wiretapping on anyone. I am not convinced or satisfied that my office would indeed be contacted in any event. I believe the jurisdiction to grant such an application rests with the court. It may be that in the past the office of the Attorney General has been contacted. I am not personally familiar with that.

However, the question having been asked, I'll be happy to inquire into the appropriate procedures and mechanisms, to satisfy myself of the circumstances.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House whether the knowledge of the Attorney General would indicate if an application has been made through the A.G., to his designate, or to a superior court judge in the province regarding the tapping of telephone lines of a member of the legal profession?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of any application to any court for the tapping of any telephone, whether it's a law firm or anyone else.

Recreational/Cultural Grants

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. It relates to a recent report relative to the major recreational and cultural facilities program. I understand that out of the \$4.5 million available for that program in the City of Calgary, only \$1.1 million has actually been asked for.

I'm wondering if that's an indication of the response throughout the province, or is it only the City of Calgary that's not taking advantage of that program?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned the other night in my estimates, quite a number of the applicants were, in fact, applying for portions of what was available to them.

MR. GHITTER: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In the event the City of Calgary doesn't use the \$4.5 million this year, will that be applied to a following year's amount?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I have that request on my desk right now. We're taking a look at it to see whether we can apply that. I want to have some discussions with the hon. minister of culture, relative to the two cities and the amounts which are set aside for those cities.

MR. GHITTER: Further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In that there hasn't been a very enthusiastic response as yet to the program, I'm wondering if the hon. minister has looked at what can be done relative to advertising or bringing this program to the attention of Albertans, so they could take advantage of its worth-while [objectives].

MR. ADAIR: I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, whether it's not very enthusiastic. Those who have applied have been enthusiastic. But the dollar constraint and the costs right now for some of the communities have [resulted in] a decision on their part to take a better and longer look at it.

I might add, one of the features is that they must supply the projection of operating costs for 5 years, and that has been a slight deterrent to some of the communities in making a hasty application.

MR. GHITTER: Rising out of that supplementary, Mr. Speaker, would the hon. minister then consider revising the program so that, potentially, operational costs could be available to assist some of these communities which are worried about that problem?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, to start with, we are going to attempt to make the program work within the guidelines we have set for it. But we will be in a position, and flexible enough, to take a look at it if the pressure points continue to arise.

MRS. CHICHAK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the hon. minister might advise whether there are any safeguards with regard to the program, so that in each year a portion of that program must be allocated to the private sector, rather than being totally usurped by municipal governments.

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I understand the program, but if it's relative to safeguards for portions of it being cultural or for the private sector, the service clubs -- is that the part? I can assure you that when these applications come in, they are reviewed very, very carefully indeed by myself in consultation with the minister responsible for culture.

Housing Funds

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works. Could the minister indicate to the Assembly whether Alberta Housing Corporation has plans for a program, similar to the one announced by CMHC, dealing with subsidized mortgage payments?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, the federal government has several programs involving subsidization. I believe the hon. member is probably referring to AHOP. Mr. Speaker, a number of the Alberta Housing Corporation programs are indeed subsidized in accordance with interest. For example, the farm program was subsidized down to 9 per cent. Some of our direct lending mortgages are also subsidized. We are giving consideration, in connection with the \$200 million starter home program, to a program of assistance to make housing available to lower income groups.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister outline the types of rental projects which the Alberta Housing Corporation will lend money to or get involved in where conventional forms of financing are not available?

MR. SPEAKER: I would initially have to leave it to the judgment of the minister whether this might be an answer of such scope that it should be sought elsewhere.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, the federal government, under Central Mortgage and Housing, has a limited dividend program which supplies money at subsidized rates for rental accommodation. We are looking at several possibilities in terms of Alberta Housing Corporation being active in this area to some degree.

Naturopath Fee Payments

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the minister responsible for the medicare program. It's to do with the leech clinic, spelled l-e-e-c-h.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if he has had the opportunity to check with his department to find out if services in naturopathic clinics, such as the one in which they're using leeches to cure arthritis, are being paid for under the medicare program.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I was asked that question yesterday in response to a comment by Dr. le Riche of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Basically I indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the policy of coverage of medicare does not cover naturopathy.

Now as hon. members are aware, Alberta Blue Cross, a private, autonomous organization, makes its own decisions as to what it covers. It has nothing to do with the government. I understand that certain kinds of naturopathy are perhaps covered by Alberta Blue Cross. As you know, on extended health care benefits there is an agreement between medicare -- but that's just a lump sum agreement that covers a broad range of provisions by Alberta Blue Cross in extended health care.

So, the short answer to the question is that on a government policy basis, through medicare, we do not cover the services of naturopaths.

DR. BUCK: Supplementary. So the minister is indicating, Mr. Speaker, that he has had an opportunity to check since yesterday, and the leech treatment is not covered by medicare?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, yes, that is what I told the member. Alberta medicare does not cover naturopathy.

PWA Purchase

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation. I understand the Canadian association of primary air carriers has placed an intervention against the purchase of PWA.

Was this discussed with the Hon. Jean Marchand during the recent trip to Ottawa?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, the general answer is, yes, the status of PWA was discussed with Mr. Marchand.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, could the minister elaborate as to what decisions were reached in those discussions?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I think I could report that the view of the federal minister of transportation has not changed. It is the one he expressed to the government earlier. My representations to him were that in our view none of the interveners was of substance and, therefore, he should carefully assess whether very costly and lengthy legal procedures were needed.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is it the position of the Government of Alberta that the intervention by the primary air carriers is, in fact, not of substance?

DR. HORNER: Generally yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member should appreciate what the association is. It is a breakaway group from the general air carriers association of Canada. My understanding is they are primarily charter operators. I believe, therefore, the acquisition of PWA by the Government of Alberta does not reflect on their operations.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. Has the minister had an opportunity for discussions with the Government of British Columbia since they filed their intervention, and has he in fact been successful in getting the Government of British Columbia to withdraw their intervention?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader should first of all appreciate that the substance of the intervention by British Columbia wasn't in relation to ownership.

Secondly, in direct answer, we initiated discussions between officials in the two provinces. I'm awaiting a report on those discussions, which took place Monday and Tuesday.

Eastern Slopes

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Environment, which I asked the Premier the last part of last week. Does the Department of Environment have before it an application for a sizable recreational complex in the eastern slopes?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I believe any applications of that nature, which might be deemed to be in front of the government, are all listed in the report of the Environment Conservation Authority on the eastern slopes hearings. Only one comes to my mind: the proponents of a scheme called Assiniboia, who, at the time of making their submission to the ECA, submitted copies of their brochures to some ministers. I don't believe anything else could be deemed to be in front of the government.

Immigration Green Paper Hearings

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. In view of the disturbances which have occurred at some hearings of the federal government committee on the green paper on immigration, and in view of the fact the hearings will be taking place in Edmonton, I believe tonight, what steps are being taken, at your level of this government at any rate, to prevent such disturbances?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the demonstrations that have taken place across Canada in connection with these public hearings on the green paper on immigration. I'm also aware there were some incidents in Calgary, and that a meeting is taking place at the Holiday Inn tonight.

The law enforcement bodies concerned are on the alert. They are, of course, aware of the difference between a peaceful demonstration and an illegal disturbance.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. In light of the fact the minister indicated the government would not be making an official presentation to the committee, would he be in a position to indicate if an official government observer will be at the hearings in Edmonton?

DR. HOHOL: It would probably be a proper question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

I just want to comment on the preamble to the question. It's not the practice of a government to present a supplication or a brief to another government. Certainly our position and attitude are well known to the government.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary to the hon. minister. In light of the rather extenuating circumstances, Mr. Speaker, in that we are moving into a time of skilled labor shortage -- this is why I asked if the government will be presenting an official paper. He says, no, I believe.

DR. HOHOL: That is correct. I indicated during the previous question period that the answer was, in fact, no. While manpower is a component of the immigration concept and notion, they are, in fact, quite separate.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Will the Government of Alberta have an official sitting in while the briefs are presented to the committee, an official observer?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, no, there won't be any official government observer at the meeting. Certainly, we would take the approach of continuing bilateral discussions at the officials' level between the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada with regard to any future or proposed changes in immigration laws. We see that as the best route that could and should be followed by this province in making representations to the federal government, bearing in mind the jurisdictions involved.

Manpower Training Program

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. Due to the fact that many road contractors and heavy equipment operators this year are finding considerable trouble in getting skilled people to run their equipment, I wonder if the minister is considering re-establishing a training centre, similar to the one at Vermilion, somewhere in central Alberta that's more readily accessible to people in the province, rather than the one at Fort McMurray?

DR. HOHOL: I think, in answer to a question somewhat like that some days ago, I indicated the problem was of two kinds. We wanted to move the program around because of its worth to the community and the excellent training program facilities provided for young people. Secondly, a certain amount of money was designated for this program. The program itself, as set up now at Fort McMurray, pretty well uses up that fund.

However, I should say to all hon. members, Mr. Speaker, that if the evidence is clear that we should enlarge this program, we certainly will consider it.

MR. APPLEBY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would make some investigation, perhaps in co-operation with the ministry of transportation, as to how serious this shortage is.

DR. HOHOL: I certainly will, Mr. Speaker.

Restricted Driving Privileges

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Attorney General. I'm wondering if the Attorney General has had an opportunity to examine my question of a few weeks back, relative to the disparity in sentences in the City of Calgary on impaired driving charges, where some are getting restricted licences and others are not.

MR. FOSTER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have. I thought I had dealt with it in the course of my estimates, but on reflection I guess I didn't. I was looking forward to that opportunity.

Briefly, the suspension of sentence for drivers' privileges exists under The Highway Traffic Act, as the hon. member knows. The problem we have is that under the Criminal Code, a judge is empowered to prohibit driving between certain hours. On the face of it, there appears to be a conflict between federal and provincial legislation which, as you know, has been considered by the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Speaker, and found not to be a conflict in fact.

Under The Highway Traffic Act, the provincial court judges hearing the cases are required to obtain the driver's licence from the accused upon conviction and forward it to the Minister of Transportation. In certain cases, the judges of the provincial court in Calgary are not doing that, and are leaving the driver with his licence and the impression that the convicted person is entitled to drive between certain hours. There is, in practice then, a conflict between federal and provincial legislation. There is not a conflict at law, a conflict in the practice of the court.

The decision has not yet been taken whether the provincial court should be compelled, through writ of mandamus, to deliver up the licences to the Minister of Transportation and therefore avoid this confusion -- or the Solicitor General, rather. Representatives of the department are considering this course of action with respect to the provincial court in Calgary.

MR. GHITTER: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I'm wondering if it will then be the practice of the Solicitor General to issue restricted licences when provincial magistrates or provincial court judges decree that the driver shall have one.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I hate to give an off-the-cuff opinion on law without a licence. As I understand it, the provincial statutes give a mandatory suspension of licences, regardless of the decision of the judge. This was tested a year or 18 months ago in a case in Ontario. There is no discretion whatsoever in provincial statute so far as the mandatory suspension is concerned.

MR. GHITTER: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Attorney General. In that event, would the hon. Attorney General cause actions to be prosecuted against individuals who are driving while under a restricted licence for, in fact, driving without a licence?

MR. FOSTER: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, a number of drivers on our highways are driving while suspended. Certainly, if they are discovered by the police authorities, prosecutions are brought.

The better question, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is whether the provincial court judges should be encouraged, if you will, to comply with the law as it is. I read that to be their obligation, to recover the driver's licence from the convicted person and forward it, pursuant to the act, to the Solicitor General.

MR. GHITTER: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the hon. Solicitor General and the hon. Attorney General would get together to see what could be done to overcome this very unsatisfactory situation.

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to leave the hon. member or the House with the impression that there is something in particular the Attorney General or the Solicitor General should, indeed, do. I am trying to suggest, with respect, that perhaps the members of the provincial court in the great City of Calgary should have somewhat more careful regard for the law of this province as it exists today.

Wood Buffalo National Park

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. This is a follow-up to a question I asked the hon. minister a short time ago relating to Wood Buffalo Park. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated he would have more information about the status of Wood Buffalo National Park.

Have there been any discussions between the provincial and federal governments regarding that park?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do have more information. Insofar as the estimates of my department will be up immediately under Orders of the Day, perhaps we could review that subject at that time and explore it as thoroughly as the hon. member wishes.

DR. BUCK: Agreed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

[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.

Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a few comments highlighting the work of the department and touching on just a few of the issues which may occupy our attention in the months ahead. I realize each of the ministers presenting estimates has offered a few comments, and I hope the Assembly isn't following the approach that the length of the minister's comments must be in direct proportion to the budgetary size of his department. If that's the case, I'd have to sit down right now.

I would just like to say first that in broad terms the portfolio is one of a continuing series of weekly, monthly, and daily challenges, in the sense that the federal system in which Canada operates is always changing and shifting, adapting and evolving. It seems hardly a week goes by before one, two, or three new issues come before us which involve an interface either between Alberta and other provinces or with the federal government.

Indeed, if you look at the department and what the provincial government is doing, hardly any provincial policy of this government doesn't involve some kind of intergovernmental dimension with other provinces or the federal government.

Unfortunately, with regard to publicity, we too frequently see the media giving time and attention to only those major confrontations -- of which there will always be some in a federal state -- rather than offering some publicity with regard to the dozens of examples of close working together on issues.

This government department is perhaps unique, Mr. Chairman, in a number of ways. First, it is very compact; it's sort of precision-sized in terms of budget and personnel. The budget of the department is almost exactly \$1 million this year. In saying that, it's difficult not to recall my previous responsibilities, when I had the privilege of being in the Department of Education with a substantially larger budget. Comparing the two budgets, it appears that the Department of Education administers before 2 o'clock on any given day more than the department which I now head spends in a total of one year.

Recalling previous occasions: in those years in the Department of Education, I was looking after the taxpayer's dollar; I'm now watching every penny, bearing in mind the relative size of the two budgets.

The staff of the department is small -- 38. It is significant that almost half are women. The staff are few but highly competent, generally young, and certainly resourceful. They operate in a team approach, in a self-starting approach, to solving problems.

The department is also unique in that it is not a line department. It is not a program department. In my view that should remain so. It is unique in the sense that it has branches outside the province, windows on the rest of the world: London, Tokyo, Los Angeles, a listening post in Ottawa, as well as a smaller operation relating primarily to manpower in the City of Toronto.

Very simply, the purposes of the department are: to ensure co-ordination, consistency, and continuity in government policies in dealings with the federal government and other provincial governments; to monitor the actions of other governments in Canada such as may adversely affect or provide opportunities to the Province of Alberta; and to provide information to all departments, so we can anticipate events and problems. Those were the objectives when this young department was formed thirty-six and a half months ago. The objectives are the same today.

In that connection, I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor in this ministry, the Hon. Don Getty, who, I think, with skill and thoughtful planning set up an entirely new department. He provided solid leadership in the formative years. I think it's fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that due to the significant initiatives he took, and due to his plain common sense, the department has obtained a reputation in Canada for efficiency, preparedness, and negotiating skill.

DR. BUCK: Easy now, easy. You're embarrassing him.

MR. HYNDMAN: If I could just conclude, Mr. Chairman, by highlighting some of the intergovernmental issues and activities we see in the months ahead. One area relates to an interest of the Prime Minister which came to public attention in the fall of 1974, in the amending formula for the British North America Act and the patriation of the constitution. It seems there is an interest by the Prime Minister and the federal government, as evidenced by comments on that subject in the throne speech of that time, in moving with those twin approaches. It seems to me there is, therefore, a chance there will be discussions at various levels on this major topic in the immediate months ahead.

A second issue or activity, which has been going on and will continue, relates to the follow-up of the April meeting of first ministers on energy. Negotiations are still proceeding in that regard.

Thirdly, discussions are currently under way, or will begin shortly, on a number of important policy areas relating, to some degree, to shared-cost programs. Specifics will include discussions on the areas of income security, health care financing, communications policy, manpower, postsecondary education, and fiscal arrangements generally.

Fourthly, an in-depth assessment of the role of the Province of Alberta in international affairs is now going on in the department. We have, as I mentioned, the three foreign offices. There is an increasing number of scientific and cultural programs and exchanges between various countries across the world, and Alberta is involved in those. There also is the overseas activity, a very promising work, of the Alberta Export Agency. There are the relationships with the states in the United States affected by our provincial energy policies. That will be another area of Alberta's role in international affairs we'll be examining. Of course, there is the continuing follow-up with regard to the Western Economic Opportunities Conference, with particular and recent special interest in the transportation policy enunciated by the hon. Mr. Marchand.

That, Mr. Chairman, concludes my introductory remarks. I hope they've been of assistance to members. I would look forward to answering questions at this time.

Agreed to:
Appropriation 3101

\$90,016

Appropriation 3102

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, maybe the minister can now clear up the situation with Wood Buffalo National Park. Just what relationship or communications have there been between the provincial government and the federal government? Is the rumored gypsum mine a fact, or is it not? What are the aboriginal rights in the area; will there be any? Just all the information the minister can give us on Wood Buffalo National Park.

MR. HYNDMAN: I've prepared some background information on that topic, Mr. Chairman. First, on the subject of a gypsum mine, there is no gypsum mine within the confines of the Wood Buffalo National Park at the moment. There are some gypsum deposits at Peace Point, which is one of the two areas the Fort Chipewyan Cree Band has requested for a settlement of outstanding land entitlements. The Chip Crees, I'm told, have not requested the gypsum be mined. If that land is, in fact, given to those Indians, through an amendment in Parliament to the National Parks Act, there could be efforts by them to exploit the gypsum mine.

The general situation regarding the Indian entitlement is as follows. Discussions have been going on for some time, largely between the federal government and the Chip Indians, regarding the selection of lands which the Cree Band at Fort Chip are entitled to have for a reserve under the provisions of Treaty No. 8. The entitlement which that band has chosen and which, I gather, the federal minister, Mr. Buchanan, has agreed to, is some 41,000 acres within Wood Buffalo National Park. What it now appears will happen is that the federal minister will introduce a bill into the federal House of Commons to amend the National Parks Act to exclude those 41,000 acres from Wood Buffalo National Park. That will probably proceed through a Commons parliamentary committee, at which parks and other representations may be made. Then, if it passes Parliament, the lands would go to the Chip Cree Indians.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Chairman, a question to the minister. This concerns the DREE agreements with Alberta, which expired on March 31 of this year, and subsequent agreements known as the Alberta North Agreement. Are discussions continuing with the federal government concerning the Alberta North Agreement, broadening it, or have they concluded?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, my information is that the Alberta north interim agreement, which is under the umbrella of the general agreement so successfully negotiated by my predecessor, which gives Alberta its main input and priority with regard to these programs, expires on March 31, 1976. Funds available for the '74-75 fiscal year are \$4.7 million, with a 15 per cent escalation of that for '75-76.

There are a number of agreements in the formative stages: the rural-urban economic development and forest resources improvement and development agreements are those which are now involved in continuing discussions with regard to the area.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Chairman, just an observation for the minister to consider in regard to the question of the defence research establishment at Suffield. As the minister is no doubt aware, that very large establishment is proposed for a phase-out by the federal government. I would hope that in the coming months, consideration would be given at the provincial level to encouraging the Government of Canada to retain that facility in the Medicine Hat area at Suffield and Ralston.

If that is not possible, I would hope the minister would give consideration to a method whereby the facility would be retained and perhaps taken over by the Government of Alberta for research purposes in the environment or that some suitable method can be worked out to retain not only the facility, but the people who work there at the present time. They have expressed very strong wishes to remain Albertans and to work in the area where they have had their homes and their families for many years. It's a matter of real concern to me and, I am sure, to all the other members from southeastern Alberta.

MR. HYNDMAN: [Inaudible] Mr. Chairman, the situation at present is that the federal government, through the Minister of National Defence, gave notice some time ago that probably in the time line of 1979-80 they were thinking of phasing out the establishment. It is an important one. I appreciate the suggestions of the hon. member, because the families are Albertans; they like the country. The defence research establishment, I think, is important to the economy of the area.

It now appears to be less certain there would be a move of the whole establishment to Winnipeg, the suggested location. I believe some federal government personnel found they would not be able to move the entire establishment, and that some aspects of it should remain there. We would, I think, wish to continue urging the federal government to keep as much of the establishment there as possible. In addition, we are exploring the possibility whether some kind of provincial research establishment, perhaps related to irrigation or some allied field, could be moved there if the federal government did move out, thereby using the very unique talents of the people at the establishment. So we're watching that very closely with a view to helping those involved.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to support the hon. Member for Medicine Hat in putting on pressure to try to keep this research centre in Suffield. I think right at the present is an opportune time to approach it, because they are having problems getting land or facilities in Winnipeg to move the research centre from Suffield. I think now is the time to approach our federal Minister of Defence, Mr. Richardson, who lives in the constituency where they are planning to move the research centre. I think now is the time to hold the research centre in Suffield, if at all possible. Possibly the federal government could expand it in different areas. As the minister said, even if the provincial government can't come up with any research plans, [maybe] the federal government could expand on the research program at Suffield at the present time.

MR. MILLER: I was wondering, Mr. Minister, about the DREE program. Have we signed an agreement with the federal government in regard to DREE? If we have, are we the ones who say where the DREE money is to be spent in the Province of Alberta?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, yes. The 1971 DREE agreement was found to be quite restrictive. By reason of negotiations carried on since the fall of 1971, a general umbrella type of agreement was arrived at, which was very beneficial and which, for the first time, gives Alberta the right to have a major voice in which programs come in and in which location. No geographic restriction is imposed by the federal government, as was the case before when the federal government would come in, simply draw a line around part of Alberta, and say that was where DREE funds were going. There is no restriction with regard to geography. The areas which most need the funds can then be assisted by Alberta making representations as well. There is a good deal more flexibility. Under the general agreement there are specific ones; the nutritive processing agreement relating to agricultural processing was the most recent.

So I think the plan is much better for Alberta, from here on in. It doesn't warp and bend our local priorities position.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, supplementary question to the minister. Is there some way the minister can get the federal government to let the Alberta government distribute these

DREE grants? I noticed the last one in my constituency; the sentence was made by Senator Hastings from Calgary. I was wondering why the Alberta government -- Hastings, is it?

DR. BUCK: For the same reason your cabinet ministers give out the grants in [inaudible] constituencies.

MR. TRYNCHY: You'll have your turn, when your turn comes up, Mr. Buck.

DR. BUCK: [Inaudible] answer before you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. TRYNCHY: Could we get some co-ordination and have our government distribute the funds so we'll know what is going on and not read it in the paper?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I've had difficulty understanding why the federal government wishes its personnel to make those grants. I think, when I can ascertain the reason for that -- perhaps an argument can be made in the sense that they're shared-cost grants. If they're not made by a neutral source, at least representatives of both governments in the partnership could be there jointly . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Sure.

MR. HYNDMAN: . . . and whoever makes the most persuasive point would thereby be able to get appropriate recognition.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. minister a question? If I can offer my assistance, when the hon. Member for Edmonton Ottewell goes handing out grants, I'd be pleased to accompany him, especially in my constituency, just to help him carry those big cheques, in case he wants me to help.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, my question is in the way of a follow-up on the question of national defence. In view of the fact that I understand the spending in Canada's armed forces is something less per capita than in the state of Luxembourg, I wonder if the minister would give consideration to urging the Minister of National Defence to consider spending more money on our armed forces.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of areas of federal jurisdiction which are quite clearly set forth in the British North America Act, and a number of areas where, in our view, the provincial jurisdiction is supreme. Although there are gray areas where there will be differences, disputes, or maybe even confrontations, our general approach would be, I think, that we would not want to invite or encourage the federal government to impair or impinge upon our constitutional provincial prerogatives.

By the same token, unless it's an exceptional situation, we wouldn't offer gratuitous advice to the federal government with regard to their areas of jurisdiction that are relatively unquestioned. A caveat to that, I think, Mr. Chairman, would be with regard to various contingents of the Canadian Armed Forces based in the Province of Alberta. There are a number of them and, if moved out of the province or substantially changed in quantity, it might adversely affect the social and economic impact on community.

MR. DOAN: Mr. Chairman, reverting to Suffield, my question to the minister is: what does Alberta get as compensation for the Suffield lease?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, that matter has been under negotiation in the sense of Alberta owning the mineral rights in that area, and the federal government having rights with regard to the surface. With regard to the access of the mineral owner, if the land is leased out through the federal government to various armed forces contingents for use of the surface, that means the cost not only of drilling, but more particularly the subsequent production of natural gas through facilities on the surface might be a good deal more, because of protection needed for various surface installations. Also, by reason of the surface activities, it may be that Alberta would not be in a position to have as much of the potential gas removed from the field.

Although a good deal of work has been done, and I think a conclusion almost reached with regard to the use of the surface for natural gas activities, an agreement which would involve essentially the base commander and the lessee, there still are problems to be worked out with regard to compensation for the Province of Alberta for the impairment of its full right to take up the natural gas by reason of the unusual and unique surface use.

Appropriation 3102 agreed to:

\$553,458

Appropriation 3103

MR. GOGO: I'd like to ask the minister a couple of questions about 3103. I see we maintain two offices in Canada, and three abroad. I've had reports that in terms of industrial development in eastern America, that is New York and Chicago, what's available

in Alberta generally is not very well known. Both Ontario and Quebec maintain very aggressive offices.

I had addressed this question earlier to the Minister of Business Development. I hadn't heard back, and I thought it was important that the questions be asked in this appropriation. It appears there's also quite a community of interest with Texas, particularly Houston, as opposed to Los Angeles.

I wonder if the minister has considered the opening of offices either in New York or Chicago or both? The reports I've had are that the office in London is an excellent example of what Alberta can do. I am sure the minister has had reports to that effect as well. So I would like to suggest that the minister consider counteracting somewhat the thrust of Ontario, Quebec, and the eastern seaboard of America with what Alberta has to offer, and give consideration to establishing offices there.

I see we have three former Albertans as agents for three of the major chartered banks maintaining offices in New York and Chicago, so there would certainly be a community of interest and ease of communication if further information were required.

I would suggest the minister consider, if he would, what possibility there would be of establishing offices there, or at least a fact-finding mission.

MR. HYNDMAN: A helpful suggestion, Mr. Chairman. That's under a continuous assessment. I suppose we could consider justifying offices in a number of other places in North America. With regard to the eastern part of the continent, I suppose we, as a government in the province, would like to convince those in eastern Canada of the industrial and commercial opportunities in Alberta. Perhaps when we've reached some level of success with that enterprise, we then move on to the northeastern United States.

Certainly, there is a question with regard to whether a fixed, permanent office in a building is the best way to approach the situation, or whether an alternate approach might be a travelling squad or group of people carrying Alberta's message, which could fan out from a given area two or three times a year. The suggestion about the mid-central States is certainly a worthy one as well. Perhaps the Los Angeles office might be expanded or moved to the mid-central states in future. It's something we have under continuous advisement.

Appropriation 3103 agreed to: \$356,553

Total Income Account agreed to: \$1,000,027

MR. HYNDMAN: I move the resolution be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray have leave at this time to revert to Introduction of Visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. TESOLIN: It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, and to the members of this Assembly, 31 young Albertans from Fort Chipewyan, accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Snow, and parents, Mrs. Wylie, Mrs. Flett, and Mrs. Voyageur. They have just completed a tour of Alberta and B.C. I would like to ask them to rise and be recognized by the Assembly.

MR. BUTLER: [Not recorded] I would like to have the pleasure of introducing to you, and through you, Melba and George Whitehead. They are in the members gallery. George Whitehead is the president of the rural municipalities and counties association. Would they rise and be recognized by the Assembly.

Department of Legislation

MR. APPLEBY: If I could just make a short explanation of the manner in dealing with these estimates, under an amendment to The Legislative Assembly Act, which was assented to by this Assembly in October 1973, Section 33(2), in the application of The Financial Administration Act as it applies to the staff, the officers, the revenues and expenditures of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly were given the responsibility and the same powers and functions as minister and deputy minister respectively. However, because the minister is not present when we are in Committee of the Whole, last year we followed the procedure in the Estimates of having the Members Services Committee, which represents both the opposition and the government members, take the responsibility for piloting these estimates through the Assembly, and making

themselves informed on various appropriations. So this is the procedure we have again set up this year. The various members of the committee have taken responsibility for various appropriations as they're listed here, and will try to answer questions. Of course, we also have Mr. MacDonald here if we can't supply the answers.

Appropriation 1902 agreed to: \$711,300

Agreed to:

Appropriation 1903	\$1,141,700
Appropriation 1904	\$229,795
Appropriation 1905	\$2,633,561
Appropriation 1909	\$25,000
Appropriation 1910	\$95,520
Appropriation 1911	\$249,750
Appropriation 1912	\$64,000
Appropriation 1913	\$53,000
Appropriation 1914	\$208,000
Appropriation 1916	\$622,500
Appropriation 1917	\$64,500
Appropriation 1918	\$150,000

Total Income Account agreed to: \$6,248,626

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Chairman, I move the resolution be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

Department of Government Services

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, as an introduction I just would like to reiterate what I said when I introduced the Government Services department bill. I am delighted, and of course honored, to take over from several ministers some very fine and smoothly running divisions of government, whether it be the outstanding efforts of the physical plant division in the maintenance of all government buildings, the excellent work done by the Provincial Auditor with the data processing centre, or the excellent and honest effort by our director of purchasing, Mr. Bruce McClean.

The endeavors of the Department of Government Services will definitely be wherever possible [to see] that the services of government provides their input to different departments without duplication, and to conserve, if possible, personnel or efforts that, again, would result in duplication. The concept is to achieve a high effectiveness of service to all Albertans through the departments of government.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2601	\$118,720
Appropriation 2602	\$401,676

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, it might be a good time to have the minister outline for us what he has in mind as to deputy ministers, associate deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, assistants in his own office, and so on.

MR. SCHMID: Thank you for the question. In reply to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, he may have heard the announcement that we have appointed Mr. Jack Kyle as deputy minister of the Department of Government Services. In fact, I will endeavor to send Mr. Kyle's background to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I thought it was done. Maybe it's on its way to the office. It's very possible. I will get the details to you.

As far as the executive assistant to my own office is concerned, the gentleman's name is Mr. Steve Kurylo. He's probably known to the hon. leader, and to the members of the Assembly, since he worked in the Premier's office before.

Maybe I could explain the make-up of the Department of Government Services in the following manner. Metric conversion, we felt, should be reporting directly to the deputy minister, because it involves not only government departments, but also outside agencies -- municipalities, teachers, professionals, and for that matter, manufacturers in the Province of Alberta. So the metric conversion division would be reporting directly to the deputy minister and through him, of course, to me, to cabinet, and to the government. It is headed by a gentleman by the name of Mr. Markovich.

The executive director of finance and administration is Mr. Doug Nicholson, who was with the Department of Public Works. The assistant deputy minister for data processing is Mr. Gehmlich, who was at one time, or before the re-organization, assistant provincial auditor.

We have combined the different smaller items of the provincial records management, freight bureau, stock advance, and so on in a division called supply and services. The Bureau of Public Affairs is still under the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Bill Payne.

The purchasing agency remains under the director of purchasing, Mr. Bruce McClean. We have combined planning, interior design, and realty and accommodation service under the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Stiebritz. The physical plant division is under the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Bill Davies, the gentleman who has done this job so ably for the past number of years.

The other division we have established is government aircraft operations. This was done in order to make sure that government aircraft are able, at all times, to react immediately to any emergency, be it fire or any other emergency. This division is under the directorship of our chief pilot, John Tenzer.

Mr. Chairman, I think I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great patience and ability of the last Minister of Public Works in his three and a half years, or 43 months in office. I think great thanks [are due] to him, as well as, of course, to the past Minister of Lands and Forests, the hon. Dr. Warrack, that I have been able to take over an organization which is running as smoothly as it is.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. minister when the Premier's private helipad, across the road here, is going to be ready?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should explain to the hon. members that any kind of construction which takes more than three months is actually done under the Department of Housing and Public Works. In this case, I know that the helicopter pad will not be built where it was initially intended, across 109 Street, but other sites are being looked at and considered. I think the announcement will probably be made by the Hon. Bill Yurko.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, maybe the minister can indicate why the location is being changed.

MR. SCHMID: I think several factors may have contributed to that, Mr. Chairman. First of all, it was probably the noise factor for the people who live across 109 Street. It would have been over in the parking lot across the bridge. I also understand that probably the Ministry of Transportation may have had some input, maybe suggesting it would not be the right place because of the dangers of people living too close to it, and so on. So other sites are now being considered.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Then it will not be in the Legislative area?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, it could be in the Legislative area. For instance, it could be possible to establish a pad or a landing platform somewhere around the Terrace Building, where it's more within the confines of, I would say, policing, if this is the right word, to keep people away from the area where if a helicopter lands it would be across 109th Street.

AN HON. MEMBER: Security.

MR. SCHMID: Security, yes.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, did I hear the minister correctly when he said we now have a deputy minister, Mr. Jack Kyle. Have we four deputy ministers to administer this department now -- four associate deputy ministers, I should say?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the way the government departments are set up -- probably the hon. Leader of the Opposition finds this in other government departments too -- the organizational chart usually shows a minister, a deputy minister, assistant deputy ministers, then the other distribution of office functions under the personnel administration of the government.

MR. CLARK: That's all very well. All I'm trying to find out is: do we have four associate deputy ministers in this department?

MR. SCHMID: Four assistants, yes.

MR. CLARK: Assistant deputy ministers then. Could the minister give us some indication what each of these gentlemen are being paid?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should indicate that the title assistant deputy minister really doesn't have anything to do with the pay scale or rate of pay which is established under the Public Service Commissioner. I think what they call executive officers and so on have different pay rates as they are established, which have nothing to do with the title carried, as far as administration itself is concerned.

MR. CLARK: The question was: how much are the four of them costing us?

MR. SCHMID: The same amount, Mr. Chairman, as they cost before. I would have to check the individual rates of pay with the Public Service Commissioner for Executive Officer I, Executive Officer II, depending on their present title, standing, or rating, whatever it is called.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Would the minister undertake to do that, and report back to the committee please?

MR. SCHMID: Yes. In fact, I probably could do that before the estimates are approved.

MR. CLARK: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, there's just one more area I'd like to pursue for just a second. With the development of the now deputy minister and the four assistant deputies -- is that the term -- and an executive assistant, [are there] any executive assistants in the deputy minister's office?

MR. SCHMID: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CLARK: Just going along, can we get some indication from the minister of the number of additional people being taken on across the whole department?

MR. SCHMID: Of course, Mr. Chairman, there are some additional people, as outlined in the budget, who we are going through right now. But I don't think there would be too many, if any, additional people, because we took over divisions or branches from other departments. What we are trying to do is consolidate them rather than expand the personnel of Government Services.

MR. CLARK: Consolidate by expanding how many? How many new people in the department?

MR. SCHMID: Due to the re-organization, Mr. Chairman, at present I can say, really none.

MR. CLARK: How many places are we adding to the public service in this department? [Inaudible] five to three itself. Or from three to five. There's two. The next one has gone up four. That's six in two appropriations. The next and two more is eight.

MR. SCHMID: I'm just looking it up, Mr. Chairman. Here it is.

MR. CLARK: If you go down to 2609 it's seven more.

DR. BUCK: Give him a grant, Horst.

MR. SCHMID: The change, Mr. Chairman, seems to be from 2,966 in the '74-75 estimates to 3,222 in the '75-76 estimates.

MR. CLARK: 3,223?

MR. SCHMID: 3,222 in the present estimates.

MR. CLARK: So this consolidation has cost us approximately 300 new positions. Is that pretty well the situation?

MR. SCHMID: No, Mr. Chairman, it is not. These additions are the overall additions in, for instance, physical plant, the data processing centre, or wherever the estimates show the actual increase is. When we discuss the department, if we talk about, should I say, the minister's and deputy minister's office, of course it's an entirely different matter, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CLARK: The point I want to make -- it's the strangest kind of consolidation I've ever seen, where we add 250 people.

MR. SCHMID: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's actually quite simple. Additional buildings have been opened. I'm quite sure they needed extra janitors and probably a couple of extra plumbers and pipefitters to take care of the maintenance of the buildings of the Department of Government Services.

As well, of course, the Data Processing Centre, for instance, needed extra programmers because of additional programs, be it for the support of senior citizens, be it for extra work being fed into it because of the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission, or others. Mr. Chairman, of course that also means an increase in personnel for Government Services -- not because of the reorganization.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2606	\$263,140
Appropriation 2607	\$149,200
Appropriation 2609	\$713,250

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I know this isn't the right appropriation, but I'd like to ask the minister where in these estimates we would find what this RITE number system, so improperly named, is costing us?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, of course it may sound like an excuse which can be used at any time, but the malfunctions of the RITE system have been with the equipment delivered to us

by manufacturers and/or, for that matter, with the City of Edmonton telephone system or even Northern Electric, who had some problems with a unit they delivered to us.

Mr. Chairman, the RITE system itself can in fact be found under Public Affairs. It would be under that appropriation.

Appropriation 2610

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, 2610 is a good example of what the minister wasn't talking about. He was talking about more maintenance people and so on. Here we have a reduction of 74 man-years in wages and contracts and 30 added earlier, which is a net loss of 30. Frankly, when we look at this kind of department and the growth we're seeing this year, and the minister tells us it's mainly being used for janitors and pipefitters and so on, 2610 just seems to shoot a hole in that argument.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should explain that a number of people employed under the former government and under the last term of our office were really on a wage contract. As the hon. Leader of the Opposition may know, after some of those people are employed with the government for a while, they are taken into full-time positions. As far as contracts are concerned, in this case it may actually relate, because any contract work for buildings and so on which has something to do with construction and takes more than 3 months, is taken over by the Department of Public Works. We lost people from Government Services, because Public Works is taking them over.

Appropriation 2610 agreed to: \$32,573,860

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2611	\$522,060
Appropriation 2612	\$263,700
Appropriation 2613	\$234,570
Appropriation 2616	\$572,460

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, if we could just slip back to 2613 for a minute. Could the minister indicate to us how this planning division administration relates to the Department of Housing and Public Works when it comes to supplying new facilities in places like Peace River, Innisfail, or Olds?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, planning, administration, and accommodation, of course, first of all ascertain the amount of space required by a government agency or department in a municipality or, for that matter, in the Cities of Edmonton or Calgary or other cities. Once that is established, a committee of both Government Services, and Housing and Public Works consults on whether the space should be leased or whether it would be more feasible financially to build. Once that is done, the Department of Housing and Public Works takes over to do the building. If not, leases are arranged through the Department of Government Services.

MR. CLARK: So any decisions to take on architects and people like that would be made by the Department of Housing and Public Works rather than by your department. Is that right?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, if it's a matter of construction taking more than 3 months, yes.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, may I just ask the hon. minister a question. I'd like to know what the government's philosophy is toward providing housing for government employees. Is there a philosophy or policy for people, say, in the more settled areas? Is there a policy for people who are a long, long way out, possibly in isolated areas? I'd just like to know what the government's philosophy is on housing for government employees.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. Member for Clover Bar for his question. I know that one of the cabinet committees has this very item under consideration. I think it may eventually be relegated to the minister responsible for government employees, in this case the Provincial Treasurer. If it's a remote area, it would first of all be considered whether there should be direct support or grant; if housing should be provided because there is a shortage of housing for government personnel, or if housing should be provided only because it happens to be a remote area. All these policy decisions are presently being considered, but I don't think they have been approved.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister. For what it's worth, my personal philosophy would be that we pay the employees what they're worth, and they look after their own housing, as much as we can maintain that philosophy.

Every other person in every other walk of life looks after his own accommodation as much as he can. I qualify that by saying, pay the people what they're worth, and let them look after their own housing.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the hon. member's remarks. Of course, I'm quite sure he would want to add exceptions. For instance, the Department of Recreation; Parks and Wildlife could have a wildlife or parks officer somewhere out in the forest, who of

course would have the use of the forestry ranger station, wherever the ranger would happen to live.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2617	\$12,100,000
Appropriation 2618	\$3,300,000
Appropriation 2620	\$178,690

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, with regard to 2620, is any money paid out here or any place else for drivers for cabinet ministers, other than for the Premier?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware of drivers for cabinet ministers. In fact, I'm quite sure there are no drivers for cabinet ministers.

MR. CLARK: So there would be no money here or any place else in government expenditures for drivers for cabinet ministers and so on -- other than for the Premier; that's a long-standing practice in the province.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware of drivers for cabinet ministers or, for that matter, any other government personnel except the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the hon. minister a question. What is the upper limit on the amount of money spent when buying ministers' cars?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I think the upper limit on ministers' cars is \$6,500 -- with exceptions, I should state. Some of the ministers go on frequent trips to different parts of Alberta in their cars because they either cannot or are unable to use the aircraft. Maybe additions to the car would cost more, but that would be by special permission of the president of the Executive Council.

DR. BUCK: That means all full cabinet ministers plus ministers without portfolio have government cars, or do the ministers without portfolio not have government cars?

MR. SCHMID: I think, Mr. Chairman, the provision of cars for ministers without portfolio would be under the department of the Executive Council, not under Government Services. The question would probably have to be directed to the president of the Executive Council, if you're interested in that information.

Appropriation 2622

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister would be prepared to indicate to us the present status of the plane the government is getting rid of. Where is it? Which one are you getting rid of?

MR. SCHMID: Oh. Mr. Chairman, I'm not actually aware the government is getting rid of any plane. If he could denote the name of the aircraft we're supposed to get rid of, maybe I could then find out what it is for the member.

MR. CLARK: No, I don't know. How many does the government have in this area? Perhaps we could start from there, then sort them out.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, there are the King Air and the Queen Air which are two aircraft, and the DC 3. Then, I think the Dornier also is owned by the government. There are, however, a number of other aircraft, and for that matter helicopters, on lease to the government, also some helicopters owned by the government. But the exact number of helicopters, Mr. Chairman, I would have to find out for the hon. member.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, did he miss one there? I think the government has ordered a new King Air. Has that been received?

MR. SCHMID: No, Mr. Chairman, it has not been received.

DR. BUCK: When will it be in service?

MR. SCHMID: Due to a strike of the company in Montreal which manufactures the motors, I understand a possible delivery date may be some time this fall.

MR. CLARK: What's the cost?

MR. SCHMID: I think the cost is \$1,050,000. A special warrant was passed for this amount of money some time ago, if I'm not mistaken.

MR. CLARK: To the Chairman, are all the planes -- the King Air, the Queen Air, and the DC 3 -- are they all airworthy now and being used?

MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chairman, to my recollection the DC 3, of course, is mainly used for delivering crews to different fire-fighting areas. The Queen Air is presently being used during daylight hours, of course, exclusively for aerial photography in Alberta. The King Air, which returned from repair in Calgary exactly one week ago, is now also in service again.

MR. CLARK: Did you say the King Air just returned from repair?

MR. SCHMID: That's right, Mr. Chairman, due to an accident of brake failure in Lethbridge about half a year or so ago. An aircraft of an air line company accidentally ran into King Air, and took off a few portions, and it had to be repaired. It took about 6 months.

MR. CLARK: Could you be a little more specific? Was one of the wings damaged? What was the damage, and who is paying for the damage?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the wing was damaged. I saw, I think, a damaged portion of the cockpit too. I would assume, of course, if another aircraft runs into a government aircraft, or for that matter anyone else, the insurance of the other company would have to cover the repair of the aircraft.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, it's not good enough to assume. We're spending public money.
[interjections]
Never mind, you . . .

MR. CLARK: Rubber stamps.

DR. BUCK: . . . rubber stamps. We're here to spend public money, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know if this is covered by insurance or is being paid by the taxpayer? That is what we're here for, Mr. Minister, and I would like the answer to that.

MR. SCHMID: Very good, Mr. Chairman, I will find out. Since that accident happened under the previous arrangement where government aircraft reported to the Department of Lands and Forests, I will find out for the hon. member the exact cost of the repairs and if it is covered by insurance. Again I have to repeat, of course, since it was the fault of another one, it would have to be covered under liability. In fact, it was a Time Air aircraft which ran into the King Air.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, could we hold 2622 until the minister gets the information for us?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I will try to get that information before we come to the end of the appropriations.

Mr. Chairman, to clarify, the hon. Leader of the Opposition would like to know if the repair of the King Air was covered by insurance, is that correct?

MR. CLARK: Yes, we would like to know the cost involved and if there are now legal proceedings? Has Time Air and its insurance company acknowledged fault? Has the thing been straightened away, or is a court case pending? Where does it sit?

MR. SCHMID: Right. In other words, if the insurance company covers the entire cost of repair, of course even the question of cost would be irrelevant, because the Time Air insurance company would be paying for the cost of repairs. Is that correct?

MR. CLARK: We would still like to know how much it cost.

MR. SCHMID: You would still like to know, if possible, how much it cost? Right you are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreeable that we hold 2622?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Appropriation 2626

MR. DOAN: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if the minister could tell us the formula used in arriving at grants in lieu of taxes on government property?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that it is a matter of assessment by the municipalities of the value of the property regarding the general taxation of the municipality or city. That is what is being paid by the government in lieu of taxes.

Appropriation 2626 agreed to: \$5,000,000

Agreed to:
Appropriation 2630 \$81,420

Appropriation 2631

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a point or two about the so-called RITE number that seems to be wrong most of the time. I'm not so much worried, Mr. Chairman, about the mechanical problems the minister says they are having. I'm more concerned that when a citizen of this province phones in, I don't think he has to be screened by a multitude of secretaries before he gets to speak to a minister, an MLA, or a department of government. I just think we have too many walls put up between us -- the elected members, cabinet ministers, the Premier -- and the general public. The people in the province are starting to think we are a government which is not a servant of the people. The complaint I've received from many, many people is that you cannot get in touch with a cabinet minister. You get through that rat maze of RITE numbers, and you just never get to speak to anyone you want.

In my own personal experience, I made three long-distance phone calls before I got to the fellow I knew I wanted to talk to. If I have to make three phone calls, then I have great sympathy for the man on the street who wants to get in touch with a cabinet minister. It's practically impossible.

If this government wants to say it is responsive to the people it serves, it had better do something about that wrong number they are using, because it certainly is removing government from the people.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, of course the ultimate goal of the RITE number is exactly the opposite. It's to bring the possibility of people directly contacting government closer than ever before. Under the RITE numbers, someone living out of the City of Edmonton would be able to call government without having to pay long-distance charges.

I think direct access to a minister's office really is by directly dialing a number listed in the Edmonton telephone directory. But of course most of the numbers do not apply any more. We planned to print an addition or an extra leaflet -- we are just deciding which one would be best -- to be distributed to all telephone subscribers in the City of Edmonton so people know the correct numbers of the ministers' offices, their assistants, and/or department heads.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, can the minister indicate if we are now in the second, third, or fourth interim phone list?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is interested, I think it's the third or fourth.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, might I urge the minister to leave Edmonton on one of his trips a few minutes early sometime, and to stop in rural Alberta and try to use the RITE government number. I've tried, on more than a number of occasions, phoning a department and saying I'd like to talk to someone who has something to do with assessment. To be quite frank, I knew who I wanted to talk to. It's taken over half an hour to get around that -- being cut off numerous times. As I see it, one of the big problems with the system as it now works is the voice that answers. You say, I want to talk with someone about assessment, and they put you through to someone. If that isn't the person you want to talk to, you start all over again.

I don't exaggerate. Some of the best Conservatives in my constituency are becoming much broader in their political outlook, as a result of this RITE number system. I just somehow get the feeling that wasn't the reason you installed it. So I'm being halfway facetious but, on the other hand, bloody serious when I say to the minister, get outside of Edmonton or Calgary sometime and try it yourself. Try it from the standpoint of the person who only deals with the government once in a long time, doesn't know exactly who to call, and don't tell them you're the minister or the Leader of the Opposition. I can get through.

I'm sure if the minister talked to his colleagues and the backbenchers on the government side -- this kind of situation just keeps coming, and it's not much better now than the day after it was installed. Now I don't know what's wrong with it but, as far as my office and I are concerned, I would prefer not to be a part of that RITE system and just be in the situation we were in before. People had a heck of a lot less trouble getting through to my office under the former system than this arrangement we have now.

MR. SCHMID: Well, Mr. Chairman, of course, I am really concerned if the hon. member is trying to indicate to me that some of the people of Conservative thinking might broaden their outlook and give more hope to the Leader of the Opposition.

However, on the other hand, in all seriousness I'm aware. As the hon. leader knows, I myself travel quite extensively throughout Alberta to different functions and meetings. The concern that he has expressed, we have all expressed. I am told that the equipment, which for some reason keeps breaking down, is being looked at by Northern Electric. Hopefully it will be working out the way it's supposed to, and not the way we were told it is presently.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I haven't seen the third or fourth interim phone directory, but I would like to know who was responsible for leaving the official opposition's number out of the second interim phone directory?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, whatever happened there was a human error or a clerical error. I can assure the hon. member that in the next interim directory which is going to be issued, the phone number of the hon. Leader of the Opposition will definitely be included. I've personally assured him so in a memo, I think.

MR. CLARK: When do you expect that next interim directory?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, it might be warm in your hands, in fact, within the next hour -- maybe within the next day or week or so. It's presently being printed.

MR. CLARK: That's what we've heard for a month now.

DR. BUCK: Next hour, next week, next month.

Appropriation 2631 agreed to: \$2,992,324

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2632 \$153,000

Appropriation 2633 \$702,000

Appropriation 2641 \$7,895,689

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, could we revert to 2631 for a moment. Mr. Chairman, can the hon. minister indicate to us -- this Bureau of Public Affairs started out really low-key, and now we've added 30 more employees. Can the hon. minister indicate to us just what is going on in this department?

MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Of the 30 man-year increase, 21 are what we call RITE operators, who are hopefully helping to improve the telephone system; 7 are public affairs officers who are actually centrally located in public affairs but really work for different departments, for instance agriculture, or recreation, parks and wildlife, or health and social development, and so on; 1 is a librarian; and 1 is clerical.

Appropriation 2652

DR. BUCK: May I ask the minister about the central delivery and courier service. At one time, I believe, I saw a report that the government could provide courier service if it was required. Are they now going into competition with the post office, or are they providing this courier service continuously?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, actually courier service in this case means, first of all, the couriers who go from government office to government office and deliver different items within the City of Edmonton, let's say, or in the City of Calgary. Only in case of emergency is the courier service extended to deliver cheques and other necessary mail to other parts of Alberta and government buildings in other parts of Alberta.

Appropriation 2652 agreed to: \$2,145,950

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2661 \$495,675

Appropriation 2699 \$17,104,740

MR. CHAIRMAN: We had agreed to hold 2622. Mr. Minister, do you have an answer yet?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, actually I have one reply here already. I expect the other answer momentarily. As I have stated before, the salary levels of the different assistant deputy ministers were not changed, because of the re-organization. Mr. Bill Payne who is the assistant deputy minister for public affairs has a present salary of \$30,576. Mr. Robert Gehmlich who is assistant deputy minister and former assistant provincial auditor has a salary of \$34,128. The assistant deputy minister of the physical plant, Mr. William Davies, has a salary of \$33,336. Mr. Stiebritz, assistant deputy minister of realty accommodation has a salary of \$27,108.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I've checked with the official Leader of the Opposition about the airplane insurance. We'll let that go if the minister will provide the information for us if he finds it.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I'm presently awaiting this reply, and understand somebody is phoning for me to find out what the information is. [interjections] If the hon. member will permit, to have it in the capital account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You would like to have it referred now to capital account, and come back and clear up income account after we have had the answers. Is that agreeable?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Agreed to:
Appropriation 2683
Appropriation 2687

\$10,035,000
\$1,050,000

Appropriation 2691

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, just on the airplane purchase. If I recall the discussions initially, as far as the airplanes were concerned, their prime purpose was going to be for fire-fighting and that would have first priority. Is that still the government situation?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, this is still the government situation that first priority is for fire-fighting and other emergency services of the government.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, can the minister indicate to us what equipment the King and Queen Airs have that they are used for fighting fires?

MR. SCHMID: It's not a matter of equipment, Mr. Chairman. It is usually the delivery of firefighters to the respective fire-fighting and/or fire control areas.

DR. BUCK: Does the minister have any idea just how extensively they were used last year to deliver personnel around to fire-fighting areas?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member knows, right now he is asking for the time and usage of the King Air by ministers and other government personnel. If he would like to expound on that, maybe he would like to put it on the Order Paper.

DR. BUCK: No, no, I don't want to find out how many cabinet ministers and premiers moved around the province. I want to know how many firefighters were moved around the province. I mean a percentage breakdown, let's put it that way. A ballpark percentage figure of how much time the plane spent moving firefighters around the province; how much time was spent moving cabinet ministers and the Premier around the province?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, again if the hon. member would permit, I would include that on the order for a return which was requested as far as usage of government aircraft is concerned.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I'd like the minister to explain just how we use this King Air in the course of fire-fighting. I haven't seen the new one, I guess no one else has, but having looked at the old one and, in fact, having ridden in one of them -- I went down to Red Deer with the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife -- I was never too convinced as to how we were able to use those planes from the standpoint of fire-fighting, especially when the doors operate the way they do. It seemed to me -- I would be very interested in the minister explaining to me how this operates.

MR. SCHMID: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I should explain that one of the main uses of the aircraft is possibly the use by ministers and other government personnel to bring the services of government to the people of Alberta, whether it's to the remote area of Wabasca or whether it's going down to Lethbridge or Medicine Hat or other places. On the other hand, of course, whether it's a firefighter who gets onto the aircraft to fly from here up to Hinton, let's say, and gets off the aircraft, or whether it's other government personnel, to open the door and get off the aircraft really is a quite simple procedure.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, in moving these fire-fighting personnel around the province, how many of them do they move from Edmonton to, say, Fort Chip? Are they professional firefighters from Edmonton? Just what is the role of moving these personnel around? We're moving firefighters to fight fires, I presume. Do we pick them up here in Edmonton and take them out to forest reserves, parachute them out? Where do we land them?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, of course, firefighters may be picked up, let's say at Fort Chipewyan to go to Fort McMurray or, for that matter, picked up in Hinton to go to Grande Prairie, or wherever it is that this service has been requested.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister is digging himself in a little deep. We'll wait until he gives us his percentage breakdown.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I also have the total estimates of repairs, which are approximately \$35,000. The insurance company for Time Air is paying all the repairs. Maybe I should add that during the time off of King Air, the insurance company also covers the leasing of another aircraft while the government aircraft could not be in use.

Appropriation 2691 agreed to:

\$2,456,154

Total Capital Account agreed to:

\$13,541,154

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. minister a question relating to the RITE number again. Is there any attempt, or am I just being suspicious that there is possibly . . .

[interjections]

Possibly normal. Is there any attempt, or is there any monitoring of the calls coming in as to classifying them, the areas they are coming from, the parts of the province? Is there any monitoring at all in the RITE number system?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the only monitoring I am aware of would, of course, be the one that the RITE operators have when their lights flash on, when they see that the circuits are being overloaded because they cannot answer quickly enough. It probably would be known, of course, if calls came in through Calgary from, let's say, Lethbridge, or vice-versa and/or if calls came in from outlying areas into the RITE number system and office here in Edmonton. But if it's a matter of frequency of calls, Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid I don't think we would be aware of them unless, of course, the computer itself would put out that analysis, which is possible.

DR. BUCK: There is no attempt to find out how many calls go to, say, the opposition or the leader of the New Democratic Party or to the government. There is no attempt at monitoring those?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I certainly hope not.

MR. CLARK: Will you check and see?

MR. SCHMID: Could I check and see how many calls there are to the opposition?

DR. BUCK: If they're being monitored.

MR. CLARK: Check and see if they're being monitored. That would be more to the point.

MR. SCHMID: Very much so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, maybe I should just add again, though: the only time someone would know where a call would go is if it came through a RITE operator. However, the honorable gentlemen of the opposition are of course perfectly welcome to tell their people what the numbers are. Then, I understand, it is dialed directly. It does not go through a RITE operator, which, of course, should really be the ultimate goal of people who have a frequent cause to call members of the Legislature.

Total Income Account agreed to:

\$70,141,864

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I would ask that appropriations numbered [2600] be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

Cultural Affairs

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, as minister responsible for culture, I am personally delighted and honored that the Premier has found it in his discretion once again to appoint me responsible for this very important aspect of the quality of life of the people of Alberta. I am delighted, because I can really state that there seems to be an explosion of cultural activities in the Province of Alberta. May I also state at the same time that the sacrifices of time, of working weekends and late nights, and of completely involving themselves in the development of these cultural activities in the province definitely goes to the staff of this department.

Mr. Chairman, whether it is the Senior Citizens' Mobile Arts Workshop or, of course, any of the programs we have for the literary arts, whether it is the different special programs we have for the conservation of our heritage through the writing of history, of the conservation of heritage in encouraging the learning of the different languages, or encouraging the different ethnocultural groups to keep on teaching their children and children's children the performing arts and the culture of their ancestors, I can only happily state that the Province of Alberta has been most successful. It was confirmed to me again yesterday by a lady journalist who came from eastern Canada, mentioning to me how the rest of Canada is looking upon the work the Province of Alberta is doing in the preservation and, for that matter, conservation of history, our cultural heritage, and our archeological resources.

We have been very fortunate, Mr. Chairman, to have acquired the services of the assistant deputy minister, Dr. Lunn, who came to us from eastern Canada. He was responsible for the preservation and, I think, even for the rebuilding of Fort Louisburg. Hopefully, his very able and already outstanding contribution to the preservation of our historic resources will bear fruit over the next number of years.

I might just state that in the short three and a half years, we have now recorded over 6,000 historical sites. We will be going into the declaration and preservation of

different sites, and the help to the different communities to preserve the historic sites over the next number of years as well.

Mr. Chairman, may I just mention, one of the most exciting programs, I think in fact the most exciting in all of Canada, is definitely the \$200 million cultural and recreational facility program. It not only permits the building of recreational facilities, but also gives the individual municipalities and cities the chance to improve either their theatre or the different workshops for the arts. As well, hopefully, it will encourage, and stimulate for that matter, the building of such facilities so a concert doesn't have to be listened to in the auditorium of a school, if the people are interested enough to have the kind of auditorium or theatre they should have to enjoy the performing arts more than ever before.

Mr. Chairman, may I also state that the programs that have been accomplished and will be accomplished in the future by the department of culture are, I think, especially outstanding. For example, we have had competitions in the writing of histories. We have had outstanding success in submissions and, in fact, as the hon. Member for Clover Bar had already stated, one of his constituents won the first prize of \$650. Again, I can state it's one of the most outstanding histories ever written for any part of this province.

I also think that in trying to preserve our heritage, we have to try to encourage the participation of as many of our citizens as possible. We have to try to encourage that the heritage of the more than 53 national groups we have in the province is being shared by all Albertans. I think we have been successful in doing so, through the establishment of the Alberta Heritage Day. While last year we had the celebration only in Calgary and Edmonton, this year we will have it in many other cities and places in Alberta.

Mr. Chairman, we have established museum grants to a maximum of [\$12,500], so that local museums, conservatories, heritage villages, and so on can be open to the public. There again, we encourage local groups to raise a like amount, to make sure volunteerism is not lost. We have also expanded our museum services. I think, as far as the Provincial Museum is concerned, it had a most spectacular success last year, with over 400,000 people coming to the museum here in Edmonton to visit the displays and the different artifacts.

I would also like to state that we have not forgotten our native people. We have, for instance, provided help to produce books which teach Cree. We have tried to encourage the handicraft of our native people by helping to get young women, older women, in fact even older men, involved in their native handicraft. This is going well. We now have a number of natives across the province engaged in reawakening their handicraft and culture to share with others. In fact, I think possibly one of the best representatives we had on our cultural mission to Japan was Chief Rufus Goodstriker, who gave an outstanding performance.

Mr. Chairman, I think that whether it's our drama division, music division, or the historic sites division of the museums, they and we have all tried to preserve, encourage, stimulate, and should I say help, share -- not only with all Albertans, but all of Canada -- the rich resource which is our people. Hopefully we will be able to do so in the future. I think I would like to add the thought that, more than anywhere else in the world today, Alberta has become the place where today's ideals are tomorrow's realities. I think this is nowhere more emphasized than in the cultural development this province has experienced over the past years, and hopefully will experience in the future.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to compliment the minister on the enthusiastic way he has carried out his responsibilities in cultural affairs. I think it is a tribute to him and to the government.

I would like to ask the hon. minister if he has a copy of Dr. Ream's book. If he doesn't, I will present him with one, gratis.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, of course I would be delighted to receive a book from the hon. member, because we usually get two books with each grant application; one goes to the library, the other to the Provincial Museum and Archives. I would really be delighted to have a chance to save one of those books as my own.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I will do it, with my compliments.

I would like to say first of all that the restoration program for the historic forts in the province is really commendable. I think we in western Canada are just awakening to the fact that we have a rich heritage, especially up and down the North and South Saskatchewan -- especially the North Saskatchewan, because the old Victoria Trail ran on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River. It is an area of real historic significance. I certainly would like to compliment the minister on doing some of the restorations and studies. It certainly is worth while. I will support him in any manner I can.

The program of literary help to budding Alberta writers is excellent. Mr. Chairman, it brings to light exactly how important it is to have money. When you have money, you can support these programs. I know it's more difficult to try to pry money out of your cabinet colleagues when it comes budgeting time, if the budget's tight. When it's not quite so tight, it's really a lot easier to make a budget. I think the minister is putting his dollars and emphasis in the areas that really count.

In the field of auditoria, I would like the minister to work possibly just a little more in conjunction with the school divisions and the schools, because I think some of the auditoria could go into some of the schools. It may save the taxpayer a few dollars

here and there if we can work out some program such as that, or possibly in conjunction with swimming pools. I don't think swimming pools in communities should be an entity unto themselves. I think they should be in a cultural or educational centre. Too long I have seen a pool here, a gymnasium there, a community centre down the road. They should all be under one roof. We could save ourselves a lot of money, and it's just that much more practical a set-up.

The people in the province are not quite that happy with the library set-up. The study that's been commissioned has become nothing more than a study. I would like to see the minister and his department move into that field just a bit more, because not all the correspondence we have received has been that enthusiastic. I know you can't solve all the problems, but I'd like the minister to give this more consideration than it has received.

I certainly am in favor of drama and music workshops throughout this province. A learned gentleman who went to university about the same time I did is sitting up in the gallery, I think. He has a little more hair than I do. Mr. Kaasa is doing an excellent job, and it's always a pleasure to be associated with programs that he's involved in. The same with Mr. Usher. I know personally that these two gentlemen have been dedicated civil servants and have done an excellent job for the people of this province.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment the minister. Keep up the good work, and just sharpen up accounting procedures a bit. Thank you.

MR. MILLER: I would also like to pay tribute to the minister for the tremendous job he's done. I agree with the Member for Clover Bar that the minister has made a dedicated effort to maintain and upgrade our heritage sites.

The question I would like to ask, Mr. Minister, is: has any effort been made to more or less plot some of the old trails -- and I'm thinking particularly of possibly from Edmonton, when it was Fort Edmonton, to Battleford, or from Edmonton down to Calgary -- so that a map showing these ancient trails will be preserved for our future generations.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, in reply to this question, I can only state that through the excellent efforts of the ministers of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and Business Development and Tourism, we presently have a plan, are working on it, and have in fact already identified a few trails of historic significance to the Province of Alberta. Some of them are already marked, but some of them, of course, will be developed. We already have, in fact, some working programs where we have found and identified the trails, and they, I think, are already noted in the publication the Department of Business Development and Tourism puts out.

May I just reply at the same time to the hon. Member for Clover Bar, regarding the combination of several usages of buildings. Precisely for that reason, we inserted in our project co-operation programs, as well as in the cultural and recreation facility program, the idea that more would be available to a community or municipality for a multipurpose building; for instance, the combination of, let's say, a library and a swimming pool, or for that matter, a hockey rink and maybe a small arts and crafts room. As long as the proportion is there, I think the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and I would be delighted to co-ordinate and co-operate, and approve a project like this, much more than other projects which would put a swimming pool in one end of a town or hamlet and put something else five miles or so away. This is in fact the intent of our grant program in that regard: especially to encourage the development of multipurpose buildings.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3603	\$71,640
Appropriation 3606	\$100,150
Appropriation 3611	\$258,250
Appropriation 3612	\$442,340
Appropriation 3615	\$1,149,570
Appropriation 3616	\$304,680

Appropriation 3617

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, would the minister like to answer the question of the Member for Clover Bar? We'll start from there on the libraries question.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, as may be known, the research done by Downey Associates, The Right to Know, was returned to the government last fall. It was distributed to different agencies, library boards, and other interested parties, to submit their suggestions to us. As was anticipated, we had a great variety of suggestions as to what should be done with the report, from its entire acceptance to its entire rejection. What we are trying to do now -- by the way, we are still receiving some reports -- is to find out where we can start and how best to co-ordinate the different suggestions received and, hopefully, ultimately have the best library service possible in all of Canada. We are very aware, as a government, that right now we have one of the lowest supports in Canada as far as libraries are concerned.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I would like the minister to outline for us the relationship between his department and the Department of Education in this particular area.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the committee developing the library policy for the Province of Alberta from The Right to Know is chaired by the department of culture. The committee consists of members from the Department of Education, the Department of Advanced Education, and the department of culture.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, herein lies the ridiculousness of the government's situation. We have this report from Downey Associates, The Right to Know. It's been aired and re-aired -- I guess there was a second bunch of hearings. Perhaps the first hearings didn't give the prescribed results some people wanted, so we had the second bunch of hearings. Supposedly the cultural affairs people and the Department of Education are sharing the same committee, and why this question on The Right to Know is supposedly being discussed between the various government departments -- we have the Department of Education going along -- is it \$12 or \$15 per student they have made available for school boards all across the province?

If I recall, one of the recommendations, and certainly part of the propaganda that came out when Downey was engaged to do this study, was an attempt to try to pull together what is happening in the field of libraries across the province. It seems to me an example of perhaps just the frustration of the department of culture. Perhaps it just indicates the Department of Education goes along and does whatever it wants to do in this area without consulting the department of culture. I don't know.

But it's a very difficult thing for people involved in community libraries across the province to understand. They have been led to believe, rightly or wrongly, that the government was assessing this report by Downey; the government wasn't going to make any moves in the field of library services on an across-the-government basis -- not just in the department of cultural affairs. So all of a sudden we have the Department of Education merrily galloping off in one direction, and on the other hand we have the cultural affairs department saying, well, we're getting opinions from the various government departments, and of course there is a difference of opinion, so we really are not quite sure what we are going to do.

Perhaps the villain in this whole piece isn't the minister of cultural affairs; maybe it's the Department of Education. But it's extremely difficult to try to explain to chairmen of library boards and people in community libraries, who have worked for years on a voluntary basis and, pretty frankly, are ready to throw their hands up and say, what the heck is the use.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I can assure him that the development of this policy of providing each student in the province with a \$15 grant for library purposes was really developed in full co-operation. The reason behind it was really not so much the libraries themselves in the province but rather to encourage the different school boards and schools to purchase Canadian-content books. In fact, this was the actual request to the school boards when they received the money. This was the purpose of the grants: not to develop the libraries, but to purchase Canadian-content books, so greater encouragement would be given to this kind of direction in school libraries in Alberta.

I can assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition we will do our best to speed up as much as possible the development of a library policy for the Province of Alberta.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, last night we were told by the Minister of Education that in fact these were a type of -- I think the term was "unconditional" -- grants as far as libraries were concerned. I suppose we could go back and check the tape, but that is likely not too important.

But let's stop playing games with the people in local libraries across the province. I think most people view the grants from the Department of Education as unconditional as far as libraries are concerned. I guess the question to ask the minister is: was the department of culture involved in the decision to make these grants available to school boards? Did the department approve of them? Did the department have some reservations? Just what is happening in this field of library services? The second question: are there any increases for grants to library boards in these estimates?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, first of all I should add, as I've said before, we were aware of the allocation by the Department of Education of the grant of \$15 per student for purchasing books primarily of Canadian content for the school libraries in Alberta. I think the news release the hon. minister issued at that time stated so. Since this was an entirely separate allocation we did not feel it would interfere with the development of our library policy. Therefore it was definitely not detrimental, as far as we were concerned, to the development of library policy.

Also, in discussions with many members of library boards we have found they were very concerned that we should not in any way, shape, or form increase the per capita grants without a policy being evolved. This estimate does not include any increase to the library boards in Alberta, excepting the increases which will come by increase of population which will, of course, increase their per capita grants.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister -- and I'll be asking on some of the other estimates too -- I never did like the term "grant". It doesn't seem to be tied to any kind of formula. But maybe these amounts in the various estimates are based

on some type of formula, either per capita or a geographical area. Could the minister explain what kind of formula is used in this particular estimate?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I could state here that when this government came into office there was not one single policy regarding grants in the cultural development area. I'm not saying this was entirely bad, because in order to develop policies for grants one has to try grants first, how they apply, how they are being used, how the reporting can be done, and how many people would really be eligible for them. Once that is accomplished, which we were successful in doing, then one can sit down and develop policies. I have to repeat, I think one of the major policies developed in our last term of office was definitely project co-operation, where per capita grants are being allocated to municipalities, recreation boards, cities and other jurisdictions.

Now as far as grants, or for that matter, assistance is concerned, to other portions of this appropriation I can, for instance, state that we have grants policies for periodicals of our historic recordings. We have policies as to how our museum grants are being allocated. We always try, by the way, to help the people who help themselves. In other words, for matching grants we asked the people themselves to put some of their own voluntary efforts into what they were proposing the government support. After all, if the local interest isn't there, how can the taxpayer's dollar be used for any of these projects?

We have heritage sites grants. We have grants under the different visual and performing arts groups. If I may just explain, professional orchestras, for instance, receive 10 per cent of their budget for the fiscal year as a grant to support them in their endeavors. If a community symphony is involved, we have a different kind of grant policy. But all in all, in the short three and a half years or 43 months we have been in office, Mr. Chairman, we have developed a great number of policies which cover every part of this province and for which anyone who fits into the policy guidelines is eligible.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, I think I follow the minister. In our particular area we have the Parkland Regional Library system, which has been very successful. I presume it is paid through the Department of Education, either conditional or unconditional, so much per capita. Now my question to the minister would be this: are they advised, at that level, of these other sources of funds? If they are, is the procedure for them to make application to your department to qualify?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the regional library set-up is actually under the jurisdiction of the department of culture. All moneys paid to regional libraries do come from this appropriation. Only school libraries are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. We are well aware that the per capita grant to libraries, whether regional, municipal, or hamlet libraries, is one of the lowest in Canada. This of course is one of the reasons we asked for the report, The Right to Know. As the hon. member may know, we had so many other priorities to look after that we just have not been able to address ourselves to this concern as much as we would have liked.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Minister, do I take it then that the Parkland Regional Library gets its grant through your department, culture?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is correct.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, just one question while we're on grants. Could I ask the hon. minister to advise if the cemetery grants will be continuing? I have a number of cemeteries throughout the constituency which haven't got their grants, due to no funding. Will you be putting more funds into this program? I don't see it here.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the community hall program as well as the cemetery program have been, I think, really well received. I had the delight to be able to attend the renovated community hall opening in St. Michael. I was told in many, many places I had occasion to visit in Alberta, that the community spirit revived in places where they were able to renovate their community centre or community hall.

As far as the cemetery program is concerned, Mr. Chairman, we are still receiving applications. If we find that interest and concern is still there, we would hopefully include an appropriate amount in the next year's budget.

Appropriation 3617 agreed to: \$642,700

Agreed to:
Appropriation 3618 \$374,790

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, on 3618. We received a really thick document -- I don't know what it cost, but maybe that's not important -- which contained the ethnic groups throughout the province. Does that come under that estimate? Could you explain what its purpose is? It contained the relative proportion of ethnic groups throughout the province.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member might be referring to the Canada census of 1971 or to a register of different ethnocultural groups which the government is aware of in the

Province of Alberta. It could be either one. I don't know what his question then would be.

All I can say is this: as for the policy of the Government of Alberta, issued as a ministerial statement in November 1972, we are trying to give Albertans increasing pride and identity as a people, and hopefully stimulate thereby the living arts, painting, dancing, music, handicrafts, the human drama, precisely because of our diversity of heritage; and thus help Alberta's writers, musicians, dramatists, dancers, et cetera, to national and international acceptance, appreciation and recognition.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3619

\$179,890

Appropriation 3620

\$182,740

Appropriation 3621

\$98,870

Appropriation 3622

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister what happens to these publications after his department is finished with them?
[laughter]

MR. KING: They're sold at public auction.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, all I can state is this. If he hon. member is interested, he may want to visit a portion of the vault which happens to be in my office, and he can observe some of the junk that's being distributed.

Maybe I should relate a little story. Shortly after I became minister, in the first term of office, I was working late at night. I was asked by the Objectionable Publications Board to look at a few of the publications which were being asked to be withdrawn. I had them all nicely spread out on the floor in my office. My wife walked in and asked me, what on earth are you doing here?
[laughter]

DR. BUCK: What were you doing there?

MR. GOGO: Supplementary. Is there any charge to get into the minister's vault?

MR. SCHMID: Will he repeat the question, because I didn't hear it?

MR. GOGO: You say a member could view these in the vault in your office? I ask you, Mr. Minister, is there any charge to get into your vault?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, the member is welcome to my vault at any time.

Appropriation 3622 agreed to:

\$8,000

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3623

\$1,075,000

MR. COOKSON: Could I ask the minister now, again on this particular estimate, what procedure should groups of senior citizens follow in order to qualify for this fund? Perhaps while he's doing that he might indicate -- I presume this was in operation last year -- how the funds were allocated geographically. Were they evenly distributed throughout the province, or did they concentrate in one particular area?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I'm quite sure the hon. member is interested in this appropriation, since one of the most active groups, which has asked us a number of times for funds, happens to be an organization called Cheerful Folks at Cozy Corners or Cozy Folks at Cheerful Corners.

This is a new program, Mr. Chairman. It involves a basic grant of \$500 plus 50 cents per capita for the respective municipalities to help our senior citizens achieve their goal in recreational or cultural facilities in their respective jurisdictions. In other words, it is being distributed equally and fairly across the province.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 3624

\$22,080

Appropriation 3625

\$1,000,000

Appropriation 3635

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I see there is a large increase in grants and heritage resource development. Is there going to be a change in the grant formula in this vote for heritage resource, or do they anticipate more grant applications?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, what I can say is that it is definitely the expanding development of local museums, heritage sites, and local history publications. As the hon. member may know, only a few years ago hardly anyone was interested in the preservation of that old churn, bed, cradle, or coal oil lamp. Now, you find in many, many places in Alberta, local groups got together and formed a museum society. Where at one time, 3 or 4 years ago, a museum like that would have received a one-time-only grant of \$500, period, they now can receive an increased amount of grants up to \$5,000, if it's a smaller place with less than 50,000 visitors, and up to \$12,500 if there are more than 50,000 visitors.

Appropriation 3635 agreed to: \$632,910

Agreed to:
 Appropriation 3636 \$1,255,520
 Appropriation 3637 \$267,110

Appropriation 3638

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, again I'd like to ask the minister whether there is any procedure, formula, or direction we should take in order to qualify for that particular grant, if you want to use the term "grant".

I'm very much interested in that, because the former Governor General of Canada was born at Lacombe, and for some time they have been trying to determine some way in which they might recognize this fact. Also, one of the first lady members in the Legislature, Irene Parlbay, came from Alix, which is east of Lacombe. Her home is still in reasonably good condition. Is there some way in which they can make application?

The problem with grants is: if they are once in a lifetime, what happens the following year? Has the minister thought this thing out far enough so the province doesn't get hung with a debt they have to keep up forever? Is there provision for getting out of the business some time along the way, and letting the local people carry on the responsibility?

MR. SCHMID: First, of course, Mr. Chairman, heritage sites would definitely be divided into sites of historic provincial interest, for that matter national interest, and then, naturally, local interest. If it is a heritage site of provincial interest, and this is what this appropriation is all about -- it does not contain grants -- the provincial government would proclaim that site as either a classified site or a registered heritage site. In doing so, it would then try to preserve the character or building, or, for that matter, place a marker or a sign at that site.

While I assume this department is aware of the historic character of the place the former [Governor General] came from, or the first female member of the Legislature, I would ask the hon. member to send a submission to my office, and we will check whether either of these two sites qualifies as a provincial heritage site. If they do not, we try to encourage the local group to use it as a local heritage site. We could then help them financially up to a certain amount which, of course, would not be as much as it would be for a site of provincial historic significance.

Appropriation 3638 agreed to: \$426,330

Agreed to:
 Appropriation 3639 \$209,120
 Appropriation 3640 \$75,000
 Appropriation 3641 \$2,551,900
 Appropriation 3642 \$135,000

Total Income Account agreed to: \$11,463,590

Agreed to:
 Appropriation 3682 \$50,000
 Appropriation 3683

Total Capital Account agreed to: \$50,000

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, I move the resolution be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

Department of Housing and Public Works

MR. YURKO: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make some opening remarks. First of all, I would like to say there is some substance to the idea of combining housing and public works.

Certainly some major advantages can be seen, particularly when the responsibilities are assigned to an engineer.

[laughter]

I do want to indicate that the Department of Housing and Public Works is responsible for a vast number of public works projects in the Province of Alberta. They are listed, in the various stages of development in the black book -- whether they are being planned, engineered, out to contract, constructed, and so forth. This book is being distributed to all the MLAs and, I think, is in your pigeonholes, so you can now determine what's going on in your communities with respect to public works. Later on, I will be able to provide the answers to any questions you may wish, but the information will be basically all in these books.

I do want to indicate that in Public Works, from here on in, we intend to identify cost control and the process of phasing projects so they are in conformity with the economy as major areas of concern. In the area of cost control, we will be attempting standardization, as much as possible. We are introducing the idea of penalty clauses in some of the agreements we reach with architects, engineering agreements and commissions. We intend to go on a project management system on virtually every large project, so each project is handled by one man from its inception to its completion. We intend to have frequent reviews of costs, and control of costs as the project goes ahead.

We also intend to form an advisory committee on tendering, at the earliest opportunity, and we are going through a different phase of the tendering process. The various groups in society which tender to the government should have their input in the government as frequently as possible.

In the area of housing, Mr. Chairman, in the two and a half months of my responsibilities, I've only begun to appreciate the complexity of the industry, how little I know, and how much help I need. So if anybody in the House has answers, please let me know; I'd very much appreciate receiving any substantive suggestions.

The problems of housing are never solved. If supply is met, then the expectations rise, and a new set of priorities arise, generally inching toward greater luxury. I consider the present housing situation in Alberta to be indeed a luxury housing situation. One of the most difficult tasks we will have before us is to move off this luxury housing into much more modest housing.

I would say that on the average in Canada and in Alberta the private sector builds approximately six housing units for every housing unit constructed by some form of government subsidy. Therefore, it is highly important and incumbent on our government, and in fact any government, to have housing programs which complement, but in no way replace, housing activity by the private sector. Government's role is basically related to what might be called social housing.

Nevertheless, because housing is so highly labor-intensive and requires such diverse products of construction and finishing, it is a very substantive and integral part of the nation's and the province's economy. Therefore, a healthy housing industry represents more than just the provision of human shelter. It represents a flourishing economy. It is, therefore, appropriate that the Government of Alberta should establish a department of housing and public works.

[interjections]

Thanks, Walter. Perhaps I might cut this very short. I just wanted to indicate briefly what Alberta's housing role is. I may do that through the question period, but indicate to you something about new housing programs.

We have been working very diligently on the start of a home-ownership program, and expect to have this program in effect in the not-too-distant future. We're also giving very serious consideration to some initiative in terms of core housing rental accommodation. We are looking seriously in terms of expanding our direct lending program. And, of course, as I indicated in the House before, we intend to implement the program of home improvement grants during the first quarter of 1976. We are looking seriously to municipalities for additional assistance for sewer and water off-sites and on-sites, as has been discussed under a resolution in this House.

Mr. Chairman, I'd be pleased to answer any questions, if I can.

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2201

\$79,490

Appropriation 2202

\$104,088

Appropriation 2211

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister if he would outline to the Assembly the situation with regard to public buildings which were supposed to be -- well, we'll start with one in Olds -- where the department has done this brochure on Olds government centre program.

The former minister was down in Olds, and met with the town, the Chamber of Commerce. We had people down from the Department of Public Works on two or three occasions; in fact, people from the Department of Public Works were down trying to acquire the land, even before this discussion with the minister and his assistants in Olds. Then about 10 days ago, the town council, at least one would say the Conservative element of town council, met with the government. They were up again Monday of this week and were advised that the building would not be going ahead in the terms initially discussed. It was referred to

initially by the government officials as a people's place in Olds. There was going to be a building where farm management people from agriculture would be located. Then there was talk of senior citizen accommodation; there was talk of a people's place. In fact, some of the choice business portion of Olds was the targeted area. What's happened now, as I am advised by officials of the Town of Olds -- as I say, usually Conservative officials from the town -- the project, other than the government building, isn't going ahead.

Now I understand the situation is also true in one or two other centres in the province. So I'd like to ask the minister if he could outline pretty straightforwardly the government's position right now, and why the complete reversal.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to try to be as blunt as I know how. Several departments during the last several years have been highly interested in the process of decentralization, diversification, and building up of the small towns, making them industrially viable, and at the same time addressing themselves to the possibility of some downtown development.

The Department of Public Works is basically identified in terms of building public works for government purposes, building government service buildings in many of the small towns. It had been attempted to combine government buildings with the redevelopment of some of the downtown areas of the towns through the now Department of Business Development and Tourism. This experience hasn't been very satisfactory. There have been very substantive delays in terms of getting government service buildings built.

It had been the intent that we could bring together the private sector of a small town and combine it with the Department of Housing and Public Works to put together more than just a government service building in a number of the towns that they worked in. This process of bringing together the local private sector with the municipal part of government, if you wish, with the various departments of government, as I indicated, has not proved very successful. Unless a more substantive and greater role is played by the private sector and the municipal sector in this three-way ball game, if you wish, to accomplish things -- I really haven't got much choice, when I'm pressed by other departments to provide office space at the earliest opportunity, to bypass the old process and build office space.

In Olds, as in some other communities, the process of initiation and progress was left entirely to the government. We are not in the process of building commercial developments and revitalizing the smaller towns in this way. Only in the three-form partnership will we continue to do this, if, in fact, any of them are successful at all. This, Mr. Chairman, is about as bluntly as I can state the case.

MR. CLARK: I appreciate the minister's bluntness, and I trust he will appreciate my bluntness too.

Why wasn't it until 2 weeks ago that the architect the government had commissioned was advised of this? Why wasn't it until 2 weeks ago the Town of Olds was advised? On the question of land acquisition, when the meetings were held down there, the people of the Town of Olds were anxious to co-operate. We had a meeting down there, and the government showed the buildings they thought should go into the area. The Chamber of Commerce and the people in Olds didn't know until the Town of Olds came up here 2 weeks ago, or they might not have even known until today. So surely to goodness, the government must have had these problems in other centres before 2 weeks ago.

MR. YURKO: Well, Mr. Chairman, land costs, first of all, have skyrocketed in the Town of Olds, and it was very difficult, in fact, to purchase some of the land considered. Secondly, there has been the reorganization of government. In the course of this reorganization, directions of several departments have been examined in detail, in caucus and in other areas.

I don't know about the best position to change your course, but I thought this was an excellent position in regard to Olds, because nothing had as yet happened, in terms of any physical construction or major contracts. So it was as opportune a time as possible to indicate that unless there was greater participation and greater emphasis from the local level, the Department of Housing and Public Works would build a government service building in Olds at the earliest opportunity.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, as to the comments the minister makes about land prices, that statement just doesn't hold water. I've checked with people in Olds. A proposal was made by the department, a counter-proposal was made by those people, and some of them haven't heard back from the department yet.

So as for long-term negotiations between the department and Olds in trying to acquire land, that just isn't factual. I've had people in the course of the election campaign come up to me and say, we've had a proposal from the government. We've made a counter-proposal, which was what we thought we were supposed to do, and we haven't heard back. Some of them hadn't heard back 2 to 3 weeks ago. So for the minister to say, because the cost of land has gone up in Olds . . . You've acquired quite a portion of the land there already. It may well be there are two or three lots you would have some problem with, but there haven't really been straightforward negotiations. Part of the lots are owned by the town itself. One of the lots is owned by Alberta Government Telephones. Surely you don't have problems there.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Chairman, I want to inform the hon. member that we now have as much land as we need for the government service centre that is going to be built.

MR. CLARK: I have to say to the minister, it's very strange the government didn't tell the people of Olds this during the election campaign, rather than waiting until 2 weeks ago. We had the plans down there. In fact, one of the Conservative supporters in town was making a rather considerable [issue] of the proposed plans of the government building in Olds. He had pictures of it, and the department called in all the propertyholders, the chamber of commerce, and the town. The town and the chamber thought they were co-operating all they could with the department, and they were just cut off at the pass.

Appropriation 2211 agreed to: \$1,114,950

Appropriation 2212

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Chairman, I notice in 2212 and 2213 there has been a beefing-up of staff in those departments. I wonder if the minister could elaborate on the change.

MR. YURKO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in regard to 2212, the basic increases are for additional staff, inflationary adjustment, and a new program to survey existing buildings to determine energy conservation.

In terms of manpower, there are 17 new positions, 10 positions were transferred from existing wages in the wage category, and during the reorganization 10 positions were transferred from wages. Two positions were transferred from 2211, which was architecture, for a new buildings science section. Three technologists and two clerk-typists were created to handle increased capital work. There was a general pay review. In terms of materials and other expenses, there were funds for testing equipment and rental for the energy study, also an inflationary adjustment.

Appropriation 2212 agreed to: \$1,059,130

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2213 \$791,740

Appropriation 2214 \$164,090

Appropriation 2231

MR. CHAMBERS: I wonder if the minister would mind elaborating with regard to NIP and RAP as to how Alberta Housing fits into this with regard to federal funding?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Chairman, RAP is that part of NIP directly associated with native people.

In terms of NIP, the board of directors of the Alberta Housing Corporation has basically approved the following budget on the basis of policy laid down by the government. The provincial contribution in Calgary will be \$550,000; in Edmonton, \$550,000; in Grande Prairie, \$200,000; in District No. 1, \$200,000; in Frank, \$25,000; in Coleman, \$75,000; in Lethbridge, \$250,000; and in Drumheller, \$150,000.

I don't know how much of the program the hon. member wishes me to go into, but I'm prepared to give him such information as he feels necessary to satisfy his concerns, either privately or publicly.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I have several questions, and I think it might be better if I spoke to the minister privately on it.

Appropriation 2231 agreed to: \$9,419,000

Total Income Account agreed to: \$12,732,488

Agreed to:

Appropriation 2282 \$83,718,000

Appropriation 2284 \$1,000,000

Total Capital Account agreed to: \$84,718,000

MR. YURKO: Mr. Chairman, I move that the estimates of the Department of Housing and Public Works be reported.

[The motion was carried.]

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

[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 \$1,000,027 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs Department;

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$6,248,626 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for Legislation;

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$83,683,018 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Government Services Department;

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$11,513,590 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Cultural Affairs Department;

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$97,450,488 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, for the Housing and Public Works 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, as to business, tomorrow evening we will hopefully continue with the completion of the Estimates. Three departments remain: Education and Municipal Affairs, which have been in subcommittee, and the Department of the Treasury.

Following that, we would seek to go to first reading of The Appropriation Act, 1975, and if there is time, to the second reading of bills on the front page of today's Order Paper, and on page 2, Bill 23, The Financial Administration Amendment Act.

I move we call it 5:30.

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

[The House rose at 5:29 p.m.]

