

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Friday, November 14, 1975

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

## PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure this morning to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, 120 Grade 5 students from the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School in the town of St. Albert. They are accompanied this morning by 5 teachers: Candice Averill, Gary Millar, Neil Peeters, Donna Cooper, and Doug Parkinson. They are seated in both galleries, and I would ask that they rise and be recognized by this Assembly.

## TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the reply to Motion for a Return No. 183, proposed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview in the spring session.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of the 1975 annual report and the auditor's financial statement of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the report of the task Force on Highway Accidents.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to table a progress report on Early Childhood Services for the period September 1, 1974 to August 31, 1975.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to file an answer to Written Question No. 144, requested by the hon. Member for Drumheller.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## Natural Gas Exports

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of

Energy and Natural Resources. Is it still the government's policy that any additional exports of natural gas from Alberta are contingent upon the Province of Ontario lifting its price freeze on gasoline and other oil products?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, it's certainly the government's policy that no additional resources leave Alberta unless they can be sold at what we consider to be fair market value.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the minister received assurance from the Government of Ontario that it is in fact agreeable to removing the freeze on oil and gas products?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, they did remove the freeze.

MP. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister, following the minister's comments. Is the Government of Alberta in a position to indicate the likelihood of additional natural gas exports to the Province of Ontario?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the additional natural gas exports would be those that are contained in two TransCanada permits. I've done two things with regard to those permits. The Energy Resources Conservation Board's assessment of those applications was carried out in 1971 and 1972. Because of the long period of time since that assessment, I have asked the board to advise me whether there are any adjustments or additional comments it might want to make with regard to those applications. I have not heard from the board at this time. But I've also been able to feel confident in putting the applications on the agenda of the energy committee of cabinet. Assuming we hear from the Energy Resources Conservation Board, we will be able once again to assess the government's actions with regard to those permits.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that we certainly would be pleased to do everything possible to provide resources to other parts of Canada.

## ECA Recommendations

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my second question to the Minister of Environment. It flows from one of the many reports he tabled in the House yesterday, on Migratory Birds and Athabasca Oil Sand Tailing Ponds. It deals with the second recommendation from the Environment Conservation Authority, that the authority "be requested by government to prepare for and hold comprehensive public hearings. . . on all environmental aspects of the development of the Oil Sands".

Has the minister met with the authority? Secondly, has the Environment Conservation Authority been granted approval to prepare for and hold comprehensive public

hearings on all environmental aspects of the development of the oil sands?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, that's a matter we would have to consider. We just barely received the report, and I tabled it at the earliest opportunity I had. Quite frankly, we haven't had time yet, at government or cabinet level, to consider those recommendations.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question to the minister. Have there been discussions between the minister and the Environment Conservation Authority regarding this specific recommendation?

MR. RUSSELL: No, there haven't, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my first reply, I just received the reports within the last few days. I forwarded copies of them to the two companies involved, and tabled reports for the information of members. That's where the matter stands at the present time.

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. SPEAKER: Before calling on the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, might I just ask the Assembly to welcome His Excellency Franz Ababio Yao Djaisi, the High Commissioner to Canada from Ghana. He is accompanied by Mr. John Koomson, the second secretary to the High Commission. It's a particular pleasure for me to welcome His Excellency and Mr. Koomson, with fond memories of the friendliness and hospitality of the Ghanaian people during my visit there in 1969. I would ask His Excellency and Mr. Koomson to stand to be welcomed by the Assembly.

#### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

##### Grain Dealers Bonding

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and ask him to advise the House whether the Government of Alberta has been able to develop an overall policy with respect to the bonding of agricultural processing industries which deal with individual Alberta producers.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the provision of bonding of grain dealers, which I presume the hon. member is referring to, is contained under federal legislation and provided for in this province by the Canadian Grain Commission.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the government given any consideration to fil-

ling in the gaps not now met by the provisions of the Canada Grain Act?

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we've given consideration to what can be done from a provincial point of view with regard to licensing of persons or companies in the grain-handling business. I think, however, we came to the view that many of them are not just provincial in nature, but indeed cover most, if not all, of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, which was the case with the recent one, Agriplast Ltd. of Camrose. It's been our view to this point that the provision of bonding and licensing for those companies can most adequately be handled through the legislation provided to the Canadian Grain Commission.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. Has the government given any consideration to making proper bonding a prerequisite for any kind of either direct loan or guarantee from the Agricultural Development Corporation to agricultural processing industries?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, to begin with, it is often the case that when a company applies to a provincial lending institution for a loan or guarantee, they're not at that point involved in purchasing or writing contracts for grain or other seeds. With the particular case of Agriplast Ltd. in Camrose, early this year we did inform the Canadian Grain Commission that the company was in fact in business and that it was our view that they should be bonded and licensed as soon as possible by the Canadian Grain Commission.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question. Are there any plans to expand the scope and jurisdiction of the Alberta Grain Commission to deal with the administration of bonding on those plants that are specifically provincial in their scope?

MR. MOORE: Well, I think I dealt with that earlier, Mr. Speaker, and I have to say again it's our view that most of them are not specifically provincial in scope. Certainly the case to which the hon. member is referring is one in which contracts were let not only in Alberta, but in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well. It continues to be our view that the bonding and licensing requirements of grain handlers in the prairie provinces can best be served under the legislation provided to the Canadian Grain Commission.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may just ask one final supplementary question. In light of the fact the bonding was not undertaken by the Canadian Grain Commission, does the government feel that the Alberta Grain Commission has a moral obligation, if nothing else, to notify producers of the lack of bonding protection?

MR. MOORE: Part of the problem, Mr. Speaker, is that it's very difficult to notify

producers until after contracts are signed, because we simply don't know who they are. I would say that in the case of Agriplast Ltd., the Alberta Grain Commission did ask that copies of each contract signed between that company and producers be filed with the Alberta Grain Commission. The purpose of that was not, in fact, to ensure that individuals were aware the company was or wasn't bonded, rather to provide us with information we felt was necessary with regard to the scope and extent of the growing of high erucic acid rapeseed in Alberta.

In addition to that, after having received the information with regard to who the contract holders were, we did write to each of them individually and point out that they should review their contract with the company, that we in the Alberta Grain Commission didn't hold any responsibility with regard to the legality or otherwise of the contract they had entered into.

#### Planning Act

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I'm wondering, in light of his reply to a question in the question period yesterday relevant to The Planning Act, whether it is his intention to bring any legislation forward relating to The Planning Act with respect to streamlining the approval process, so that needed housing land for rental and other types of accommodation could be put on stream at a much quicker rate than is the case now in our municipalities.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo realizes, and listening to the remarks yesterday of the Minister of Housing, we have made some amendments to what we describe as a subdivision in transfer regulations which are an integral part of The Planning Act. These will be provided to the member if he'd like to review them. Certainly they do meet the criteria suggested that indeed they streamline the subdivision approval process and allow for different sizes of lots in residential subdivisions.

MR. GHITTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I take it then there will be no amendments to The Planning Act itself this session, to overcome some of the negative factors of development control.

MR. JOHNSTON: None is foreseen, Mr. Speaker.

#### Rental Rebate Program

MR. GHITTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the Provincial Treasurer is reassessing the renter tax rebate program with the idea in mind of potentially increasing assistance to renters.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm having some difficulty in connecting the supplementary with the main question, but . . .

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, the questions all relate to the rental area in a general perspective -- if one were to take the broadest approach.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. minister can pinpoint this area on the map of the world, perhaps we could have an answer to the question.

[laughter]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, we all . . . [inaudible]

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could beg leave of the House to revert to Introduction of Visitors.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. FARRAN: I have something of a dilemma because I can't see the Speaker's gallery, but I understand that the Hon. Ron Basford, the federal Minister of Justice, is with us at the present moment in the House and is seated in your gallery. Would the House please give recognition in the traditional fashion to Mr. Basford.

#### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

##### Capital Cost Allowance

MR. GHITTER: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, may I continue? I would also like to enquire of the Provincial Treasurer as to whether it would be possible within the provincial tax base, to allow depreciation on capital cost allowance for existing rental accommodation, and what the implications of such a program would be.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, while we've had that matter under consideration, I wouldn't want to answer it today without a further review. I will do that, and provide the hon. member with an answer as soon as I can.

##### Senior Citizen Renters' Grant

MR. GHITTER: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Social Services. I'm wondering if the minister is considering extending the senior citizens' renters program to beyond \$150, to assist our senior citizen renters in the difficulties they are facing at the present time.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, that's a budgetary matter. We have, of course, great concern about those on fixed incomes, not necessarily only senior citizens. A large group of people out there who have not reached the magic age of 65 are on fixed incomes and have unique problems of their own. The administration of the tax rebate does not come under my department, and would probably be dealt with by another minister in any case.

#### Litter

MR. GHITTER: A final supplementary, if I may, to the Minister of Housing and Public Works, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if there are any regulations, Mr. Minister, in your position as Minister of Public Works, to require people who clutter up the steps of the Legislature with Marxist literature to at least clean it up when they leave the Legislature.

#### Parks Facilities for Disabled

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. A very short explanation is required first. At our provincial parks, people on wheelchairs have difficulty using the tables that are presently there.

Has the hon. minister any plans to construct tables that would be accessible to persons in our provincial parks who must use wheelchairs?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question from the hon. Member for Drumheller, the basic answer is, yes. I might just expand a little beyond that. We have the planning division not only looking at accessibility to tables, but accessibility to washroom facilities, and possibly ramps in parks, where applicable, that would allow them to get in and out of the vehicles. So that, in fact, is taking place now, I'm pleased to say.

#### Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

MR. KUSHNER: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Every time I turn on the radio, I hear rumblings that the government is not complying with the proper regulations as far as the tar sands development is concerned. What is the minister in fact doing about it?

MR. SPEAKER: That is rather a broad question. Unless the hon. minister thinks it can be answered briefly, I would suggest to the hon. member that he might focus the question somewhat more narrowly.

MR. RUSSELL: I'm still not exactly certain what the hon. member is getting at, Mr. Speaker. It has the potential of an invi-

tation to give a 1-hour 40-minute speech in the House. I don't think I should go beyond that.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, we would be very pleased to allow the minister to have more than his 40 minutes in the course of debate on Motion No. 2, if he wants to do that.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister, flowing from the question just received.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member seeking clarification of the answer?  
[laughter]

MR. NOTLEY: Yes. I think the question posed was a very good one, so I think the follow-up questions are important too.

In light of the concern expressed yesterday in the federal parliament about SO2 emissions, has the hon. minister had an opportunity to review the documents released by STOP as to the emission of SO2 by Syncrude and GCOS? Is he satisfied that the level of emissions is consistent with the highest possible pollution and environmental standards?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the first point I'd like to make is, yes, I'm satisfied the company is using the best technology available at the time the permit was issued, to deal with the matter of SO2 emissions. I think it should be emphasized again that those standards being met in Alberta are the highest of any jurisdiction in North America. So, it's something that has not been treated lightly.

With respect to the concerns raised by STOP, we've tried to consider their brief very carefully. Their officials met with officials of my department for some two and one-half hours yesterday to go over their concerns point by point. I think a genuine attempt is being made to communicate properly and respond fully to the concerns being raised with this important matter.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. The minister said, the best standards then available, or best devices. Can the minister advise whether technology has improved substantially in the last several years, so now the emission rate could be reduced, as the STOP people have suggested?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, that is continually evolving. For example, if I may use the case of the two tar sands plants: GCOS used the best technology available at that time, Syncrude is using the best technology available at the time of their construction. I have to assume, as a result of continuing research, that plant number 3 will use better technology than Syncrude, et cetera, et cetera, on up the list. But there comes a time, when you're going into final design drawings, when equipment is being ordered, that a design freeze is applied. The best technology available at the time of the design freeze is the one applied. That is the situation with respect to Syncrude.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question for clarification, Mr. Speaker. I take it from the minister's answer that the best technology at the time was when the permit was issued, and that in fact, there is improved technology which could reduce the emission rate, subsequent to issuing of the permit.

MR. RUSSELL: Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to be absolutely clear that the hon. member isn't putting an improper or impossible interpretation on my explanation. There comes a time when the design must be frozen if construction starts. The best technology available at that time is what Syncrude is using. I hope the hon. member isn't suggesting that any government ask Syncrude to go back, undo its drawings, and then build what has been done.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to the hon. minister. Can the minister indicate if there's any truth to charges that Great Canadian Oil Sands has gone over the allowable limit of sulphur dioxide emission many times?

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, that's true, they have, Mr. Speaker. The plants throughout Alberta that emit sulphur dioxide are under continuous monitoring. During the course of their operations, any time they exceed permissible levels is recorded and brought to the attention of the appropriate departments of government.

Now, in the case of the GCOS plant, during the course of their years of operation there have been periods, some lasting a few seconds and some lasting for periods of perhaps up to 30 minutes, wherein the allowable emission levels have been exceeded. The total time involved, with those in excess of 200 instances over 8 years, amounts to less than half of one per cent of the time the plant has been in operation. The proposal some parties are making is that the plant should have been prosecuted on each of those occasions. We take the attitude, and I think it's a very defensible one, that we'd prefer to work on a co-operative basis with the industry involved in overcoming potential technological problems; and that's what's being done in the case of GCOS. In fact, they have been instructed to improve their emission control facilities, and that is under way. But I think that's a far better system to use in a developing province like Alberta than one based on confrontation.

DR. BUCK: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister able to indicate if Great Canadian Oil Sands is updating its emission control mechanisms all the time? Has it been asked to update them to the known technology that we have now?

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they've been instructed to improve the control facilities they now have.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. It's my understanding that the emissions from GCOS go in the

direction of Fort McMurray.

Are there monitoring systems in the town of Fort McMurray to examine the amount of emission and the relationship between the emission at the plant level and over the town of Fort McMurray?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, that item is another one of those things that's under continual improvement. The joint Canada-Alberta research program, now in its first year of operation includes those kinds of things very specifically. But I'd ask all hon. members who are concerned about this to visit the plant site to see if they can find any evidence of that kind of damage.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the last supplementary on this point.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. minister. Has the town council of Fort McMurray made any complaint about excess pollution in the area?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, no, it hasn't. On the other hand, the town council did everything it could to get a second plant within their region, based on the experience of the GCOS plant.

#### AGT Long-Distance Revenues

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones. Mr. Minister, in light of the fact that Alberta Government Telephones has been granted a 20 per cent interim increase in the rates, can the minister indicate if Edmonton Telephones is going to be receiving any of the share of the long-distance toll revenues?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, the answer is, no. That is an entirely separate matter unrelated to the rate increase application.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In light of the fact that between \$7 and \$10 million is estimated lost to the Trans Canada Telephone System, is AGT looking at recovering some of these losses?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, that is an unconfirmed allegation at this present time.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, is Alberta Government Telephones losing any revenue to the Trans Canada Telephone System?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, the Trans Canada Telephone System involves nine telephone companies, of which Alberta Government Telephones is one. This is a very important source of revenue, and as a matter of fact, a real asset to the financial solidarity of AGT. The arrangements struck are those that are among all the companies involved, representing the total different regions and provinces of Canada, and

involve many factors in the negotiated rates which are received.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the question again. Is Alberta Government Telephones going to be receiving any of this revenue we are presently losing to Trans Canada Telephones Systems? Yes or no?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Clover Bar has now lined himself up with the unconfirmed allegation I referred to earlier, and I do not accept that allegation as being correct.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes or no?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister can play lawyer all he wants.

MR. NOTLEY: He doesn't do it very well.

DR. BUCK: I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Hopefully, [inaudible] pleading your case in Ottawa.

DR. BUCK: . . . is the minister having any discussions with Edmonton Telephones as to the revenue AGT and ET are losing to Trans Canada Telephone System?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, the member referred to, saying it again. That's the first time he's said that or asked that question. But in any case, the recent mayor of Edmonton -- and I, too, would like to reflect what a severe loss that is to Alberta, and Edmonton in particular -- and I discussed a number of topics, including the possibility of that particular one. The city council has decided it would like to put that matter before the Public Utilities Board, which I think everyone realizes is a quasi-judicial board. That intervention will be made, and the basis of the intervention and its outcome will be of great interest.

#### Potash Industry

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Have any of the companies from Saskatchewan which have been affected by the Saskatchewan takeover of potash requested permits to develop any potash in Alberta?

MR. GETTY: Not yet, Mr. Speaker. However, I have asked the department to advise me as to the potential areas where we can expect the interest to be shown.

MR. CLARK: South of Lloydminster.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. Has the takeover in Saskatchewan had any effect on industries in Alberta that may potentially use potash?

MR. SPEAKER: The member is clearly asking the minister for an early market report which, perhaps, he might seek elsewhere.

#### Ammonia Plant Development

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Could he indicate at what stage the application is by PanCanadian for the ammonia plant in Brooks?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the application was heard by the Energy Resources Conservation Board, and the board made a recommendation to the Executive Council to grant a permit to PanCanadian. PanCanadian has been in to see us to express some problems they have with regard to their application. The board has heard some additional information regarding the application and has filed a supplementary report with the Executive Council. We have had further meetings with the PanCanadian group, and they are now going to come back to us to discuss potential conditions that the Energy Resources Conservation Board has recommended the Executive Council might apply to any permit. We hope to be able to work out a series of conditions which meet the interests of the Province of Alberta and which allow the company to go ahead with its development.

#### Gasoline Prices

MR. COOKSON: Another question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. In view of the freezing of pump prices, I think, in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario, has the minister made any submissions to Ottawa with regard to this? If so, has there been any outcome?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, my monitoring of the situation indicates that in both Manitoba and Ontario, where Alberta products go, and then go to the pump, the freeze has been lifted.

The discussions I've had with the federal minister have been along the lines of seeing how the provinces can live up to the agreement they entered into when the Premiers and the Prime Minister agreed there would be one price for oil throughout Canada. It's the federal government's desire, being responsible on a national basis, to make sure that that agreement is lived up to. Alberta has lived up to its part of that agreement. Some provinces have; others have been reluctant. It is hoped that in the longer term we will have all provinces living up to an agreement that has been reached between the Premiers and the Prime Minister.

MR. COOKSON: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the people of Alberta that we still have the lowest pump prices in Canada?

DR. BUCK: No.

#### Provincial Parks Development

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

#### Beef Exports

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Will the minister advise the House if there is any difficulty in selling Alberta beef to Japan in a similar manner to the historically announced \$41 million sale of Alberta pork yesterday?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the two products are quite different in nature in terms of sales.

DR. BUCK: Tell the boys from Wandering River.

MR. MOORE: All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that the Alberta Cattle Commission is beginning to be actively involved in pursuing arrangements similar to those announced yesterday, which were brought about largely by work on behalf of Alberta hog producers by the Hog Producers' Marketing Board.

DR. PAPROSKI: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider another mission to Japan and other areas to help consummate such a sale?

MR. CLARK: The plane's full.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you on it?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, we'll take that under consideration.

#### Oil Spill, Pipestone Creek

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Environment and ask whether the department is aware of a serious oil spill on the Pipestone Creek, near the town of Valleyview.

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The way those spills are dealt with is: the first report goes to the Energy Resources Conservation Board, which then reports it to either Alberta Disaster Services Agency and the Department of Environment, or whoever is necessarily involved, but there's a constant reporting system involved in all oil spills.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister able to report to the Assembly on what specific steps are now being taken to clean up the spill?

MR. RUSSELL: No, I don't have that information available at this moment, Mr. Speaker, but I'll be glad to get it and report to the House.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. Again, a very short explanation is required. Some time ago, Mr. Sid McMullen of Midland mine collieries donated some large acreages of the old mine property to the provincial government for a provincial park. The former minister announced that a provincial park would be placed in that area.

My question to the hon. minister is, at what stage is the master plan of development of that park at the present time?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question from the hon. Member for Drumheller, a joint interdepartmental committee of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Business Development and Tourism, and Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, through the three ministers and their officials are working on the plan for that park.

I would say that we're at the stage of getting some recommendation back to the three ministers for discussion, and hopefully some finalization fairly soon. Possibly one of my colleagues, the Minister of Business Development and Tourism or the Minister of Transportation, may like to add some further comments to my reply.

MR. DOWLING: Just a very brief supplementary answer. I would like to just say to the hon. Member for Drumheller that Travel Alberta has always held the Drumheller area in high esteem with regard to its establishment as a destination area, and in that way we are proceeding with a study.

MR. TAYLOR: One supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When the master plan is completed or is nearing completion, will the people of the area have some opportunity to make suggestions or have some input before things are finalized?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, as we go into the planning stages of parks, it is certainly the intent to get a preliminary plan, if I can call it that, and to lay that before the people of the area and have some input from them.

#### Oil and Gas Prices

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Premier, and a short explanation is necessary before putting the question. In his speech he mentioned two conditions in which Alberta would not go along with the federal proposal of the farm gate prices for agricultural commodities and the price of energy.

My question to the hon. Premier, Mr. Speaker, is, what would be the position of the Province of Alberta, or does the province have any contingency plans, in the event that provinces freeze the price at the gasoline pump? This is a follow-up

question to that of the hon. Member for Lacombe. Would Alberta not comply with the federal plans in the event that other provinces freeze the price at the gasoline pump?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we would consider it a very serious situation in Canada, because the long-term situation in this nation with regard to supply is very serious and getting more serious every year. We have a responsibility nationally, and I think it should be looked upon more seriously than it has in the past in some quarters, to develop very quickly new sources of supply. If that encouragement is not there, Canada's going to be, in my judgment, into one of its most serious economic problems in its history, far [more] serious than it is today, with a balance of payment problem in having an area such as Toronto involved in paying [for] imported oil from the OPEC nations. That's what we will face unless we have encouragement. It's only my hope that the recognition will be there by provincial governments and provincial political leaders throughout the nation, as well as now is the case, belatedly, by the federal government.

DR. BUCK: We need you in Ottawa, Peter.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for clarification.

[laughter]

I'm sure this aside will become the major preoccupation of politics in Alberta for the next two or three months, at least.

In any event, Mr. Speaker my question to the hon. Premier, for clarification, is to just ask him to answer specifically the question of whether or not the Government of Alberta would consider freezing the pump price in other provinces to be such a violation of the federal-provincial accord on energy pricing that this province would not comply with the federal wage and price guidelines.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I understand from the Minister of Energy that there is a meeting imminent within a number of weeks to discuss that issue among the various ministers. As the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources pointed out, we have been encouraged by the recent moves of the Governments of Ontario and Manitoba to reflect the realities that we see exist with regard to energy prices.

As the hon. member pointed out, I was pleased to see in a document we received from the Prime Minister on October 13 the exclusion of energy prices, the recognition that energy prices have to move over stages to world prices. We, for our part in this province, will continue, as I mentioned in my remarks in the Legislature with regard to natural gas, to have a benchmark price substantially lower than that in other parts of Canada, so that we will have a very major advantage in terms of natural gas pricing in this province over the rest of Canada.

Insofar as crude oil is concerned, we

of course have moved in two directions: one in maintaining the lowest gasoline tax in Canada; secondly of course, with the farm transportation allowance to offset farm costs. On an ongoing basis we will watch the nature of the average tank wagon price at the wholesale level in Canada. We will view with deep concern any continued effort by provincial governments that are looking to the Alberta Government for a source of supply, if there is not a recognition of that need for encouragement.

#### Alberta-based Oil Companies

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Business Development and ask if he has received the report from Foster Economic Consultants regarding the situation that small Alberta-based oil companies find themselves in.

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, for some time, we have had under examination in the department the matter of small Alberta-based oil companies. Whether a report was turned in to the department, I am not certain at this time. However, it's a matter of some concern to us that some of the sources of funding in the United States have dried up, and we are taking it under advisement. I should say also that the Opportunity Company in Ponoka has had applications for some assistance, and has had some meetings with some of the companies involved.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the minister had discussions with the people in Foster Economic Consultants regarding its recommendations that, in fact, urgent assistance is needed for small Alberta-based companies? Has the minister had discussions with the people from Foster Economics?

MR. DOWLING: No, I have not, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to supplement the answer of the hon. minister. I think that, although precisely responding to the question, it should be pointed out, as I mentioned in my remarks, the very general feeling right across the petroleum industry, even with the smaller companies as reflected in many of the activities that are going on, [is] a very renewed confidence by the petroleum industry in this province.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question either to the Premier or the minister. Would one of them check to see if the government has the report, and secondly what the recommendations are?



## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

2. Hon. Mr. Lougheed proposed the following motion to the Assembly:  
That the Assembly approve in general the operations of the government since the adjournment of the spring sittings.

[Adjourned debate: Mr. Mandeville]

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, ever since I opened my second eye this morning, I was wondering why I adjourned the debate. Because when you adjourn the debate, it's a case of having to get up. If you just have to get up on the spur of the moment, sometimes that works out pretty good.

However, I do welcome the opportunity to make a few remarks. As a result of travelling through the province, I have a few issues on my mind that I would like to get off my mind, and to clear the air. I certainly had to agree with the Premier's remarks that the province is in a good condition, and in a better state of affairs than any other province in the Dominion of Canada. I'll certainly agree with that remark. However, I think it's my responsibility in the opposition to bring to mind some of the areas that are not quite so buoyant, such as the one the demonstration at Wandering River points out.

One of our very important industries is facing problems, that is our cow-calf industry and our complete cattle industry. As I say, it's one of the most important industries we have in agriculture in Alberta. We do have 30 per cent of the meat processing plants here, and we're also the leading producers as far as slaughter cattle is concerned. In this area, the producers are certainly not getting the break they should be getting. Sometimes when we go to our retail stores to get our cuts of meat, we certainly aren't able to buy them at the same price range that our producers are selling this beef. Therefore, I think we've got to do something in this area to try to salvage this very important industry.

What's going to happen, as I see it in the very near future, if we don't come up with some type of stabilization program: we're going to face the same situation in the cattle industry that we have in the hog industry right now. We're going to be short of cattle, and the consumer is going to have to pay for it. At the present time, we are slaughtering so many of our veal calves. We're also slaughtering our yearling heifers. We're slaughtering our cows. This is one way they are able to keep the price of beef down to the producer, by slaughtering all our breeding stock. This is going to create a tremendous shortage in the very near future. Just what happened to the pork industry -- in a very few months, the price doubled. It went up

to the consumer very drastically. It would have been really nice if this sale made to Japan, that the minister announced yesterday, could have had some beef involved.

I have heard several complaints on the Edmonton market as far as the sale of cattle is concerned. I think this is a situation we are facing all over the province. I've been to many sales myself, and I see that the markets are very erratic. You'll see one particular grade of cattle -- one day they'll be selling for 5, or 6, or 7 cents difference, the same grade of cattle. There will be that much erratic spread in the price. I think this is the situation faced here in Edmonton. However, I have bought cattle out of the Edmonton yards, and I think it is hard to buy cattle here. They have the number of rings together, and you've got to be back and forth watching the cattle.

Another issue I've seen that does cause a problem -- I think it causes a problem -- is that our prices are all started from the ring boss. I think it is better if we can get our prices started from the auctioneers, then from the auctioneer to the purchaser. I think this would solve some of the problems they're facing in the Edmonton market. However, I'm the first one to say this is a situation we're facing all over the province at the present time.

As far as the cow-calf loan is concerned, I have to agree with the minister. He had to extend those loans for another period of a year. I think this will help salvage, to a certain extent, the cow-calf operator who did borrow this money a year ago. However, I certainly think it is a stopgap measure as far as the cow-calf loan is concerned. I don't really know whether it is going to be advantageous for some of these ranchers, or some of our smaller farmers, who borrowed the money last year and can go ahead and borrow the money again this year. I think this is just going to create more problems as far as the cow-calf situation is concerned.

I would sincerely advocate that we have a long-term stabilization program. I don't know just how we are going to come up with this, but we've got to have a stabilization program where prices are realistic. We've got to have realistic prices. We can't have inflated prices; if we do this, we are going to create the same situation -- we're going to get the supply that's greater than the demand. I'd like to see our Minister of Agriculture come up with some type of interim program for the cow-calf operator at this time.

Or, if we wanted to supplement the stabilization program that's come from the federal government, it's \$43.94 a 100, which is not, in my view, enough money, with the high cost of feed and operations to-day. I don't think \$43.94 is satisfactory. Possibly the province could supplement that, in a small way, to bring it up to a satisfactory price.

I'm going to be the first one to agree that this is a world situation as far as cattle is concerned. It's not Alberta, it's not Canada, it's all over the world. I understand that in Australia, they've

been using our beef for fertilizer. Well in this day and age, at this time, it seems utterly ridiculous, with the population growth and the shortage of food we have in the world, to use beef in Australia for fertilizer.

I'm going to agree also with our leader over here, that the Minister of Agriculture is doing a good job in the field of agriculture, with the hard situation he has to face as far as cattle are concerned. I realize it's a problem that's not easy to solve.

Another concern we have in the field of agriculture is going to be in the area of the price controls and the gate prices of agriculture. I realize this is important, that the gate prices of agriculture are not affected by the price freeze, and, as the Premier and Prime Minister Trudeau have indicated, that we're going to have protection in this area. However, if retail prices are to be controlled, the gate prices will automatically be controlled. So I strongly urge the government to look at this fact in the drafting of the anti-inflation legislation, to see that we do have some protection at the gate prices as far as agriculture is concerned.

As I say, travelling around the province this summer we did run into several problems, and one -- I would say it's a program that comes under the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. I see he's not in the House at the present time, but we've had more complaints on this program than any other. I'm sure any of you rural MLAs would certainly have experienced complaints and problems in this area. I'll have to say that it was a good program, but the administration of the program this year was certainly not satisfactory.

Before we left the session in June, the complaints started coming in. The first complaint I got from the administration here in Edmonton was that they were having computer problems and that they couldn't get the cheques out. The next complaint I had was that they didn't have any money available to make the payments. When our students started back to school at the first of September, many of these cheques weren't out yet. As late as October, some of the cheques weren't out. So I would certainly like to see this program carried on another year, but the administration certainly needs to have some correction.

I'll certainly adhere to the term that the Premier used, and that is to dampen the expectations. One particular area I can think of is under transportation, where many roads were approved and weren't able to be completed this last summer. We had many contractors complaining because the government ran out of money and they weren't able to complete their contracts. So, I would say it would be better not to promise our people so many roads, promise them so much and not be able to carry it out.

I had one road in my constituency that we brought a delegation to Edmonton on. The road was promised in 1974 and still wasn't put in this year. Well, these

people were very upset by the fact that the road wasn't completed in 1975, when it was promised in 1974. It was two years that this road was promised and still wasn't put in. However, I do want to commend the minister that when we met with him, he was very responsive and agreed to contract the road this fall. So they are sure they are going to get the road next summer.

Another area I would like to make a few comments on is housing. First, I would like to commend the hon. Mr. Yurko on the handling of this difficult portfolio, but here again we have many problems which need immediate attention. I agree it is unfortunate for a free enterprise province to be forced into controlling rents. This means we have to formulate our housing policies even more carefully. I believe we are making a step in the right direction with programs through Alberta Housing such as the core housing incentive program, the modest apartment program, and the farm housing program, which all encourage building.

We must see that adequate marketing research is done to ensure that too great a demand is not created for houses by government incentive programs. With government actively involved in the field of housing, care must be taken to ensure a balance between programs which create a demand, such as SHOP, and programs which create a supply, such as CHIP and MAP.

I would also strongly urge the government, in drafting the rent control legislation, to take into consideration the rights of tenants. In my constituency, I have had complaints of tenants being served with eviction notices. In my view, this is very serious. As soon as price freeze controls from the federal government were announced, landlords who couldn't give the 90-day notice were giving eviction notices to our tenants to get them out of the house. I think this is something we've got to be very careful of, that we don't let this type of thing carry on in this province.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a few words on how I think the heritage fund should be spent. I think they are going to spend much of the heritage fund on water resources, on irrigation -- \$200 million is going to be spent -- but I would like to see more of our money spent on water resources, on the conservation of water in this province.

There is one study just completed on the Oldman River basin, and I would like to see this type of study completed on more of the river basins in this province. One that I think really has potential is the Bow River basin. We have a large tract of land that can be brought under irrigation to produce food if we can get the water storage on the Bow River. There are many areas we can store water on the Bow River. One is the basin where the Highwood River runs into the Bow River where we can store millions of acre feet of water. We have another one on the Crowfoot Creek where there's storage for a million acre feet of water.

Downstream, the one being considered at the present time is the Eyemore dam -- I

certainly hope this is the dam they go ahead with -- where we can store 300,000 acre feet of water and put a large tract of land under irrigation. But in these areas, I strongly recommend that the federal government participate to a large extent in going ahead with the development of this very important resource that we have, which is water resources.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, since the completion of the European mission and its return to Alberta some four weeks ago, I've been looking forward to reporting to this Assembly and to Albertans on it.

I think I would share the views of the hon. Leader of the Opposition when he remarked yesterday that the mission was an unqualified success. I think that is exactly the way to paint it.

I'd like to first set forth some of the rationale for the mission, which I think is fairly obvious, Mr. Speaker. Certainly Canada has traditionally had a world outlook, and that's been especially evident in the Province of Alberta. Because in this province we grow, produce, manufacture, and extract far more than we can ever use ourselves, we must continuously have an international view. We have to consider, as we have considered, foreign trade to be a vital component of our provincial economy. Of course, in many ways we've reached the prosperity that we all enjoy in this province today by reason of outside investment, investment coming from outside the Province of Alberta. Also there is, I think, a natural link with the countries of Europe to which we went, bearing in mind the broad mix and range of nationalities which make up such a useful part of this province.

So it may be, Mr. Speaker, that Alberta is landlocked. It may be that we're quite a distance from the international or even North American population centres; but we're not in Alberta an insular or isolated or inward-looking people. We don't have a narrow viewpoint, and that's why I think most Albertans agree that this kind of mission is a worth-while exercise.

A few highlight statistics: it involved 60 people, took place over the course of 13 days. There were more than 300 individual meetings, more than 2,000 individual face-to-face conversations between members of the mission and their European counterparts and members of the government and business community on the continent. It was 11 months in the planning -- the planning began in December of last year -- and I think those who were on the mission would agree that it was fast moving and a dawn-to-dusk operation. The mission arrived in Europe on September 28, well-prepared, well-briefed, ready to tackle a well-organized agenda.

I might, at this point, Mr. Speaker, file two copies of some of the documents we had available on the mission. First, we have a background document setting forth thumbnail sketches of the personalities of those participating. These are in three

languages: English, French, and German. There was a background fact sheet, very briefly setting forth Alberta and its opportunities, again in three languages. Then a document which received very wide distribution -- copies are even being requested now -- Alberta Mission to Europe, again in three languages, setting forth in detail the highlights of the provincial opportunities. I might also file at this time the briefing book, a very in depth review available for all members on the mission which set forth the governments of the various countries we were visiting, and the social and political attitudes they had. In many ways, it prepared members of our mission to effectively take part in it. Finally, with the documents for filing, I'd like to file the master itinerary, which covers the detailed itineraries of the main mission, plus the five sector groups, over the course of the two weeks.

The mission arrived in Europe very well prepared. There was a great deal of interest. It almost reminds me of the occasion when someone went to Winston Churchill in his later years and asked him, because he was getting of advanced age: was he prepared to meet his God? Whereupon Churchill replied: the real question is whether God is prepared to meet me. We were prepared to meet Europe. We arrived prepared and ready to go.

At the occasion of our arrival on the continent, the Premier made the first of four major addresses; one in London, one in Brussels, one in Paris, and another in Frankfurt. They were well received. They received wide publicity on the continent. Throughout the remarks which he made, he certainly did capture the spirit of Alberta, of the new west, the feeling of Alberta on the move. I think he demonstrated a leadership, every day and every hour on the continent, that Albertans would be proud of. He was received by everyone, from the Prime Minister of France on down, as a man of competence, vitality, and good manners. I think a reflection of the outlook Albertans would like to feel they are projecting around the world.

The Alberta art show was really the successful launching point for the mission on Monday, September 29. It was the first occasion when there was a European exhibition of art by any province in the Dominion of Canada. More than 500 people jammed the Canada House building in London, England, to view the 75 works of the Alberta Art Foundation. International attention was drawn to the show. The exhibition moves on to Brussels in November and December, and Paris in January and February. It clearly indicated that Alberta is in the mainstream of the international art exhibiting world.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to assure members I don't intend to go through every hour of every day of the two-week mission. But just to give hon. members an example of the kind of frantic pace set by members of the mission, and the kind of excellent organization which backed it up, I would like to outline the highlights of what occurred on just that first day, Monday, September 29. In the morning,

a briefing by the Hon. Paul Martin, Canadian High Commissioner; Mansfield to a meeting at Quebec House re immigration; Mr. Basken departing London by train for Blackpool to meet trade union leaders; Mr. Channon on a train to Ipswich for a meeting re agriculture; Morgenstern visiting the Building Research Station at Watford; a tourism group meeting the Director General of the British Tourist Authority; LeBlanc at a luncheon with the Under Secretary of State, Criminal Department on Homicide, Home Office there; Dr. MacKenzie, lunch with Dr. Symington, the Institute of Cancer Research; Nelson and Oke, lunch with the Greenfield Social Security Group on the Elderly; Russell meeting re welfare program; Mansfield and Wray, further meeting in Canada Manpower and Immigration; investment and energy group meeting with representatives of Shell Oil; Hanna, Hargrave, and Hay, agriculture meeting; Tottrup, Program Shelter System; Fowler, tourism group meeting; Thiessen meeting with the National Coal Board; Clough, Engel, Weber, and Fowler meeting with the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority and the Co-ordinator of the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board; LeBlanc meeting with the Assistant Chief Protaction Officer for England; MacKenzie at the Chester Beatty Research Institute; Oke, a visit to the Northwick Hospital; Nelson, meeting regarding the National Children's Bureau; Hyndman and Desrochers, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting with the Secretary-General; MacDonald and Milne, a visit to Stevenage in Newtown, studying transportation, regional growth, housing and satellite towns; Mr. Wray meeting with Community Relations Commissioner; Leitch and Collins meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England; McArthur and Ross meeting with the United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce; Dowling, Sarton, Ross, and Tottrup, Shelter System and Forest Products; Godwin over to the Institute of Geological Sciences, and in the evening, a dinner hosted by British Steel International and of course, the Art Foundation.

That's just an example of what occurred every day through any of the given six- to eight-hour periods of the mission. This document has been filed and is available in the Legislature for perusal by members.

Without going through every day and every hour of the trip, Mr. Speaker, to outline some of the new ideas and new approaches that we learned during the mission -- I think we saw, in a dramatic fashion, that reclamation of strip-mined land to a condition that can be even better than the original land, is entirely practical and possible. We found the new towns in Europe do offer some possibilities, but with the real danger of a permanent loss of local autonomy to the central government. We found that our laws in Alberta regarding the preservation of historic buildings could do well, perhaps, with some beefing up, if we are to effectively preserve our heritage in this province. We found that one answer to traffic jams on the highways, rather than simply building new highways and putting down more concrete, is to work

on more efficient movement of traffic along existing roads. The European countries have this down to a fine art. We found that the co-determination concept may well have applications, in the area especially of industrial health and safety. I think we all realize that if there ever was a correct decision of this government, it was the Capital City Park and the Fish Creek Park in Calgary. The capitals of Europe, many centuries ago, had the foresight to plan green spaces and park areas, right now in the middle of those metropolitan centres. That is what this government is doing in Edmonton and Calgary.

DR. BUCK: Agreed, just tell us how much it costs, that's all.

MR. HYNDMAN: We found a surprising thing, perhaps, Mr. Speaker. Germany, Belgium and Sweden -- governments which, in many ways, have a socialist viewpoint as to their political parties -- felt the rate in the increase of social services was, perhaps, getting too high. The rate of increase and the increasing costs of those social services, perhaps, had to be massively reduced or cut back; it was simply becoming too expensive, and the long-term budgetary problems which those would bring were very, very serious indeed.

We found, for example -- a small matter but a very important one -- that in England, they are training fewer apprentices, and the government of the United Kingdom is taking direct measures to hold skilled labor in the United Kingdom, whereas previously they came to Canada. This means that one of the traditional sources of skilled labor that Alberta has had may well be drying up. We will have to work on other ways of ensuring there is a labor supply.

We found in the Netherlands, for example, there is a large number of small entrepreneurs with a third- or a half-million dollars who want to emigrate to, and invest in, the Province of Alberta. They wanted information, and that's being followed up now.

We found some interesting things, such as that there may be a very sizable export market in canned beef to Germany, in the years ahead. We found that Poland is underselling Canada by \$35 a pound in the provision of rapeseed to the very large crushing plant in Rotterdam which services all of the Economic Community.

These are just some of literally hundreds of ideas and new concepts and approaches that were discovered by various members of the mission. As I mentioned, in addition to finding a number of good ideas that might be applied here, we also discovered a number of ideas applied in Europe which we should not be following in Alberta.

As to some of the immediate results, I'd like to underline the fact that most of the results from the mission will be in the middle- and long-term area. Members will recall there was a mission to Japan about two years ago, and it was yesterday when

the Minister of Agriculture outlined one of the results of that mission: a very significant \$41 million sale of hogs to Japan.

We can expect results from this mission in the months and years to come. One specific, the Minister of Trade for France, Mr. Norbert Segard, indicated that he will in 1976 be bringing a mission of French businessmen to the Province of Alberta. A number of English investors -- I was told by the late Mayor Hawrelak 2 weeks ago -- were in Edmonton just 14 days after the mission and were looking at joint ventures and the investment of something over \$1 million in the Edmonton area. We have had interest displayed by a number of petrochemical companies in Germany with regard to possible joint ventures in the Province of Alberta and in our promising petrochemical area.

But most of the results, Mr. Speaker, are long-term and are not as specific as those three I've enumerated. We received invaluable inside information by the personal contacts we made, about the moods, attitudes, and viewpoints of key people in business and government in Europe. That kind of information cannot be acquired by reading magazines. It cannot be acquired by reading trade bulletins. The European Economic Community is the largest trading bloc in the world now, with some 260 million people. It's a very complex entity, and we secured an insight into the inner workings of that trading bloc.

I think we were able to educate, reassure, and interest the Economic Community and the nine nations involved, and I think it is relevant in the sense that that bloc, being the largest trading bloc in the world, should be something Canada and Alberta know a great deal about, Canada being the largest per capita trading nation in the world.

We secured information, as I have mentioned, on a multitude of innovations and bright ideas in the areas of urban transportation, senior citizen care, housing, corrections, health care, urban planning, reclamation, cancer research -- the list goes on.

In Europe we, I think, created an awareness of Alberta services and technology, particularly in the systems and consulting services areas, with regard to petroleum and agricultural processing. We reinforced the genuine interest of European capital operations in investing on a joint venture basis in the continued Alberta expansion: areas of secondary industry, manufacturing, petroleum, food processing, and resource development.

I think we did, in many ways, put Alberta on the European map of Canada. We did, on a number of occasions, get the impression that when people from the European countries came to Canada they were hosted in the geographical area bounded by a line drawn between Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal, and that the hosts then were able to and did suggest that the people had seen Canada. Well, now they know there's an important part of Canada farther west, and I think this will mean we're going to see a

vast increase in the number of visits of people from Europe to this part of the Dominion.

I think we showed in Europe that although we may be a young, exuberant, and hard-working kind of province, we have an interest in culture here, and there is a growing aesthetic appreciation for the arts. Certainly the art show in London, at the opening, demonstrated that.

Perhaps the most important piece of information or asset we obtained from the mission was the fact that the quality of government decision-making will, in the months ahead, be improved even further. Certainly, the mission information we secured regarding OPEC and the European Economic Community and investors in Europe will enable us to make high quality government decisions. Knowing the views, for example, of the OPEC people will enable us to make decisions, regarding conventional and synthetic crude, into the next decade. Being aware of the Economic Community operations in agricultural marketing and trade will enable us to stimulate even further those areas in the province, and understanding the cutlook of the offshore investor will encourage petrochemicals and manufacturing in this province.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to offer thanks to some of the people who joined together to make the mission very successful. There were 26 citizen advisors, and they faced a tough and demanding pace. I think I can fairly say that they were a cross section of Albertans. They worked as a team. They worked as unpaid consultants for government. They were excellent ambassadors for this province, and they will be, through the various groups and people they know, passing along the message of the mission in the months ahead.

There were slightly more than a dozen public servants from this government and a couple from the federal government involved. They made a solid contribution, provided knowledgeable back-up, and took the initiative in assessing new ideas that were there in Europe. I think the province is fortunate in having such able and competent public servants.

I'd like also to offer a vote of thanks to the overseas embassies of the Government of Canada. I believe that Canada is very well served in the diplomatic and embassy staffs we find in Europe. Uniformly, the ambassadors, the charges d'affaires, and the other members of the staffs over there were helpful and informed about Europe and Canada.

I would also like to offer thanks to the secretariat, the group that got the mission going and spent the 11 months in planning. They were members from my department and 2 others. Mr. Herb Pickering, the agent general in London, and his staff did the advance work and smoothed every hour and every day of the mission operation. I know there was almost disbelief when we told some of the Canadian embassy staffs that the entire mission comprised an organizing team of less than a dozen people with an average age of under

30. Many people in Europe with the Department of External Affairs said that they felt the mission was the best organized one they had seen from any province, or even the federal government, on any tour of Europe.

The mission secretariat were even able to retain their sense of humor on the 13th day, when there was a general air of tiredness and fatigue among most of the members of the mission, having gone through 13 days of 15- and 16-hour work. The short daily mimeographed sheet from the secretariat setting forth what was going to happen had at the bottom in big letters: the Department of Social Services and Community Health warns that the Alberta mission may be dangerous to your health, which, at that stage, a number of members were prepared to concede was possibly the case.

As a memento of our mission to Europe we left something unique and quite different. We didn't leave any chattels in the normal fashion, but we did present to the four governments involved a continuing scholarship. The scholarships were given to the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium, for the establishment of two-year postgraduate studies, two at the University of Calgary and two at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. They are at the masters or doctoral level in four fields: management studies, petroleum engineering, environmental science, and a petroleum engineering course donated to the government of the United Kingdom. It was very well received. They felt, as we did, it would be a tangible and continuing symbol of a meaningful link between western Canada, between Alberta and Europe. I believe the students who will be coming beginning next year in the fall, and will be chosen by their governments, will keep up a link which we established during this two-week mission.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the mission, I believe, was worth while. It was a good investment. It was more successful than I had hoped, and I think the positive benefits will be seen in the months and years ahead in a very real way. I think one member of the mission summed it up best when he concluded the mission and said, during this last two weeks we've got our feet under a lot of important European tables, it's got to pay off.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few remarks on this debate. I propose to deal with just five topics in the time allotted to me.

The first one is in connection with Halloween. In the recent trip I made through the constituency, a number of people were concerned about the vandalism that had taken place on Halloween night. A number of people deplored the fact that the old custom of celebrating Halloween with ghosts, and apples, and so on was disappearing, and that vandalism was becoming the chief characteristic of Halloween at this time. One man even went so far as to suggest that Halloween should be banned completely, as it was simply being used by

vandals to destroy the property of others.

Well, I think we have some reason to be concerned about what is taking place on Halloween. A few years ago, in Edmonton, any of us who have homes will remember that we had 50 to 100, and sometimes 200, youngsters come to the door on a "treat or trick" basis, and I think this is a pretty wonderful thing. Then we came across the people who put razor blades in apples, and poisons in foods, and so on, so a very large number of people now can't take the chance of letting their children have the fun that we had, in our day, on Halloween.

I had given some thought to this matter of Halloween, and in looking into it I find that it really is a matter that comes under the federal government as far as Criminal Code is concerned. I think there are two very definite problems. Number one, the problem of pinpointing where the poison comes from that's put in candies given to youngsters, and catching the actual culprits who go out to destroy property.

In one of the villages in my constituency, some \$2,000 damage was done to the home of one man, damage that possibly will be there for the balance of the life of that home. As far as I know, no charges have been laid. Perhaps it's difficult to pinpoint the people who actually did the damage. The second problem is: when people are pinpointed and stopped, the charges laid are generally so trivial and the action taken by the courts so lenient that in many instances police have come to have the feeling, what's the use of even trying to catch the culprits.

I would like to suggest, before we start banning Halloween, because I think it has a lot of merit -- a carry-over of many days that brings much fun to many people -- we take a look at two or three sections of the Criminal Code, and that the hon. Attorney General and the Solicitor General encourage the police forces of this province, when they do ascertain a culprit who is guilty of vandalism and destruction of other people's property, even though it's done in the name of Halloween, that some of these serious charges be laid. I hope once they are laid the courts will mete out heavy penalties. I believe that would be the best deterrent we can possibly get for preserving the fun of Halloween and dealing with those who are using the event as an opportunity to destroy other people's property.

There are probably three sections of the Criminal Code. One is attempted murder, which carries a life sentence. Surely anyone of sane mind who puts a razor blade in an apple or poison in candy for youngsters should be charged with attempted murder. I don't think the charge is too serious at all. If they are insane, if they are unbalanced, that's a different matter, and they should be dealt with accordingly. But if they are doing this sanely, trying to destroy kids they never even saw before, I think it should be attempted murder, which carries life -- not a menial fine of \$15 or \$30, but a sentence that's going to mean something to everybody else across this country.

A second clause is the attempt to cause bodily harm, which under the Criminal Code carries a penalty of a maximum of 14 years. There again, a charge could be laid that would have a meaningful penalty for those found guilty, or administering a noxious thing, Section 229(a) of the Criminal Code, which carries a 7-year penalty.

I'm suggesting these charges should be considered by the police forces of this province when they find the culprits who have been guilty of destroying property, of putting razor blades and poisons in candies, apples, et cetera. I think this will probably clean up Halloween in a shorter time than any other means we have.

The second item I'd like to deal with is Fort McMurray. During the summer, the researcher whom the government so kindly provided to my office, Mr. Joseph Williams, and I spent three days in the Fort McMurray area. We spent the best part of one day with Great Canadian Oil Sands, and the best part of another day with Syncrude. We spent the third day with the administrator and town officials, trying to meet people in various capacities in Fort McMurray.

I want to give my comments on Fort McMurray. I was impressed when the hon. minister said today in the question period that those who are so critical of what's going on in Fort McMurray should go up to Fort McMurray and talk to the people. This is what we did. We didn't go in with any aim to try to find garbage, or to try to justify things that were not right. We went in with open minds, objectively, to check what was going on. I was impressed with the tremendous co-operation.

I want to deal first of all with the administrator, Mr. Henning, in that area. He and his assistant gave us a tremendous amount of time. No question that we asked, and there were lots of them, wasn't answered. They even went to the trouble of taking us to the various sites to show what was going on, and the difficulties they were experiencing. We were both impressed with the tremendous development taking place.

One of the questions I was interested in asking the administrator -- because I supported the single administrator when the act was before this House, while I didn't support the extraordinary powers given to him -- was, if he had found it necessary to use those extraordinary powers in any way, shape, or form. I was delighted when he said he hadn't. He said it was found unnecessary; perhaps it was a good thing to keep in the background in case an occasion arose, but there was tremendous co-operation between him and the other boards and people elected in the area. In my view, the premise of his feeling was that he was there as a catalyst, to cut through bureaucracy rather than to build bureaucracy.

It was most impressive. As I went to the various developments with him and saw the reaction of people who met him I was very, very favorably impressed. I think the government has chosen an excellent man, and I think he's doing an excellent job and

will continue to have a very excellent influence on that whole area.

Now, there's going to be a lot of problems. You can't have an area with a tremendous inflow of the mass of people Fort McMurray has experienced without a lot of problems. I think they are going to need -- what did they say -- 1,000 homes every year for 3 or 4 years, which is a terrific problem in itself. I don't think we should underestimate the attempt to meet that need of 1,000 homes in one area of the province, every month of the year.

When I saw what was going on in regard to the trailer stalls -- again, I have never seen a better organized trailer court than in that area. It's along Highway 63. Some 13,000 trailer lots are being granted at \$80 per month rent, probably one of the better prices in Canada, and I found no dissatisfaction among the people. Most of them are very, very happy indeed with what was going on. There was some concern about land speculation, and about the high price of servicing land, but when you realize that water and sewer have to be taken up over those hills, you can understand the servicing charges for water and sewer.

I look at the servicing charges in a hamlet like Nacmine, where water and sewer is now being installed, and I am very appreciative of the government for doing that. It came as a direct result of the cabinet meeting in Drumheller headed by the hon. Dr. Horner about a year ago. Some of the people brought down a sample of the water they had to drink, and this was very meaningful to the hon. Deputy Premier. I'm glad the government was able to include that in their program this year.

When I look at the charges in that area, which is relatively flat and right beside a river, compared to the installation of water and sewer going up those semi-mountains of Fort McMurray, I can understand why the service charges bring the lots up to \$9,000, \$15,000, \$18,000 and so on. I think there should be an attempt made to keep these costs at a minimum. I have no reason to believe that that is not being done, that every attempt is being made to keep those prices as low as possible.

I was impressed with conversations with those who were elected in the area. In that regard I felt very bad, because there had been some suggested conflict of interest that meant Mr. Claire Peden was not on the council. Mr. Peden is a pioneer of that area, tremendously knowledgeable, completely honest, and he does everything above the table. I was very happy just recently to see the people of Fort McMurray re-elect him to that council, because I think he has a tremendous contribution to make. His knowledge of the area alone is a real asset to any government and any council, and I look forward to the continued positive programs of that particular area.

Now when we get to the plants, I was impressed with Great Canadian Oil Sands. One of the things that makes most of us stop and think, which is never mentioned by the hon. member to my left when he's



talking about the exploitatcions of major companies, is that this company has spent more than \$350 million in the area, and has not had one cent of return yet on that money. Now, I'd like to give a little credit to that company for being willing to sink \$350 millicn into the development of the oil sands, and go this number of years without a return. Not very many of us would invest \$10 without a return, let alone a tremendous amount of money like that. So, let's give credit where credit is due, and let's not simply try to blacken the character of all people, because the oil companies have a contribution to make in this country too.

Now, the steps that are being taken towards pollution -- Great Canadian Oil Sands has spent a lot of money to avoid pollution. I've heard some people say, what about the tailings pond? The ducks, and so on, landing in the tailings pond will die. Well, you know, I think the ducks are more sensible than the people making those comments. I don't think any duck would be crazy enough to land on a tailings pond. They just wouldn't be silly enough to do it. But even so, just in order to make those who are crying out this type of thing a little happier, Great Canadian Oil Sands provided areas in this tailings pond for birds to land on, just in case some of them were crazy enough to land in a tailings pond. Well, that shows the extent to which they're trying to go to avoid pollution.

The day I was there I thought the Minister of Environment, or the Department of Environment, was being a little tough. The plant had been closed down for, I think, 10 days because of an unprecedented storm -- completely closed. We saw where the water had come up. As far as the historians of the area knew, the water had never come that high in such a quick storm before. That was a tremendous setback -- cut down their production tremendously, closed them off for 10 days. They are still struggling with some of the problems arising out of that tremendous amount of water. Because there had been slightly over the amount of sulphur dioxide into the air, the department had clamped down and said, we're to cut your production again because of this.

Now, maybe it's better to be on the safe side, but I felt the department was being a little too tough, frankly, rather than not tough enough, and I wished some of the hon. members who make these comments for public consumption would tell some of the good things which are going on there instead of all the bad things.

This company and its employees are trying to avoid pollution, and I didn't come across one man, woman, or child in Fort McMurray who had anything to say about the pollution of the air. As a matter of fact, the researcher said, isn't it wonderful to breathe this pure air? And I said, sure, it's air that's never been breathed before. Wonderful air. We don't hear about that. People who've never gone there think the air is polluted, full of sulphur dioxide and everything else. Well, I think

the picture should be put straight, and I think the company should get some credit for what they're trying to do.

Now, in regard to that particular area, the researcher made a note about this, and I'm going to read what it said. This came right from the vice-president, and we went out and saw it going on. This is what he said:

The tailings are pumped into an area which has been cleared of all bitumen. Then, when the next area is cleared of oil sands, the tailings are pumped into it and the left-over sand from refining is used to fill in the former dam, the sides of which are planted to grass. This is a new idea of trying to plant grass in sand. It seems to have caught on quite well in the area.

We went to the area. I couldn't help but think of the hours that we spent a few years ago in Highways trying to get grass to grow on embankments. Finally by using a hydrated seeder we were able to get some catch. But the catch that these people had on that sand which had formerly been filled with tailings and oil was just tremendous. I can see now that when that plant is completely finished, we can have a beautifully grassed area from the experiment that's actually taking place.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I read some of these stories in the newspaper, I wish the newspapers and the radio stations, the TV stations, particularly CBC, would go up and take a look at these things themselves before they start spreading this kind of gossip around the province. And I wish some politicians wouldn't become parrots. When the CBC says something, they say, me too, me too.

Well, I was impressed when I went to Syncrude. Again, one of the questions -- and I'm not taking credit for it -- the researcher asked was, what are you doing to avoid some of the mistakes that GCOS might have made? They said, well, in the first place, we bought the technology package from Great Canadian Oil Sands. The co-operation was so great that Great Canadian Oil Sands was willing to give them the complete book of the mistakes they made, of how they corrected them, how they handled them. Syncrude's in a tremendous position to avoid that type of thing.

When I saw that huge pipe going up, I couldn't help but think how just a few years ago somebody raised the idea of pollution in the Drumheller area, and the now Alberta Power was forced to add to that pipe at tremendous expense in order to keep the air pure. As a matter of fact, many of us felt it was a very, very unnecessary expenditure. Nevertheless, the authorities said it was polluting the air and went beyond the toleration limit, so they forced them to build a higher tower. When I look at the little tower now in Drumheller that was used to keep the air pure, and look at the size of the tower at the Syncrude plant, there's no comparison at all. The information I was able to get from the engineers was that this would do a tremen-



dous job and continue to keep that air pure in the Fort McMurray area. I'm not going to deal with any other items in regard to that because the time is rapidly going.

I want to say a word or two in connection with the matter of centralization of schools. I have always favored centralization of high schools. It seems to me, once a student gets to Grades 10, 11, or 12, the centralization gives him a chance to develop, to have more highly qualified teachers, better lab facilities, et cetera, et cetera. I have never been enthusiastic about centralization of the intermediate school. There are some times when there are some advantages, but I completely oppose the centralization of Grades 1 to 6. I just can't see it at all, whether it's in my area or other areas. These boys and girls of that age should spend as much time as possible at home. They shouldn't be spending hours on a bus.

I find that today there are still attempts at centralization, which I question very, very much. For instance, in my own constituency, in a recent trip that I made main-streeting in that area, I was told by one family that they live 3 miles from one school but their children are being transported 10 miles to another school. I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Education that in this entire program, a pretty careful look should be taken at school buildings which are already constructed, before we start authorizing money for new construction. There are a number of schools in that area that are not filled, and the youngsters are being transported past those schools on buses, in order to get to another centralized school.

I plan to discuss this with the school division, because most of our school trustees are pretty sensible people and are willing to co-operate. Maybe there is some misunderstanding, but I believe we should use our buildings to the greatest capacity before we start building other schools. I do want to ask the hon. Minister of Education to take a pretty careful look when applications come in to the school building branch for grants for new buildings or extensions, to make sure there aren't already schools within a reasonable distance that can be used.

The school in Rockyford, for instance -- a good, well-constructed school -- was filled to capacity a few years ago by having the boys and girls within a 10-mile distance go to Rockyford. Now, many of these are being transported elsewhere, and only 2 rooms of that school are being used.

The grades from 1 to 9, in my view, should, if at all possible, be kept as close to home as possible. The buildings that have already had grants and public money expended in them should be used to utmost capacity before we start building new schools. In many respects, centralization is good. But, in my view, it's going too far when it starts to involve elementary boys and girls.

I'd like to deal for a few moments with this matter of rent control. I support the policy of the federal and the provincial government with regard to rent control. As

the administrator in Fort McMurray said to us when we were there, the very best way to avoid speculation is to have other available land and available homes. He says it may take us a little while to get to that position, but that is the best possible way to avoid speculation I think the hon. Premier mentioned that in his address the other day.

But today you don't have that alternative across the street. We have good landlords and bad landlords. I don't want to put all landlords into the category of culprits who are trying to rob the poor, or ride on the backs of the poor. There are many, many responsible landlords in this city and in this province. I don't think it's fair to shove them all into one basket and say, they are all bad, they are all gouging the tenants.

At coffee period today a chap told me, I'm very happy with the landlord in my apartment. He said, if I want it painted I simply tell them, and they come up and paint it. Some people even have it painted 2 or 3 times a year -- let alone never in 10 years. I said, what happens if there's something wrong with the bathroom, the toilet? He said, they'd be angry if we didn't tell them. They want to keep it a first-class area, and their prices are fair and just. So let's give credit to these landlords who are doing the right thing.

There are some bad landlords too, who are gouging the public, who are taking advantage of this inflationary period. Those are the ones bringing about the need for rental control. A case was brought to my attention where a man is buying a house and his charges are \$98 a month, including everything. But what does the renter pay? \$280 a month. In other words, the man is not only making the renter pay for that house, but he is also making him pay for the house that he himself is living in -- completely unfair. This is the type of thing that a rental board should be checking into and rolling back if necessary. These 40 and 70 per cent increases just aren't right. The people generally are not able to stand that type of cost. These are the ones who are bringing about the necessity for rental control. So I'm glad to see rental control coming in.

By the same token, I want to say I don't appreciate bad tenants any more than I appreciate bad landlords. Bad tenants who leave their apartments in a mess, who use an axe to cut into the plaster, who leave the place in disgraceful condition -- and I've seen one or two of these -- certainly should be penalized and shouldn't receive any benefits deserved by most of the tenants who are trying to live in a proper way and simply want a fair increase, not an exorbitant increase.

Now I'd like to deal for a moment or so -- and I think my time is almost up -- with the economy. I support the government's policy of 11 per cent increase. Again, I wish we could emphasize the fact that it's not a cutback. It's 11 per cent of a natural increase, which is a pretty important item. I would much rather see prices controlled, by the federal government under

its legislation, than wages. I think if it could control prices the way I believe it can be controlled, there'd be little demand, or little support for demand, of increased wages. Most of the working people ask for increased wages because their pay cheques will not cover the cost of the things they have to buy. But if those prices were stabilized, and the people didn't have to pay more every time they go for a pound of meat, or a pound of butter, or whatever they're buying, then their pay cheques would go the whole route, and there would be less demand for wage increases.

I was glad to see in the newspaper yesterday that the federal government has already laid charges against some supermarkets in Toronto which had been charging high prices for meat that they bought at a relatively low price. Go to most of our meat stores today; see if you can buy the meat that they bought cheaper because of the age or the weight, or some other factor of the steer or the cow, and it's pretty difficult to find it. They're all put in the same basket, and you still pay an exorbitant amount for that meat. So I'm glad to see some charges laid already in Toronto for this type of gouging, because that's exactly what it is. It's cheating, trying to get rich at the expense of those who have to eat -- and we all have to eat.

There's one other point that I'd like to mention. Again, I would like to say that I don't favor percentage increases. I don't think percentage increases are fair. It gives a huge amount to those who need it the least, and it gives the least amount to those who need it the most. I would hope that we can get away from this percentage increase, and give a lump sum increase that's fair, equitable, and sound. I think that will go a long way toward bringing up, somewhat, the people who are at the bottom of the spectrum of our salary and wage scales without raising all those who are already up in the high brackets, in the high salaries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry I've gone slightly over time.

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity and pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Legislature, 27 students from my constituency. They are accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Barry Davis, Bob Bowden, and their bus driver, Bunny Henry. The reason these people all look so happy is that they come from Paradise Valley, and it's just as nice as the name. I would ask that they all stand and be recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT MOTIONS (continued)

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, at least we now know, from the introduction of the hon. member, that we still have a place called Paradise Valley in the Province of Alberta. I'm certainly glad we have a Paradise, and I'm very happy they are here.

Mr. Speaker, referring to the resolution . . .

[interjections]

We don't listen to those comments made by people who are unknown.

Regarding the motion before us, Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier has placed before us the state of the Province of Alberta, and has also touched on the basic economy of the whole of Canada. I think he has placed it in the manner of a fine statesman and a wonderful Premier who has [led] this province out of the wilderness, where we were almost broke at one time. We're back to where we now have money in the coffers and in the Treasury of the Province of Alberta.

I think the Premier has honestly and sincerely placed before us the state of the Province of Alberta, the economy in particular, and I think we could probably liken it to what the hon. leader of the official opposition in Ottawa stated before the last federal election. He looked at the economy of Canada and suggested and laid before the people what he thought was a cure for our economic ills. But the people of Canada rejected the policy that he thought would be best for Canada.

It's not too long ago now that we find the Prime Minister of Canada following the exact policy suggested by the opposition at that time, which only goes to prove the honesty of a man who looked at the nation. He would rather lose the election, but would certainly tell the nation what was wrong with it. I think this is a credible aspect of that man, the hon. Mr. Stanfield.

Mr. Speaker, nobody wants controls. I think, as people of a free nation, nobody wants to be controlled, no matter whether it's in the market place or any other place. But it seems so strange that we would like to control everybody else's destiny, but would not want anybody to control ours. In other words, we're saying what the Marxists are saying: what is yours is mine, but what is mine is my own. I think this philosophy has no place in a democratic country such as ours.

The Premier also touched on the short supply of our fossil fuels in Canada, and perhaps before the turn of this decade. I'm wondering, when he spoke, how much fuel and especially natural gas we are using, not only in Alberta but also in other parts of Canada, which could be replaced by other fuels such as coal. I'm primarily thinking of natural gas as a very clean heating fuel, and we're burning it up by the hundreds and millions of MCFs in the Edmonton power plant, Saskatchewan plants, and in eastern Canada.

If we continue in this manner, I think

we can hasten the day when we will be out of fuel, and we're certainly not giving the oil industry any incentive. If you take a look, the ordinary person cannot understand or does not know the complexities of the tax structures of the federal or provincial governments. What really is left is very little incentive to go out to drill a well.

I was talking to a geologist and engineer, who was not related with the company he was working for and had no other interests. He said, I cannot see how we can drill this well: the cost to the company is some \$600,000. [With] the future pay-out at the rate we're going today, it will take us 15 years, and we don't know whether the life of the well will be there in 15 years. This is what the hon. Member for Drumheller had just stated, the enormous price that these companies must pay for the drilling and production of gas and oil, not only in the Province of Alberta but elsewhere.

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview looks with gleaming eyes over the millions of dollars that they're pulling as plums off the trees. But has he ever looked into the financial statements of some of these companies? As the hon. Member for Drumheller just stated, they've spent hundreds of millions of dollars and haven't got a return, not even a return on their interest. So I suggest we had better take a closer assessment of what we leave to the people who are trying their best to give us the cheapest fuel possible, at least in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I can't help but look around in my constituency and see that basically we have two industries, the agricultural industry and the oil industry. I have just mentioned the position of the oil industry. Now I look at the agricultural situation in my constituency, and I presume it is no different from any other constituency in the Province of Alberta, other than in the urban areas. The farmer today, with the exception of grain, hogs, and milk, is at the mercy of the buyers, and looking at it more closely, the buyers of the stockyards and the private auction marts.

We're told there is competition at the auction mart. Well, Mr. Speaker, I was deeply involved, and I thought I would go through with a close examination of what Mr. Hu Harries has been saying right along. I found that he was 100 per cent right. I can demonstrate to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this House, what the cattle owners are subjected to today.

I have before me a document, Mr. Speaker, where a person outside the city of Edmonton, living on an acreage, purchased a calf at the Thorsby Auction Mart a year ago. He purchased that calf weighing 440 pounds, costing him \$165, less freight. Well, that calf, it was a heifer calf, became a family pet. I know the family quite closely, and I've visited quite often with them. They had purchased this animal to butcher for their own use, but they couldn't butcher it. It was just impossible. So they went out and bought a half of beef and filled their freezer, and they

loaded the animal up. On July 7, 1975, that heifer weighed 890 pounds. It was sold to Canada Packers. It was cleared through Weiller & Williams, and was sold for a cow for 15.25 cents. Mr. Speaker, after this family had put almost \$80 worth of feed and grain into this animal, it virtually cost them about \$250. Their net return, after all the expenses had been taken off, including the trucking, was \$125.02.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if this animal was purchased by Canada Packers, as indicated here, and butchered and examined by a government grader, and if it was classed as an A1 or A2, heifer there is no doubt in my mind that somebody in the Province of Alberta or elsewhere ate this meat as an A1 or A2, not at 30.5 cents, because you get a 50 per cent loss in the butchering of an animal. Even if you add 65 per cent of the cost to the retailer, or wholesaler to retailer, and 15.5 per cent of the processing, you can't buy hamburger at \$1 a pound. You go out and find a steak. It doesn't say whether it came off a cow or a heifer, it's an A1 steak, and it sells for \$3.77 a pound.

I wonder just who is ripping off who, because certainly the farmer who is selling his stock is sacrificing it. In my area today, in my constituency, we give real lip service to maintaining the family farm. But we're going to lose, in my area alone, at least between 100 and 200 young farmers we've got on the land today.

Make no mistake, the consumer a year or two down the line is going to be paying for our mistakes, because I think it's time we realized these people cannot produce beef for all of Canada or Alberta below cost. It can't go any further.

So what is happening? I talked to a farmer who moved out 2 years ago. He has sold out 400 head. He lost \$200,000 in the deal, and we do nothing about it.

We say there is competition at the level of the Edmonton stockyards. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, it is artificial in itself, because I've bought there, I've sold there, and I know exactly what the game is. You can find 50 per cent of the buyers in the coffee shop at one time and 50 per cent back in the ring the other times. So I played that game with them. But what amazes me more than anything else, Mr. Speaker, is that you can go to the Edmonton yards, and immediately on to Calgary which takes you about two hours, and you find the differential in price between Edmonton and Calgary is from 4 cents to 6.5 cents. A cow selling for 8 cents in Edmonton is selling for 14 and 15 cents. What the people are doing is picking up these cattle over there and taking them home, feeding them for 10 days, and taking them out to Calgary to get the gain. This certainly isn't helping the producer.

I think we will have to come to grips or have an investigation into their operations, the way they are selling the cattle in the Province of Alberta, because it doesn't make sense to me. If we're going to help anybody, I think we had better start helping where it's needed at this

time.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would only say that I really got a kick out of the remarks made by the hon. Member for Drumheller. I think he's absolutely right. We have so many environmentalists running around that they're falling over each other. Everybody knows what is going on, and some of the parties represented right in this House are falling right in with them. Can you imagine the cost of the precipitators on the Calgary Power plant in the south Wabamun area, which is just adjacent to my constituency, and the pipeline, which costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars, because they were forced upon them by the Department of Environment. Who is going to pay this cost? It's you and I, the users, who are going to pay for it. Let's not make that mistake, because Calgary Power is going to place it on the rate structure. It has to. There's no other way.

Surely, I think, these people should become -- I don't say that we should destroy our environment. We can live with the environment, we should try to do all we can. But when it costs hundreds of millions of dollars, and the people today are screaming about the rate increase, I just can't go along with the idea of overburdening these industries with more environmental control where it's going to cost us a fortune to turn a light on. Instead of turning three on, we'll turn on one.

The other part of the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is that I was really amazed at the position [of the] delegation on the Legislature steps yesterday. I got some of the literature. I can't imagine those two aldermen on the city council being associated with the Marxist and Leninist literature handed to us as we went out. I just can't imagine -- I certainly had more respect for the people who were there. I know the question of rent control is mad-dening, but when the rent control ever does come off, I think you're going to have not only the 200 that you had out there yesterday -- the press said 400, but I think they counted half the press and perhaps some of the security men, because I think it was lucky if there were 200 -- but there will be ten times what was there yesterday.

But, in conclusion, I am shocked. I was really shocked to see those two aldermen from the city of Edmonton associating themselves with the type of literature distributed on the Legislature steps, because I didn't believe that these people would ever follow that type of philosophy.

In my conclusion, I would hope that we as legislators examine closely where we're going, as the Premier stated. He said we have to lower our sights in the constituencies. Well, if it has to be, we'll have to lower them till we can see moss grow down below. But I think the time has come when we have to tighten our belts, because even though we have, we're not an isolated country that's got the sea on all four sides of it. In my constituency, there are people arriving from Nova Scotia, Newfound-

land, B.C., and settling in the community. If we continue the way we are going, instead of having a population of 1.7 million, we could easily wind up with 2 million much sooner than we would like. This is the problem with the rents in the city of Edmonton, as it is elsewhere.

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, I was rising to adjourn debate if I could, but if my hon. colleague would like to speak at this time, I will defer to him.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. member move the adjournment of the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS (Second Reading)

#### Bill 39 The Alberta Opportunity Fund Amendment Act, 1975

MP. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 39, The Alberta Opportunity Fund Amendment Act, 1975.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is in keeping with the principle of reorganizing and transferring various branches of government departments to those in which they more properly fit. This amendment strikes out Section 16 of the present Opportunity Company act and establishes that the Crown assets disposal division of government becomes the responsibility of Government Services.

Just a couple of words regarding the Crown assets disposal organization. In the 1974 year it realized something in the order of \$520,000; in 1973, \$330,000, an increase of some 8 per cent to 79 per cent in that period. The responsibility of the Crown assets corporation is to dispose of any asset of a government department or other organization, a corporation or an agent of government, that the Crown is responsible for -- dispose of any material that is surplus to government needs.

With regard to organizations other than the departments of government, the Crown Assets Disposal Division receives a 10 per cent fee, 10 per cent of the selling price, for its work in disposing of the items. They deal with such agencies as the Alberta Housing Corporation, AGT, and hospital divisions. In one case, I know they disposed of a large number of surplus bedpans, and it was a very difficult thing to get rid of this particular commodity. However, being rather bush-whacking salesmen in the Crown assets disposal organization, they chrome-plated the bedpans, sold them as trophies, and did very well in the transac-

tion. I think, in brief summary, that's the reason for the amendment now being introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading.

[Motion carried; Bill 39 read a second time]

Bill 37 The Teachers' Retirement  
Fund Amendment Act, 1975

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 37, being The Teachers' Retirement Fund Amendment Act, 1975.

The principle of this bill is three-fold. Very briefly, it is to permit teachers in private schools, as defined under the expanded definition of this bill bringing in the amendment, to participate in the teachers' retirement fund. This is primarily to facilitate teachers under the early childhood services programs and other areas that may come under approval of the minister under our expanded education programs.

Secondly, it is to provide some flexibility as to the manner of refunding contributions to teachers, from the existent mandatory annual repayment requirement. Thirdly, it provides for the return of employers' contributions under certain circumstances, such as where it is found that an excess of payments in pension contributions has been made on the part of an employer, beyond the 35-year service or age 65. Such employers should, of course, be in a position to receive a refund of such excess. Those are the three main points of this bill.

I move second reading.

[Motion carried; Bill 37 read a second time]

Bill 41 The Licensing of Trades  
and Businesses Amendment Act, 1975

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 41, The Licensing of Trades and Businesses Amendment Act, 1975.

The basic principles involved in this bill, Mr. Speaker, relate to the regulations covering bedding and upholstered and stuffed articles. These regulations have been administered in the past under The Public Health Act, which was under the Department of Health and Social Development, now, of course, Social Services and Community Health. This bill is to transfer the administration of those regulations to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The new standards will be basically the same as those administered under The Public Health Act. They relate to standards, rather than matters which relate to public health.

The second main principle in the bill is to cure a defect which was determined by the Attorney General's Department regarding a conflict between the two penalty sections. I would point out to members that

the penalty section in the act is Section 11; and Section 10, which is being eliminated, will not in fact remove the penalties for violation which are paid under the act.

[Motion carried; Bill 41 read a second time]

Bill 42 The Universities  
Amendment Act, 1975

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 42, The Universities Amendment Act, 1975.

The present Universities Act defines certain powers of universities with respect to ownership of property. The amendment before us, Mr. Speaker, would expand that definition to include the power of universities to acquire and operate utilities.

This arises, just to be very clear upon the background of this particular amendment, from the fact that a power plant exists on the site of the University of Alberta. This plant is used by the university, services other agencies, and is in full-time use by the University of Alberta. In those circumstances, it appears reasonable to expand the definition of ownership to include power plants at this and other universities.

[Motion carried; Bill 42 read a second time]

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

MP. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of procedure, I'd like to ask unanimous leave of the Assembly, in the absence of the hon. Attorney General due to illness, to allow the Member for Medicine Hat, Mr. Horsman, to begin debate and propose the motion.

3. Mr. Horsman proposed the following motion to this Assembly:  
Be it resolved that, Report No. 2 of the Alberta Board of Review (Provincial Courts) be received.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to express my regrets that the Attorney General is ill and therefore unable to present this motion to the House today. I'm sure that all members of the House will join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery and a return to his usual seat across the way.

May I say how pleased I am to have the opportunity to discuss the Kirby Board of Review in this Assembly today. Certainly I am pleased, because I am one of the very few lawyers in this Assembly who . . .

DR. BUCK: Who's not in cabinet.

MP. CLARK: You have to be careful.

MR. HORSMAN: . . . who comes from a place outside the main metropolitan areas. Certainly from southern Alberta, I think south of Calgary, I am the only lawyer in this Assembly.

I would like to relate a couple of past experiences in regard to the provincial courts, and say how pleased I am that this particular board of review was established in the first place. One of the advantages of practising law in smaller centres such as Medicine Hat is that one gets to have a wide variety of legal experience, and that includes practising at the provincial court level and in district and Supreme Courts, as well as dealing with solicitor's work.

In that capacity, I have had some very interesting experiences in the provincial courts, one of the most interesting of which, Mr. Speaker, was to travel to a small centre to deal with a matter which was really not a criminal matter, but related to whether or not an accused, we'll call the person an accused person, could be put on the list. I forget the exact name for it, but [it's] when you're not allowed to drink. I think some members may have heard of that. Anyway I was very surprised, on arriving at this small town, to find the magistrate had rented the community hall for the occasion, and lo and behold, the community hall was overflowing with interested people. The magistrate did not have legal experience or training, and at the conclusion of this unhappy tale of woe, sentenced my client to six months in jail. Well, that was a rather surprising thing.

AN HON. MEMBER: What did his solicitor get?

MR. HORSMAN: A rather surprising thing, indeed, because there is no provision in the law to sentence anybody to jail for that particular offence.

MR. CLARK: Where was his legal advice?

MR. HORSMAN: Well, his legal advice was accurate, and I was able to persuade the magistrate that he erred in his jurisdiction, and that in fact all he could do was to place this gentleman's name on the list. But it did demonstrate very well what has happened at the provincial court level, perhaps in the small centres, when in this province we have not had legally trained and qualified people on the bench. It was certainly an experience that has stuck with me, and I can only shudder to think of what would have happened had he not had a legal adviser with him that day.

So the establishment of this board of review was long overdue in this province. I think we have taken for granted a lot of things about the administration of justice at the provincial court level. So I congratulate the government of the day, just over two years ago, and the then Attorney General, who is now our Provincial Treasurer, for the establishment of this board of review.

In establishing the board of review and setting its terms of reference, they did well. Secondly, they did exceedingly well

in the choice of personnel to sit on this board. Mr. Justice Kirby was a member of this House at one time, and I know that members on all sides of the House appreciated his fairness. Certainly, the practising bar of this province appreciates the fact that he is a very fair, thorough, and sympathetic human being. They could not have chosen a better chairman.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, it was wise indeed to have added the name of Dr. Wyman to the board, in that he came up with something more than was really asked for, and gave us a very interesting and, I suggest, very useful additional document beyond the report itself, which I recommend to the members of this Assembly. Then, of course, Mr. Bower from Red Deer is also well qualified, and did a good job in his remarks at the time the board was holding its meetings.

I know it is a somewhat overused phrase, nevertheless it is very true that justice must not only be done, but must appear to be done. With our changing society and the growth we are experiencing in Alberta today, it is more important than ever that justice and the administration of justice be given an exceedingly high priority.

I had the opportunity to appear before this board of review in Medicine Hat as the incoming president of the Medicine Hat Bar Association, along with Mr. Roy Wiedemann, the then president of our local bar association, and to make representations to this board. I can assure members of this Assembly who did not appear before the board that the board acted in a very responsible manner, and treated everyone who appeared before it with the utmost courtesy and consideration.

It is now a real opportunity for me to discuss what has come out in the final report to this Legislature. What the report has done is point out some very significant things about the administration of justice in this province. Some very significant lacks have developed over the years, and the Premier touched on this briefly the other day in this House when he spoke of some deficiencies for which we must all bear responsibility. But now it becomes our responsibility, as legislators, Mr. Speaker, to correct these oversights.

One of the first things we must attend to, and the report makes this very clear, is that we must obtain proper personnel for the court systems, properly trained and retrained. I use "retrained" with a great deal of significance, because it is important that judges, when they are appointed to the bench, be required to engage in legal retraining to understand that once they are there they don't stop learning. That is very important, and I think the Kirby report was very wise to point out the necessity of this aspect of the judge's role.

The appointment of a chief judge to act in an administrative capacity, and to provide for a circuit system, is a very important recommendation of the report, and we have already had notice from the Attorney General that this will be a major item

of significance in the early implementation of this report. Then, of course, the provision of properly trained paralegal personnel, persons like clerks and administrative personnel, is very important.

Crown prosecutors, as they are now called -- and I certainly agree with the concept that we remove the word "prosecutor" from common usage, and substitute in place "Crown counsel", because, if I may just return for a moment to the thinking expressed by Max Wyman in his additional report, simplicity and clarity in the use of language are very, very important, and how we describe things can leave an indelible impression in the minds of citizens dealing with our courts as to what type of justice they will receive. Therefore, words such as "police court" and "prosecutor" should be eliminated from common usage, and for those should be substituted words which really reflect the nature of the role that is to be played.

Then we have court reporters, and they are very important, because another recommendation of very great significance is that provincial courts will become a court of record, so that the citizens who appear before these courts will know that a record is made for the purpose of subsequent appeal if necessary.

Finally, one of the major recommendations is that the facilities provided for provincial courts in the province be upgraded. This will require [their] removal from police stations. In Medicine Hat, for example, the courtroom and the Attorney General's facilities are right within the operative part of the police station. This, Mr. Speaker, gives a wrong impression to the people coming to the court, that the court is a function of the police, and that, I suggest, must be changed. The courtroom facilities throughout this province should be provided, no matter where, and they should be dignified -- simple, but they should be what they are meant to be, courtrooms. Community halls are really not the place to hold legal proceedings in this province.

May I just comment briefly on the proper role of the police. The report dealt with this to a large extent, that the role of the police is to investigate, to assist in the administration of justice, but not to prosecute. The prosecution should rest with Crown counsel and the Attorney General's department, and that is a very, very important ingredient in an ideal society, which we are trying to aim for.

Now I have touched on a few of the recommendations. There are many more relating to the question of fines -- how they are to be handled -- traffic and municipal offenses, court costs, and so on. I hope that other speakers will deal with these matters in their remarks.

Finally, I do want to say this. This is going to cost money. It's going to cost a lot of money because there's catch-up involved. I'd like to remind the members of this Legislature of the fact that the Premier, in his state of the province address the other [afternoon], said this:

First of all, the 11 per cent guidelines will apply to all other provincial government departments, with two important exceptions, and both are social programs. The first is the administration of justice to overcome the overdue reforms under the Kirby Board of Review; and secondly, in the area of law enforcement. . .

So I concur entirely, Mr. Speaker, that we must spend the money necessary to implement the recommendations of the Kirby Board of Review. We must approach it with the idea that if we can hold the costs at a reasonable level, we must do so. But we must not be constrained by these other governmental policies with regard to fiscal restraint and responsibility in providing proper services in this very important area.

I look forward, then, at this session to several important legislative moves. I'm sure that they will be forthcoming. I hope they will be, and that there will be the establishment, as recommended, of the following things: a provincial court reorganization agency, a chief provincial judge's office and his role outlined carefully. And legislation, I trust, for the establishment of courts of record at the provincial court level will also very importantly be brought before this House in the form of legislation.

In the budgetary process which I understand is ongoing at the present time, I trust that the budgetary requests for capital and operating expenses made by the Attorney General to implement the recommendations will receive the sympathetic ear of the members of the Executive Council. Certainly, from the Premier's remarks the other [afternoon], I know that the Attorney General has at least one friend around that council table who will give real significant advancement to these proposals.

In closing, may I just say this, Mr. Speaker, that a free and independent judicial system at all court levels in this province, and indeed in Canada, is one of the keystones of our free and democratic society. We must maintain that free and independent judicial system, so that every citizen, regardless of his guilt or innocence, and particularly regardless of his economic circumstances in life, must be able to feel that he will receive, in the courts of this province, without any question in their minds, totally fair and impartial treatment in the administration of justice in this province.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak in this important debate. I regret, as I'm sure all other members do, that the hon. Attorney General is not here today to lead off the debate. I regret that, not because we didn't have, I think, an excellent introduction to the topic by the hon. Member for Medicine Hat -- because indeed we did. I must say -- and I hope this doesn't destroy his career in the Tory caucus -- that I agree with almost everything he said.

But I also want to point out that on page 105 of the Kirby Board of Review, we do have a number of important points made, called Implementation of this Report, and nine subparagraphs. The hon. Member for Medicine Hat referred to the provincial court reorganization agency and some of the other provisions. I think the reason I would have liked to have seen the Attorney General here to lead off this debate, Mr. Speaker, is that I'm sure all members in the Legislature would like to know what the specific response of the government is to the implementation section of the Kirby Board of Review. Perhaps if the Premier has an opportunity to enter this debate, he might be able to give us some indication.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I said I agreed with almost everything the hon. Member for Medicine Hat said. There is, however, one initial difference that I might express, for the record. He was extremely laudatory towards the government in appointing the Kirby Board of Review, and I think that's certainly something which we can all be pleased about.

But I think, for the record, Mr. Speaker, we should acknowledge that the appointment of the board of review was not something which the government rushed into. It took a little bit of prompting -- indeed a massive amount of prompting -- from members on this side of the House, from the news media, and other groups in society, urging an investigation of the lower court system in the Province of Alberta. As a matter of fact, I seem to recall the Edmonton Journal writing an editorial on this matter, stemming in large measure from the concerns expressed by many people over the Craig case in 1972, approximately one year before the Kirby Board of Review was commissioned. Now, that doesn't take away from the excellence of the report, it doesn't take away from the fact that the government finally and properly moved in commissioning this report, but I think it's a little bit of information for the record which is worth noting too.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Medicine Hat talked about the question of equality before the law. Certainly, when we look at our democratic system of government, one of the most important principles in that system is that everyone is equal before the law. The concern that a growing number of Albertans were expressing about the operation of our lower court system in the last few years has been the evidence that perhaps there isn't that strong equity before the law, not for any corrupt or wrong reason, but because of the way in which the court system had been set up, the way in which it had grown, and the overwork in many cases of some of the provincial court judges.

That's one of the reasons I find the proposal that we increase the number of court judges a reasonable one. Now that's going to mean more money. No question about that. But I think it is important that provincial court judges have at least one week in four, in order to not only write their decisions, but to keep abreast of what's going on, to be able to read

about the changes in the law, to have an understanding of some of the forces that are moving to change the law. I think that kind of one week in four proposition is a sound one. Similarly the concept of a sabbatical -- if I can use that expression -- once every seven years for provincial judges is certainly wise too.

I can't help but agree with the concern expressed in the Kirby Board of Review report about the fact that many of our provincial court judges have had to do too much paperwork, that they've been so bogged down in much of the administrative work of the court that they really haven't been able to spend the time rendering the judgments. I certainly accept the proposition that, by increasing personnel in our court system, we will be able to relieve our judges of much of the administrative work which has consumed a good deal of their time to date.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to me, the most important recommendations in the report, beyond the increasing personnel and the payment of salaries which would be sizable enough to attract competent people from the legal profession to aspire to this kind of appointment, are the recommendations which generally suggest that we should get away from this business of jailing people when they aren't able to pay a fine. On page 46 of the report, the first recommendation: "sentences providing for imprisonment for default in payment of fines for provincial offences should be eliminated whenever possible." There may be exceptions to the rule. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is a very sound recommendation if we're talking about equity before the law.

I have, as a member, and I'm sure other members have as well, encountered cases -- and regrettably, the largest percentage of these cases are people of native origin, who have ended up going to jail for 30 days because they haven't been able to pay the fine. I consider most of these violations, more misdemeanors than criminal offences, are the kind of thing that provincial courts should deal with in the first place. It really is an uncivilized practice to throw somebody in jail simply because he isn't able to raise [money for] a fine. In my view, Mr. Speaker, that kind of proposition is just not acceptable in today's world. I commend the Kirby Board of Review for a sensitive treatment of a difficult problem -- in my view, one which we as a Legislature should consider very carefully.

The recommendations on page 50 as well, Mr. Speaker, are worth noting. "Minor traffic and parking offences should be removed from a criminal context." [It's a] little silly to see the case of a person who gets a \$1 parking ticket. Perhaps the summons comes to go to court. He may not appear in court, and what happens -- he's picked up by the police, a warrant is issued for his arrest, and he's hauled off over a \$1 parking ticket. This kind of thing is just a little silly. In my view, recommendation No. 1 on page 50 would recognize, I think, some scale of the offence and minor traffic and parking offences would be treated just as they are,



as misdemeanors. That's not something to be proud of. On the other hand, it hardly makes him a seasoned criminal either.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations on legal aid on page 83 of the report are also worth noting and support. I'm just going to read them:

[1] Every information or summons with respect to an indictable offence should be accompanied by a notice containing the following information:

- (a) An accused person is entitled to consult a lawyer before proceedings are held with respect to the charge that is laid;
- (b) If he or she does not have sufficient funds to hire a lawyer, an application may be made for legal aid;
- (c) The necessary application forms may be obtained from the police;
- (d) A collect phone call may be made to a legal aid office from anywhere in the province. (A list of telephone numbers should be provided).

(2) For Edmonton and Calgary in particular, and elsewhere where practicable, the Legal Aid Society should appoint a legally-trained counsel who would be available to give preliminary legal advice to all persons without counsel, including those charged with summary offences.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the importance of those recommendations really is fairly obvious to all members. I hope that in allocating funds in the budget for the coming year, we will make sufficient funds available, not only to maintain, but to upgrade and substantially improve the administration of legal aid in the Province of Alberta.

When I listened to the Premier the other day, there were a number of areas that, quite obviously, I had some disagreements with. But I think, as a member of this House, I couldn't help but feel very pleased that the recommendations of this report are not going to be subject to the 11 per cent guideline. I don't think you can put a price tag on the administration of justice. I commend the government for recognizing that this report merits implementation, and that the implementation is going to cost money. I think, Mr. Speaker, that whether we're fighting inflation or not, the fact of the matter is, if we are even going to accept the pretence of a fair judicial system in a democratic society, we have to move speedily. It doesn't mean there aren't a lot of excellent people

working within the court system. It doesn't mean the vast majority of decisions made have probably been fair.

But the fact of the matter is, as the report documents and as the concern that stimulated concern for the call for the enquiry in the first place shows, the court system needs to be upgraded, needs to be improved. The administration of justice needs that extra amount of money so that we can have equality before the law for every Albertan. So I am very pleased to rise in my place to support the recommendations of what I think is a first-rate report.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak with regard to the Alberta board of review on provincial courts, known as the Kirby report. In general, I am quite impressed with the depth of the report -- 222 pages that I've read, not counting the covers. I'm not a lawyer. However, Mr. Speaker, I assure the House I have other vices.

AN HON. MEMBER: We know, John.

MR. GOGO: It appears that we have come a long way, Mr. Speaker, from the days when we had the hanging judge, although there may be some members within the walls of this House who would like to see us return to those days.

I'm also impressed with the depth of this study, in that public hearings were held in over 17 locations. They were held in Lethbridge, my constituency, about 2 years ago. They received over 250 briefs. So I suppose, in all fairness, that Mr. Justice Kirby had adequate input into the study. Assuming the recommendations were based on the input, one would say they are extremely well rounded.

One concern I have is that no mention was made in the report -- perhaps it wasn't included in the terms of reference -- about the end result in the system of justice, for many people, and that's where they reside. They didn't visit any of the jails. From some of the ones I've seen, I'm really not surprised.

There were a few eye openers. I hadn't realized, Mr. Speaker, that a provincial judge can sentence people to life imprisonment. I wasn't aware of that. It's indicated on page 9 that he does indeed have that power.

The workload of our judges, if we're to go by the report, is just tremendous. In Calgary and Edmonton in 1974, they were cranking them through with decisions every 2 minutes. I understand other judges took a little longer, the way they cranked out the divorces. The caseload in Calgary alone in 1974 was over 12,000 per judge. I'm very happy, indeed, I come from that part of the province where we don't experience that sort of problem. However, that doesn't mean a member should not be sympathetic to the wishes of people from major centres.

AN HON. MEMBER: There are more of us.

MR. GOGO: I'm rather impressed with the indications of the report as to the workload and the lack of salary of the provincial judges. While I was reading it I thought for a time that I was reading the Prowse Report. However, the cover of the book indicated very quickly that wasn't so.

Very briefly -- and I don't pretend, Mr. Speaker, to be qualified to comment on whether a person should work to 75 per cent of his capacity, or indeed have 1 year out of 7 as a sabbatical -- I would rather look at the qualifications. My qualifications in assessing the qualifications are equally valid as to the sabbatical. But I'm interested to see that the Kirby review suggests that our provincial judges be 30 years of age. I think that's commendable, particularly when they go on to say they should have 7 years of university, 1 year of articling, and 10 to 15 years of practice before they are judges. That indicates, indeed, they must come out of Grade 12 at age 7. Indeed, if we can attract those types of people into the provincial court system, I believe it would be no mean feat.

Something that's particularly attractive to me, as a layman -- and generally one is on the receiving end of justice -- is that the selection of the provincial judges be left to a committee, as opposed to political decisions. I think the day has indeed arrived when the qualifications for a judge in our province should not be a defeated candidate. I'm speaking mainly of federal judges in our province mind you, those who are unaccustomed to earning a competent living as lawyers and choose the route of running for office in the hope they are defeated. So I'm indeed impressed, Mr. Speaker, with the selection committee that would in effect have the reality of selecting judges by their peers.

The proposed chief provincial judge is also, I think, very wise, in that most of us tend to have somebody to keep us in line. It might indeed be fair to have a man of very learned experience who would have a major say not only in the selection of provincial judges, but indeed that other section in the book on discipline.

The Crown prosecutor or the proposed Crown counsel also is impressive. I note from the report that they are extremely overworked and underpaid, as indeed it seems most people in the legal profession tend to be. The report says that in Edmonton that they have 10 Crown prosecutors, 12 in Calgary -- I think we know why they would have more in Calgary than in Edmonton -- and indeed only 4 in Lethbridge. I question that because last week they had 8 in Lethbridge and they were hustling very quickly for a 9th.

I have some reservations about going holus-bolus for the report and employing it throughout the province. I think we would have to apply it where it is needed, and there's no question it's needed in the large metropolitan centres, in view of the 12,000 caseload they experience per year.

Very quickly, Mr. Speaker, in the penalty area, I too am impressed that

somebody has finally arrived at the common-sense attitude that it shouldn't be \$30 or 30 days. The \$30 should only apply to those who have it, and heaven help those who don't. We've come out of the dark ages of the debtors' prison, presumably, and it has been long overdue.

Similarly, with driving offences. I fail to see the correlation between picking a man up for either drunken driving, or any other driving offence, and fining him \$30 or \$50 I can see fining a man in dollars if he committed an offence involving dollars, but I really could never understand why you assess somebody in dollars for something to do with a car, presumably when it was contrary to the public safety. The report indicates that we should punish him in like fashion, that is, either take the car away or take the licence away. Well, we know taking the licence away doesn't work, so maybe there is a lot of merit in removing the car.

Also with traffic fines, one of the very pleasant things I see in the report is that people who have to pay these blessed things can have the opportunity before working hours and after working hours, and they don't have to lose two hours of their salary to go to the courts during their working time simply to pay a fine. I would suggest there are many other departments of this provincial government where we could maybe employ the same system, i.e. before 8 o'clock and maybe after 4:30 in the afternoon -- certainly the social welfare offices, and so on.

In terms of administration, Mr. Speaker . . . I don't deliberately look at the clock to arrive at anything, I just have a habit of watching the professional members in the House. After each pause they look at the clock. There must be something significant about the clock. In terms of administration, Mr. Speaker, there are . . .

DR. BUCK: Call it 1 o'clock, John.

MR. GOGO: No, I must finish. There are one or two . . . Again the tendency of the report seems, or tends, to lean to the two metropolitan areas, forgetting that there are other major areas in this province, particularly when it comes time to support the province. Many other areas besides those two pay the money. They refer to reference libraries being in Calgary and Edmonton. There it goes again. I would suggest that there are other areas of the province, Mr. Speaker, where they should provide a full working library for the Crown prosecutors, the Crown counsels, and the judges.

One very brief one, Mr. Speaker, that I must speak on is, when a judge in his wisdom ends up with a decision, there's a recommendation in the report that the judge should sit on that and defer his opinion until later in the day. Well, that might be fine if you're from Calgary or Edmonton, but when you're from Pincher Creek, where they seem to have a record of these sorts of offences, it's not particularly encouraging, Mr. Speaker, that a man

should wait from 10 o'clock in the morning until 4 in the afternoon for a decision, notwithstanding the cost of the solicitor who has to stay around. So that's one area I would certainly quarrel with.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the hour of the day, I would beg leave to adjourn debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion for adjournment, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Motion No. 3 will be called again for further debate, in light of the interest in it.

On Monday, hon. members should be ready for second readings with regard to all those bills at that stage on the Order Paper. We would contemplate starting on Monday with the three bills under the ministry of Energy and Natural Resources: No. 52, The Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Act; No. 48, The Coal Conservation Amendment Act, 1975; No. 60, The Alberta Energy Company Amendment Act, 1975; then to the other second readings as on the Order Paper.

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

[The House rose at 1:00 p.m.]

