

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Wednesday, April 7, 1976 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill 214**An Act to Amend****The Alberta Energy Company Act**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 214, An Act to Amend The Alberta Energy Company Act. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make the Alberta Energy Company fully and totally accountable to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Bearing in mind the discussion we had yesterday, I'm sure this bill will be greeted with enthusiasm from all sides of the House.

[Leave granted; Bill 214 introduced and read a first time]

Bill 37**The Public Works Amendment Act, 1976**

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 37, The Public Works Amendment Act, 1976. The purpose of this bill is to clarify sections of the act dealing with priority payment of claims on the stock advance fund of the Department of Housing and Public Works.

[Leave granted; Bill 37 introduced and read a first time]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 37, The Public Works Amendment Act, 1976, be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[Motion carried]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to members of the Assembly, students from Grades 5 and 6 at the Earl Grey School in the constituency of Calgary Elbow. They are here today to observe the proceedings of the House. The students may be interested to know, Mr. Speaker, that a graduate from their school in some earlier days is sitting here: the Member for Calgary West, the hon. Premier. I'd like them to rise and receive the greetings of the House.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Assembly, some 55 students from Highlands Junior High. If I may, I'd like to point out that some of these students are residents of the Edmonton Highlands constituency and some of the Edmonton Beverly constituency. In the absence of my colleague, the hon. David King, who I know would have loved to meet them too, I'd like the members of the Assembly to give them the usual welcome today.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this House, two very distinguished guests from the third largest city in our province — perhaps one day it will be the capital — His Worship Mayor Anderson and Alderman Barnes. They are seated in the members gallery, and I would ask that they stand and be recognized by the House.

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table Motion for a Return No. 132, as requested by the Assembly.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Rural Government Finances

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The question flows from the comments in the question period in the House last week, when we discussed the question of municipal finance and the plight that some rural municipalities find themselves in.

My question to the minister is: has the minister now had an opportunity to discuss with his cabinet colleagues the problems that matching grants are causing a number of rural municipalities and counties?

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

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question in light of the minister's comments. Is the minister aware that shortly before making his statements with regard to financial problems municipalities are having, the office of the Minister of Agriculture, through the executive assistant, was meeting with the county of Minburn, trying to entice them into giving a \$150,000 grant to a local recreation complex in the Mannville region? In fact, if the county council would give the \$150,000 and take on the operational cost of that recreational complex, the province would agree to the \$10 per capita recreation grant. Is the minister aware of this kind of thing?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of that conversation.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister not being aware, is the minister prepared to make himself aware of the situation specifically as far as the county of Minburn is concerned? They had a deficit over \$200,000 last year, and they are having this kind of

arm bending done to them by the Minister of Agriculture's office.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not entirely correct in his summations of the kind of conduct carried out by my office.

MR. NOTLEY: What happened?

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, would the minister care to straighten the record?

MR. NOTLEY: What kind of arm bending took place?

MR. CLARK: How did you bend the arm then? Would the minister like to explain to the House how he bent their arm? A supplementary question to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: If it's a serious question, possibly that could be rephrased otherwise than in the context of "Did you stop beating your wife?"

MR. CLARK: Yes. Unfortunately it's the municipal wife that's getting the beating.

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question then to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House whether officials of his office met with the county of Minburn in March, and indicated to them that they should seriously consider making a \$150,000 grant to the recreation complex at Mannville?

MR. MOORE: Well, Mr. Speaker, officials of my office did in fact meet with representatives of that county. Representatives of the ag. society there who were facing some difficulties met as well with officials from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife to determine the most suitable manner to resolve the difficulties the agricultural society had in completing construction of their building, meeting the capital requirements, as well as providing for the operating costs. The details of that meeting, Mr. Speaker, are quite lengthy.

I'm sure that, with some notice, I can provide the hon. member with the proposals that were put forward. I can assure the hon. member that the proposal of a direct grant was developed from a very thorough conversation among all the parties involved. My information is that that proposal was put forward not by my office, but by the county.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly whether it was made clear to the county of Minburn that if this \$150,000 grant problem could be cleared away, then the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and your office would approve the \$10 per capita recreation grant for the area around Mannville?

MR. MOORE: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to indicate that at all.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly whether, in the course of this meeting, officials of the minister's department and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife

tried to persuade the county of Minburn to sign an agreement that the county would be responsible for all operational costs of this particular venture at Mannville?

MR. MOORE: No, Mr. Speaker. I'm not in a position to indicate that either.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Is the minister in a position to indicate that he will now follow up, not only the Minister of Agriculture, but those other ministers who were involved in matching grant programs to point out to his colleagues the problems these matching grants are causing some municipalities?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is clearly introducing a speculative nature into the question. We have recognized fully the responsibility on behalf of government. Before these investment decisions are made, they're carefully weighed by the Local Authorities Board and various departmental people to arrive at a conclusion which would match the long-term debt and the operational requirements with the ability of the county to meet these responsibilities. We leave the responsibility for that decision to the local authorities. It is in their best interest that we assist them.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for clarification to the hon. minister. Can the minister advise the House whether the Department of Municipal Affairs reviews the various proposals and discussions regarding all matching grants programs from the Departments of Agriculture, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and all others before counties or municipalities are enticed into them?

MR. JOHNSTON: Again, Mr. Speaker, the choice of words is questionable. But should it be a requirement that any investment decision impinges upon the cash flow of a municipality, then the Local Authorities Board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing that in a financial context.

Annexation Applications

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my second question also to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I'd like to ask if he's in a position today to indicate what progress is being made on annexation approvals that now, as a result of the spring session, have to be approved by cabinet.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition is aware, the legislation was changed last fall to provide that Local Authorities Board recommendations come to Executive Council. Indeed, some have been forthcoming this spring.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate whether the Executive Council has acted on the recommendations of the Local Authorities Board?

MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is it the intention of the government to bring any legislation forward at this session that will enable the process to be streamlined? I raise the question, frankly, because it's been drawn to my attention that a number of annexation requests presently before cabinet can't be approved because of some fault with the legislation which was approved last fall.

MR. JOHNSTON: As the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury is aware, the hon. Mr. Jamison introduced some legislation this spring. I'm sure there will be opportunity for debate as that proceeds through the House.

MR. CLARK: A further supplementary question to the minister, then, following the minister's answer. Is it the intention of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to be able to shorten considerably the lead time from the Local Authorities Board making its recommendation to the cabinet being able to arrive at a final decision?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the interval from the time that the property owner is attendant to a municipality making application — that the time delay is in Executive Council. Indeed, the time delay could well be in the hearing process, in the deliberations which grow forward, bearing in mind that some of the annexation requests are serious, large, and have major economic ramifications.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly the number of annexation applications that have received the consideration of the Local Authorities Board and are now awaiting the decision of cabinet?

MR. JOHNSTON: At the present time, Mr. Speaker, there are none.

Rat Control

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Are we still successful in keeping the rats out of Alberta and in Saskatchewan?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I've not had a recent report with respect to winter activities of the pest control branch of the Department of Agriculture. But I have always asked that the department inform me of any activities of an unusual nature that would indicate we're not in fact keeping Alberta rat-free. I've not had that, so I expect, Mr. Speaker, we're maintaining the kind of vigilance on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border that we have for many years past, and that Alberta continues to be rat-free.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. In view of the fact that a rat poison which is very dangerous to children, and for which there is no antidote, has been discovered in the United States, is the hon. minister aware whether we are using that type of poison at the border?

MR. MOORE: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not. If the hon. member could advise me what poison he is referring to, I'll try to find out.

AEC — Debt-Equity Ratio

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. It concerns the recent report of the Alberta Energy Company.

In light of the very high debt-equity ratio outlined in this report — on page 9, I believe — concerning the power plant and the pipeline, my question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, is: has there been any discussion as yet with officials of the Alberta Energy Company concerning possible heritage trust fund investment in the debt portion of the power plant and the pipeline?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there has been anything official specifically through my office. It may be they have discussed the matter with the Provincial Treasurer responsible for the heritage trust fund.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could redirect that question as a supplementary to the hon. Provincial Treasurer.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, there has been some, what I would call, very general comment. But my response to all general comments of that nature has been that the legislation is not now before the House. We expect it before the House soon. Those discussions would be premature until legislation was in place. Thereafter would be a more appropriate time to discuss it.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to either the hon. Minister of Energy or the Provincial Treasurer. In view of the very high debt-equity ratio outlined in this report, has there been any discussion of a loan guarantee by the Government of Alberta?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, that matter has definitely been discussed between myself and the Alberta Energy Company in relation to the utilities plant at the Syncrude project.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly what the interest saving would be if the province of Alberta does in fact guarantee the loan?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to make a judgment like that, because it has to do with a variety of other factors in any loan. However, I would expect, Mr. Speaker, there would be an advantage.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether or not the very high debt-equity ratio with respect to the power plant will in fact substantially contribute to a reduction in the cost of service to Syncrude itself?

MR. GETTY: I'm not sure in what way the hon. member is referring to a reduction in the cost of service, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted a word to explain. My understanding is that the 15 per cent rate of return is in fact based on the equity. If 90 per cent of the cost of the project is debt, capital borrowed at 10 or 11 per cent instead of a 15 per cent return, the total cost to the Syncrude consortium would be somewhat less if there is a higher ratio of debt compared to equity capital.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, this matter is being negotiated between the Alberta Energy Company and the Syncrude participants. There is no final disposition as to the debt-equity ratio. If there is a greater debt than equity, it is true it's possible that the cost of service could be reduced. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm trusting the Alberta Energy Company management will establish as high a profit position as possible through that utilities plant, since the Alberta Energy Company is such an integral part of Alberta's resource development and is in fact owned by some 65,000 Albertans.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Can the minister advise the Assembly whether the other participants in Syncrude, especially the Canadian government and the Government of Ontario, have made representation that there should be a very high debt as compared to equity ratio in the investment in the plant?

MR. GETTY: I think it's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, they have. As I referred hon. members to the document by the C.D. Howe Research Institute the other day, the arrangement regarding Syncrude entered into by the various governments at Winnipeg has left the Alberta government in an extremely advantageous position. Having recognized that, it is true the other governments have been attempting, in any way possible, to reclaim some of the advantage they weren't able to get at Winnipeg. That has been one of the reasons for the difficult negotiations over a period of time.

For our part, we have said we like the idea that the Alberta Energy Company is going to be profitable because of the Syncrude project. We like the idea that they and the people of Alberta have the high rate of return operations, and that others may have the lower rate of return operations. After all, for many years it's been the other way around.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. In view of the rate of return of the equity portion being quite high and the likely interest rate on the debt portion being rather conservative, if I can use that expression, Mr. Speaker, when is the government going to be in a position to advise the Assembly formally what the debt-equity ratio in the power plant will be?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, that will be something for the Alberta Energy Company to negotiate with those who will be lending the money. As soon as that is finalized, I would hope it would become public. I would hope that it would be shortly after the signings

of the various documents having to do with the Syncrude project.

AEC — Government Proxy

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary question to the hon. minister. Who will exercise the government proxy at the Alberta Energy Company annual meeting on April 20?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, at present the shares are held in the name of the government through the Provincial Treasurer. While the Alberta Energy Company meeting isn't till April 20, we have not as yet designated an individual to represent the Alberta government by proxy. The hon. member will note that through The Alberta Energy Company Act a portion of the responsibility for voting of the government shares can be passed off in lieu of an appointment of directors rather than voting the shares on that issue.

Lamb Processing Plant

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. What progress has been made in getting a manager for the lamb processing plant at Innisfail?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, that is a co-op. So far as I am aware, a new manager has been hired for the plant within the last few weeks. I'll have to check with regard to his name.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have financial arrangements from AOC for cash flow for the plant been finalized?

MR. MOORE: Once again, Mr. Speaker, those really are questions that would be answered by the board of directors of the Lamb Processors Co-op. However, I can indicate that, as far as I'm aware, there is no involvement whatsoever by the Alberta Opportunity Company and no application before them.

MR. CLARK: The ADC?

MR. MOORE: Well, for some time there has been involvement by the Ag. Development Corporation by way of guaranteeing loans used for inventory and operating capital.

AEC President's Salary

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. He's such a fountain of information today, and so good-natured.

I'd like to ask the hon. minister if he's now in a position to indicate the salary that was offered to the president of the Alberta Energy Company when the company was originally set up by the government, before there was a board of directors.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the salary of the president of the Alberta Energy Company was a matter between the board of directors and the Alberta

Energy Company's president. I still do not know what that salary is.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the president now has approximately \$160,000 worth of shares, can the minister indicate to the Legislature if, when the company was originally set up, there was a share option offer as part of the president's salary?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, again, that was not part of any discussions I had with the president. I might point out, Mr. Speaker, that when the shares were sold throughout Alberta, there was in the Alberta Energy Company prospectus a very extensive description of all such transactions. Several hundred thousand of them were distributed throughout the province, and throughout Canada for that matter. The hon. member may wish to study that document to see if he can get the information he desires. Otherwise, he might communicate directly with the president.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Can the minister indicate if there were any discussions between the minister or other members of the Executive Council and the president of AEC that a stock option would be part of the offer to the president?

MR. GETTY: No, Mr. Speaker, not to the best of my knowledge.

Food Co-ops

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and ask if a directive has gone from his office or from the co-operative activities branch to discourage the formation of food co-operatives in Alberta, especially in Calgary.

MR. HARLE: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the minister. Has the minister had discussions with the co-operative activities branch in his department with regard to the formation of food co-ops in Alberta?

MR. HARLE: Not recently. As a result of some inquiries by news media in Calgary, I did have a brief discussion this morning. But prior to that, no.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Would the minister then give a commitment to the Assembly that he would consult with the department's Calgary regional office, which in fact has been advising individuals wanting to set up food co-ops that rather extensive feasibility studies will have to be undertaken before the co-operative activities branch is prepared to give consideration of favorable approval for establishment of a food co-op?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I think it should be pointed out that, unfortunately, the track record of food co-ops has not been too successful. For that reason,

of course, I would surmise that officials of the department do not want to hold out a very glowing picture of food co-ops. I'll certainly take up the suggestion of the hon. member.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further question to the minister, just so there's no misunderstanding. Is the minister saying that in fact no directive has gone from his office or to the co-operative activities people with regard to any special treatment or special criteria that would be used as far as these co-operatives are concerned in their [inaudible]?

MR. HARLE: That's correct, Mr. Speaker.

Apprenticeship Training

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. It's a follow-up to the one I posed yesterday.

Is the minister in a position today to advise whether Mr. G. L. Peers, chairman of the provincial Apprenticeship Board, sent a memo regarding the shortening of the technical course component of apprenticeship in the province of Alberta?

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Speaker, I didn't check on the specific communication sent by the director of the branch. After the question period I did recall discussions with the director himself on the subject, and my concurrence that the matter be pursued by the director of the apprenticeship branch. If the hon. member wishes that specific information, I will get it. But I think it's fair to assume that a communication of that kind had been sent in some way to the people concerned with apprenticeship.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. In light of the fact that cutting down the course time, if you like, of people taking the training course part of the apprenticeship program is now an option, is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly when a firm policy on this matter will be announced?

DR. HOHOL: I should like to respond in two ways, Mr. Speaker. First, I'm certain we'll examine the whole matter in the estimates dealing with the apprenticeship program. Secondly, to be clear as I attempted to be yesterday, we are dealing specifically with one trade. It is true that it has possible implications for other trades. But in this instance, we are dealing with one specific trade.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the hon. minister give the House the assurance that as a result of current budgetary restrictions there will be no watering down of the course component of provincial apprenticeship programs?

DR. HOHOL: My personal and ministerial responsibilities are of the kind that I have real ease in making that kind of commitment. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, during the estimates examination all hon. members will see this government's commitment to the apprenticeship program with a substantial assign-

nment of fiscal resources for it.

There's simply no question of watering down apprenticeship or any other program. We would sooner train fewer people extremely well than more people not so well. No question about that.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I heartily concur in the minister's answer. However, I do suggest that he read the memorandum from the chairman of the apprenticeship board, because he has just totally contradicted his chairman. But in any event, Mr. Speaker . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Order, order.

MR. NOTLEY: . . . my question to the hon. minister is: in light of difficulties in obtaining instructors at NAIT and SAIT, what specific program is the government considering to encourage sufficient instructors so that course content can be retained at as high a level as possible?

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Speaker, one of the best approaches to the resolution of this kind of problem is the logistics with respect to the use of staff at NAIT, SAIT, and other places where apprentices are trained, and the assignment of classes in apprenticeship for in-house or institutional training during off-peak periods in the institution. This is one area that both institutions are using effectively and will no doubt use to the maximum in times when there's some difficulty in getting trained personnel.

Alberta Hospital — Security

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. I'd like to ask if the minister is in a position to indicate if the security measures in the forensic unit at Alberta Hospital at Oliver have been strengthened.

MISS HUNLEY: I believe they have, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether they are all in place or not. Many of them were administrative in detail — a better way of handling the administration and admission procedures and so on. Following a committee meeting there on April 1, I believe that those have been implemented, but I would have to check to be sure.

DR. BUCK: Has the minister, or have members of the department, given consideration to the CSA suggestion of using closed-circuit TV in the areas that are a threat to people working in the unit?

MISS HUNLEY: Yes, that was one of the issues discussed. Closed-circuit television might appear to be desirable to those who aren't too familiar with the operation. But in that particular unit, which is an old building being used at present, there are many areas which would not be covered by closed-circuit television. I think we're all aware that even in modern, new buildings, such as the remand centre in Calgary where they do have an effective television monitoring system, escapes are possible also. So, it isn't actually the real solution to the problem.

Early Childhood Services Program

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Has he had an opportunity to come to some conclusions with regard to the problems of the early childhood services program, especially for youngsters who are 5 and a half years of age in January and February of each year?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that same question posed earlier this week or late last week, I believe I indicated to the House that I would be in a position to answer that question when the estimates of the Department of Education came up for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. That time has not yet arrived.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question to the minister. I could check *Hansard*, but I believe the minister indicated he'd be arriving at a decision on this matter this week. This being the middle of the week, we didn't want the minister to forget.

Have some final decisions been made yet with regard to the program?

MR. NOTLEY: Don't expect action.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, the question that's presently under consideration is one that I'll be in a position to deal with further during the course of the discussion of my estimates.

Coal Testing — Bow City

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. On the application by CanPac Minerals Limited to the ERCB to put a test hole at Bow City for 15,000 tons of coal, could the minister indicate what CanPac is going to be using this coal for?

MR. GETTY: No, Mr. Speaker. They haven't had a discussion with me in that regard. But recognizing the interest the hon. member would have, it being in his constituency, I will contact them and get the answer for the hon. member.

Highway By-pass — Edson

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Transportation. Has the Department of Transportation made any decision yet with respect to either taking the highway through Edson, or by-passing the town?

DR. HORNER: The decision with regard to that matter, Mr. Speaker, is twofold. We are protecting the land for a by-pass around Edson at some future date. In the interim we are developing what is known as a one-way couplet through the town.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to give the Assembly a timetable when the government may, in fact, exercise its option of developing a by-pass around the town?

DR. HORNER: No, Mr. Speaker, because it will depend a great deal on developments in the Edson area, and the wishes, indeed, of the people of the town.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Have the department and the minister received petitions from people in the town of Edson concerning the question of a by-pass?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I've had representations from a variety of people in the town of Edson whom I've known for a number of years.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the minister in a position to confirm to the Assembly that the petitions, by and large, request a by-pass around the town?

DR. HORNER: No, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I can confirm that to the Assembly at all, because my impression is exactly the opposite.

U. of C. Faculty of Education

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education, and ask if he's now had an opportunity to look at the report commissioned by the president of the University of Calgary with regard to its Faculty of Education.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, that report just reached my hands earlier this afternoon, and I haven't had a chance to study it in depth.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister's colleague, the Minister of Advanced Education. Has the minister had an opportunity yet to review the report in some detail?

DR. HOHOL: No, I have not, Mr. Speaker. I received the report around noon today and will be making it a matter for study in the next two or three days.

Bus Company Application

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Transportation. With reference to the upcoming hearing by the Motor Transport Board regarding an application from Ambassador bus company, has Greyhound yet made an intervention?

DR. HORNER: I'm not aware of that, Mr. Speaker, but I'll get the information very quickly.

Rural Government Finances (continued)

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. In light of recent reports about the substantial accumulated deficit of almost \$1 million over two years in the county of St. Paul, is the minister planning any specific action to assist the county to deal with the situation it faces?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we haven't yet come down with a particular plan. We are now waiting for the final results of the investigation into the financial situation of the county of St. Paul.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Will the hon. minister assure the House that either suspending or dissolving the local council and taking over direct rule will not be an option of the province at this stage?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my responsibility is very clear under The Department of Municipal Affairs Act. Should that county find itself in bankruptcy or close to bankruptcy, I have no right to challenge the authority which is vested in me.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could ask the hon. minister a supplementary question on this matter. In light of the varying assessment bases of rural municipalities and counties, is the minister in a position to advise the House whether any other consideration is given, apart from assessment sharing? The minister has talked about that, but are any supplementary grants being considered to help the smaller municipalities and counties with no strings attached?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, again in this context, of course, I have spoken at length with respect to the work done by the Provincial Municipal Finance Council. Specifically, since the hon. member raises the question, I think here the classic example of overexpenditure has been exhibited to us. After setting a budget, it failed to follow this fiscal plan. As a result, the municipality has found itself in an extremely difficult financial position.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. My question really related to municipalities and counties beyond just the situation in St. Paul. The question goes beyond the sharing of industrial assessment which the minister has spoken about.

Has there been any consideration of the concept of, if you like, equalization grants — the same principle the federal government applies to poorer provinces — being introduced into municipal grants to assist those municipalities and counties that have a very low assessment base?

MR. SPEAKER: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but it seems that more and more in the question period we are starting to anticipate discussion of the estimates. I realize the validity of asking certain questions along this line in order to prepare for discussion of the estimates, but I'm unable to recognize that kind of merit in the question which has just been put.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can reword that question, because it is important. There is concern and some controversy about this matter.

My question then to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker: as an option at this stage, is the government studying an equalization formula in the grant system that would assist M.D.s or counties with low assessments?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we are considering many facets of improving the contributions and the way in which dollars are funded to the municipal associations, counties, and entities. As to specifically tying myself to a formula, I don't think it would be proper at this point, because I'm open to all suggestions and all kinds of information. Hopefully we will be moving in this direction, with results within the next two or three years, as a result of the finance council deliberations.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the hon. minister. While we're considering the municipalities with deficits, are we giving any thought to the municipalities and counties that live within their budgets?

Bus Company Application
(continued)

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer for the hon. Member for Drumheller with regard to the Ambassador application. Greyhound has not filed an intervention, but two other smaller companies have. The hearings will go ahead in Calgary on April 21, 22, and 23.

Elk Island National Park

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental affairs? I'd like to know if the minister has had any correspondence with the federal government in relation to the study that's going on re Elk Island Park.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I personally have not had any correspondence with the appropriate minister in Ottawa. But I will check to see whether there have been any correspondence, meetings, or conversations between officials of my department and contemporary officials in Ottawa on that subject.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Vermilion-Viking revert to Introduction of Visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**
(reversion)

MR. LYSONS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and to the members of this Assembly, 32 Grade 8 students from Saint Jerome Separate School in Vermilion. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. McGuigan, and their bus driver, Frank Ewing. Would they please rise and have their introduction in the House?

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**
(Committee of Supply)

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

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

Department of the Solicitor General

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe we finished introductory questions and replies by the minister last day.

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Solicitor General will be back in about twenty-two and a half seconds.

AN HON. MEMBER: One, two, . . .

MR. CLARK: That's good timing.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask the minister if he can give us an outline on the situation as far as young offenders are concerned, not only what the situation is today. Where are these first offenders now? Perhaps more important, what plans does the government have for future facilities or future considerations for young offenders?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, this general term "young offenders" seems to cover such a broad range, but I presume the hon. leader is talking about those youthful offenders who come under the jurisdiction of my department.

The present intention — and estimates are included in this budget — is to develop an outward bound school at Nordegg. The first step will be to improve the utilities services to the ghost town of Nordegg, particularly in regard to water supply and sewage. Primarily using inmate labor, the next step will be to rehabilitate some of the old houses which are salvageable. We have engaged the former superintendent of juvenile delinquents from the province of Ontario, who has great experience in this field since he set up the outward bound schools known in that province as DARE Adventure Camps. He is already on the job and is carrying out his preliminary survey, with a view to working out a detailed plan to accommodate this project.

Is the hon. leader listening? Should I go on?

MR. CLARK: Go on.

MR. FARRAN: We don't want to get into another controversy like the one with the hon. Member for Drumheller the other day. I thought you'd want to concentrate, since you asked the question.

MR. CLARK: If you say something worth while, we'll listen.

MR. FARRAN: Nordegg is presently the largest of our forestry camps. It has housing in one of the old buildings. It has an average of 56 young inmates who proceed from that base camp to satellite camps in the David Thompson Highway area.

The idea is to supplement outdoor work, which is chopping wood for camp grounds, cleaning brush from the side of highways, removing deadfall from

trails, making picnic tables — this type of activity — with the outward bound challenge concept. That concept has developed over the years from the ideas of the great Austrian educationist, Dr. Hahn, who founded Gordonstoun school in Scotland. It has now spread throughout the world. There's — I think it's called — Timberland in Australia, and there are several such schools in Canada. The nearest is in British Columbia, in the Penticton area. The general concept is that if you build up self-esteem, pride, and self-reliance, you have a better balanced individual.

We want to proceed with this concept in respect of young offenders serving minor offences and who have fallen foul of the law. Generally, the idea is that they have lacked a structured and disciplined environment, perhaps in their early days as juveniles. In their own hearts, they have identified themselves as losers, and therefore continue to relate more to the bad guys on television than to the good guys. We want to bring them back with self-esteem and improved physical fitness.

Some schooling will be attached to this concept as well, in recognition that the greatest majority of these young offenders are drop-outs from junior high school.

Does that satisfy your curiosity, Mr. Chairman? Is that enough?

MR. CLARK: I'd like to thank the minister for his information. I'll follow along and ask the minister where in fact these young offenders now are. Where do we find these 17- and 18-year-old offenders right now?

MR. FARRAN: You find them in Nordegg itself. As I've said, 56 are there. But the vast majority are in the correctional institutions. There are some who would be on temporary absence or day parole attending vocational schools in the community. The majority are in correctional institutions proper or in the satellite bush camps attached to these correctional institutions.

MR. CLARK: Is the minister in a position to indicate to us how successful the department has been in the segregation? The minister will recall — I think it was last year — that there was a great hullabaloo about how there was going to be segregation at Spy Hill and Fort Saskatchewan for these young offenders. What kind of progress have we made there? The reason I ask the question is, candidly, the association of these young offenders with people who have been in one of these institutions on a number of occasions or who are hardened criminals waiting for remand — these kinds of situations.

MR. FARRAN: Some progress has been made. I don't pretend that there has been a total solution, because the problem is very difficult in overcrowded institutions, particularly Fort Saskatchewan. But over the year we have developed classification teams in all correctional institutions to identify inmates according to age, type of offence, and length of sentence. Within our limited means inside these institutions, they have been segregated. Total segregation is not possible until we can develop more facilities. We have some dormitory facilities for minimum security. We have some in cell blocks. Although it's a vast

improvement on what existed in these institutions prior to 1971, it's still not a total solution.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, if we want to go back prior to 1971, I guess we can. I hope we got past that stage. But I should remind the minister that at that time there was the Bowden institution, which made quite a contribution in these areas, despite the shaking of the head of the minister.

I'd like to ask the minister what portion of the prisoners in, let's say, Fort Saskatchewan and Spy Hill would these 17 and 18 year olds make up. Are we looking at 10 per cent of the numbers, or 20 per cent? What's the breakdown?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I did give these statistics the last go-around. The hon. leader perhaps wasn't here, or he hasn't read *Hansard*.

First of all, let me deal with the question of Bowden. I am getting a little impatient of being constantly accused of having made the decision to move juvenile offenders from Bowden. That decision was made by the former government prior to 1971. When Bowden was phased out by the present government, it was already a full-fledged correctional institution. The young offenders were moved out by the previous government and not by this government. The record will substantiate that. Also, the drinking age was brought down to 18 by the previous government and not by this government. I take responsibility for our own actions, but I hate taking responsibility for those of others.

Sorry, I've missed the second part of the question.

MR. CLARK: If you weren't so busy trying to defend yourself on the Bowden situation . . . The question is, what percentage of the inmates at Spy Hill and Fort Saskatchewan fit into the 17- and 18-year-old age group?

MR. FARRAN: [Inaudible] an accurate figure on that. I can give you the inmate population under 21 institution by institution, as of a certain date. You would appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that it varies from day to day. These are approximate percentages for the calendar year 1975: in Lethbridge, 30.16 per cent; in Calgary, that's Spy Hill, 44.84 per cent; in Nordegg, 66 per cent, because this institution is deliberately used for that sort of inmate; Fort Saskatchewan, 34 per cent; the female unit at Fort Saskatchewan, 23.68 per cent; Belmont, 41.31 per cent; and Peace River, 44.20 per cent; for a provincial average of 40.12 per cent under the age of 21. Approximately 25 per cent of the inmate population would be 17 and under.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the information from the minister. I think the real problem lies here. I appreciate what the minister says about what he's trying to do at Nordegg. I think that's a step in the right direction.

But let me say this: here we're looking at a situation where 41 per cent of our inmates in provincial institutions are 21 years of age or younger. The minister himself admits that segregation is a very, very difficult situation, given the institutions we have.

As I assess what the government is doing as far as young offenders are concerned, basically it's an endeavor as far as Nordegg is concerned, and a

limited endeavor in day parole and in getting people out into educational institutions here in Edmonton, and Calgary too, to a limited extent.

Then we get to the question of what kind of job we are really doing in trying to deal with the problems of these people, 40 per cent of the inmates. If we're going to be successful with any group there, it should be under usual circumstances. This is the group we should be able to have the most success with.

I fully recognize that these people are in for two years and less, so you don't have as long a time as perhaps some of the federal programs. Nevertheless, my real concern centres around this question of the association these people under 21 years of age have with the other prisoners. Admittedly we're moving on Nordegg. We're moving a bit as far as day parole is concerned. But when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, the question is, what kind of longer term plans does the minister have in mind? Once we get the Nordegg thing straightened away, is the minister satisfied that he's done about as much as he could possibly do in this area?

MR. FARRAN: No, Mr. Chairman, I'm not satisfied that this is as far as we can possibly go. Remember that, as I said yesterday, 72 per cent are serving six months and less, so there is only a limited possibility for vocational training. It can only be in the nature of short courses.

But for a certain type of young offender, I visualize that eventually some form of industrial reform school or boarding school will be necessary in proximity to both the two major cities, Calgary and Edmonton.

We can only go one step at a time. There has to be a limit to how many new programs we can digest in any one year, but it is my ambition eventually to embark on this type of initiative.

Incidentally, the vast majority in the institutions are 25 years of age and under. If you go up to that figure, you're taking in almost all of them. So it's a question of segregating the old lags from the big majority of young offenders.

Another interesting statistic is that there are very, very few criminals or convicts over the age of 47. Forty-seven seems to be the retirement age for both criminals and the Mounted Police.

MR. CLARK: I have a faint feeling that it may be the criminals who go back to work rather than the RCMP. But just to follow the figures the minister has pointed out here, 72 per cent are in for six months or less. Therein I think lies the area — we shouldn't be having them in contact, unless they're repeaters on several occasions, with the people whether they be 47 or older, or 25. As far as I'm concerned, that is one of the biggest problems your department faces today. Candidly, I appreciate the priority you're placing on Nordegg. But I think from the long-term point of view, a priority of segregation — and I don't think you can really do that in one institution — would pay big dividends to society.

Now I take it from what the minister says here that this industrial reform school or boarding school is sometime down the road. Could the minister elaborate on that a bit? Secondly, can he indicate through his crystal ball when he sees us being able to actively expect this kind of institution, recognizing that the Legislature, I think members on both sides of the

House, have agreed there's little criticism — in fact, I've heard no criticism, although I've been out of the House during some of the debate — of giving priority to the Solicitor General's Department?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, the question of how far down the road my idea of some form of structured boarding school for this type of young offender will be possible . . . I'm not really speaking now for the government. I'm just giving an opinion. When the whole question of federal proposals for young people in conflict with the law is resolved, there will have to be some form of new facility. My feeling is that the chronological age may be an important thing in law, but it's not all that important in terms of actual treatment. Such facilities may well accommodate 15 and 16 year olds, some of whom are juveniles under the law and some of whom are adults. This would require some changes in our legislation. But I visualize that sometime this year the government will be delivering its response to the federal authorities on its proposed young offenders act. That will be the time when a decision can be made on the construction of new facilities.

MR. CLARK: Just following that answer, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister in a position to indicate to us whether he's looking at a new institution being built by the government, or at some of the work that is being done by a number of service clubs or various other groups — some of them have been in contact with the minister — interested in this particular area of endeavor? What's the present disposition of the government and the Solicitor General's Department with regard to service clubs and certain religious organizations and groups becoming involved, especially in the area of the young offenders, first-time offenders? How are your probation people reacting to those kinds of options, limited as they are, now available? What kind of report are they giving to the presiding judges in these situations?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, as far as the over 16 year olds who come under my jurisdiction are concerned, I regard initiatives in this field as very positive contributions to crime prevention. I do everything I can to encourage service clubs and church organizations to set up boys' camps that can look after this sort of individual.

The hon. leader must appreciate that there are many different types within the youth category, above and below the age of 16. There are some who can be handled quite well by the child welfare authorities. There are some who, by the time they reach the age of 16, have a lengthy record as juvenile delinquents — maybe not hard-core criminals, but certainly experienced offenders against the law. These may be in a very different category than the first offender I believe the hon. leader is thinking of. They're perhaps not even true first offenders. They may have a lengthy record going back to the age of 12 or 14.

When I talk about industrial reform school or boarding school, I am talking about a correctional facility. I'm not talking about something that could be run by lay people in the community. There are other projects of a crime preventive nature. There is the possibility of judges turning over some young offender on probation or conditions of a suspended sen-

tence to citizens' councils and this sort of thing. I am in favor of giving as broad a range of options as possible to the judge at the time of sentence, so he can try to make the sentence fit the crime and fit the large variety of offenders. But when you ask about these facilities, I'm thinking of the sorts of clients we now have in the correctional institutions. Although 70 per cent are serving less than six months, 70 per cent are also repeaters. They're not first offenders.

MR. CLARK: So, Mr. Chairman, what we're really talking about with the boarding school and industrial reform school is a situation where they would be for young offenders who have been back before the judge on two, three, and four occasions. It's one step better than putting them in Fort Saskatchewan or Spy Hill, but it's a pretty substantive institution. That's really what the minister is saying. Do I understand the minister when he talks in terms of first offenders or people who have run-ins initially, that [is] to avoid leaving that to a great degree — with some encouragement from your department — to voluntary organizations or groups who have expressed quite a bit of interest in these areas in the last two years?

MR. FARRAN: As I say, I favor increasing the range of options open to the judge at time of sentencing. But there's no way any of us, all politicians, can give direction to the judges. All we can do is encourage every type of facility and project we possibly can to make it easier for the judge to select an appropriate disposition of the case.

MR. KIDD: First of all, the hon. Solicitor General missed one thing the inmates are doing at Nordegg, that is, maintaining the graveyard there in an excellent way. That's very much appreciated by me and many others who have relatives in that area.

The other question I'd like to ask is on a slightly different subject. It concerns the Spy Hill jail. I'd like the minister to comment a bit on why the farm was phased out.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, of course the old Palliser dairy farm was phased out long before my day. I can remember when it was in operation, but I wasn't in office when it was phased out. I believe the thought was that as far as vocational training was concerned, not too many of the inmates were going to be dairy farmers, which I think is a pity. Looking back, I would have thought there would have been some therapeutic value in shovelling manure. I've done a lot of it in my life, since I used to be a dairy farmer. I think it's very good exercise. However, it was phased out a long time ago.

The present field operations have not been phased out. At the time I assumed this office, there was some pressure to phase out the big potato field on the grounds that they were so high they were always losing a crop from early frost. I rejected that concept. The potatoes are still part of the business. I think even if they do suffer the ill fortune of bad weather and lose a crop, they still have been well-employed from the point of view of outdoor exercise and activity.

One of the other complaints that sometimes comes from directors of the institutions is that we can't do everything at once. We want to give vocational

training, alcoholism training, life skills training: dozens of new projects all aimed at trying to salvage the offender. They can't find enough to go on a work party to hoe beets in the Lethbridge area. I'm trying to turn this around, because I believe there is sometimes greater value in work habits than in some of the Mickey Mouse things we've introduced into the institutions in the past few years.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm really pleased to hear the minister speak of the major thrusts in rehabilitation, both in and out of the institutions. I hope he takes note that the concern is really early rehabilitation. That means probably, Mr. Minister, if you'd take cognizance, after the second offence, not necessarily after the third, fourth, or fifth offence.

I'd like the minister to respond to the request, brought up already, by some private enterprises to participate in this rehabilitation by vocational training and work in industry. I was wondering whether the minister has considered subsidy, if these industries will hire, and go on an advertising program indicating that these people are available, in view of the low unemployment rate in Alberta. I'd like a response in the area of a subsidy for industries participating in rehabilitation or vocational training.

The second part is: will the minister indicate to the House whether there is an intention that there be more counsellors, in addition to probation officers, recognizing that probation officers may have counselling abilities? Will more counsellors be hired for counselling and guidance, both in and out of the institution, on an ongoing basis?

The other consideration is: would the minister consider taking cognizance that in spite of the fact that most of them are under two years' duration, they can be locked into a vocational and training program because they're recurrent offenders?

The third thing I'd like to ask: has the minister considered any specific models used in Canada, the United States, or other parts of the world, that he's utilizing for information to copy and modify to suit the Alberta scene, recognizing that models are working very well in some parts of the world?

MR. FARRAN: Are we actually on the figures, Mr. Chairman, or are we still on the title and preamble?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I guess we're still on the general discussion.

MR. FARRAN: Are we actually on Vote 1 now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we're not yet, because we're covering too much ground to be on Vote 1. As soon as this is completed, we'll start on the votes.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, no, we have not contemplated any subsidy to industry for engaging ex-inmates or present inmates. The assumption is, in a way, they would get some form of benefit from the use of inmate labor. We have to be very careful in this regard, Mr. Chairman, because I don't want to be accused of giving a benefit to convicted persons which wouldn't be open to the people at large who have not broken the law. This certainly pertains to our priority in employment.

The same sort of consideration is often raised over

the production of goods or growing of crops by the correctional institutions. It is quite clear, with government subsidies involved, that there's no way we should be distorting the market for potatoes, for instance, and thus doing direct harm to the potato growers or other areas in this regard. However, judiciously, one has to do one's best not only to educate the inmates into employment habits, but to find them gainful employment when they're discharged.

So far as counselling is concerned, I think I said the other day that I think we've just about gone as far as we can go in counselling. In this province, about one half of the civil service counsels the other half. We have an enormous army of counsellors. I don't think we need any more in our present institutions. What we really need is more activity and less talk.

Vocational training: there again, it will suit some inmates who will continue with whatever course they take up in a vocational school in the community, especially if they've been trusted enough to be allowed out on day parole to attend vocational training. For some who've dropped out of junior high school and so on, to direct them at this late date into a full-fledged vocational training course when they may be serving a comparatively short sentence would really be completely ineffectual. A short course in vocational training, such as welding or auto body shop, that type of thing, might be beneficial to them, because at least for a short time they could be directed to apply themselves to the trade.

Models elsewhere: it's not true that anyone in the world has succeeded in this regard. Every known part of the world has problems today with juvenile offenders. Some have used different methods, but none can claim any magic wand or conspicuous success. The government's mission to Europe included a representative from my department, whose assignment was to look at the correction systems in Sweden and the United Kingdom, in particular the Borstal system. He did just that. We've established contacts and will be following through this year with more information-gathering. The province of British Columbia has also expressed interest in the United Kingdom Borstal system, which is a system of reform schools. In Sweden, they have an interesting approach for the sort of community council that the hon. Member for Drumheller was mentioning the other day. Some offenders can be referred back into the community under supervision of enthusiastic citizens who will make certain they join the tiny mites or the air cadets or something like that.

MR. HANSEN: Mr. Chairman, this is more or less a question just for information. I would like to know if your department does much research into other countries to find out how they're operating their justice systems. I bring this up [because] I understand there is one country overseas where if a man is sentenced to jail for six months or a year, part of the sentence is that when he gets out he has to pay for his room and board. I was wondering if you ever researched cutting down the expense of keeping people in jail.

MR. FARRAN: Well, in answer to the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway, we have been examining

systems in other countries. An enormous bibliography in this field is available in our own library. I haven't heard of that particular approach. Of course, it would again be a total change in legislation, and it would be up to the judges in the court as to what conditions they put on a sentence. The range varies all the way from Mexico, where you can't draw welfare unless you sweep up the streets in the morning, to the open system in some of the Scandinavian countries.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.0.1

\$74,965

Ref. No. 1.0.2

\$70,340

Ref. No. 1.0.3

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister would be in a position to indicate where the senior people in his department are coming from. I'll be very straightforward about why I ask the question. When we look at some of the hirings that have gone on in this department in the last two years, a very large portion of the senior people in the department have come from outside Alberta.

I'm not suggesting that we in this province have all the answers, although I hope most of us would agree that we like to think Alberta has more than its share of answers. But I must express some concern about the apparent hiring practice of the department where inevitably they're going to Ontario, or the maritimes, or some place to pick up senior people in the department or to pick up people who are wardens at Fort Saskatchewan, for example. I raise the matter because some of the people in the minister's department have raised the question with me and said, pretty candidly, we're all getting the impression we can only go so far in the department and that's it.

I might perhaps at the same time ask the minister if he's able to give us some information with regard to bursaries in the department. What kind of preference is given to Alberta students as to bursaries that are made available to some university students, through the Solicitor General's Department? To date, has there been a priority to Alberta students, or in fact have Ontario students received some of the bursaries?

MR. FARRAN: It's a good question, as are many of those put by the hon. leader. This was a new department, and before my day we did try to get the best in the country. We advertised right across the country, and some of the top people in the department seem to have come from the maritimes. This is true. However, recognizing the desirability of having promotion prospects open to everybody in such a large service as the corrections service and that it's not quite like a transit system where everybody is a bus driver, where you really want a ladder of advancement, we have recently reclassified Corrections Officer IV into the management level of assistant deputy directors. I think this will have a beneficial effect.

Before, we didn't really have any true NCOs in what has to be something analogous to a police force or a paramilitary organization. Because of the very nature of their task, they are in a dangerous position,

they are in uniform, and they are subject to more discipline than the average civil servant or citizen on the street. I appreciate the remarks of the hon. leader in regard to promotion of Albertans and will bear that very much in mind over the year to come.

There were some areas where the expertise was just not existing in the province, although some of the directors are local Albertans and have been here for some time: the director of the Lethbridge institution; of Nordegg, until his retirement this year; the director of Spy Hill, Terry Downey, has been here for quite a while. They were not all from outside the province.

In this new area of outward bound, we have no experience. So the best thing, if we wanted to proceed quickly, was to import somebody from outside who was an acknowledged expert.

So far as bursaries are concerned, I'll have to take that under advisement. I have to confess I don't know. I don't believe any are made by the department at all. Maybe they should be, but I'll certainly find out.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to follow along the minister's first answer by simply saying that before the minister does any more hiring of people from the maritimes, I'd suggest the minister go and see the kind of progress they've made in the maritimes as far as young offenders are concerned. I don't think they stack up even to where we are, and I don't think we are where we should be. I would just serve fair warning on the minister that if in fact we do continue this policy of hiring people from outside the province, especially at senior levels in the department, the minister is going to have more of the kind of thing he's had in Fort Saskatchewan and increased morale problems within the department.

Frankly, from what I've been able to garner, I have seen nothing to indicate that the great blue province of Ontario or the maritimes are any better off than we are when it comes to correctional programs. Likely, as a nation, we haven't done very well. Perhaps we're all bogged down at the same level. I just make the suggestion that we should be very careful about bringing people in from the maritimes and Ontario unless they've really got something to offer. I haven't really been convinced we've seen that to date.

MR. FARRAN: Well, all I can say is that the reclassification to management level of [Corrections] Officer IV should open management experience to people who've advanced through merit and seniority, and increase the range of choice one has at the time one appoints a senior officer.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister, I would just like to bring to the minister's attention that this is one of the major criticisms of the people, especially in Fort Saskatchewan. They say, we're sort of dead-heading. We just don't feel we have an opportunity for eventual advancement to the upper echelons. So I would like to support my hon. colleague's case that this should be looked at a little more closely.

Another area of concern along that line, Mr. Chairman, to the minister, is that when we look at the statistical breakdown, we have fewer personnel per prisoner in Fort Saskatchewan than at the other institutions. I've kept trying to indicate to the

government, and I think maybe unsuccessfully, that we do have a shortage of custodial staff out there. I know men tell me they work a shift and a half and double shift. There's a chronic shortage of correctional officers out there.

I know there's a limitation on budgeting, but one of the major problems is that some of the staff members do get overworked. So I would like the hon. minister to see if he can pry out some more funds from some place or other and try to hire more staff and increase the rate.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, we are doing our best within budget restraints and the need not to expand the civil service unnecessarily. We did engage some 23 more correctional officers by special warrant last fall, which the hon. Member for Clover Bar will recall, which did relieve the situation to some extent. This year the number of correctional officers is to go up from 515 — these are the direct correctional officers, as opposed to program staff or support staff — to 534. Some of those, of course, will be required for the outward bound project at Nordegg.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, another short question to the hon. minister. I'm sorry if I missed this. I had to be out. How is the program of hiring younger men, to sort of have a rapport with some of the younger offenders, working out?

MR. FARRAN: Extremely well, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased with the quality of recruit we've been getting. We've got some excellent young men. I'm just hopeful, following on from the previous remark, that we can give them the opportunity to advance in the service. They are enthusiastic and they are very good types. The majority of them are of as high a standard as would be required by the city of Edmonton police force or the RCMP. They're extremely good recruits.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, another area of concern is the potential for self-sufficiency in the raising of food at Fort Saskatchewan. By food I mean the vegetable crops especially. I know, from speaking to people in Fort Saskatchewan — the outside people — that they're always concerned why we should have to buy food when we've got a captive work force of about 500 people. So I certainly think this is an area where we could just give the prisoners — or the whatever you call them in this day and age — something to do, get out in the fresh air a little bit. Sure we're going to have them skip once in a while, but they usually get them back quite readily.

I think that's an area we certainly should explore more than we have. Also, my annual plea is to cut down the Department of Agriculture and have the prisoners look after the nursery at Oliver. I know there are some problems there, but we could save quite a few dollars. At the same time, we would give some of the prisoners an opportunity to participate actively in something that's constructive.

MR. FARRAN: I'm in favor of that, Mr. Chairman. I think that's very fertile land in the river valley next to the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. Once we've worked out our security problems, which shouldn't be too long, I visualize more activity in the

outdoors.

Of course you recognize, Mr. Chairman, I'm quite certain that the more activity there is, the more likelihood there is of some escapes. This is only natural. There are fewer escapes if everybody is locked behind bars. This is a justifiable risk, but the risk is there that we will have some escapes the more activity I encourage in the institution.

I'd like to say also, Mr. Chairman, that in becoming self-sufficient, in growing one's own vegetables, I hope the hon. member will be conscious of the possibility that this may have some impact on the economy of the town of Fort Saskatchewan, which has some economic benefits from the correctional institution being there, just as Drumheller has from the federal penitentiary at Drumheller. The more you're self-sufficient, the less you buy in the community.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I think I'd better inform the hon. minister that there aren't too many market gardeners supplying vegetables to the institution at Fort Saskatchewan. So he can stop worrying about that. The economic benefits and the spinoff from the people employed certainly is a benefit to the people of the town of Fort Saskatchewan.

I would like to ask the hon. minister another question. Maybe the Deputy Premier can inform us. When the Deputy Premier was there on one of these famous cabinet tours, we asked about the land in the river flat that the golf club is interested in developing as a golf course. So far I don't think we have had any reply. In light of the fact that there is apparently a shortage of agricultural land for the Oliver tree nursery, I would like to know if the government is looking at the river flat for a tree nursery in that area?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I haven't heard of that. I'll discuss it with the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

A tree nursery is an ideal occupation for worker inmates. It's every bit as good as growing potatoes. So I'm generally in favor of it. We are thinking of establishing a tree nursery at Spy Hill in Calgary.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, because the jail property is in the greenbelt, the plea the people made as to leasing that land from the Crown for a golf course would fit in with the parameters established by the designated greenbelt area. That way, it would be kept in perpetuity for a recreational area. I'd like the hon. minister to do a little lobbying for us with the Deputy Premier and some of the other members.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to approach that one with the greatest degree of caution. We have to solve the security problem at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution before I throw some parts of the grounds open to the public.

At the moment, I'm contemplating even tighter regulations to prohibit trespassing on the property by citizens at large because of the obvious dangers there might be to security — some of the friends of the inmates coming close to the institution. We did have a case a few months ago of a rather extraordinary discharging of a firearm at the back door of the institution. Although the culprit was never found, it

led us to think a bit about the possibilities that might be inherent in such an event.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, this recreational facility would be about 3 miles away from the prison walls. So there wouldn't be a problem there.

MR. FARRAN: Then you'd want me . . . [inaudible].

DR. BUCK: Don't supply them with any guns.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.0.3	\$305,615
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Ref. No. 1.0.4	\$561,229
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Ref. No. 1.0.5

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask a question about this element. I wonder if the minister would clarify what is involved in staff training. What type of training is he anticipating? What types of training are currently taking place? Are in-service training programs being offered within the the department, and are some of the postsecondary educational institutions in Alberta involved in these programs?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to answer that. There's one major increase from 1975-76 to the '76-77 budget of \$60,000. This is to accommodate internal candidates on educational leave, which to date has not been possible. The academic upgrading of existing staff with high potential is necessary so they can advance to positions presently being filled exclusively by external recruiting, which gets back to the point made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The budget will continue to accommodate some 1,500 man-days of training for the institutional services. That's basic supervisory management, riot control, hostage situations, and about 700 man-days of training for probation services, which is casework skills, counselling, supervision, and management. We have a course presently under way at the Londonderry Hotel, an occasional one. It's going to be phased out of the hotel and returned to on-site training for correction officers in the correctional institution itself. We occasionally have courses at the Holy Redeemer School in riot control and the handling of hostages. This is a departmental support service, so it doesn't only pertain to the correctional institutions.

There is some provision for training grants for such people as the Edmonton City Police in the area of gambling. Last year we had a seminar hosted by the Calgary City Police on hostage situations to which all municipal police forces were invited to send members. Then there is an excellent course at Mount Royal College, which we intend to fully participate in, to upgrade our staff in the law and a modern approach to corrections and law enforcement.

I think that just about covers it. But the major increase of \$60,000 is to accommodate candidates on educational leave, which we haven't done to date.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I have just a few more questions with respect to the answers currently raised. Could the hon. minister indicate what the

duration of some these courses is, how many candidates have been enrolling, and how the candidates are recruited — and this kind of information?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd have to get such details from the department. The courses are short in the main. The method of selection, recruiting, application, and so on I would have to obtain from the department and supply directly to the hon. member. I haven't got it at my fingertips.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.0.5	\$266,316
Ref. No. 1.0.6	\$159,400
Total Department Support Services	\$1,437,865

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you turn to page 285, Vote 2, Correctional Services.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 2.1	\$423,940
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Ref. No. 2.2

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, can I ask the hon. minister if he can just give us a run-down on the renovations taking place at Fort Saskatchewan, some of the costs, and what the hon. minister thinks the expenditures will do to improve the situation as to security and making the conditions a little more pleasant for the staff. Can the minister just give us a run-down on the expenditures and the amount?

MR. FARRAN: I'll do my best, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the hon. member could put a detailed question to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works when the capital budget comes up, because naturally most of this work is done by Public Works.

MR. NOTLEY: Department of Housing.

MR. FARRAN: Well, it's a different form of housing, but it's still shelter.

However, I'll try to give you the answer in broad generalities. The \$2 million has been spent, first of all, on improving the flow of inmates through the institution. I told you that we'd set up classification units, and we're trying to segregate, as far as possible. So . . .

MR. NOTLEY: I'm listening.

MR. FARRAN: Sorry, but you know what the hon. Member for Drumheller said about doing four things at once.

So, the first thing was to redesign the admittance area where the inmate checks in, his file is examined, and preliminary steps are taken to enrol him in the institution. We take away his civilian clothes, which are put in storage, and he's given the issue garments. He takes a shower and that type of thing. Then he has the first rudimentary classification according to sentence and age.

Having got this stream going through, the classification unit will then allot him to a cell block or perhaps to a dormitory. Normally it would be a cell

block, because the classification only takes about a week to 10 days. They have to discover the prisoner's attitudes and peculiarities, because every human is different. He may have been on drugs, he may be suffering from withdrawal. He may be hostile to everyone, he may not want to talk, he may want to go meditate somewhere. They've got to be examined over a few days. To accommodate this, we had to have a better flow. So some of the renovations went toward that.

The next thing was to try to make it more livable in the cell blocks themselves because, until the middle of last year, the only recreation area we had was a narrow corridor facing a double tier of cells — two inmates to a cell — just wide enough to maybe take a trestle table and a few chairs. Then they'd be let out into this corridor, which had a gate at each end, to sit around the table, play cards, watch TV, and so on. So the idea was to improve this area, to make it a little bigger, because so many of them were in there they were almost like sardines in a can. By a bit of remodelling, it was possible to widen this corridor.

Another thing was the air conditioning. In the summer the heat in these places was almost intolerable, so we improved it in that regard.

Like the rest of the institution the dormitories are crowded. There were only six inches or a foot between beds. We converted the old laundry into a dormitory. We converted the old power house into a dormitory, all to try to accommodate this tremendous overload of prisoners. The dormitories are for a higher degree of privilege.

Nowadays, you keep discipline in the institutions, by and large, by graduated privilege. There is some degree of punishment. If somebody commits an offence against the rules, they have a little court and he can be given some punishment like reduction of privileges. The ultimate is a short spell of solitary confinement. We may call it segregation, we may call it meditation, but it's still solitary confinement.

The sanctions of last resort are now very limited inside the institution. They no longer have the paddle. They're no longer allowed to put them on bread and water. They're no longer allowed to force them into hard labor — breaking rocks. So, about the only ultimate sanction you've got left for a bad actor is a short period of solitary confinement. This is realistic, even though some of the courts have talked about it being cruel and unusual punishment. I don't know what else we could do as a last sanction if that was totally removed. I'd say it's cruel and unusual punishment if it goes on for a lengthy period. But for a short time, segregation seems to be the only thing we can do.

DR. BUCK: How about the tunnel?

MR. FARRAN: We have improved the security. We have installed more cameras, so we can see around some of the blind corners. We have removed some of the blind corners. We have improved some of the toilets. We have reinforced the bars on the windows and locks on the cells.

A tunnel has been built to connect C block with A and B blocks, which are the two central blocks, so we haven't got the danger of moving a not dangerous prisoner, but a prisoner who is liable to run away. We can take him down a tunnel instead of moving

him into the open ground. Once you have them in the open, more correctional officers are required to supervise.

The exercise yards have been made more secure by the use of bayonet wire, and so on, on the tops of the walls. A maximum security fence is being built around the maximum security unit, which is C block.

The women offenders, who are not such a security risk, were actually in the most secure unit, C block. They are now being moved into a different area in the main part of the complex, so we can use the area they were formerly in as a maximum security section for the growing number of more dangerous prisoners on remand we have to handle.

Lighting outside and inside has been improved. Some internal decoration has taken place. We've tried to brighten up the area, all with the object of reducing tension and being able to do something with these inmates. If they're in dark, ill-lit, dingy surroundings, it makes it extremely difficult to get through to them in terms of rehabilitation. They're humans, and I feel we should at least be fair, while at the same time being firm, in giving them reasonably civilized surroundings. These surroundings are not overly luxurious. It's still an overcrowded, old-fashioned, ancient prison.

In generalities, that's what has been done. What still has to be done is a perimeter fence around the whole institution, and some strengthening of security at the front gate and the side gate where supplies are unloaded. We would like maybe to use some of the former staff residences as a minimum security day parole centre for some who we might permit out in the community for either education or work.

We may well have a mobile-home camp for day parolees on the grounds outside the institution proper. This is to avoid their being pressured to bring in contraband. If they go out to work during the day and then come back to the main institution at night, there is always pressure from some of the more inveterate offenders to get them to bring in drugs, weapons, and so on. We have experimented at Calgary with a mobile home just outside the prison proper. It seems to be working. What else? I think I've just about given you a complete rundown in broad terms. There may be some things I've forgotten.

DR. BUCK: An area of concern which has been brought to my attention is the fact that we use only one or two security vehicles for taking a prisoner to a dental appointment or to Edmonton. Apparently there seems to be a shortage. I think there's really only one decent vehicle. I was wondering if the minister was aware of that.

MR. FARRAN: I have provision in the budget — and we'll be working on it this year — for a prisoner escort service. This is to make a start, anyway, as a pilot project between Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton, for relieving the Mounted Police of these escort duties. We'll be talking with the Attorney General's Department and the new Deputy Attorney General about the possibility of using similar personnel to do the security work in the courts. We hope to make some progress on it this year. I should also say we want to put better security around the playing field so they can use it more often. If the playing field is completely open, control of the prisoners by correc-

tional officers is extremely difficult. If I have some sort of fence around it and a tower, the security can be controlled by one fellow with a bull horn saying, stay away from that area, stay where you're allowed, don't go out of bounds. At the moment it's so lax that the playing field is not used enough.

DR. BUCK: I just have to tell the minister a story. You've heard the old story about the fellow who hit a home run. He hit it so far that when the man went to retrieve the ball, he kept going and going and going. One year they were having a course in training some of the interested inmates how to become umpires, so when they got out they could umpire some of the games in the fastball league. I had been an umpire in my day, and they asked me to give a crash course in how you umpire, the positions you take, and so on and so forth.

After the course was given, we went out to a ball game, the "inners" versus the "outers". The inmates were doing the umpiring. They would rotate behind the plate, first base, second base, third base. The game was progressing, and the outsiders were getting ahead of the insiders. In one close call, the inmate umpire called a strike. The batter turned around and said, whose side are you on? I thought I'd just relate that to the hon. members.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's how you taught 'em, eh?

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to delay the debate, but it seems to me we're spending an awful lot of time on seeing how comfortable we can make the inmates. I think we should remember that this is a jail. It should be a jail. Too many people today want our prisoners to have an educational experience or a happy social event while they're in jail. They chose that route and they're there. I don't mind rehabilitation. But when they come out, let's make sure they remember it was a jail.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 2.2

\$16,873,480

Ref. No. 2.3

\$3,285,200

Ref. No. 2.4

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, can I ask the minister to explain why there is no increase in this particular estimate? I notice in the explanation of the services that this is providing court work and alcoholic programs relevant to native people, and offers parole supervision and counselling services for native offenders against the law.

Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that when I listened carefully to the minister's introductory statements about the percentage of natives in our correctional institutions, I'm surprised there is no increase, at least an 11 per cent increase. I'm wondering whether part of this is being carried by other sections of the department, whether there has been some lateral transfer.

My question to the minister is: are we providing equal service to last year, or are we going to have to roll back that service by the amount of real inflation during 1976-77?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, this is an excellent program under Chester Cunningham. It's been extremely successful. This is giving advice to native people in the courts, both before and after sentencing. It's jointly funded by Alberta and the federal Department of Justice on a 50-50 basis. We're caught on the old cost-sharing hook. Our budget for the fiscal year is \$600,000, because this is the maximum funding by the federal government. It's probably really their area. But the province has agreed to share costs on a 50-50 basis. The program is to provide service to natives appearing in court. It explains the charge to native persons and ensures that the rights of the accused are safeguarded, legal aid is provided, and so on. Currently there are 22 court workers in Alberta. Included in last year's funding of the native court worker program is the absorption of 1973-74 operating deficits of approximately \$43,000. Really, this is a percentage increase for 1976-77.

But I'd still want to make the point that it's a 50-50 deal with the federal government. If we arbitrarily increase our side, they should be increasing their side too, or we should split the increase. Yes it is an increase, because we picked up the deficit from last year. I'm assured that the funds are sufficient for the program to continue in its present laudable and efficient manner.

MR. NOTLEY: The \$43,000 which would be picked up would be computed against what — our \$600,000, or the matching \$600,000 from the federal government plus our \$600,000? I take it that it would have to be balanced against both. If that's true, we're looking at about a 3.5 per cent increase. If it isn't, we're looking at about a 7 per cent increase.

MR. FARRAN: My understanding is that we're picking up the deficit entirely. I may be wrong in this, but I'll check. My understanding is that the federal authorities have not picked up their share, that we have picked it up entirely. So this really does represent an increase in the budget. But I am assured that it's sufficient.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 2.4	\$600,000
Ref. No. 2.5	\$1,085,930

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask one or two questions before we vote on the total amount. I support the hon. Member for Drumheller when he says we seem to be more concerned about the people inside the institution than the ones who are looking after the prisoners. We still have to be reasonable, I suppose. Some of the problems are interrelated. While you're making the facilities a little more pleasant and humane for the inmates, it is also helping the people working in the institutions. I'm sure the hon. Member for Drumheller and I will agree on this: we're more concerned about the people who work in the institutions than we are about the inmates.

Mr. Chairman, as I said the other day, I think possibly the minister is indirectly happy that the federal institution will be going into the Horsehills area, because that will solve some of our problems.

But at the same time, I would like to express once again, on behalf of the people in that area and on behalf of the member, Mr. Jamison, that the people are very, very upset about that federal institution going in there.

I would like to know what representation the provincial government has made to inform the federal people that we're not too happy about that institution going in there. I know that wherever you put it, somebody is going to be happy and somebody unhappy. But this is one service, one institution, that when the provincial government talks about decentralizing, it could certainly put this kind of industry into an area where it would really be appreciated and where the people could use that kind of employment.

So I would like to suggest to the minister, as strongly as I can, that one of the recommendations made to the federal government should be that this institution could go into an area like Smoky Lake, Elk Point, or north of Barrhead. This would be an industry that we could decentralize from the large urban areas. So I would like to beseech the minister to make representation on behalf of the people in the Horsehills and Oliver area that they don't want it. It can go into [another] area, and this would fit in with the government's proposed decentralization.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I have to reiterate what I said the other day. I believe the Government of Alberta has gone as far as it can. The federal government has conformed to local rules, it applied to the local authority for its development permit, it purchased the land. When at a very late date a petition against the project was received, we did inform the federal authorities of the interest of other communities, they looked at them, and they've come back to the Sharpe farm site.

I think there's a limit beyond which one should not go in interfering with the operations of another level of government, beyond what we've done. From the utilitarian point of view of using the facility, the Sharpe farm site is not unobjectionable, as you pointed out to my department. They have conformed to every possible local rule, and I believe the matter should rest there.

If on behalf of his constituents the hon. member chooses to make representations directly to the Hon. Warren Allmand, I'm sure he would be pleased to receive them.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I think that's the role of government. I want it made clear that I know the hon. Member for St. Albert has opposed that site. He has supported the people in that area in his fight. All I'm asking for now is that the minister do the same thing.

I'm sure that if we were to move that out another 25 miles, that does not make it uneconomical to move people back and forth. You'd be getting into much lower priced land, and you'd be putting that industry in an area where it would be appreciated and would provide employment for people who could use the employment.

All I'm asking is to have the minister support the member from that area, because the concerns of the people in that area are genuine. I just think maybe the minister would have more oomph than the hon. Member for Clover Bar or the hon. Member for St.

Albert. That's really what I'm trying to tell the hon. minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: He doesn't listen well.

Agreed to:

Vote 2 Total Program \$22,268,550

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, before we leave correctional services, could I give the answers to some questions I wasn't able to answer before?

Bursaries, from the hon. Leader of the Opposition: approximately 50 per cent of the \$17,000 paid by the department during 1975-76 was paid to Albertans. The remaining funds were paid to people who had worked in the Alberta system and had agreed to return to the system. So they were all connected with the actual operation. I will have another look at that myself, but this is the answer from the department.

To the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood, who isn't here, but I can read it into the record. All correction officers are required to attend a basic correction officer training course. Other courses are based on selection of the most suitable candidate. The duration of the courses is normally 15 working days. For probation, it's voluntary on the part of the probation officers, and selection of the most suitable candidates. The duration of the course is normally only 5 days.

Vote 3

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, just under the Alberta highway patrols section of this law enforcement vote, I was wondering if the minister anticipates bringing in any regulations. That's in regard to having dirt scrapers loaded on low-boys before they can be moved on our highways. I'm thinking of the study on this area that has been done through the department to see what effect dirt scrapers are having by travelling on our highways.

I have had some concern from some people who are in dirt moving, especially land levelling, [with] some lighter equipment that's say from 49,000 to 55,000 pounds. Their concern is: are they going to have to get low-boys to load this equipment before they can move it from farm to farm or from job to job? Is any regulation or legislation anticipated coming in in the near future?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll take that under advisement. Safety comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the hon. Minister of Transportation, and I can discuss that with his department.

Just for the information of hon. members, the Solicitor General's is the law enforcement department. The laws are normally made by some other department, except in regard to licensing.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister, with regard to Vote 3, if he has had any second thoughts with regard to the way he's dividing the grants among the municipalities, especially with reference to the situation in Calgary. If I recall the situation correctly, the minister is really saying to the people in Calgary that as a province we know better

than the city council or the police commission how we should best spend our money.

The minister is shaking his head. I hope that means he has reconsidered the situation.

MR. FARRAN: I never shake my head. I merely flutter my eyes, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, the police commission agrees with our position that they are under strength. They recommended a considerably higher budget than the requirement for an adequate level of policing. That budget was cut by the city council.

I must make it absolutely clear that there is no relaxation in regard to the city of Calgary, any more than there will be for any other municipality in the province. They must meet the basic standard that was used for calculation of the grant. In the case of the city of Calgary, it's one uniformed policeman to every 550 people.

It's not a question of knowing better. It's a question of having a uniform standard across the province. If this were not to prevail, a city council could use the grants designed for enhanced policing or crime prevention to bring their police force up to the standard all the other municipal governments have already achieved. In other words, they'd be defeating the purpose of the grant, which is for enhanced policing.

The practice last year of the diversion of the basic law enforcement grant can presumably still continue. We're only talking about the extra grants, the \$2.25 million. However much I may deplore what Calgary did last year with its basic law enforcement grant, I'm absolutely insistent — I put my job on the line — that it will not get away with it insofar as the extra grants for enhanced law enforcement and crime prevention are concerned.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Will the minister just outline to us what in fact he interprets the city of Calgary did last year with this money?

MR. FARRAN: No. It went into general revenue, which is presumably to support other social services.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Chairman, on the matter of Vote [3], law enforcement, I'd like to ask the minister for his comments on a couple of items. First, policing as it affects northern Alberta and particularly the isolated communities: has the RCMP or the office of the Solicitor General considered mobile police units that move into isolated communities for a period of time, since the communities are small and possibly not large enough to support a permanent detachment? In order to familiarize people in the northern areas with the function, activities and responsibility of police, has the minister or the RCMP considered this as a possibility in improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the citizens of the north?

The second point I'd like to make is in the form of a question. Are RCMP officers given recognition within the RCMP system for services rendered within the community above and beyond police work? I know this is particularly true in the smaller communities. A police officer who makes a contribution in community work assists the policing within that community in a very effective way. I've often wondered whether the

police officers receive consideration for this type of service. I have seen no evidence of this. Quite often, very effective RCMP officers in a difficult area to police are moved into another very difficult area, rather than receiving faster promotions.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, to deal with the last question first, I'm assured by the assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that all the RCMP are encouraged to do this very sort of thing — to become involved in community sports and so on — which is considered to be one aspect of crime prevention. I believe they are given good marks for their performance in this regard. Whether it is actually entered on their record, I don't know. But I will discuss this matter further with the officer commanding K Division, because I believe the point is well taken from the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

The other question has been discussed and perhaps should be discussed even further — the possibility of temporary location of police detachments. As a matter of policy, we did provide for the light aircraft of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to stop at remote settlements when they were flying over and to spend some hours or a day or two in those settlements. But again, it's a very good point made by the hon. member, and I will remember it for action during the forthcoming year.

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister two questions. Dealing with the Calgary police, did I hear him correctly say it's 550 people for one policeman? The second question, Mr. Minister, is: in towns using the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to police their town or their people, what is the grant per officer from the provincial government to the town?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, to the first question, the ratio is 1:550 in the two metropolitan areas, 1:800 outside the two metropolitan areas. These standards are recognized as desirable right across the country. The problems in a metropolitan area are a little different from the problems in a small town or the rural areas. Those are the standards, for better or for worse, that we use for calculating the grant.

The grants are calculated on this basis, Mr. Chairman, the 1:550 or 1:800 ratio, half the average cost of an RCMP constable for the previous year. Those are the two factors. So it's not possible for me to tell you exactly what a grant is for a particular municipality. You have to apply that formula to its population. If you would like to ask me, in dollar figures, what it is for a particular town, I could tell you.

MR. ZANDER: The reason I'm asking that question, Mr. Minister, is that I was told by the town council that for every Mounted Policeman they hire, their costs will go up \$18,000. If this is correct, the information I received couldn't have been correct. If the cost is \$18,000 per man, I could understand that. But if a grant of \$9,000 comes back, it should have only cost them \$9,000.

MR. FARRAN: No, I don't know where they got that \$18,000 figure. But it is a possibility that they have struck 50 per cent of the estimated costs for this year of \$36,000 for a Mounted Policeman. The present

agreement with the federal government is on 50-50 cost-sharing. This applies to municipalities [with] up to three policemen. After that, they pay 75 per cent. But the 50-50 is presumably half of the \$36,000, which comes down to \$18,000 total cost per constable. So I imagine that's where the misconception came from.

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Minister, I think you're quite correct. I think they're in the class where they have to pick up 75 per cent of the cost, rather than 50 per cent.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, just before we finish the agreement, could the minister explain the question of the manpower costs of \$1,178,000? I take it supplies and services, and the grants — one is a matter of a contract to the RCMP, the other the other is basically the grant to municipalities. What's the \$1,178,000?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, the \$1,725,000 is effective December 15 to the highway patrol division, consisting of the superintendent, four inspectors, 59 patrol officers, and 19 support staff, transferred from the Department of Transportation to the Solicitor General. The major expenditure in this vote, in that regard, is not for more men — they've been transferred from another department — but for the leasing and maintenance of 59 patrol cars.

MR. CLARK: Would you run that past again? That's for the leasing and maintenance of 59 patrol cars. How many do we have now? Are we adding to the situation? Also, can the minister give us some breakdown as to what he's having the highway patrol people do?

MR. FARRAN: The highway patrol people, Mr. Chairman, enforce provisions of The Highway Traffic Act and The Motor Vehicle Administration Act. Their principal duties are in regard to the overloading of trucks, the enforcement of road bans, the improper use of purple gasoline, the picking up of suspended licences, and the overloading of trucks in an unsafe manner, as opposed to the actual weight differential — maybe the piling of too many hay bales on a truck so that some fall off on the road.

They have also had a duty of escorting wide vehicles, which we are now re-examining. I have a feeling they shouldn't be in that. I'm having a look at it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Come again?

MR. FARRAN: Escorting wide vehicles. You know, when people move a house and so on. They've been doing this. I'm wondering whether the government should be providing this service, or whether it should be done by private enterprise, or at least whether we should charge for it.

What was the other question?

MR. CLARK: The number of cars.

MR. FARRAN: Oh, the number of cars. Previously, they used their own cars on an allowance. This was found to be unsatisfactory. The idea now is that we lease cars. We have decent cars. They'll be marked

cars, following through the principle of showing a flag, which acts as a deterrent to traffic violation.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. CLARK: Not quite that quickly. With regard to marked cars, I take it these are being leased on a bulk basis across the province, and it's gone out to public tender. What's the situation as far as uniforms are concerned? Is the minister going to unveil the new uniforms he's got available?

MR. FARRAN: No. Mr. Chairman, I think the present uniform is perfectly satisfactory so long as it fits. There will be no white cowboy hats or ivory-handled pistols.

MR. CLARK: I'd like to ask the minister: does the government have a stock on hand of changed uniforms that you were contemplating — a number of them made up?

MR. FARRAN: No, there are only the khaki uniforms. The other was talked about at various times, but they never went the route of getting a new uniform. So at the moment I plan to keep them in their present uniforms, which are khaki and look pretty smart.

MR. CLARK: Public tender?

MR. FARRAN: Of the uniforms?

MR. CLARK: Did the leased car thing go to a public tender?

MR. FARRAN: Could I find out some details on that and let you know as soon as possible? It's one question I haven't got at my fingertips. I presume it was done through the purchasing agent of the government.

Agreed to:	
Vote 3 Total Program	\$38,126,000
Ref. No. 4.1	\$1,945,300

Ref. No. 4.2

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word in connection with driver licensing. First of all, I'd like to ask a question. Is the hon. minister planning to use licensed driver schools to do the final examining in place of driver examiners?

MR. FARRAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned in the House the other day, we intend to recognize the diplomas of accredited driving schools. There's a subtle difference there. Their final examination for a diploma will be of a standard set by the department, but it won't be officially called a test. There are pretty good reasons for this, but we do not intend to compensate the driving schools for this privilege of being accredited. We recognize these diplomas.

We will inspect to maintain high standards. This will relieve some of the existing driving examiners for a commencement on the retesting of drivers with bad records, which is constantly requested by the public at large. With present budget restraints, I find it

difficult to hire more driving examiners. The only way that I can accomplish this objective, or make a start on it, is to redeploy my existing staff. This is the plan.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make one or two comments on it, because I am rather fearful of this program. At one time the province of Ontario had its police officers do this, and that became quite a racket. Finally they adopted the program that we have been using in Alberta now for a number of years. I have a great deal of confidence in a number of our accredited driving schools, but when we make them the teacher and the examiner, there is difficulty and room for quite a bit of abuse. A driver school may say to someone who goes there, we'll guarantee you a licence if you take the course here. That, I think, is one of the first dangers of this type of system.

Secondly, it leads to the type of abuse where a school can say, we'll give you a licence if you take so many lessons, and can guarantee that you will pass those; or extending the service at an advance fee. All of these, and maybe many others, are possibilities when the teacher becomes the examiner in an item as important as driver examining in our province.

We have had, I think, excellent service in this province from driver examiners who have looked at it objectively. Every driving school has done the teaching. Many of their students have not been able to pass and they then have to go back. But no driver school could say, we guarantee that you're going to get a driver's licence if you take the course from us, or if you pay us so much money.

I'm not very happy to hear that this program's going to be adopted. I think it may well lead to a reduction in the efficiency that we have attained in driver examination in the province, and I am fearful of some of the abuses that may arise. If the department is going along that route, I would suggest that particular steps be taken to make sure the abuses I've mentioned will not materialize.

MR. FARRAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the hon. Member for Drumheller. We have looked at the dangers and the pros and the cons. I feel certain that with an adequate inspection staff we will be able to enforce discipline. Bear this in mind, the accreditation of the driving school will be the first time we've been able to exercise control over their standards. If they lose the accreditation, it will be a big blow to the driving school. So there is just as big a disciplinary clout there as the Liquor Control Board has over a hotel owner.

The second point is this. If the driving school takes the attitude that it won't give a diploma to someone because it wants him to take a further course or more lessons at more expense, the student always has the right to take the departmental exam from a government driving examiner. So we have that additional safeguard.

I believe we will actually have better control over driving schools. We will encourage driving schools to raise their standards, and perhaps their prestige will be enhanced among the public at large, especially those driving schools which are attached to our education system in the high school. We'll have active inspectors to make certain that there is no breach. In the bigger driving schools they've already

indicated that the same instructor who taught the student will not give the final examination before a diploma is granted; some other one will. We will be having a short course for instructors in these driving schools.

I'm grateful to the hon. Member for Drumheller for highlighting these possible problems, reminding me again that we've got to be extremely careful that we maintain standards in the driving schools.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 4.2	\$6,423,225
Ref. No. 4.3	\$448,890
Vote 4 Total Program	\$8,817,415

Vote 5

MR. FARRAN: The hon. Member for Drumheller, and I think the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, raised the question of why there should be an 11 per cent increase in the Racing Commission budget. The Racing Commission funds indirectly come from the public bet. The public bet in Alberta is about \$90 million, and a 5 per cent amusement tax has been levied on that bet. Another 10 per cent goes to the people who operate the track. So the funds for making certain that racing is honest in Alberta, for protecting the interests of the betting public at large, is done through the Racing Commission and its stewards. They lay down the rules. But the money, basically, is coming out of the public bet.

I would hope that sometime during the next year I could make this Racing Commission as self-sustaining as, say, the Liquor Control Board by giving them a fixed percentage of the bet.

We spend a smaller amount on our Racing Commission than most provinces. We only have three part-time members of the board of the commission itself, and three full-time civil servants. All the rest are part-time. I am told that with this increase of 11 per cent they're going to find it very difficult to live within this budget. I'm being quite honest in telling you that there's been an increase of 31 racing days as compared to last year. They say it's going to be extremely difficult for them to fit into this box. The answer is that they must try. They have started by reducing to some extent, or redeploying, the grants given to breeders in the interests of raising better bloodstock in the province.

This is an industry. It does employ a lot of people. The bloodstock industry is a recognized part, I suppose, of the agricultural component of the province. There are all sorts of people in this province who make a livelihood from the sale of purebred horses. The thoroughbreds and the American saddlebreds in harness racing are part of an industry. So this is not a subsidy for gambling *per se*. The budget and the assistance for the breeders really comes out of the public bet. You should be looking at the revenue side as well as the expenditure side in regard to this particular segment of the budget.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make just one or two comments. I would hope we never get to the place where we say we're going to give a percentage of the bets back to the industry. I think we should take a look to see how much welfare we have to pay

out because there are alcoholic gamblers, as there are alcoholic drinkers. They go to the horse races and spend their cheques, instead of buying shoes for their kids or food for their wives. How many of these have to resort to welfare would be an interesting study.

I think there should be a tendency to hold this. I can't shed any tears because we have to fit this into a box. I feel far sorer for other workers who have to fit into a box where they can't get an increase when several other things they have to pay for are increasing. I would have felt a lot happier if there was no increase in this particular vote this year, in this time of restraint.

Agreed to:

Vote 5 Total Program	\$869,800
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MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any closing remarks, or questions to the minister?

MR. FARRAN: Maybe I could just wrap it up by answering the one question from the hon. Leader of the Opposition, to put it into the record, Mr. Chairman. The automobiles for the highway patrol are leased by the Department of Transportation. They were purchased by public tender through the purchasing agency. The successful bidder was Turnbull Motors Ltd. of Edmonton.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That completes the Department of the Solicitor General. If you would turn to page 105, we will start on the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Department of Energy and Natural Resources

MR. CHAIRMAN: As you will recall, this has been carried through in Subcommittee B. Do you have any opening remarks, Mr. Minister? Are there any questions to the minister before we start Vote 1?

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.1	
Ref. No. 1.1.1	\$138,310
Ref. No. 1.1.2	\$56,000
Ref. No. 1.1.3	\$222,560
Ref. No. 1.1.4	\$60,000

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to get something clear. We spent several hours going through this thing in committee. Are we going to repeat the entire performance here? I thought we then brought back the finals, with a chance for any members who are not on that committee. Otherwise, if we have to repeat it all here, I can see the committee is a complete waste of time. If we can bring back the totals and give every other member a chance to deal with it now, I would think that's going the second mile.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine, if that's agreeable. Is that agreeable to the committee?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will use in committee then — this will carry for all committees which have been in subcommittee — that we will go to the totals at the end of each vote.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.1	\$824,870
Ref. No. 1.2	\$2,267,150
Ref. No. 1.3	\$6,861,220
Vote 2 Total Program	\$7,914,120
Vote 3 Total Program	\$1,654,390
Vote 4 Total Program	\$28,990,700

Vote 5

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to say, as to the appropriations for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, that several things came up in the course of the discussion of the department. I would take the opportunity to commend the minister for the comments he made with regard to secondary and tertiary recovery, and considering the prospect of reducing royalties. I think that has much to be said for it.

After being generous in that area, I'd like to say that perhaps one of the biggest criticisms I have of the present arrangement as far as energy and natural resources go is that what has really happened in Alberta now, as I see it, is that we have, no question, a very high priority on energy and non-renewable resources. Candidly, I have some very grave concerns about the kind of priority and balance that the renewable resource agencies in the government are receiving. I don't expect the minister to agree with me, but I think it's important that we recognize it during the next number of years.

There's going to be a tremendous amount of public interest, public emphasis, on our non-renewable resources. That's the way it should be. I don't deny that. But I say at the same time to the minister and to his colleagues in the government, we had better be paying mighty careful attention to the renewable resource aspects, not just as they are in this department, but also in agriculture, the water resources people, the environment, and so on. It would indeed be a sad commentary on all of us if, when we get to the position that our non-renewable energy resources are much more spent than they are now, we find out in retrospect that we haven't paid the kind of attention we should to our renewable resources.

As we went through the estimates here, where the minister and his staff were indeed very helpful, I couldn't help leaving those estimates with the feeling that the energy and the non-renewable resources are in good hands. But I left with the very definite feeling that noplacement in the government has someone really got a handle on the renewable resource aspect of things, not just lands and forests in the minister's department, but in agriculture and in other areas. We have the Land Use Forum, and several things impinge upon this area. But it seems incumbent upon me to raise this concern now. I recognize the government

is in the process of considering what's going to happen to the lands branch. The minister indicated to us that we'd get a decision in that area soon. All well and good. But, in a year's time, I would hope we'd be able to see a higher overall governmental priority on the renewable resource areas.

Just one more comment, Mr. Chairman, if you'd permit me. That is dealing with this question of the zoning in the eastern slopes. I think the director of forestry used the term "zonation", whatever that means. I checked the dictionary, and it wasn't there.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's a new word.

MR. CLARK: Yes. The minister indicated to us that we're looking at two years before we can expect this zoning to be completed in very much detail. I would say to the minister that recognizing the government has to make some major decisions with regard to coal exploration, coal development, and so on — and we expect that to be done quickly — I would hope the minister would be able to place a higher priority on this zoning in the eastern slopes and encourage strengthening in that area. I believe that would be one tangible way of showing a number of concerned people in Alberta that yes, this government does have a higher priority on renewable resources than it appears to many people at this time.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Chairman, just as the hon. member's comments relate to Energy and Natural Resources, I must say I share some of the concerns he expresses and accept his comments.

Agreed to:

Vote 5 Total Program	\$6,132,350
Vote 6 Total Program	\$406,600

Vote 7

MR. NOTLEY: [Inaudible] this section of the estimates pursue for just a moment what I thought was maybe a slight difference of opinion between the minister and the chairman of the Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority. I understood the chairman did not see any need for additional funding until 1980 at the earliest. Perhaps I misunderstood him, but that was my understanding anyway.

I also recollect the minister suggesting — I'm not sure if it was in jest, or by the bye, or what — that he made it clear to the chairman, if additional projects were worthy of support, the government would be willing to move beyond the initial \$100 million.

Mr. Minister, I suppose what we're really looking at is a time frame, whether in the next four years the government would be prepared to look beyond that \$100 million capitalization of the Alberta Oil Sands Research Authority. I say this because with \$700 million worth of proposals, it strikes me that there will be some pressure. It won't take four years for that pressure for partial funding of some of these additional proposals to materialize.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Chairman, I don't recall any conflict of opinion between me and the chairman of the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority. On the comment about additional funds: should

we have a full commitment of the \$75 to \$100 million in field studies of the best research projects by June of this year — this \$75 million won't all be spent this year. As I see it, it will be spent over the next four years. But should additional worthy projects appear during that period of time, through a technology breakthrough or perhaps even underestimating the cost of the ones he's going to be recommending, I think the matter is so important that it would be incumbent upon the government — and I would recommend that we find additional funds. I think that's the point I was making about additional funds.

MR. NOTLEY: So even within this period of four years — if next year there was an important new area in, for example, *in situ* technology that would cost \$100 million, your view is that we should proceed because of the importance of it.

MR. GETTY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That will always be taken within the total priorities of the government, but that would be my view.

Agreed to:	
Vote 7 Total Program	\$711,200
Vote 8 Total Program	\$1,425,000

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any final questions to the minister?

MR. NOTLEY: We're all through, aren't we?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Department of Transportation

MR. CHAIRMAN: As this department has also been through subcommittee, we will follow the same procedure as we did with Energy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have any opening remarks, Mr. Minister?

Vote 1

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, whether this is the best place to do it or not remains to be seen. But I think if I were to summarize the Transportation estimates, I'd likely summarize them this way.

The commitment of some \$65 million that we find ourselves now involved in as a result of the Winnipeg agreement — I'd like to ask the minister if he would outline to us — I recognize he did in committee, but I think it would be worth while to do it again so we have it for the benefit of *Hansard* — what is involved in that \$65 million. If I recall properly the discussion in the committee, we've now spent something like \$52 or \$53 million. Could the minister outline to us what has been involved there? Also, what does he anticipate in the remaining \$12 or \$13 million as Alberta's portion of the Winnipeg agreement as it relates to Syncrude?

DR. HORNER: Briefly, Mr. Chairman, the \$52 million includes the work we're doing this year in the McMurray area. It includes the highways, in the immediate Fort McMurray area; the bridge across the

river; the additional road north of the river; more latterly the Mildred Lake road which forms one of the boundaries of the tailings pond; the number of bridges of course in there, the Poplar Creek one and several others; the road to the new railway siding; improvements to the road to the airport; improvements to the highway through the town of Fort McMurray. They are all included in that \$52 million.

The \$13 million or so that we anticipate spending in the next two or three years will be the improvement and, in fact, dividing of the highway at the hill in Fort McMurray, which is an important priority, and the paving and additional roadwork that's still required to the Syncrude site itself and beyond. There's some work going on beyond that to Fort MacKay.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, is the minister in a position to give us some kind of indication of the \$62 million — what would relate directly to Syncrude itself? Now I know that a portion of it is infrastructure in the town itself, but what portion, let's say it's from the river including the bridge, on north up to and on the lease?

DR. HORNER: As a ball park estimate — considering that the support service to the town, the highway in the town, the highway to the airport, and the railyard would have to be done in any case to service GCOS and the people who are living there — when you divide that out I would think it would be in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$30 million, counting the bridge.

MR. CLARK: The \$25 to \$30 million would include the bridge, the road north, the work on the lake around the tailing ponds, and the bridges on the river involved, so we could think about \$25 or \$30 million directly attributed to the Winnipeg agreement.

MR. CLARK: Of the \$52 or the \$65 million?

DR. HORNER: No, of the \$65 million. I can get more accurate figures, but I would think that's pretty close.

Agreed to:	
Vote 1 Total Program	\$2,932,110
Vote 2 Total Program	\$155,356,498
Vote 3 Total Program	\$8,271,600
Vote 4 Total Program	\$11,337,900
Vote 5 Total Program	\$33,556,378
Vote 6 Total Program	\$1,803,303
Vote 7 Total Program	\$39,201,920
Vote 8 Total Program	\$3,417,398

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, just before we finish, I wonder if the minister would outline the situation as it relates to all these federal-provincial studies on transportation. As a result of the federal government's involvement, we've got, with great respect, studies coming out of our ears. I think it would be helpful if the minister summarized the situation. With a view to some kind of time lines, not from the standpoint of when the feds are going to take action, because that's a impossible kind of thing, but what kind of time lines are we looking at as a province?

What time lines has the federal minister indicated to his provincial colleague?

DR. HORNER: I can't really comment on the time lines relative to the federal government. I've given up on that. However, as the hon. member suggested, there are some important transportation hearings and commissions ongoing. Of course, we consider the Hall Commission to be the major one. It's the super commission at the top. Underneath that we have the Snively Commission doing the actual cost work relative to how much it costs to move a bushel of grain. In addition, there's one that hasn't got a name but it's a bunch of ex-railroaders walking the track to see what state the track is in. Then our more recent one regarding rail passenger service just opened in Ottawa and will be in Edmonton on May 31.

It has taken a lot of work by people in my department, and we have been using a lot of consultants. Some of this work has been done jointly with the other prairie provinces. As soon as we have all have seen some of these reports, they will be made public. We have no intention of not making them public as soon as we possibly can. Some of them have been done through the organization WESTAC, in which four provincial governments, plus industry, are involved. Those also will become public documents as soon as we get the approval of everybody involved.

I'm looking at some of the reports that have been done now to see which ones I can file with the Legislature Library. If I table it and we start having to copy them all — there are a substantial number. We're looking at that now, and I hope to be able to do that.

Finally, I just would request any assistance we can get from any hon. members in the House generally, on both sides, relative to our submission to all these commissions. Quite frankly, I think our making submissions on these transportation matters crosses party lines, and we'd be very pleased to have submissions from any and all.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make just one comment. I'd like to commend the hon. minister and the government for the very healthy attitude they've taken in regard to trying to keep as many as possible of our branch lines here and functioning. I think the people outside appreciate that attitude. The briefs and so on prepared by the department are really excellent material, and I hope we are successful in retaining a lot of our branch lines.

MR. ZANDER: I just wanted to ask two questions, since I wasn't in the committee. One is on page 308, if we may go back there, this \$8 million for improvement of existing railway systems. Are we still building railroads somewhere? Or are we giving grants?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, before answering the question, I move that we stop the clock at 5:29.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DR. HORNER: Primarily the rail part has to do with some of the matters I was just talking about in response to the Leader of the Opposition, relative to the studies we have to do, the money, the people we

have to put to work to present our case. \$7 million of that is relative to interest on the ARR.

Hopefully, out of all this, if we can get some sense of organization in northern Alberta, we might be able to do away with that need some time in the future.

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

[Motion carried]

[Dr. McCrimmon left the Chair]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

The Department of the Solicitor General:

Vote 1: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$1,437,865 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for departmental support services of the Department of the Solicitor General.

Vote 2: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$22,268,550 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the correctional services program under the Department of the Solicitor General.

Vote 3: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$38,126,000 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the law enforcement program under the Department of the Solicitor General.

Vote 4: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$8,817,415 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the motor vehicle registration and driver licensing program under the Department of the Solicitor General.

Vote 5: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$869,800 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the control and development of the horse racing program of the Alberta Racing Commission.

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

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources:

Vote 1: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$6,861,220 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the departmental support services of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 2: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$7,914,120 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the mineral resources management program under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 3: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$1,654,390 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the energy revenue management program under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 4: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$28,990,700 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the forest resources management program under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 5: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$6,132,350 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the public lands administration and management program under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 6: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$406,600 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the Syncrude equity management program under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Vote 7: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$711,200 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the oil sands research fund management program of the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority.

Vote 8: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$1,425,000 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the petroleum marketing and market research program of the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission.

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

The Department of Transportation:

Vote 1: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$2,932,110 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for departmental support services of the Department of Transportation.

Vote 2: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$155,356,498 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the construction and improvement of highway systems program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 3: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$8,271,600 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the construction and improvement of rail systems program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 4: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$11,337,900 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the construction and improvement of airport facilities program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 5: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$33,556,378 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the operation and maintenance of transportation systems program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 6: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$1,803,303 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the transportation policy development program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 7: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$39,201,920 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the urban transportation assistance program under the Department of Transportation.

Vote 8: resolved that a sum not exceeding \$3,417,398 be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977, for the surveys and mapping program under the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, begs to report progress, and asks leave to sit again.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at half past 2.

[The House rose at 5:37 p.m.]

